

# Pottery and Other Finds from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Sandy, Bedfordshire

By DAVID H. KENNETT

*INTENSIVE* museum research and examination of documentary records of the discovery in the 18th and 19th centuries of Anglo-Saxon urns and other finds at Sandy (Beds.) reveals a series of 5th- to early 6th-century cremation urns and other pottery from the site. These are published together for the first time and their significance is discussed. A metal find of importance, a silver bracelet, is given extended treatment.

## INTRODUCTION

ANGLO-SAXON cremation urns have long been known from Sandy (Beds.; TL 180485). Since the first illustration of 'Urna Sepulchralis apud Sandy in Agro Bedfordiensi' by Battley in 1745<sup>1</sup> individual vessels have been frequently alluded to or illustrated in antiquarian and archaeological publications. As recently as 1969 two works as different in their intentions as Miss Godber's *History of Bedfordshire* and Dr. Myres's *Anglo-Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England* included illustrations.<sup>2</sup> Yet there is no single publication giving details of all the known vessels and of the other, rather sparse, Anglo-Saxon finds from Sandy. Some of the urns are well-known; others have been examined only by a few specialists and of most of these no publication exists. In view of this scattered coverage (summarized for each vessel in the catalogue, pp. 30 ff.) and because some confusion has arisen over the exact history of certain important and well-known pots,<sup>3</sup> the present study was undertaken in an attempt to draw together all the known items in a single place.

Some thirteen vessels were certainly found at Sandy, and there is a record of another discovery with which a vessel is most probably to be connected. Also known are two knives, a bone pin, and a silver bracelet. At least three other finds have also been claimed as Anglo-Saxon.

Much of the confusion surrounding the Anglo-Saxon material from Sandy lies in its diversity of museum location. No fewer than four museums have objects: four pots are in the British Museum (nos. 2, 3, 5, 12); six (nos. 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13) in Bedford Museum together with the two knives (nos. 14, 15); two (nos. 6, 8)

<sup>1</sup> J. Battley, *Antiquitates Rutupinae* (1745), pl. 10, no. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Godber (1969); Myres (1969). For key to shortened references see Bibliography, p. 32 f.

<sup>3</sup> Some idea of the confusion may be seen by comparing the statements of Myres (1954), p. 224, J. Morris, *Beds. Archaeol. J.*, 1 (1962), 70, A. Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* (1964), p. 39, and the record presented here.

and the bone pin (no. 17) in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; and the silver bracelet (no. 16), one certain pot (no. 1) and the probable further Sandy vessel (Braybrooke) are in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.

### THE POTTERY

The earliest discovery of an Anglo-Saxon urn at Sandy was made some time before 1745. This fine stamped *Buckelurne* (FIG. 6, no. 1), now in the Trinity College loan collection of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, acquired greater currency from Fox's plate in 1923 but has no detailed history.<sup>4</sup> It is elaborately decorated with four arched *stehende Bogen* bosses above feathered bosses and with four small circular bosses. Myres (1969) placed it among the group-V *Buckelurnen*:<sup>5</sup> those with or without feet, and with free or exuberant use of stamps. Of all the *Buckelurnen* groups suggested by Myres this has the least unity. It includes such markedly different vessels as the present one, the well-known complete *Buckelurne* from Kempston (Beds.) in the British Museum,<sup>6</sup> another from Kempston in Bedford Museum,<sup>7</sup> one from Kettering,<sup>8</sup> and two products of the Lackford/Thurmaston potter,<sup>9</sup> not to mention numerous others in East Anglia and Lincolnshire.<sup>10</sup> Each is an individual product. It is therefore difficult to point to parallels and the dating of any particular vessel is not to be expressed in more than broad terms. Myres, probably rightly, placed most of this group early in the 6th century, but a somewhat earlier date may perhaps not be inappropriate for the pot from Sandy and for the one from Kempston in the British Museum. Geographically these are at the extremities of the distribution. Both, although stamped in some profusion, are much more restrained than the urns of the Lackford/Thurmaston potter<sup>11</sup> or the urn with seven stamps from Mildenhall (Suffolk),<sup>12</sup> and neither has the wild stamping of that from Kettering.<sup>13</sup> The arched bosses of the Sandy urn relate closely to the *stehende Bogen* bosses on a group-III *Buckelurne* from Shropham (Norfolk),<sup>14</sup> and have parallels abroad, such as on an urn from Hoog Halen (Drenthe Province, Holland),<sup>15</sup> though, like the 'eyebrow' *Buckelurnen* from Lackford (Suffolk)<sup>16</sup> and a pot from Wallingford (Berks.),<sup>17</sup> the Dutch vessel has no stamps.

Two more late 18th-century finds from Sandy are the two well-known footed

<sup>4</sup> C. Fox, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), p. 267, pl. 31, no. 4.

<sup>5</sup> Myres (1969), pp. 47, 146, 194, fig. 24, no. 328.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 194, fig. 24, no. 1983; Kennett (*Kempston*), object 24.

<sup>7</sup> Fitch (1868), pl. 41, lower; Kennett (*Kempston*), object 459; Bedford Museum, accession no.

B.M. 115.

<sup>8</sup> Myres (1969), p. 234, fig. 44, no. 748, pl. 3 d.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 48 note 44, 129 note 1, 236, fig. 45.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 47 with map 4B, 145-6 (list), and references cited in notes 5-9 above.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 48, 236, fig. 45.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 194, fig. 24, no. 1012.

<sup>13</sup> *Loc. cit.* in note 8.

<sup>14</sup> Myres (1969), p. 194, fig. 24, no. 1180.

<sup>15</sup> Baldwin Brown (1915), pl. 144, no. 2. This urn is not to be confused with another *Buckelurne* from Hoog Halen in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden, illustrated in *Prehistorie en vroegste geschiedenis van ons land* (1969), pl. 63.

<sup>16</sup> Lethbridge (1951), fig. 3, no. 50.23.

<sup>17</sup> Myres (1969), p. 192, fig. 23, no. 2086.

