

(figs. 59.1, 59.2, 59.3) Bembridge © Isle of Wight Council

have been recorded (W Menghin, *Das Schwert im Frühen Mittelalter*, Nürnberg 1983, pp. 363-65). Their distribution on the Continent is concentrated along the Rhine and in the eastern Frankish territories between the Rhine and the Danube (*op. cit.*, Karte 22). Anglo-Saxon pyramidal mounts are concentrated in southern and eastern England and fall into groups which are distinguished predominantly by a distinct difference in height. The mounts, like their continental counterparts, are generally made of silver or copper-alloy and almost invariably the top of the mount is inlaid with a small square-cut garnet.

Within the Anglo-Saxon corpus is a small high-status group made in gold or gold sheet over copper-alloy and inlaid with either cloisonné garnet or, rarely, glass (cf. the copper-alloy mount from Sutton Hoo mound 17 inlaid with poor bluish/green glass). The Bembridge example is an interesting addition to this group. Its octagonal form has no direct parallels, but its proportions and rounded base link it to a pyramidal mount made in silver and inlaid with niello from Bawtry, Lincolnshire (BM P&E 2000,1-2,1) which dates to the late 8th century. The Bembridge mount indicates a shift in style from typical pyramidal mounts which are square-based and may thus be a link between the earlier 7th century examples such as the garnet inlaid mount from Newark, Nottinghamshire (*Treasure Annual Report* 1998-1999, no. 62) and later, taller, examples such as the garnet and filigree

ornamented mount from Dalmeny, Roxburgh (Rupert Bruce-Mitford, *Aspects of Anglo-Saxon Archeology*, London 1974, p. 268 and pl. 87) and the silver mount from Bawtry.

Dimensions and metal content: Base: 17 mm; height: 15 mm; weight: 10.24g; gold content: 79 per cent.

Disposition: Isle of Wight Museum Service.

A C EVANS

(x) Other objects

60 Raunds, Northamptonshire: 6 fragments of Anglo-Saxon silver wire (2002 T212)

Date: 6th century

Finder: Time Team excavation

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver wire hoops and fragments, discoloured and very fragile.

Discussion: When examined *in situ* these hoops appeared to be a set and to have been linked to each other, probably as necklace.

Disposition: Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit.

C PAYNTON



(fig. 61) Scarrington

61 Scarrington, Nottinghamshire: Anglo-Saxon gold setting (2002 T78) (fig. 61)

Date: Early 7th century

Finder: Mr C Headley

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Cabochon setting, possibly from an Anglo-Saxon disc brooch.

Disposition: Disclaimed, returned to finder.

A C EVANS

62 Llanbedrgoch, Isle of Anglesey, Wales: 3 items of silver (2002 T289; NMGW 2002.05) (fig. 62)

Date: 7th to 10th century AD

Finder: Mr A Gillespie (disclaimed)

Date of discovery: April 2002.

Circumstances of discovery: Found while searching ploughsoil with a metal-detector, after the 2001 excavations had been backfilled.

Description: 1. Silver buckle tongue with trapezoidal plate cast as an integral part of the base of the tongue; the central panel bears shallow punched decoration, within a cast 'beaded' border (from the early medieval enclosure, topsoil; SF3201); 2. Small off-cut of silver sheet (from the early medieval enclosure, topsoil;



(fig. 62) Llanbedrgoch © National Museums & Galleries of Wales

SF3218); 3. Globule of silver (from the early medieval enclosure, topsoil; SF3217)

