

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY

CLEMENT PASTON'S HAWK-RING

by Sue Margeson

Two silver hawk-rings were found at Ashill in Norfolk by metal-detector in May 1992 (no. 1) and December 1993 (no. 2).

1. Co. no. 30260

Flat annular ring inscribed 'Of Clement Paston Esq.'

2. Co. no. 30260

Flat annular ring inscribed on obverse 'Of Baeingham Hall'
and on reverse 'In Norffolk'

Hawk-rings, inscribed with a place-name or the owner's name, identified the hawk's ownership. The flat annular type of hawk-ring is the most common of the recorded examples (compare one from Harling inscribed 'Garboldishm Norff', and one in the British Museum 'Of Rushbrooke in Suff[olk]' (Gaimster and Margeson 1989, 326-327)). The loop type is also known (for example, one inscribed 'Cranmer in Norff', now in the British Museum). Both types are current in 17th century treatises on falconry. These examples are late 16th or early 17th century on the basis of the epigraphy.



Fig. 1

Two silver hawk-rings. Scale 1:1.

Hawk-rings so far discovered have a place-name or the name of a hall on them, and no. 2 fits this category well. 'Baeingham' may be Barningham Hall, the 'e' perhaps representing an abbreviation or elision of 'rn'. Barningham Hall was built for Sir Edward Paston in 1612.

No. 1, whose inscription reveals that the hawk belonged to Clement Paston, is the most exciting find to date. Clement Paston can be identified with certainty as the famous younger son of Sir William Paston (d. 1554), who inherited Oxnead Hall from his father, and who re-built it. Born

around 1515, he became a wealthy man and held high office, serving under King Henry VIII as captain of a ship of war, the 'Pelican'. In this capacity, he captured Baron St Blanchard, the Admiral of France, in 1546. Clement was Sheriff of Norfolk in 1588 and died without issue in 1597. His splendid tomb is in Oxburgh church, and on it his deeds, including his capture of the French baron, are recorded in a fulsome epitaph.

The identity of this Clement as opposed to the first Clement Paston (father of Sir William) is confirmed by the style of the lettering, which is late 16th century, and by the parallels cited above. It is rare to be able to identify the owner of an individual object, and it is all the more pleasing that he is a well-known historical figure. If the other hawk-ring also has a Paston connection, it is interesting to speculate that they were lost on the same hawking expedition at Ashill, and that Clement Paston's hawk-ring may have been handed on to his heirs after his death. Unfortunately, his will does not mention a hawk-ring (Blomefield 1806, 487-9).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The drawings are by Steven Ashley.

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AN ENAMELLED LATE SAXON DISC BROOCH FROM WALPOLE ST PETER

by Steven Ashley and Andrew Rogerson

An unusual find, recently recorded in West Norfolk, augments a small series of similar enamelled late 10th- and 11th-century disc brooches which may have had amuletic qualities.

The body of the brooch is of gilt copper alloy, the gilding surviving almost intact on all the metal surfaces. The base-plate has been cut to a circular shape with seven rounded lobes, and tooling is visible around the outer edge of the reverse as a slight chamfer. On each lobe is soldered a tiny cylinder formed of sheet strip. A dark blue glass pellet remains in six of these. On the reverse a double pin-lug and catchplate are formed of thick sheet and soldered to the back-plate. Each contains traces of iron, presumably the remains of the pin. On the front a collar formed of a strip is soldered to the base-plate, and contains a *cloisonné* enamel five-petalled flower design. The flower's centre is filled with greenish yellow enamel, the petals with slightly cracked white enamel, and the field with dark blue which is pitted in one place. The cellwork is made up of an outer ring of metal strip and five individual petals.