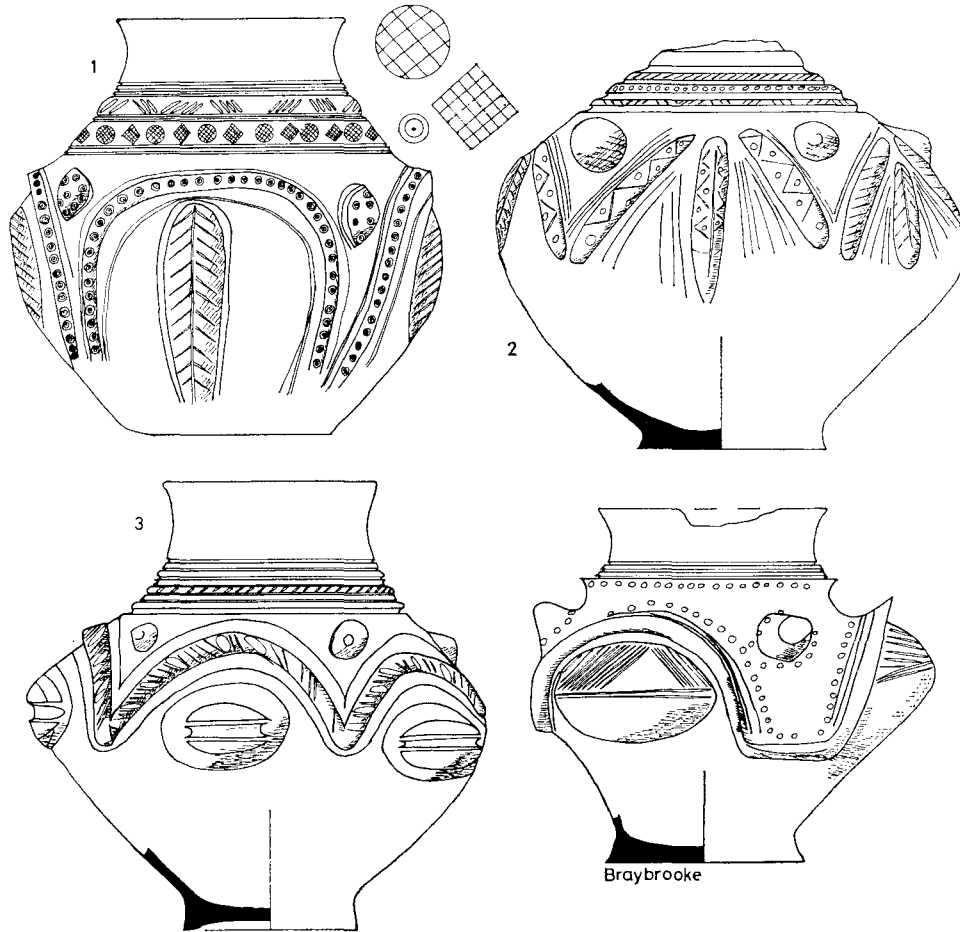


FIG. 6  
BUCKELURNEN, SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE (pp. 18 ff.). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Nos. 1-3, certainly from Sandy; Braybrooke, probably from Sandy

*Buckelurnen* of Myres's group I (FIG. 6, nos. 2, 3). One (it is not certain which) was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1783.<sup>18</sup> Both were illustrated some twenty years later, but no details of their discovery were preserved. D. and S. Lysons included one (no. 3) in *Magna Britannia* in 1804; the first record of the other (no. 2) is an engraving by the antiquary Thomas Fisher bound in the 1806 edition of *Magna Britannia*.<sup>19</sup> A Belgic pedestal urn is also shown on this engraving; both are recorded as 'Roman urns in the possession of John Harvey Esq., of Ickwell, Beds.'. The Belgic pot, the two *Buckelurnen* and a group of Roman vessels, all from Sandy, were given by a descendant also called John Harvey

<sup>18</sup> *Archaeologia*, VII (1785), 412.

<sup>19</sup> Lysons (1804), pl. opp. p. 24; Lysons (1806), engraving after p. 24, now in Luton Central Library, Reference Dept., Local History Collection. Undated separate copies of this engraving also survive.

and then living in King's Lynn, to the British Museum in 1937.<sup>20</sup> Before this the Belgic pot, the two *Buckelurnen* and a small late-bronze-age hoard had been photographed by C. F. Tebbutt at Ickwell House. These photographs were published in 1954 by Myres and Tebbutt. The provenience of all of them was given as Ickwell, which was thought to be the provenience of the bronze-age hoard.<sup>21</sup> A subsequent note by Tebbutt and Myres in 1957 restored the provenience of the three pots to Sandy but made no mention of the earliest illustrations, assuming that these vessels were among those found in the 1850s (see below, pp. 21, 23).<sup>22</sup>

There is another *Buckelurne*, also of Myres's group I, which is most probably from Sandy. Although out of order in the chronological sequence of discoveries it is most properly to be noted at this point. The Committee Meeting of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society on 15 December 1863 heard that Lord Braybrooke (better known to students of Anglo-Saxon archaeology as Richard Cornwallis Neville, excavator of the cemeteries at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath, Cambs.) had in his possession an urn from Sandy. It is described as 'black' and resembling 'the urns found during the building of the Great Northern Railway'. No illustration is given in the minute book of the society;<sup>23</sup> its identity is therefore not certain. But the urn from the Braybrooke collection now at Cambridge appears to have good claims to be the vessel in question. In 1948 the archaeological collection of the fourth Lord Braybrooke became the property of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. This was at the same time as the then Ministry of Works took over Audley End House (Essex), home of the Neville family since 1765,<sup>24</sup> as an ancient monument. The Braybrooke collection contains many Anglo-Saxon pots from Neville's excavations; all those from Little Wilbraham<sup>25</sup> are distinguished by a green spot, the six from Linton Heath<sup>26</sup> have a purple spot and most are also labelled with their provenience. Only one vessel has neither spot nor written provenience, and the accession register of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology does not record its find-spot. This vessel, I submit, is that which Lord Braybrooke acquired in 1863 from Sandy.

These three vessels (nos. 2, 3, and Braybrooke) belong to the group of *Buckelurnen* first distinguished by Myres in 1954 and since called group I:<sup>27</sup> those with feet, decorated with linear or line-and-groove designs, with or without finger-tipping, and/or dots, but without stamps. Mid-Anglia has produced at least ten of these vessels including these from Sandy. In Cambridgeshire there are two from St. John's College, Cambridge,<sup>28</sup> and one from Little Wilbraham.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>20</sup> British Museum, reg. no. 1937, 11-11, 1-7.

<sup>21</sup> Myres (1954), p. 208, pl. 21 *b-c*; *Antiq. J.*, xxxiv (1954), 232, pl. 26; further late-bronze-age material from Ickwell is in Bedford Museum (*Beds. Archaeol. J.*, iv (1969), 79-80).

<sup>22</sup> Myres (1957).

<sup>23</sup> Beds. County Record Office document x, 69/16, p. 345.

<sup>24</sup> *Audley End* (M.P.B.W. official guide book, 1958), p. 11.

