

Roman towns in this country did not differ markedly in size from medieval ones. It would indeed be interesting if there were some correspondence in population size. The rebirth of the towns in the middle ages is associated with the robust trading stations of the Vikings and the fairly chaotic conditions of the 9th to 10th centuries. In the chaos of the 5th century the Romano-British towns made but an indifferent showing and, while they were not as fragile as Collingwood depicted them, one might hesitate to apply the adjective robust to them.

Each photograph of a Roman road or town bears testimony to the strength of will and purpose of the people who laid this network of civilization upon the island and its primitive inhabitants. It is gratifying indeed to have these 400 flourishing years of the province's history described for us. Every civilization must be judged by its finest hour (which some would place in the 4th century in Britain, rather than in Gibbon's admired 2nd century) and it would be wholly wrong to be preoccupied with the end when something is at its zenith. Nevertheless the closing phases of Roman Britain, the moment of truth so to speak, shed a flood of light backwards on its true character, to the time when the evidence was blank on certain aspects of its society.

M. W. THOMPSON

A LATE 6TH-CENTURY CRUCIFORM BROOCH FROM TODDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE: AN ANGLO-SAXON CONNEXION EXAMINED (FIG. 61)

Among the objects in the Cooper-Cooper collections of the Central Museum, Northampton,⁵ is a group of finds labelled Toddington (Beds.). These are mainly of the 17th century but include two Anglo-Saxon brooches. One of these (Northampton Museum D200/1955-6) is a tinned bronze disc-brooch, 4.2 cm. diam., of a common type, with a central dot-and-circle, and four subsidiary dot-and-circles on the face with nicked edges. The second brooch is a more unusual item, a large cruciform brooch of Åberg's group IV.

The brooch has not previously been illustrated, but it was included by Åberg in his list of cruciform brooches from England, though Åberg, presumably on account of it then being exhibited with a bone comb from Finedon (Northants.) gave that as being its provenience.⁶ More recently it was listed among the Anglo-Saxon finds of Bedfordshire by Dr. J. Morris,⁷ and I presume that the citation by Mrs. Meaney of 'Northampton' among the museums containing Anglo-Saxon material from Toddington refers to the two brooches.⁸ The cruciform brooch (FIG. 61) is bronze, 13.9 cm. long with a maximum width of 7.8 cm. It has a winged head-plate, whose central panel is decorated with a double quatrefoil stamp. All three knobs are half-round with a square expansion; in the case of the two side knobs this is cut back at the join with the knob, and somewhat rounded through wear on the outside. The bow is short with a median bar topped by a small square knob. The lappets, which are elaborate, with a disjointed and dismembered attempt at animal ornament, belong to Åberg's type, *op. cit.* in note 6, fig. 70.36. The animal head at the foot of the brooch has scroll nostrils and is of Åberg's type, *op. cit.* in note 6, fig. 70.45. Above all, this is an extremely well-made brooch.

It is not difficult to find parallels for the individual parts of this brooch, though the whole forms an unusual combination. Nearest are two brooches from Nassington (Northants.) which differ in having plain lappets and no decoration on the field of the head-plate.⁹ The large excrescences on the head-plate knobs are found also on several brooches from Cambridgeshire: examples from Newnham, Soham and Barrington are

⁵ I am grateful to the Central Museum, Northampton, for permission to study and publish the brooch.

⁶ N. Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (1926), table 1, no. 171 (henceforth cited as Åberg).

⁷ *Beds. Archaeol. J.*, 1 (1962), 75.

⁸ A. Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* (1964), p. 40.

⁹ *Antiq. J.*, xxiv (1944), 109, 118, pl. 27, nos. 28 and M.