Discussion: In terms of type and design, and on the basis of archaeological context, the above items are contemporary with the early medieval period of occupation of the site at Glyn. The tongue plate is unusual, having a form reminiscent of those on some garnet-inlaid buckles (for example, a gold buckle from Tostock, Suffolk (A MacGregor and E Bolick, *A Summary Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Collections (Non-ferrous Metals)*, Ashmolean Museum, BAR Brit. Ser. 230, Oxford 1993, no. 34.27), and differing from the shield-on-tongue form which usually occur in 6th-century contexts in England (such as Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber: M Welsh, 'Buckles and belt fittings', in G Drinkall and M Foreman, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber*, Sheffield Excavation Reports 6, 1998, pp. 272) and on the Continent. Parallels are provided by two silver buckles from the Sutton Hoo ship-burial, also with

shallow curves to the sides of trapezoidal tongue-plates, and stamped decoration (R Bruce-Mitford, 'Catalogue of silver items', in R. Bruce-Mitford, *The Sutton Hoo Ship-burial*, vol. 3, London 1983, pp. 760-68 and fig. 542). A date in the first half of the 7th century for the Llanbedrgoch example appears likely. The globule and offcut are consistent with other silver finds from the site, attributed to the 9th/10th century. See also *Treasure Annual Report* 1997-98, no. 85; *Treasure Annual Report* 1998-1999, nos. 85-87; *Treasure Annual Report* 2000, no. 46; *Treasure Annual Report* 2001, nos. 76, 205.

Dimensions: 1: Maximum length: 25 mm; weight 3.421g. 2: 5 × 8 mm; weight 0.227g. 3: Length 15 mm; weight 2.097g.

Disposition: National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

M REDKNAP



(figs. 63.1, 63.2) Luton

63 Luton, Bedfordshire: Early medieval gold filigree and glass 'button' (2002 T224) (figs. 63.1, 63.2)

Date: Second half of the 8th century or early 9th century

Finder: Messrs M and J Goodman

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with metal-detectors.

Description: Gold hemisphere set on a back plate and edged with beaded gold wire. The sides of the dome are divided by beaded wire into four fields below two rings of beaded wire framing a tall plain collar on the top. The collar holds a damaged piece of dark blue glass. Each of the side panels carries a curl of beaded wire, some ending in triple gold granules and granules are tucked into the corners of the design. A small hole near the base shows a void, indicating this is not solid gold but has or had an inert core such as sulphur. The back plate is slightly dished and has the ends of a plain gold loop soldered to it. The loop is still present but bent and broken off. The place of attachment on the back plate is decorated by a loop of beaded wire. The workmanship is competent but not of the highest

quality with ends of unbeaded wire in use, irregular use of granules and a gap in a collar filled by a granule. This is consistent with Anglo-Saxon work but the conservatism of working in gold filigree and granulation on such a small scale makes it hard to date with any certainty.

Discussion: There is considerable evidence for gold-working from the Alfredian period onwards, late 9th to 10th century, but no use is made here of the clips and serrated-filigree bands which would confirm such a date. Although this item is on a small scale, serrated bands were used on a finger ring of the 10th century (J Backhouse, D H Turner and L Webster (eds.), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art 966-1066*, London 1984, no. 90). On purely stylistic grounds, namely the elaborately constructed collared setting and the use of the small berry bunches, this appears to be work from the second half of the 8th century or early 9th. Good parallels for the berried scrolls are seen in repoussé work in gilt copper on the Hoddon sheets and the side of the Bischofshoven (Rupertus) cross, all of which are dated to this period. (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds.), *The Making of England. Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600-900*, London 1991, nos. 135 and 133).

An elaborate gold finger-ring, the 'Joan Evans' ring now in the Ashmolean, while much more ambitious in its filigree ornament has comparable fields with triple-berried bunches, and filigree is used on the back. This is dated to the late 8th or early 9th century (D Hinton, *Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Metalwork 700-1100 in the Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford* 1972, no. 38).

While it is tempting to call this a button, it is a delicate and valuable ornament and was probably used to enrich an article of clothing: there are descriptions of cloaks and other garments in the early middle ages decorated with precious attachments.

Dimensions: Diameter: 14.5 mm; height: 10.4 mm; total weight with detached loop: 3.54g.

Disposition: Luton Museum.