<sup>25</sup> Neville (1852) does not illustrate all the vessels he found.

<sup>26</sup> R. C. Neville, 'An Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated January 1853 [on Linton Heath, Cambs.]', *Archaeol. J.*, ix (1854), 95-115.

<sup>27</sup> Myres (1954); Myres (1969), pp. 45-6.

<sup>28</sup> Myres (1954), p. 207, fig. 3, nos. 1-2.

<sup>29</sup> Neville (1852), pl. 28.

Single examples are also known from Somersham (Hunts.),<sup>30</sup> Milton Malsor (Northants.),<sup>31</sup> and in Bedfordshire from Luton<sup>32</sup> and Kempston. This last, which is known only from a water-colour by Barford Rudge in the original publications of the Kempston cemetery, has not previously been recognized.<sup>33</sup> It has two slashed collars above the shoulder and vertical bosses on the body, some with diagonal slashings.<sup>34</sup>

In 1954 Myres dated these group-I *Buckelurnen* soon after the traditional date of the *adventus Saxonum* in c. 450.<sup>35</sup> In 1969 he still ascribed them to the 2nd half of the 5th century,<sup>36</sup> Perhaps this takes insufficient account of their known continental associations: the Westerwanna (Germany) urns—Westerwanna 586 with a late 4th-century brooch,<sup>37</sup> and Westerwanna 1236<sup>38</sup> with a late Roman zoomorphic buckle of Hawkes's type III A39 (the type well-known to English scholars from the grave at Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon.);<sup>40</sup> and that from Galgenberg (Germany) with a pair of late Roman pincers.<sup>41</sup> English associations are few: only the two urns from Lackford (Suffolk). In one of these there was a cruciform brooch of Åberg's group I;<sup>42</sup> in the other, which is much more degenerate, there were fragmentary remains of a great square-headed brooch and a zoomorphic wrist-clasp.<sup>43</sup> Disregarding the wrist-clasp, except to note it suggests a long survival of the form, one can be confident that a 5th-century date is correct for all these group-I urns though some of them may be earlier in the century than is generally recognized. No. 2 may fall into this category. The bosses of this vessel are decorated with chevron-and-dot. The use of chevron-and-dot ornament as an independent decorative device is well-known on Anglo-Saxon pots of the early 5th century, such as no. 5 from Sandy (see below, p. 24 f.); it seems likely that its use on *Buckelurnen* would also be an early feature.<sup>44</sup>

The next group of records about Anglo-Saxon finds at Sandy dates from the early 1850s during the building of the Great Northern Railway from London to York and the branch railway from Sandy to Pottton. At the same time much Romano-British material was also found. Owing to confusion in the minds of the 19th-century recorders of the discoveries as to which were Roman pots and which were Anglo-Saxon cinerary urns, it is not always easy now to determine exactly which discoveries represent lost or known Anglo-Saxon urns. The account

<sup>30</sup> Myres (1954), p. 208, pl. 21 a.

<sup>31</sup> Myres (1969), p. 190, fig. 22, no. 808; Kennett (1969), p. 47, fig. 1, no. 2.

<sup>32</sup> *Antiq. J.*, viii (1928), pl. 37, no. 1; Myres (1969), p. 190, fig. 22, no. 2944.

<sup>33</sup> Fitch (1868), pl. 41, top; Kennett (*Kempston*), object 471.

<sup>34</sup> Also among the lost pottery from Kempston is a *Buckelurne* of Myres's group III: those with feet and with restrained use of stamps. A sherd (Bedford Museum, unnumbered) with five grooves above the top of a vertical boss slashed with diagonal grooves and a cart-wheel stamp is clearly part of the fine *Buckelurne* illustrated by Rudge with vertical bosses, cart-wheel stamp and horizontal oval split bosses: Fitch (1868), pl. 42, third row, right; Kennett (*Kempston*), object 474; the sherd is *ibid.*, object 389.

<sup>35</sup> Myres (1954), p. 201.

<sup>36</sup> Myres (1969), p. 45.

<sup>37</sup> Zimmer-Linnfeld (1960), fig. 78, no. 586.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 157, no. 1236.

<sup>39</sup> Hawkes (1961), pp. 10–21, 59–60, fig. 20.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 1, no. 1.

<sup>41</sup> K. Waller, *Der Galgenberg bei Cuxhaven* (1938), fig. 34, no. 6.

<sup>42</sup> Lethbridge (1951), fig. 2, no. 48.2491.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 17, no. 50. 178B.

<sup>44</sup> I owe this point about chevron-and-dot ornament to Dr. Myres.