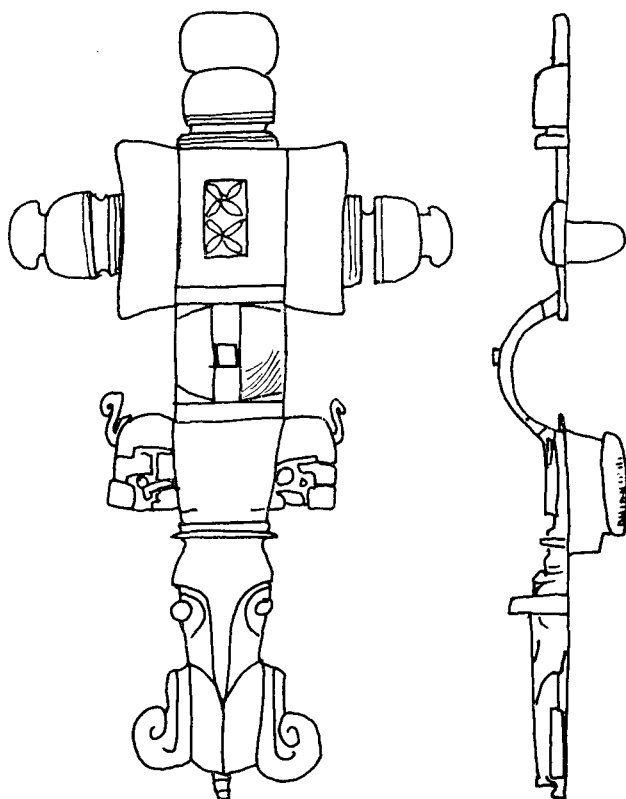


FIG. 61

TODDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch (pp. 206 ff). Sc. $\frac{3}{4}$

known to me.¹⁰ The lappets of the Toddington brooch find a ready parallel in a well-known brooch from Girton (Cambs.).¹¹ It is in Cambridgeshire, too, that the only parallels known to me for a decorated head-plate occur. These are a brooch from St. John's College cricket-field¹² with a double quatrefoil, and a brooch from Little Wilbraham, grave 171, with two S-shapes, one reversed, on the head-plate, and a single quatrefoil between the lappets.¹³

Decoration on the head-plate anticipates the final florid group of cruciform brooches and this must be borne in mind when considering the date of the Toddington brooch. Its elaborate features (although not florid) narrow the limits to a date well into the 6th century, but the absence of any firm chronology derived from well-dated associated finds in England precludes any more definite ascription than probably the 2nd half of the 6th century.

Two further points arise from this brooch. It may be suggested that the provenience is insufficiently strong for the brooch definitely to be from Toddington. However, Major Cooper-Cooper is known to have collected material from Toddington, where he

¹⁰ Åberg, table 1, nos. 162 (fig. 79), 165, 149, respectively.

¹¹ Åberg, fig. 78.

¹² C. Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), pl. 27, no. 1.

¹³ R. C. Neville, *Saxon Obsequies Illustrated* (1852), p. 24, pl. 8, no. 171; Åberg, table 1, no. 139.

had land, during the 19th century, when two cemeteries were found:¹⁴ one at Sheepwalk Hill (TL 013293), the other at Warmark (TL 002283). The known records for these sites have been listed by Dr. Morris, but neither includes the cruciform brooch. For neither site are the records complete and the absence of the brooch from these records is not conclusive proof that the provenience is incorrect.

The second is a much wider point. Accepting the provenience, a brooch essentially of the Cambridge region was found 40 miles south-west of that area at a time when the contacts of the Cambridge region may be thought to have been with East Anglia and Lincolnshire rather than with areas to the south-west. Equally it is more usually expected that the connexions of the Toddington area in the late 6th century would be with the upper Thames valley, as the strong affinities of the cemetery in Argyle Avenue, Luton (Beds.), show.¹⁵

There is, however, a certain amount of evidence to suggest that the Toddington brooch is not such an outlier on the distribution-map as E. T. Leeds's map of 1938 may suggest.¹⁶ True, there is little in the Luton material to suggest extensive Cambridgeshire contacts at this period, but the other large Bedfordshire cemetery, that at Kempston, has several late 6th-century contacts with Cambridgeshire. These include a late example of a group-II cruciform brooch¹⁷ and three annular brooches.¹⁸ The majority of the small-long brooches at Kempston¹⁹ find their closest parallels in Cambridgeshire cemeteries. Other pieces, like the fish badge from the shield of grave 52 (grave of 11 December 1863),²⁰ also find ready parallels in East Anglia. It is East Anglia and more especially the E. midlands that produce comparative material for the only complete great square-headed brooch from Kempston.²¹ Though there is much that is Kentish in this brooch—e.g., the use of black lozenges lined with a thin line simulating garnets—its essential form, like its animal ornament, belongs to the final stages of the cruciform tradition.²²

To a somewhat earlier typological stage, though not necessarily all that earlier in date, belongs the Toddington brooch which gave rise to this discussion of the connexions between the cemeteries of the Chilterns and those of the Cambridge region. This note has dealt so far with the connexions which do not extend into the upper Thames valley. Several types, however, connect the upper Thames with the Cambridge region. One, which is well known, is the 'Kempston type' of applied brooch,²³ named after four pairs with four faces within a cross, and a leg between each face, and usually with a border of repeated animal ornament. Another item found throughout the SE. midlands is the 'Linton Heath' type of scabbard-mount,²⁴ while shield-bosses with silver rivets are known from cemeteries in Cambridgeshire, Newport Pagnell and Kempston on the middle Ouse; on Thames valley sites; and in some profusion in Kent.²⁵

It will, I think, be clear that there is evidence of extensive connexions between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire during the latter part of the 6th century. These are

¹⁴ The various records of the two Toddington cemeteries have been collected by Morris, *op. cit.* in note 7, pp. 70–2, and Meaney, *loc. cit.* in note 8. These differ somewhat in detail; Morris is followed here.