S YOUNGS

64 Stanbridge, Bedfordshire: Anglo-Saxon silver strip (2002 T282) (fig. 64)

Date: 9th century

Finder: Ms C Isles

Date of discovery: June 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver decorative strip, incomplete with incised ornament on one face. This incomplete piece has one long straight edge and a long scalloped edge formed by semi-circular panels of ornament and it is broken away at both ends. Two of the three complete panels each hold a stylised animal with knotted limbs. The poses are different and the third panel has a looped knot while a broken fourth panel has further interlace. Details such as the head form and the nicking and dotting of the animals confirms that this is an example of 9th century Anglo-Saxon metalwork in Trehiddle style of the period. The outer beaded borders are also typical of the style. The background may have held niello but none is obvious now.

Discussion: The use of this sturdy strip is not clear, it must by design be an edging piece and could have



(fig. 64) Stanbridge

been fitted on the rim of a drinking vessel or possibly been a scabbard or sword pommel fitting.

Dimensions: Height: 10 mm; length: 48 mm; weight: 4.9g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S YOUNGS

65 Thruxton, Hampshire: Anglo-Saxon silver strip (2002 T294) (fig. 65)

Date: Mid-9th century

Finder: Mr D Robinson

Date of discovery: September 2000

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Cast silver strip, broken at both ends. The larger part consists of a flat sturdy strip (about 1.6 mm thick) broken off at one end across a rivet hole, while the other end forms a stylised animal mask which bites a curving rod that is broken at the end. The animal has deep recesses for eyes, one still holding a cabochon blue-glass setting, and the nostrils



(fig. 65) Thruxton

were also indicated by shallow circular pits (one worn away). The brow is pierced by a rivet hole and the elongated ears are divided from each other and the brow by beaded lines. The plate is filled with a large crouching beast with a narrow waist, rounded haunch and feathered foot. The head is rounded and large, with a dot for the eye but appears to be entangled with the front leg possibly running up and above it. A strong line of angled notches along the back indicate that this is a lion, an identification which suits the narrow waist of the beast. The deeply recessed chased background has traces of niello inlay and the body surface is textured with sharp triangular punchmarks. Additional lines mark the ribs and curvature of the haunch. A small rectangle engraved on the body behind the head has no obvious zoomorphic explanation, unless a deliberate ambiguity was introduced, a play on the torso which, when viewed upside down, has been read as a whale at sea, making this odd shape its mouth.

Discussion: The use of silver and niello, the decorative treatment including the speckled background, treatment of the rear limb and the animal mask, all confirm that this is Anglo-Saxon work of the 9th century in Trehiddle style. The form of this piece, namely a robust attached strip with integral terminal matches three of the pieces from the original Cornish find after which the style is named (D M Wilson and C E Blunt, 'The Trehiddle Hoard', *Archaeologia* 98, 1961, pp. 75-122; D M Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork 700-1100 in the British Museum*, London 1964, nos. 94-96). The purpose or use of these Trehiddle mounts is not fully understood but from them it can be seen that the broken rod extension will have ended in a small loop or perforation. The Hampshire find adds another interesting example to this small group. Two of the former have one scalloped edge, suggesting they were edge mounts or reinforcements to which, or from which, other pendant fittings were suspended. They appear to have been curved and this hints at use as rim mounts with

extensions for the addition of an attachment, perhaps a loop for a chain.

Dimensions: Length: 44.4 mm; weight: 3.83g.

Disposition: Hampshire Museums Service had expressed an interest in acquiring this find but have now withdrawn. The British Museum has acquired this piece.

S YOUNGS

66 West Walton, Norfolk: Viking-age cut piece of stamped silver bar (2002 T228) (fig. 66)

Date: 10th century

Finder: Mr M Carlile

Date of discovery: October 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Cut piece of stamped silver bar with broken sheet attached to the back. The long sides are framed by double line of small punch-marks creating an irregular, reserved zig-zag line. Pendant from these are larger triangular punch-marks with a central row of ring punches. Around these are lightly incised 'v's. This is complex, rather fussy small scale decoration and it is not clear what this object was originally. The broken loop on the back is rather flimsy for a pin-catch and it would have made a very small bar-brooch.