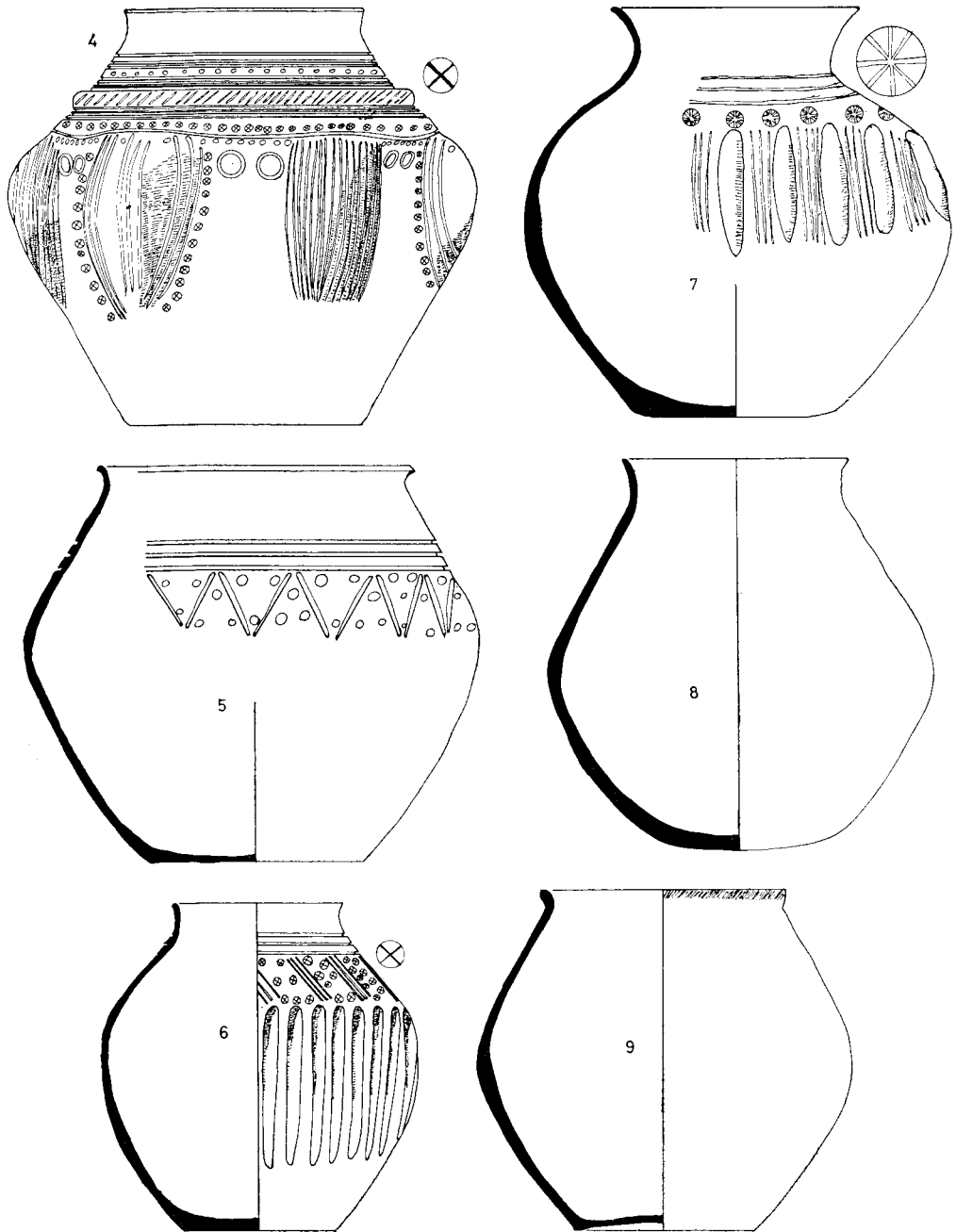


FIG. 7  
 ANGLO-SAXON CREMATION URNS, SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE (pp. 23 ff.). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$

which follows has been built up from a number of sources: the unpublished minute book of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society; the account published by Taddy in the *Associated Architectural Societies, Reports and Papers* in 1853;<sup>45</sup> and the account by Taddy and Airy in the separately published *Notes of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society* which appeared at irregular intervals between January 1853 and January 1867, and whose third issue of June 1854 contains information about Anglo-Saxon pots from Sandy.<sup>46</sup>

The first find, described as 'Roman', was of two urns which were exhibited to the monthly committee meeting of the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society on 17 September 1850.<sup>47</sup> At the society's general meeting on 8 July 1853 a number of objects, including six pots, one of which is specifically described as 'Saxon', were exhibited.<sup>48</sup> Taddy told the meeting that the Anglo-Saxon finds were made near the Great Northern Railway bridge (approx. TL 177488)<sup>49</sup> but that the Roman material was found at the station house (approx. TL 177486). Taddy's published account describes only one vessel (FIG. 7, no. 4) which was later illustrated by a vignette in R. A. Smith's account of Anglo-Saxon remains in the *Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*.<sup>50</sup> Taddy and Airy include illustrations of two of the vessels (FIG. 7, no. 4, FIG. 8, no. 10).<sup>51</sup> All the contemporary sources, however, state that the urns recovered were given to the society's museum. It is reasonable, therefore, to assume that all the vessels now in Bedford Museum whose accession numbers are prefixed by the letters 'B.M.' (nos. 4, 9, 10, 11, 13) are from the 1850 finds at Sandy, for no later record is known of discoveries being acquired by the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society for their collections. Roman pottery found in the 1850s was also acquired by the society; what remains, and this is most of the known pots, is in Bedford Museum.<sup>52</sup>

It seems probable that the most likely date of discovery of another of the vessels was during the building of the railway between Sandy and Pottin in the 1850s. For this urn from Pottin Hill, Sandy (FIG. 7, no. 7) no exact details of discovery have survived.

It is not possible to point to many parallels to these urns. Myres has suggested that the two small stamps at the top of the plain bosses of no. 4 may be connected with a protective or prophylactic intention on the part of the potter, for they seem designed to indicate eyes which give the bosses a zoomorphic appearance.<sup>53</sup> The small plain vessel (FIG. 8, no. 11) is presumably not a cremation urn but an accessory vessel in an inhumation grave. It is not large enough to hold a cremation, nor does it show signs of internal sooting. At least one other of the Sandy urns (FIG. 8, no. 12) is probably also an accessory vessel in an inhumation. The brown

<sup>45</sup> Taddy (1853).

<sup>46</sup> Taddy and Airy (1854).

<sup>47</sup> Minute book of the Beds. Archit. Archaeol. Soc., p. 89.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 142.

<sup>49</sup> Taddy (1853), p. 427.

<sup>50</sup> *V.C.H., Beds.*, 1 (1904), 84.

<sup>51</sup> Taddy and Airy (1854), pp. 32-5 with fig.

<sup>52</sup> Taddy (1853) and Taddy and Airy (1854) give a contemporary account of the Roman finds.

<sup>53</sup> Myres (1909), p. 49, note 1.

vessel with four neckline grooves and large triangles formed by incised grooves on the body and with a distinct foot-ring (FIG. 8, no. 13) is clearly related to an urn from Girton (Cambs.) with four necklines but with three-line chevrons below.<sup>54</sup>

The British Museum has two further vessels (nos. 5, 12) from Sandy apart from the two well-known *Buckelurnen* (nos. 2, 3; see above, pp. 19 ff.). The first was originally presented to the United Services Institution by an Adam Smyth sometime before it was transferred to the British Museum in 1866 (FIG. 7, no. 5). The decoration is confined to the shoulder with three broad grooves above a row of chevron lines forming triangles with groups of three finger tips inside and outside each triangle. The design is a well-known Anglo-Saxon decorative device:<sup>55</sup> an urn from Kettering has three grooves above three-line chevrons and single oval finger tips;<sup>56</sup> one from Abingdon (Berks.), two grooves above single-

