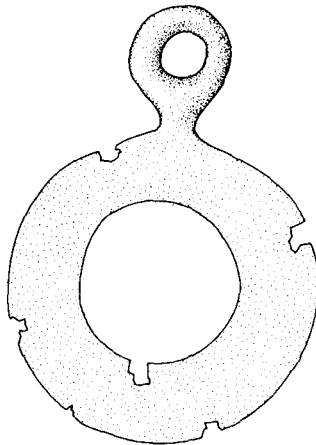


A LATE URNFIELD PENDANT FROM THE THAMES AT OLD ENGLAND

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The subject of this note belongs to the well known group of Late Bronze Age objects from the important site of Old England on the north shore of the Thames at Brentford.¹ The piece has a flat annular body with a ring handle attached by a short shaft; the outline of the body is slightly irregular and bears five rough notches, one inside and four outside. The inner notch is shown on Wheeler's photograph² but the others have been sustained since; all have the same appearance and none need be regarded as original. The internal diameter of the body is 22mm, the external diameter 42mm and the maximum length of the object is 59mm.



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This object was originally published as a razor³ though it was not described in detail. This identification was perpetuated by Piggott⁴ but wartime conditions appear to have prevented her from examining the so-called 'razor' and publishing a first hand illustration. She recognised that the annular form was alien to the British series of razors but it should be noted that the plain annular form is also unknown on the continent. Furthermore, the edges of the Old England piece are not sharpened, unlike those of most razors. While it could be an unsharpened razor of unusual form, there is a more convincing identification. Among the Urnfield pendants described by Kossack⁵ there is an annular form.⁶ this is common in the Swiss lake villages, the valleys of the middle Rhine, Main and Moselle and in east central France; outliers reach East Prussia and western

France.⁷ Several of the finds from the Rhine-Moselle area show that these small pendants may be parts of larger sets⁸ which are probably elements of ceremonial horse gear.⁹ These pendants are all larger than the Old England example; the pendant in the Vénat hoard, Saint-Yrieux, Charente, is closer in size, 5mm longer.¹⁰

Hoard finds indicate a late Ha B/late *Bronze Final* III date;¹¹ the find from Wallstadt, Kr. Mannheim,¹² is eponymous for the late phase of Ha B in south-western Germany.¹³ A slightly later date is indicated by the Vénat hoard which includes a few Ha C objects.¹⁴ Another 8th century late Urnfield import may be identified in the lower Thames valley during the Ewart Park phase of the British Bronze Age.

NOTES

1. R. E. M. Wheeler "'Old England', Brentford" *Antiquity* 3 (1929) 20-32. It is now on display in the Museum of London, A.10755, where I have been able to examine it by kind permission of Miss J. K. Macdonald. I am grateful to Mike Rouillard for the drawing.
2. *Ibid* Pl. I, Fig. 2, 6.
3. *Ibid*.
4. C. M. Piggott 'The Late Bronze Age razors of the British Isles' *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 12 (1946) 121 Fig. 9.
5. G. Kossack *Studien zum Symbolgut der Urnenfelder- und Hallstattzeit Mitteleuropas* Römisch-Germanische Forschungen 20 (Berlin 1954) 76-78.
6. *Ibid*. Taf. 15, 17.
7. *Ibid*. 96-97 Taf. 25.
8. A. Kolling *Späte Bronzezeit an Saar und Mosel* Saarbrücker Beiträge zur Altertumskunde 6 (Bonn

- 1968) Taf. 44,1;48,4. F. R. Hermann *Die Funde der Urnenfelderkultur in Mittel- und Südbessen* Römisch-Germanische Forschungen 27 (Berlin 1966) Taf 176, D. Inv. Arch. F29;39;41.
9. Kolling *ibid*. 63-65,79.
10. Inv. Arch. F6,108.
11. Kolling *op. cit.* in note 8, 89-90, Abb. 27-28. Inv. Arch. F29.
12. H. Müller-Karpe *Beiträge zur Chronologie der Urnenfelderzeit nördlich und südlich der Alpen* Römisch-Germanische Forschungen 22 (Berlin 1959) 180-181 Taf. 176.
13. W. Kubach *Die Nadeln in Hessen und Rheinbessen* Prähistorische Bronzefunde XIII/3 (München 1977) 36.
14. J.-P. Pautreau 'Les civilisations de l'Age du Fer dans le Centre-Ouest' in *La Préhistoire Française* ed. J. Guilaine (Paris 1976) 770-772.
15. C. Burgess 'The Bronze Age' in *British Prehistory* ed. C. Renfrew (London 1974) 209.