

A FOUNDER'S HOARD OF PREHISTORIC BRONZE IMPLEMENTS DISCOVERED IN SHUNAWAY PLANTATION, COULSDON, SURREY

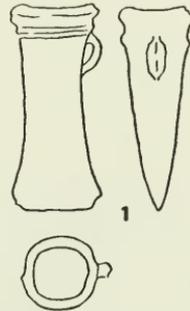
BY THE LATE
PRESCOTT ROW

SOMETIME in January 1928 a party of labourers were sent to the Shunaway Plantation, which lies on the hill-side a hundred yards south of Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey, to dig flints from the clay that overlies the chalk of the North Downs. In the course of their work they uncovered a rich hoard of Bronze about 3 feet 6 inches beneath the surface. The usual thing happened; the best implements were sold by the workmen to any purchasers who happened to be in the neighbourhood and were soon spread far and wide.

In March of the same year, by a mere accident, the rough metal and the broken implements were offered to me for sale, and I heard for the first time of the discovery. I communicated at once with Mr. Reginald Smith at the British Museum and acquired the collection: being careful to ask particularly if it comprised the whole of the find, and being assured, with the utmost gravity, that it did.

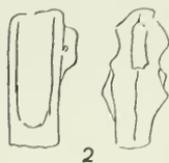
This collection consisted of one complete looped and socketed celt, 4 inches long with a straight cutting edge rounded at the corners (Fig. 1),¹ and four broken implements (parts of two winged celts of the continental type and parts of two socketed celts (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5)), together with fragments of metal cake from the bottom of the furnace: the fragments alone weighing 17 lb. 6 oz.

On the 25th March I went by appointment to Coulsdon and was taken by a workman—the father of one of the finders—and was shown the excavation from which they



¹ Figs. reduced to $\frac{1}{4}$ scale approx.

were taken. I have marked the site on the 6-inch Survey Sheet XX S. W. A footpath, not marked on the map, enters the wood close to the north-west angle and joins another path (marked) to the south-east. There is a yew tree at the north-west entrance to the path, and the find was made at forty paces from this entrance in the bank 10 yards north-east of the path.



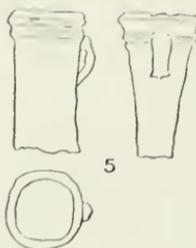
I made an examination of the ground and enquired carefully of the man, but could hear nothing of any pottery, broken or otherwise, having been associated with the hoard.



The site is on high ground, nearly 500 feet O.D., and a valley divides it from the great whaleback ridge of Farthing Down, which is crowned by the vestiges of at least five tumuli (round barrows). I visited the site again in September 1928 and found it much disturbed by further digging, and as there is a good deal of building activity going on here, I am afraid the site will not be recognizable very long.



I immediately communicated with the Surrey Archæological Society at Guildford and transferred the whole to their keeping. Having got them safely under their protection, I then sent a report, briefly announcing the find and its contents to the Croydon and Coulsdon newspapers. The result of this was interesting. I received a visit from Mr. Hugh Roberts of Thornton Heath, who, I understand, is the foreman of work going on in the neighbourhood. He informed me that other implements had been found. I might mention that I was told that one of the implements found had been mounted on the motor-car of the owner as a mascot, but I am relieved to say that on making further enquiries I do not



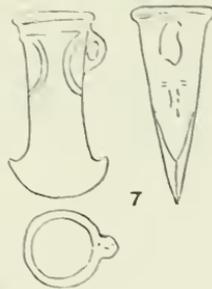
at present think that such is the case. Mr. Roberts kindly lent the two specimens that he possesses. These consist of:

A socketed gouge $3\frac{1}{16}$ inches long, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide, weighing 3 oz. (Fig. 6).

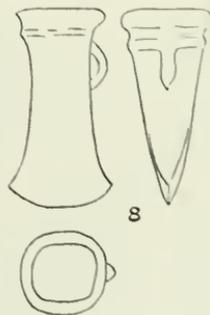
A very fine looped and socketed celt $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, with boldly curved edge extending to 2 inches, and crescent ornamentation, weighing 10 oz. (Fig. 7).



By means of following the clues given me by Mr. Roberts I was then able to trace to Worthing a third large looped and socketed celt, 4 inches long, with simple plain ornament of one band, and a curved edge of 2 inches wide. It is heavy and weighs 13 oz. (Fig. 8). This has kindly been lent to me by Mr. J. Ernest Hawkins of Worthing, who, I understand, is the owner of the ground in which the hoard was found.

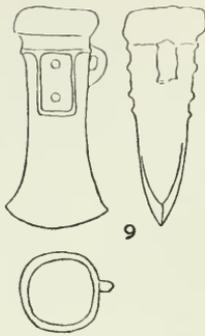


The fourth, finest and most interesting, implement is in the possession of Mr. H. Roos of Croydon, who has very kindly lent it for exhibition. This is a very fine looped and socketed celt, $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, with boldly curved cutting edge of 2 inches, and weighs 14 oz. It is decorated on both sides with a raised oblong panel, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch \times $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, carrying two bosses, and a narrow raised band encircles the implement (Fig. 9). I would draw your special attention to this unusual decoration. I was not able to find it on the many examples from all over the world in the British Museum Collection, and it does not appear to be figured in Sir John Evans's book upon Bronze Implements. I must, however, mention that Mr. O. G. S. Crawford writes to me: "I have seen that panel ornament before and, if my memory is correct, from some other site in Surrey."



I have learned that a fifth celt, which I believe completes the contents of the hoard, is in the possession of Mr. C. Roos of Staines, but I have not, at the

time of writing, been able to persuade the owner to allow me to see it.



I am indebted to Mrs. G. Macalpine Woods of Beer, Devon, for most kindly making some very beautiful drawings of the implements in colour, and I am also glad of being able to lend the specimens to Mr. H. J. E. Peake, and understand that he has taken drawings and measurements for the Catalogue made by the British Association Committee on Bronze Implements.

There are in the National Collection at the British Museum two bronze hoards from Surrey, found respectively at Addington and Wandsworth, but the condition of the implements is poor in comparison with the fine examples found at Coulsdon—apart from the interest of the rare, if not unique, ornament found upon one of them.