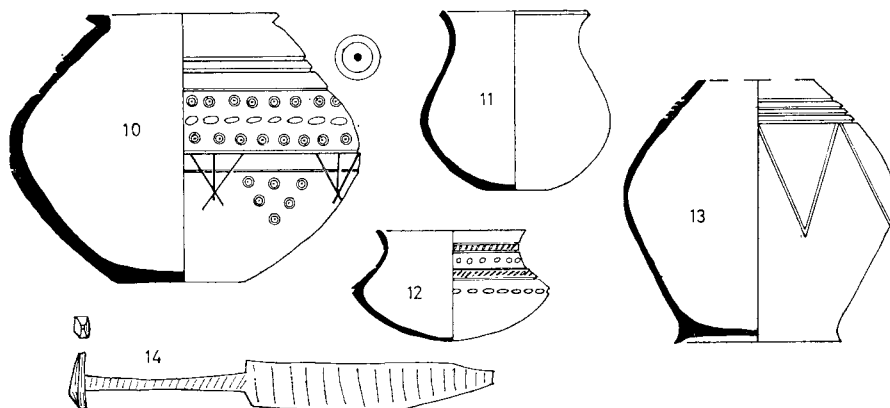


FIG. 8

SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE. Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$ 

Nos. 10-13, Anglo-Saxon pots (pp. 23 ff.); no. 14, Anglo-Saxon knife (p. 27)

line chevrons and multiple finger tipping;<sup>57</sup> and one from Castle Acre (Norfolk), five grooves, three-line chevrons and three finger tips placed in a triangle within the chevrons and vertically underneath them.<sup>58</sup> The scheme thus varies with each example but the group of vessels with chevron-and-dot designs has a firm unity, which harks back to continental vessels such as Westerwanna 174 and 1122. The latter was found with an iron cross-bow brooch of 4th-century type similar to one in a related urn at Stenderup (Germany). Westerwanna 174, on the other hand, contained the spring of a tutulus brooch, again a late 4th-century type.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Information from Dr. Myres.

<sup>55</sup> Myres (1969), p. 81.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 212, fig. 33, no. 765.

<sup>57</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, xii (1968), 38-9, fig. 9, c.17.

<sup>58</sup> Myres (1969), p. 212, fig. 33, no. 1166.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 214, fig. 34.



It is, of course, impossible to estimate how long the use of this type of ornament survived in Britain but I agree with Myres who places these urns early in the 5th century.<sup>60</sup> No. 5 has the added interest that Sandy is well-known as a Roman site, and other chevron-and-dot pots have been found in cemeteries beside Roman sites, such as York and Cambridge.

The other vessel in the British Museum (FIG. 8, no. 12) was presented by J. P. Morgan with the second part of Canon Greenwell's collection in 1909. How Canon Greenwell acquired the vessel is not known, but as a prolific collector, whose collections included several objects from Kempston<sup>61</sup> obtained at the time of the original discoveries in 1864,<sup>62</sup> it is not surprising that he should have acquired a single vessel from Sandy in the course of his travels. This small bowl with a faceted carination and with decoration confined to the neck and shoulder belongs to a group discussed by Myres in connexion with those found at Mucking (Essex).<sup>63</sup> Two types of small bowl with a faceted carination are known on the continent and in England: with a pedestal base, and with a rounded base. The Sandy example (no. 12) belongs to the latter type which is common in the late 4th and early 5th centuries in N. Germany. As the type continued in use, its carination became less sharp and its neck higher. The carination of no. 12 is still sharp and the neck short. It is probable therefore that this is an early example of the type, belonging to the 1st half of the 5th century.

Two other pots from Sandy are known, both in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (FIG. 7, nos. 6, 8). Records of the discovery of both are vague, being known only from faded 19th-century museum labels. If readings by the late E. T. Leeds and more recently by P. D. C. Brown are correct it would seem that they were discovered in 1882, but this is not certain, nor is the name of the original finder(s).<sup>64</sup> The vessel, no. 6, with a continuously fluted body below an arrangement of grooves and stamps belongs to a variant of Myres's long boss style<sup>65</sup> which he has termed 'melon ribbing'.<sup>66</sup> The long boss style is common in East Anglia and the upper Thames valley. Myres ascribes the style to the early 6th century. The plain sub-biconical urn, no. 8, belongs to a type found on many sites including Kempston<sup>67</sup> and Northamptonshire cemeteries such as Newton-in-the-Willows<sup>68</sup> and Stamford Road, Kettering.<sup>69</sup> It had a long life.

This group of fourteen pots forms the main body of Anglo-Saxon finds from Sandy. The series includes both well-known urns and ones previously unpublished. For some a date has been suggested, but it cannot be emphasized too strongly that pots, even with continental parallels, can only be dated on typological grounds. The suggested dates are, it is true, in some cases supported by associated objects else-

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 81.

<sup>61</sup> British Museum, reg. no. 1876, 2-12, 17-25.

<sup>62</sup> Minute book of the Beds. Archit. Archaeol. Soc., p. 350.

<sup>63</sup> Myres (1968), pp. 222-8, fig. 5.

<sup>64</sup> The year 1882 is possible for both urns; for no. 6 1888 and for no. 8 1827 are possible. The name of the finder of no. 6 has been read as 'Wilkinson', 'Williamson', and 'Atkinson'.

<sup>65</sup> Myres (1969), pp. 91-4, with maps 6A-B, 222-4, figs. 38-9.

<sup>66</sup> In a letter to me, and see Myres (1937), pp. 432-6.

<sup>67</sup> Bedford Museum, accession no. B.M. 114; Kennett (*Kempston*), object 408.

<sup>68</sup> Myres (1969), p. 152, fig. 3, no. 740.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 152, fig. 3, no. 745.

where, but such cases are very few in relation to the total number of urns. Moreover the associated objects may be early or late in a particular series, old or new when buried, and if burnt on the pyre there is little means of telling where exactly a fairly plain brooch, for example, may fit in its typological series. Whilst most typological dating is reasonably accurate, it is dangerous to accept too fine a dating for any object, whether pot or brooch, glass or buckle. Often it cannot be dated more accurately than within a century and sometimes has an even longer life.

Examination of the dating of the Sandy urns reveals a high proportion of 5th-century, or probable 5th-century, urns: the four *Buckelurnen* (nos. 1, 2, 3, Braybrooke); the vessel with chevron-and-dot ornament (no. 5); and the small bowl with a faceted carination (no. 12). Certain vessels are most probably of the early 6th century: the heavily bossed urn (no. 4) and that with melon ribbing (no. 6). None of the remaining six pots (nos. 7-11, 13) belongs to a type usually ascribed to the late 6th or the 7th century. It is probable that an early 6th-century date would not be inappropriate for them; it is possible that one or two may be earlier. It is therefore worth stressing that the pots at Sandy belong to the early years of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of England and that the site has no ceramic evidence of settlement in the late 6th and 7th centuries. It is worth noting also that a provisional conclusion on the cremation pottery from Kempston,<sup>70</sup> less than ten miles to the west, suggests that this large mixed cemetery, which began in the earliest years of the 5th century and continued well into the 2nd half of the 7th century, became an inhumation cemetery during the 6th century. This is considerably earlier than the purely inhumation 'Christian Saxon' phase of the 7th century, with pottery accessory vessels, which forms the final phase at Kempston, and also before a large group of inhumations of the late 6th century. Indeed in the recorded Kempston material<sup>71</sup> there is a series of disturbed burials, where obvious late 6th-century and 7th-century inhumations were made over earlier cremations. This is not the place to elaborate details of this aspect of the Kempston cemetery, but the provisional 5th- and early 6th-century date of the cremation pottery accords well with the 5th- and early 6th-century date of the cremation urns from Sandy.