Dimensions: 12 mm × 8.7 mm; weight: 1.5g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S YOUNGS



(fig. 66) West Walton © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

(d) Medieval

(i) Brooches

67 Kingsteignton, Devon: Medieval gold brooch (2002 T154) (fig. 67)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mrs A Parnell

Date of discovery: May 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A medieval gold brooch of miniature proportions, consisting of a flattened hoop crafted into the form of a flower. Nine of the ten petals are inscribed with one or two letters; the tenth is pierced by a hole which holds the pin. The brooch is bent out of shape and the pin is twisted.

Discussion: The letters are as follows: A / A / M I / E A / D N / V N / A / L I / S. The meaning of this inscription is by no means clear. It begins quite promisingly as A AMIE ('à une amie') or 'to a friend' but the remainder does not translate convincingly. Inscribed brooches frequently served as love tokens in the medieval period and the opening words of the inscription would indicate that this was one such brooch.

Disposition: Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter with funding from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Reynolds-Chard Bequest.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 67) Kingsteignton



(fig. 68) Costessey © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

68 Costessey, Norfolk: Medieval annular silver brooch (2002 T230) (fig. 68)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr C Hawes

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Elaborate medieval silver, engraved and cast annular brooch. Flat band, one half with narrow round-sectioned constriction for (missing) pin has a counter-relief wavy line around the outer edge and a slightly raised inner edge with counter-relief dots. The other half of the brooch has a wyvern, extremely finely cast and modelled in the round, with head thrust forwards, engraved details on eyes, mouth and ears. Its two legs support its slightly raised posture, whilst its long tail, with counter-relief dots along the spine, curves round the curve of the brooch and ends in a loop. The wyvern has been soldered onto the flat surface of the brooch that has been engraved on each side of the creature with a series of oblique lines. There is some slight damage on part of the outer edge.

Dimensions: Diameter: 17 mm; weight: 1.16g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS



(fig. 69) Salle © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

69 Salle, Norfolk: Medieval silver annular brooch (2002 T173) (fig. 69)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr R Saunders

Date of discovery: August 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver annular brooch, complete, with four brambled bosses and a brambled collar on the pin. Slight groove on end of pin, where it rests on the frame.

Dimensions: Diameter: 25 mm; weight: 4.63g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 70) Tacolneston © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

70 Tacolneston, Norfolk: Medieval silver ?brooch fragment (2002 T223) (fig. 70)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mrs J Kedge

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver fragment of ?brooch-frame, distorted, probably originally annular; separate knop or collar with tiny stamped annulets.

Dimensions: Diameter of knop: 6 mm; weight: 1.98g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS

70A. Llanddewi, Swansea, Wales: Medieval silver annular brooch (NMGW 2002.13) (fig. 70A)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr S T Grove

Date of discovery: November 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Small silver annular brooch. The plain silver frame is of circular cross-section, with a restriction to hold the pin head. The pin shaft is of oval cross-section, and has a flattened, expanded head with transverse, slightly raised moulding on both sides.

Dimensions: External frame diameter: 11 mm; pin length: 10 mm; weight: 0.869g.



(fig. 70A) Llanddewi © National Museums & Galleries of Wales

Note: In terms of size and design, the brooch is of 13th- or early 14th-century date. The pin, which shows signs of some wear, has a transverse line at junction of head and shaft on both sides, suggesting that it was reversible.

A number of brooches of this general type are known to have been found in Wales, such as an example from Castlemartin Burrows (M Redknap, 'Some medieval brooches, pendants and moulds from Wales: a short survey', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 143, 1994, pp. 92-138, fig.1, 3). The small size, comparable to that of brooches found on Anglesey at Llanfaes, suggests that they would have fastened fine garments (probably female).

