

## Notes

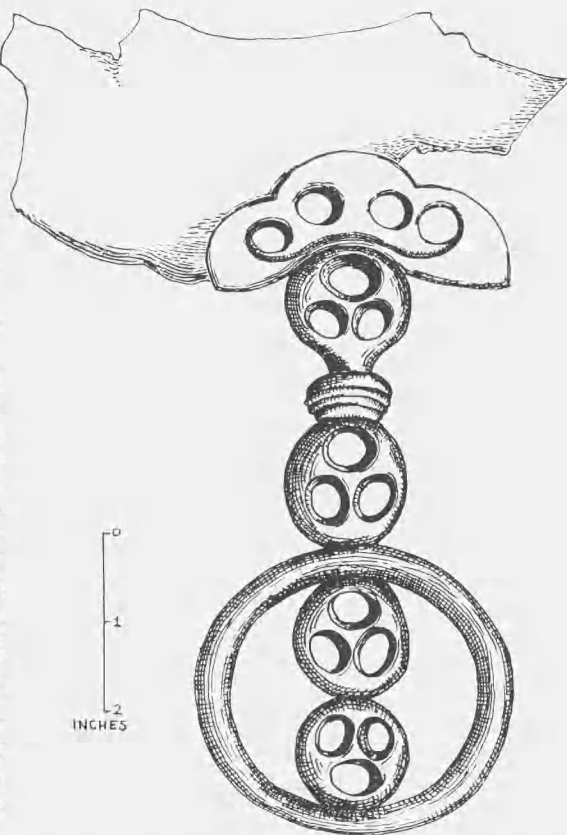
### A second Iron Age mirror-handle from Old Warden

AN INTERLEAVED COPY of the Bedfordshire volume of Lyson's *Magna Britannia* (1813 edition) which was formerly the property of the Rev Frederick Pawsey (1784-1843), vicar of Wilshamstead, recently came into the possession of Mr Harold White J.P., the publisher. The book, hand-dated 1841, has been copiously illustrated in line and water-colour, presumably by Pawsey, and numerous early photographs have also been added to it by a later hand.

One of the most interesting items archaeologically is a water-colour drawing of an Iron Age mirror-handle. The only information on the drawing are the words 'Old Warden'. When the handle was found, or where it is now, remain unknown.

A group of late Iron Age material was found at Quint's Hill, an earthwork north of Old Warden Church, a year or two before 1845. It was associated with cremation burials and included 'two hoops of iron, one on the other's edge' which were presumably the remains of a situla or cauldron, two earthen urns of large size, with long handles' which sound like amphorae and two cordoned vases of Kimmeridge shale that were inverted and contained 'ashes and earth'. (*C.A.S.* 4to. pubn. VIII), (1845). The report mentions earlier finds from the same spot and it is likely that the handle described here, belongs to these earlier discoveries. The well-known La Tène III mirror from Old Warden, now in Bedford Museum, is supposed to have come from another site in the same parish, (*Arch* LXI, 333-4), although it looks as though we are probably dealing with a single homogeneous group.

The new handle (Old Warden II) belongs to Sir Cyril Fox's type 3b double-looped group (*Arch. Camb.*, (1948) 24). This form stems from the Colchester mirror handle, and has horizontal central moulding similar to the Great Chesterford mirror (*Ant.* (1960) 207), though that on the latter is more refined, Old Warden II being rather bulbous and quadrified. The original Old Warden mirror (Old Warden I) also has a central horizontal moulding, but the design is a simple single disc. The single loops of the stem in the Colchester design are replaced in Old Warden II by rather clumsy-looking triple perforations—an interesting variant on the original. The addition of a disc within the terminal loop of the handle occurs at Old Warden I, and at Birdlip, but the double perforated disc of Old Warden II is unique. The mirror attachment,



which may have been slotted to take the mirror plate, is also related to Colchester and Great Chesterford, by the apparently moulded line that unites the two outside circles of the decoration. Its lobed outline also relates it to Old Warden I. From the water-colour drawing it is impossible to tell if the perforations in the handle held enamel, or completely pierced the metal work. It seems reasonable to suppose that those in the attachment were enamel filled or they would considerably have weakened the connection; though the artist gives them the appearance of piercing the mirror plate. No decoration is shown on the surviving piece of the kidney-shaped plate. Because of the elaboration Sir Cyril Fox considers the handle a very late example, made c. A.D. 30-40, and thus presumably

later than Old Warden I.