### METAL AND BONE OBJECTS

Apart from the pottery, the Anglo-Saxon finds from Sandy are few: two knives, a silver bracelet and a bone pin, all of which are figured here for the first time. These four objects serve to emphasize that the Sandy cemetery did include some inhumations. Two of the pots certainly (nos. 11 and 12) and one possibly (no. 13) were accessory vessels.

The *two knives* were both found in 1913, when Romano-British material from Sandy now in Bedford Museum was also discovered. The pommel on the knife

<sup>70</sup> Kennett (*Kempston*) surveys all the material from the Kempston cemetery and the conclusions are taken from it.

<sup>71</sup> Fitch (1868) supplemented by the minute book of the Beds. Archit. Archaeol. Soc. and other sources (not relevant for Feb.-Mar. 1864 when these disturbed burials were found).

(FIG. 8, no. 14) is unusual, but the other broken knife (no. 15) is similar to many from Kempston<sup>72</sup> and Luton.<sup>73</sup>

The *silver bracelet* (FIG. 9, no. 16) has no known history but deserves some discussion for it is one of a number.<sup>74</sup> Silver bracelets are known in two forms, the ribbed, as at Sandy, and the stamped, and several have associations. Of the ribbed form the probable date limits are provided by two grave finds. The upper limit is indicated by the association in a grave at Longbridge (Warws.)<sup>75</sup> of a bracelet, an imported gold bracteate of group C, and a very late example of the most florid form of cruciform brooch, which together suggest a date not earlier

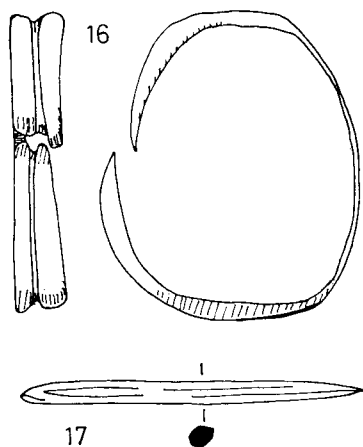


FIG. 9

SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE. Sc.  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

No. 16, Anglo-Saxon silver bracelet (p. 27 f.); no. 17, bone pin (p. 28 f.)

than the final years of the 6th century and more probably in the 7th century. The lower limit is perhaps given by the association of two ribbed bracelets with two six-coil spiral saucer-brooches and a great square-headed brooch of Leeds's class A<sub>3</sub> of the Cambridgeshire school, in grave 11 at Barrington A (Cambs.),<sup>76</sup> for which a date in the middle of the 6th century may be suggested. Barrington A also produced a hybrid form of bracelet: the ribbed and stamped, but this was unassociated.<sup>77</sup> Unassociated also are two other ribbed and stamped bracelets and a worn stamped bracelet from Barrington,<sup>78</sup> now in Canon Greenwell's collection in the British Museum.

There is a number of pairs of stamped silver bracelets. One pair comes from grave 11 at Holywell Row (Suffolk),<sup>79</sup> which, because of its silver pendants,

<sup>72</sup> Bedford Museum and British Museum: see Kennett (*Kempston*) for details.

<sup>73</sup> *Antiq. J.*, VIII (1928), pl. 35, nos. 1-13.

<sup>74</sup> Previously discussed in Lethbridge (1931), p. 8.

<sup>75</sup> *V.C.H., Warws.*, I (1904), 260-4. Recent cleaning has revealed stamps on this bracelet, but this does not invalidate the dating arguments.

<sup>76</sup> *Collectanea Antiqua*, VI (1868), 158; Leeds (1949), pp. 24-5, pl. 21.

<sup>77</sup> Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.

<sup>78</sup> British Museum, reg. nos. 1876, 2-12, 31-33.

<sup>79</sup> Lethbridge (1931), pp. 4-9, figs. 2-3, plan 3.

must belong to the middle of the 7th century,<sup>80</sup> although it contained items such as girdle-hangers and a great square-headed brooch of the 6th century. From Tuddenham (Suffolk)<sup>81</sup> is an important unpublished grave group consisting of a pair of stamped silver bracelets, a great square-headed brooch of the Cambridge-shire school of Leeds's class A3, a pair of annular brooches, amber beads, a melon bead, a cruciform brooch of Åberg's group IV: an assemblage of the middle or later years of the 6th century. The pair of saucer-brooches with degenerate zoomorphic design associated with an anomalous pair of stamped silver bracelets in grave 123 at Long Wittenham (Berks.)<sup>82</sup> again indicates a probable date in the 2nd half of the 6th century. Another associated example is the fragment found with the fused remains of a great square-headed brooch of Leeds's A3 class in an urn by the Illington/Lackford potter at Lackford (Suffolk).<sup>83</sup> The probable date is again the middle 6th century. Apart from the unassociated hybrid and the worn stamped bracelets from Barrington, there are three separate fragments with Y-shaped stamps among the material from Kenninghall (Suffolk).<sup>84</sup>

The stamps on silver bracelets are mainly of three types: S-shaped, triangular and Y-shaped. Similar stamps are used on another Anglo-Saxon silver object, the necklet. This is rare. Three unassociated finds only are known to me: Emscote (Warws.),<sup>85</sup> Market Overton (Rutland),<sup>86</sup> and West Stow (Suffolk).<sup>87</sup> Because of their lack of associations it is not possible to date them precisely, but they may perhaps be contemporary with the bracelets whose associations suggest a date not earlier than the middle of the 6th century and not later than the middle of the 7th century.