Disposition: Swansea Museum.

M REDKNAP



(fig. 71) Great Wigborough

Dimensions: Diameter: 22 mm; frame thickness: 2 mm; weight: 4.28g.

Disposition: Colchester Museums.

P WISE

71 Great Wigborough, Essex: Medieval silver-gilt annular brooch: (2002 T222) (fig. 71)

Date: Late 13th or early 14th century

Finder: Mr D M Conway

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: This annular or ring brooch is constructed of circular-section wire and has four knobs or swellings decorated with punched circles. The pin is missing, but was fitted around a constriction in the frame of the brooch. The brooch is of silver and there are traces of gilding on and around the knobs. The brooch is in good condition although the surface is scratched indicating considerable wear.

Discussion: Brooches of this type were especially popular in northern England and southern Scotland during this period, but have also been found further south (J Alexander and P Binski, *Age of Chivalry – Art in Plantagenet England 1200-1400*, Royal Academy of Arts, London 1987, p. 486, no. 652; *Treasure Annual Report* 2000, nos. 130, 133).

72 Thimbleby, Lincolnshire: Medieval annular brooch fragment (2002 T134) (fig. 72)

Date: Late 13th or early 14th century

Finder: Mr D Lacelles

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Fragment of a silver annular brooch, with two surviving rosette mounts and swivel for pin attachment.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 72) Thimbleby



(fig. 73) Carleton Rode © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

73 Carleton Rode, Norfolk: Medieval silver annular brooch (2002 T82) (fig. 73)

Date: Late 13th or early 14th century

Finder: Mr A Womack

Date of discovery: April 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver annular brooch, twisted frame with a line of pellets between ridges, frame constricted for a pin, now missing.

Dimensions: Diameter: 12 mm; weight: 0.56g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS

74 Stowmarket area, Suffolk: Medieval silver ring-brooch (2002 T253) (fig. 74)

Date: Late 13th or early 14th century

Finder: Mr M Frost

Date of discovery: October 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Very small medieval silver ring brooch, banded decorative effect on opposite curves, which narrow where a pin may have been hinged.

Dimensions: Diameter: 14 mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 74) Stowmarket area

75 East Walton, Norfolk: Medieval silver annular brooch (2002 T101) (fig. 75)

Date: 13th or 14th century

Finder: Mr S Brown

Date of discovery: April 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver sheet annular brooch decorated with two incomplete circles of punched lines, between which are six wavy lines (reversed S-shapes) similarly punched. Both the inner and outer circles respect the pin-hole, which must have been made first. The hoop is angled upwards towards the centre.

Dimensions: External diameter: 17.5 mm; internal diameter: 9 mm; weight: 0.37g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

A ROGERSON



(fig. 75) East Walton © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service



(fig. 76) Stanfield © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

76 Stanfield, Norfolk: Medieval annular brooch (2002 T151) (fig. 76)

Date: 13th or 14th century

Finder: Mr K Dickerson

Date of discovery: July 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver ovoid annular brooch. Hoop of concave-sided square section twisted cable-style, row of filigree pellets along each face. Pin constriction. Pin of tapering D-section with two transverse ribs next to loop.

Dimensions: External diameter: 14 mm × 12 mm; weight: 0.66g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS

77 South Kyme, Lincolnshire: Medieval silver brooch (2002 T136) (fig. 77)

Date: 14th century

Finder: Mr D Duffy

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver brooch, distorted, originally of quatrefoil shape.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 77) South Kyme

78 Riddlesworth, Norfolk: Medieval silver annular brooch (2002 T40) (fig. 78)

Date: 14th century

Finder: Mr D McCubbin

Date of discovery: February 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver annular brooch, circular, but now distorted to an oval. Hoop of 6 mm-wide-sheet bevelled/angled, pierced by circular hole for D-section pin. Probably stamped out of a larger sheet. Both edges are sharp, the outer followed by a slight flange, the inner by a rib which is hollow on the reverse.