Assuming that the painting of the handle was made full size (and there are suggestions that the artist drew round the original), then the mirror must have been one of the largest of the British mirrors. It measures 7.6 in. from attachment plate to terminal loop: a size comparable with Birdlip.

The Old Warden I handle is only 4.8 in. long.

In preparing this note I must acknowledge a great debt to Sir Cyril and Lady Fox, whose kind observations I have here extended. I must also thank Mr H. O. White for allowing me to publish the details of the drawing.

JAMES DYER

## A second century Roman brooch from Carlton

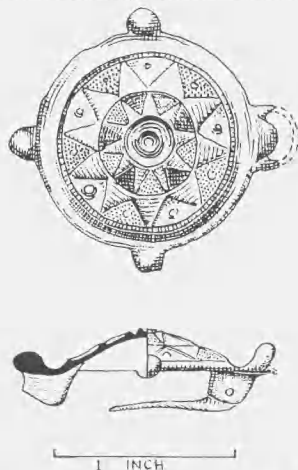
THE BROOCH illustrated here was found in a field at Carlton, Bedfordshire, some time in 1965. It was on the surface and not associated with any other object or site.

Carlton lies on the Great Ouse (Grid ref 9555) and adjoins the larger parish of Harrold (9546) where a Bronze Age to Saxon continuum has been established and a considerable number of Roman coins, ranging from Trajan to Constantius has been found. Here too occurred the Bedfordshire Roman oculist's or apothecary's stamp, now in Bedford Museum. Another stamp found at Sandy is in the British Museum. The 'Viatores' discovered evidence of a Romano-British trackway passing near Harrold and Carlton.

The brooch is of bronze, circular with four diametrically opposed knobs to two of which are attached the pin and catch. The diameter is 29 mm. and the whole is deeply convex. Within a grooved rim there are two concentric circles of triangles. In the outer band the bases of the triangles are against the rim and are filled with dark red enamel in the *champ-levé* technique and have a small bronze knob, about the size of a large pin-head in the centre. The intervening triangles are bronze. The inner band of decoration consists of alternating red and blue triangles of enamel, their bases outward. The intervening isosceles triangles are of the bronze of the brooch. The centre of the brooch has a small circular groove surrounding a round depression which may have been filled with enamel, but now bears no trace of it. There were very faint traces of blue enamel in the outer groove.

A brooch almost identical with this one and of the same size was found in London some years ago and is now in the British Museum and illustrated

in the Guide to *The Antiquities of Roman Britain* (no 52. 3-22.1) illustrated on p 23. It is of a fairly common second century type although as far as we know the only local specimen. Two similar brooches, with more knobs on the rim, were found, one at Ixworth, Suffolk, and the other at Pakenham in the same county. (*Collectanea Ant.* IV, 95).



The rectilinear geometrical style of decoration in these brooches is in marked contrast with both the curvilinear ornament of the La Tène and Belgic work, and also with the post-Roman interlaced and arabesque zoomorphic designs employed by the late Celtic and also the Anglo-Saxon workmen, who worked in *cloisonné* technique.

The Carlton brooch is now on permanent loan in the Bedford Museum and it is hoped that there may yet be further finds from the same locality.

F. W. KUHLICKE

## Recent pottery finds now in the Bedford Museum

1. A late XIVth century Jug from Wheathampstead  
THE SMALL JUG illustrated has a flanged rim with a slightly pinched lip. It stands 4½ in. high upon a plain flat base and is 4 in. broad at its greatest width. The ware is orange-buff and it has a splashing of mottled green glaze on the front just below

the lip. The handle is almost square in section but a little narrower on the underside and slightly concave or grooved on the sides. The lower end shows thumb impressions and at the top it is dowelled into the neck.

The provenance is by Wheathampstead near