The *bone pin* (FIG. 9, no. 17) was given to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, by Sir Arthur Evans with the collection built up by his father, Sir John Evans, who acquired this pin from Frank Latchmore of Hitchin<sup>88</sup> in 1896. The object, hitherto called a pin, could have been used as a dress fastener, in the hair,<sup>89</sup> or as an awl in weaving. Until some are excavated in graves it is unwise to pass judgement on their exact use. Leeds found several objects of this type at Sutton Courtenay (Berks.)—not in graves—but his comparative material was drawn from the cemeteries of the Thames valley.<sup>90</sup> Nearer Sandy, Kempston has

<sup>80</sup> Mrs. Hawkes has recently suggested that Holywell Row, grave 11, can be safely placed in the 2nd half of the 6th century (*Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXXXIV (1969), 20, note 31): no reasons are advanced for this date.

<sup>81</sup> Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. I am at present engaged in a complete survey of the Tuddenham finds. The grave group has been individually illustrated by Leeds (1949), pl. 25, and noted by N. Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (1926), p. 188, table 1, no. 115.

<sup>82</sup> *Archaeologia*, xxxviii (1858-61), 347, pl. 19, nos. 5-6.

<sup>83</sup> Lethbridge (1951), fig. 17, no. 50.178B; Leeds (1949), pl. 15A.

<sup>84</sup> British Museum, reg. nos. 1883, 7-2, 20-21.

<sup>85</sup> *Antiq. J.*, v (1925), 268.

<sup>86</sup> *Archaeologia*, LXII (1911), 183-4, fig. 1 b.

<sup>87</sup> Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, unpublished.

<sup>88</sup> Presumably the same Mr. Latchmore who possessed Roman coins from Sandy (*V.C.H., Beds.*, II (1908), 11).

<sup>89</sup> As most certainly was that from grave 299 at Kingston (Kent): B. Faussett, *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (ed. C. Roach Smith, 1856), p. 93 with fig.

<sup>90</sup> *Archaeologia*, LXXXIII (1924), 182-4, pls. xxviii, fig. 2, and xxix, fig. 1, and *ibid.*, lxxvi (1927), pl. vii, fig. 2.

produced several among the unassociated material which also includes a bone needle.<sup>91</sup> It is unwise to suggest any exact dating for these and for the pin from Sandy.

### OBJECTS OF DISPUTED DATE

It remains to mention the objects from Sandy which have been claimed as Anglo-Saxon, but for which some other date is more probable. The three quarters of charred wheat, which may be compared with a similar find at Marston St. Lawrence (Northants.),<sup>92</sup> could equally well be Roman or medieval. A lead chalice is certainly medieval.<sup>93</sup>

A bronze bowl, of unknown history, was presented to the British Museum in 1900.<sup>94</sup> The late R. A. Smith suggested it could have been Anglo-Saxon or late Roman.<sup>95</sup> It has recently been demonstrated that it is a good example of the late Romano-British type, called by Kendrick the 'Ircchester bowl'.<sup>96</sup> Manufactured at the end of the 4th century and old when buried probably early in the 5th century, this bowl is of similar date to a hoard of three late Gallo-Roman bronze bowls from Sandy, now in Bedford Museum.<sup>97</sup> This group, which was found in 1856, includes all the common late 4th-century Gallo-Roman types: *bassin à bord godronné*, *bassin festonné*, and *bassin uni*.<sup>98</sup> The hoard is one of three known 4th-century hoards from Sandy. A collection of antiquities made by William Ransom contains a hoard of ironwork including linchpins of a type known only in large 4th-century hoards, although the remainder of the hoard is of objects which cannot be closely dated or are known throughout the Roman period.<sup>99</sup> Bedford Museum also has a large coin-hoard from Sandy. The coins are mainly of the 4th century and the series ends with several of Theodosius the Great (379-395).<sup>100</sup> It would seem that the deposition of this hoard dates at earliest from the end of the 4th century,<sup>101</sup> but coinage of this period certainly circulated far into the 5th century, so it may be considerably later. These hoards, two buried in the late 4th century, if not in the early 5th, and one probably buried in the 4th century, reflect, no doubt, the turbulence of the age.

<sup>91</sup> All in Bedford Museum: see Kennett (*Kempston*) for details of grave finds. (None can definitely be identified with extant material.)

<sup>92</sup> A. Meaney, *op. cit.* in note 3, p. 40.

<sup>93</sup> Taddy (1853), p. 427. The Anglo-Saxon dating was derived from comparison with chalices in burials at Reading (Berks.), now known to be of medieval priests.

<sup>94</sup> British Museum, reg. no. 1900, 10-3, 6.

<sup>95</sup> *V.C.H., Beds.*, I (1904), 184.

<sup>96</sup> *Antiquity*, VI (1932), 162; Kennett (1968), pp. 29-32, for a discussion of this type of bowl. The Sandy bowl will be published in *Beds. Archaeol. J.*

<sup>97</sup> Bedford Museum, accession nos. 3298-3300; illustrated and discussed in D. H. Kennett, 'Late Roman bronze vessel hoards in Britain', *Jahrb. des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz*, XVI (1969), 123-48, forthcoming.

<sup>98</sup> These types are discussed in Kennett (1968), pp. 12-21, and *op. cit.* in note 97, pp. 138-45.

<sup>99</sup> *Beds. Archaeol. J.*, II (1964), 50-7.

<sup>100</sup> Bedford Museum, unpublished.

<sup>101</sup> For a general discussion of the large quantity of Roman finds from Sandy see D. E. Johnston, 'Roman Sandy', *Beds. Mag.*, V (1955-6), 232-6.

## CATALOGUE

1 (FIG. 6). *Buckelurne* of Myres's group V; smooth red-brown external surfaces, blackened in places on upper part. Everted rim above conical neck. Elaborate decorative scheme: three sharply incised horizontal lines; raised collar with slashed four-line and three-line chevrons; two grooves; row of thirty-eight stamps, square with rounded corners and circular, all with criss-cross lines made by specially cut tool; two grooves. Four arched *stehende Bogen* bosses below; each boss outlined by two grooves and carrying line of circular stamps. Below each boss long vertical boss, feathered, and outlined by two lines. Small round boss, outlined by three lines, with circle of circular stamps (identical with those on *stehende Bogen* bosses), set between each main boss. Gently rounded base angle. Three stamps used.

*Museum.* Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, accession no. D 14. 124.  
*Literature.* J. Battley, *Antiquitates Rutubinae* (1745), pl. 10, no. 1; C. Fox, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), p. 267, pl. 31, no. 4; Myres (1969), p. 194, fig. 24, no. 328; Myres (*Corpus*), no. 328.