Dimensions: Diameter: 29 mm; weight: 1.88g.

Note: Very similar to the brooch from Little Witchingham in *Treasure Annual Report 2001*, no. 95.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS



(fig. 78) Riddlesworth © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service



(fig. 79) Downham Market © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

79 Downham Market, Norfolk: Medieval silver annular brooch (2002 T261) (fig. 79)

Date: 15th or 16th century

Finder: Mr M Parker

Date of discovery: November 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver annular brooch, plain, slightly faceted D-sectioned frame constricted for D-section pin.

Dimensions: Diameter: 21 mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S J ASHLEY

(ii) Mounts

80 Abbots Barton, near Winchester, Hampshire: Medieval silver mount (2002 T108) (fig. 80)

Date: 13th or 14th century

Finder: Mr J de Montfalcon

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Circular medieval silver mount, with four knobs around the outside, some damage to the edges.

At the centre is an equal-armed cross with rounded ends, enclosed within a filigree circular border, and surrounded by six pairs of sub-square cells with X-shaped motifs incised at centre.

Dimensions and metal content: Weight: 1.8g. Non-destructive X-ray fluorescence analysis of the surface of the object conducted at the British Museum show a silver content of approximately 96 per cent.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S WORRELL



(fig. 80) Abbots Barton

81 Holton le Moor, Lincolnshire: Medieval mount (2002 T135) (fig. 81)

Date: 14th century

Finder: Ms M Bates

Date of discovery: April 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver-gilt mount, perhaps originally enamelled, engraved with a bird with outstretched wings, probably representing a pelican.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 81) Holton le Moor



(fig. 82) Little Witchingham © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

82 Little Witchingham, Norfolk: Medieval silver book-clasp (2002 T189) (fig. 82)

Date: 14th century

Finder: Mr T Crenshaw

Date of discovery: August 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver book-clasp, cast plate with sides tapering to slightly flattened dome with finely modelled terminal of animal-head gripping a ball in its mouth, thereby forming a transverse loop at right-angles to the rest of the clasp; silver rivet at concave attachment end, flat back-plate with circular perforation corresponding to dome on front plate.

Discussion: The clasp would have been attached to the end of a leather strap and secured by a pin attached to



(figs. 83.1, 83.2) Bacton © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

the cover of a book. Similar, but hinged, examples are illustrated and discussed in G Egan, *The Medieval Household: daily living c.1150-c. 1450*, London 1998, pp. 277-80.

Dimensions: Length: 27 mm; width: 7 mm; weight: 2.48g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S J ASHLEY

83 Bacton, Norfolk: Medieval book-clasp and mount (2002 T276) (figs. 83.1, 83.2)

Date: 14th or 15th century

Finders: Dr T Pestell, Mr B Sharrock and Mr P Emery

Date of discovery: November 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with metal-detectors during an archaeological survey.

Description: Silver-gilt fragment of trefoil-lobed shape, rough cast, similar to open-work knobs on seal-matrices and 15th century silver book-clasp, with ?woollen wrap weave intact within socket.

Disposition: Disclaimed; finds donated to Norwich Castle Museum.

J P ROBINSON

84 Ripple, Kent: Medieval silver-gilt decorative fragment (2002 T217) (fig. 84)

Date: Late 15th or early 16th century

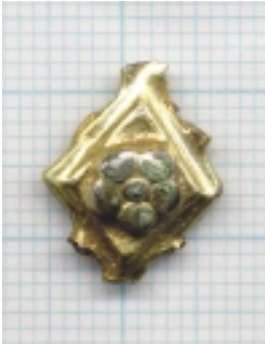
Finder: Mr J Restall

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Small lozenge-shaped decorative mount(?), cast in one piece with central boss in the form of a five-petalled flower within moulded edging. The raised petals of the flower are worn while the gilding on the rest of the front of the object is well preserved.