¹⁵ *Antiq. J.*, viii (1928), 177–92.

¹⁶ *Archaeologia*, xci (1945), 70–2, fig. 38. [Leeds's paper was completed in 1938: *ibid.*, p. 85.]

¹⁷ Åberg, table 1, no. 50; *V.C.H., Beds.*, i (1904), col. pl. 5.

¹⁸ Unpublished: British Museum 1891.6-24.290; Bedford Museum, 3838 and 3839 (a pair).

¹⁹ Most of these are illustrated in G. Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, iii (1915), pl. 42, no. 1.

²⁰ S. E. Fitch, *Associated Archit. Societies Reports*, vii (1864), 290, pl. 5, no. 1, = C. Roach-Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, vi (1868), 207–8, pl. 43, no. 1; J. Wyatt, *Gentleman's Mag.*, xvi (1864), 223, = *Collectanea Antiqua*, vi, 169. The grave number is taken from my unpublished account of the Kempston cemetery.

²¹ E. T. Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches* (1949), no. 141.

²² This brooch is discussed in detail in my unpublished account.

²³ *Archaeologia*, lxxiii (1912), 186; Åberg, fig. 29. A full list of examples of the type known to me is provided in *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, lxxiv (1971), forthcoming.

²⁴ D. H. Kennett, 'Graves with swords at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath', *ibid.*; *id.*, 'The Anglo-Saxon grave from Battle Edge, Burford', *Oxoniensia*, xxxiv (1969), 111–15.

²⁵ Partially listed by J. Werner, *Die Langobarden in Pannonien* (1962), p. 32, find-list 1 and pl. 68.

sufficient to dispel any surprise at the occurrence of a late cruciform brooch at Toddington; their historical significance is a subject for discussion beyond the scope of this note.

D. H. KENNETT

EARLY ANGLO-SAXON GOLD BRAIDS: ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA (FIG. 62)

Since the publication of 'Early Anglo-Saxon gold braids' by E. Crowfoot and S. C. Hawkes in *Med. Archaeol.*, xi (1967), 42-86, three other examples of gold braids, all in the British Museum, have been brought to the authors' notice.

The provenience of two of these, both consisting of a number of fine and fairly well preserved fragments of gold strip, is uncertain. That catalogued under A 1 (FIG. 62), apparently acquired by the Museum in the middle of the 19th century, had been kept with grave-goods from Kempston (Beds.), but from the records of this excavation Mr. David H. Kennett, who is reassessing the finds from that cemetery, considers it most unlikely that the ascription is correct. The suggestion that this might be from Faversham (cf. Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, p. 69, nos. 8-12), where one recorded braid seems to be missing, is regarded by Mrs. Leslie Webster as equally unlikely. The Faversham material did not reach the Museum till 1895, and a descriptive label apparently in Sir Wollaston Franks's handwriting in the box with A 1 indicates that this was probably acquired in the late 1850s or the 1860s. The brocading, though very narrow, is in the same style as that of the braids from the Taplow barrow. I am grateful to Miss Vera I. Evison for drawing my attention to this braid.

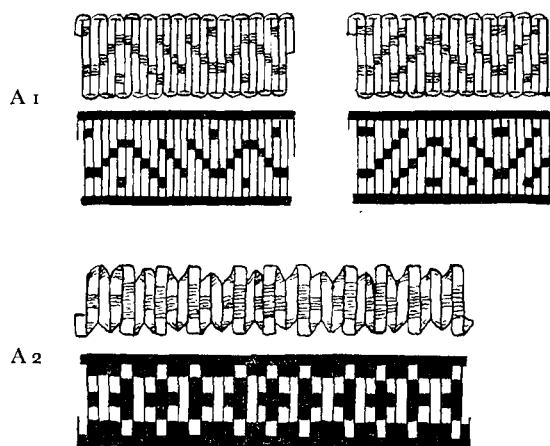


FIG. 62

PATTERNS FROM ANGLO-SAXON GOLD BRAIDS (p. 209 f.). Sc. $\frac{2}{1}$

A 1 and 2, provenience unknown, in British Museum

The second example, A 2 (FIG. 62), is unregistered. The gold fragments were transferred in 1965 from the Natural History Museum in a small box containing also a fine gold bracteate; they are unnumbered and there is no indication of how they came to be in that museum. The style is very similar to that of the braids from Bifrons.

The third addition, A 3, comes from Faversham. Recent X-ray examination of the early 6th-century ring-sword (no. 951.70) by the British Museum Laboratory revealed