2 (FIG. 6). *Buckelurne* of Myres's group I; well-made, black surfaces; lacks all neck and rim and some of one side. Heavily ornamented. Four collars below neck, each separated from next by deep incised groove: uppermost plain; next slashed; third with dimples; lowest with three-line chevrons. Main decorative feature discontinuous cable boss in five sections, breaking over each of five vertical feathered bosses and below each of five plain circular bosses. Cable boss decorated with slashings on some sections and chevron-and-dot ornament on others. (One vertical boss also has chevron-and-dot ornament.) Series of lightly incised grooves fanning below cable boss and outlining it above. Foot-rim to flat base. No stamps used.

*Museum.* British Museum, reg. no. 1937, 11-11, 8.  
*Literature.* Lysons (1806), engraving by T. Fisher inserted after p. 24; Myres (1954), p. 208, pl. 21 c, as from Ickwell, corrected Myres (1957), p. 224; Myres (*Corpus*), no. 1174.

3 (FIG. 6). Biconical *Buckelurne* of Myres's group I; well-made of smooth black ware; lacks part of neck and rim. Everted rim above tall hollow neck. Two necklines above three collars at base of neck: second slashed, others plain. Main decorative feature is continuous raised cable boss slashed with line and groove, rising above five horizontal split oval bosses with central groove and two lines, and falling below five plain round bosses. Depressed swag above and below cable boss. Well-moulded pronounced foot-rim.

*Museum.* British Museum, reg. no. 1937, 11-11, 9.  
*Literature.* Lysons (1804), pl. opp. p. 24; Lysons (1806), *ibid.*; Myres (1954), p. 208, pl. 21 b, as from Ickwell, corrected Myres (1957), p. 224; Myres (1969), p. 190, fig. 22, no. 1175; Myres (*Corpus*), no. 1175.

Braybrooke (FIG. 6). *Buckelurne* of Myres's group I; dark grey, harsh surfaces; lacks part of rim and neck. Three necklines above pronounced plain collar at base of neck, with row of deep dimples below. Main decorative feature is raised cable boss, plain with two lines above and row of dimples. Three large horizontal bosses on maximum diameter, split by central groove and line, with decoration confined to upper half, and consisting of two sets of diagonal lines facing one another to leave plain triangle off-centre. Three small plain round bosses facing by dimples at base occupy spandrels. Lower halves of horizontal bosses curve into plain body above pronounced foot-stand to flat base.

*Museum.* Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, accession no. 48. 1292.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Traced through reference in minute book of Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society (Beds. C.R.O. document x 69/16), p. 345; Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2936.

4 (FIG. 7). Large bossed vessel, now somewhat restored; smooth surfaced, black ware. Three necklines; flat collar with row of dimples; three necklines; raised collar slashed; three grooves; row of small cross-in-circle stamps above single wavy-line groove. Wavy-line groove raised over each of eight bosses. Bosses alternately decorated with multiple vertical grooves and with three wide-spaced groups of three grooves, the latter with row of cross-in-circle stamps on either side and two cross-in-circle stamps at top of boss. Between bosses row of dimples below wavy-line groove and two large circles. Lower quarter plain with flat base. One stamp used.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no B.M. 116.

*Literature.* Taddy (1853), p. 427; Taddy and Airy (1854), pp. 32-5 with fig.; *V.C.H., Beds.*, I (1904), 184 with vignette; Dyer (1969), pl. 28, right; Godber (1969), pl. 1 a, right (erroneously ascribed to Kempston); Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2969.

5 (FIG. 7). Globular urn; black. Decoration confined to band above greatest diameter. Three broad deep grooves above single-line chevrons with groups of three dots in triangle formation inside and outside each chevron. Flat base.

*Museum.* British Museum, reg. no. 1866, 10-28, 1.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 3868.

6 (FIG. 7). Urn, with mica fragments in paste; surface light brown to black; lacks much of one side. Three necklines, broadly spaced; arrangement of stamps and grooves: diagonal grooves in groups of three separating seven or eight cross-in-circle stamps in two slanting lines. On body series of melon ribs (inverted long bosses) giving effect of continuous fluting.

*Museum.* Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession no. 1939.47.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2080.

7 (FIG. 7). Globular urn with everted rim; black, harsh surface with sandy grits in fabric. Three light necklines not drawn horizontally; row of cart-wheel stamps on shoulder, each stamp surmounting set of grooves between long narrow bosses. Gently rounded base.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. 7687.

*Literature.* Dyer (1969), pl. 28, left; Godber (1969), pl. 1 a, left (erroneously ascribed to Kempston); Myres (*Corpus*), no. 389.

8 (FIG. 7). Sub-biconical urn; black surface, harsh; plain.

*Museum.* Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession no. 1939.46.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2079.

9 (FIG. 7). Globular urn with everted rim and slight kick in base; harsh black ware with sandy grits.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. B.M. 90.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2977.

10 (FIG. 8). Globular urn with everted rim; much restored, only one large sherd of original remaining. Black, smooth surface. Two grooves on upper part of shoulder; main decoration groove above and below two rows of circle stamps separated by row of oval dimples; below, incised pendant triangles cut by groove, between and below which circle stamps in triangular formation.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. B.M. 118, on loan to Cecil Higgins Museum and Art Gallery, Bedford.

*Literature.* Taddy and Airy (1854), pp. 32-5 with fig.; Myres (*Corpus*), no. 3870.

11 (FIG. 8). Small plain vessel, slightly everted rim, almost sub-biconical; flat base. Smooth, black ware.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. B.M.117.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2970.

12 (FIG. 8). Small bowl with faceted carination; black ware. Rounded base. Decoration confined to upper part: row of short slashes within two grooves on neck; row of dimples; row of slashes within two grooves above carination.

*Museum.* British Museum, reg. no. W.G.2281.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 3869.

13 (FIG. 8). Urn; brown sandy-gritted ware, flaked on surface; lacking all neck and rim and much of one side. Sparsely decorated: four necklines with single-line chevron below. Distinct foot-ring.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. B.M.91.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished. Myres (*Corpus*), no. 2968.

14 (FIG. 8). Iron knife; single-edged blade; long tang ending in pommel. Length 22.9 cm.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, not numbered (label marked 'Sandy, 1913' attached).

*Literature.* Previously unpublished.

15 (not illustrated). Iron knife, broken; only part of blade extant.

*Museum.* Bedford Museum, accession no. 3791.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished.

16 (FIG. 9). Silver bracelet with expanded ends forming two ribs and single joining piece of metal. Diameter 8.4 cm.

*Museum.* Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, not numbered (provenience identified from museum label).

*Literature.* Previously unpublished.

17 (FIG. 9). Bone pin; circular in section, pointed ends. Length 9.3 cm.

*Museum.* Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, accession no. 1927.3362.

*Literature.* Previously unpublished.

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