

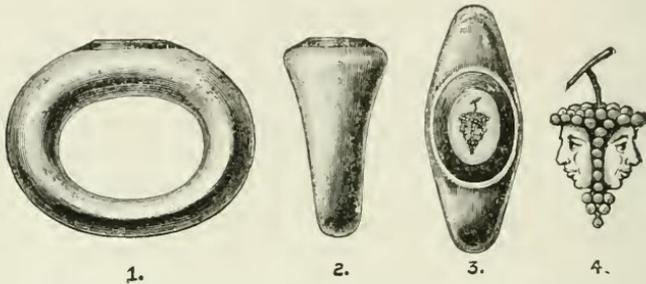
## A ROMAN GOLD RING FROM LINGFIELD MARK CAMP.

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ON the 4th of February, 1892, George Payne, Esq., F.S.A., Local Secretary for Kent, communicated the following note to the Society of Antiquaries:—“During the summer of last year, when on a visit to Mr. Leveson Gower, at Titsey, we spent one day in examining the fine British oppidum, known as Lingfield Mark Camp, in Surrey, about four miles from East Grinstead. In course of conversation with Mr. Shorter, of Bazing Farm, Cowden, who accompanied us, I drew from him the information that a large gold ring had been found many years ago by a labourer whilst working within the camp. Making up my mind at once that I would discover the whereabouts of the ring, if possible, I obtained from Mr. Shorter the address of Mr. Arthur Hastie, of East Grinstead, who was related to the family who owned the land. Mr. Hastie kindly informed me that the ring was formerly in the possession of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Hastie, one of the Cranstons, former owners of Beeches Farm, where he believed the ring was found. Mr. Hastie referred me to Mr. J. Cranston Leslie, of 17, Bedford Row, for further information; and it is firstly through his kindness, and secondly that of the owners of the jewel, that I am enabled to lay before the Society a fine Roman intaglio, set in massive gold, found so long ago as 1810, but which appears to have escaped being recorded. In a letter received from Mr. Cranston Leslie, he says: ‘Perhaps it had better be described as having been the property of the late Mr. Edward

Cranston, of East Court, East Grinstead, but now in the possession of the Leslie family.’<sup>1</sup> The ring, which weighs  $1\frac{3}{4}$  oz. 22 grains, is set with a nicolo onyx, upon which is cut in intaglio a kind of Bacchanalian mask representing a bunch of grapes, on both sides of which are human profiles skilfully worked into the bunch so as to form part of it. The bunch is suspended from a piece of the cane of the vine by means of its stalk. With the



1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
ROMAN GOLD RING FOUND AT LINGFIELD MARK CAMP.<sup>2</sup>  
(Full Size.) The device is shown thrice its real size.

exception of a slight scratch upon the gold, the ring is in a perfect state of preservation. Mr. Franks has kindly called my attention to King's *Antique Gems*, p. 328, sect. iii, in which is figured a gryllus with five heads worked into a bunch of grapes, the two upper masks being satyric, the three lower comic, a few grapes being introduced to fill in the intervening spaces.”

<sup>1</sup> The ring has since been deposited in the gold room of the British Museum.

<sup>2</sup> The Society is indebted to the Society of Antiquaries for the loan of this block.