Projecting tabs at top and bottom of the lozenge are broken; there are also broken-off remains of three other tabs around the edge of the lozenge. Reverse plain.



(fig. 84) Ripple © Kent County Council

Discussion: Given its incomplete state, it is impossible to be certain about the original form and function of the artefact. The broken tabs indicate that it was probably part of a larger object, perhaps a mount or dress fitting. The decoration suggests a late 15th- or early 16th-century date.

Dimensions: Length: 15 mm; width: 7 mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

D THORNTON



(figs. 85.1, 85.2) Harling

(iii) Finger-rings

85 Harling, Norfolk: Medieval silver finger-ring (2002 T139) (figs. 85.1, 85.2)

Date: 12th century

Finder: Mr M Baker

Date of discovery: May 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver finger-ring set with either stone or paste. Similar rings with paste and/or stones are featured in G Zarnecki (ed.), *English Romanesque Art 1066-1200*, London 1984, nos. 311-17, 318, 320.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 86) Oldbury Wells

86 Oldbury Wells, Shropshire: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T122) (fig. 86)

Date: Late 12th or early 13th century

Finder: Mr A Baker

Date of discovery: April 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A gold, medieval finger-ring consisting of a simple, undecorated wire hoop and a small, oval bezel. The bezel is designed to contain a stone which is now lost.

Dimensions and metal content: Examination at the British Museum has established the precious metal content to be in excess of 10 per cent of the ring's weight.

Disposition: Shropshire County Museums Service.

J P ROBINSON



(figs. 87.1, 87.2) Thearne

87 Thearne, East Riding of Yorkshire: Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring (2002 T301) (figs. 87.1, 87.2)

Date: 12th or 13th century

Finder: Mr J Jessop

Date of discovery: October 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Silver-gilt 'fede' ring, with clasped hands and decorative band.

Discussion: The find relates to rings in the Lark Hill hoard, see G Zarnecki (ed.), *English Romanesque Art 1066-1200*, London 1984, pp. 292-3.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON



(figs. 88.1, 88.2) Clavering

88 Clavering, Essex: Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring (2002 T306) (figs. 88.1, 88.2)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr N Bayford

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A medieval finger-ring, the bezel formed of two clasped hands. The hoop is divided into two registers by a ridge and is inscribed with letters, as follows: I H S NAZ (on the upper register); ARENVS (on the lower register). Taken together, this reads as JESUS NAZARENUS ('Jesus of Nazareth').

Discussion: The name of Jesus was often invoked as a magical charm against certain ailments, such as muscular spasms.

Disposition: Saffron Walden Museum with funding from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grand Fund and the Friends of Saffron Walden Museum.

J P ROBINSON

89 Standish, Gloucestershire: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T121) (figs. 89.1, 89.2)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr P Bevan

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A simple, medieval gold finger-ring set with a garnet. The hoop is misshapen and elongated into an oval. The circular bezel which contains the stone is decorated with crudely incised, vertical lines.

Metal content: Examination at the British Museum has established the gold content to be in excess of 10 per cent of its weight.

Disposition: Gloucester City Museum.

J P ROBINSON



(figs. 89.1, 89.2) Standish

90 Little Witchingham, Norfolk: Medieval silver finger-ring (2002 T184) (fig. 90)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr B Thompson

Date of discovery: August 2002



(fig. 90) Little Witchingham © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver finger-ring with garbled inscription.

Dimensions: Internal diameter: 19-21 mm; weight: 1.91g.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS

91 Wixford, Warwickshire: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T257) (fig. 91)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr G Ross

Date of discovery: September 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A medieval finger-ring set with a garnet. The slender hoop is triangular in section creating two distinct registers which carry a complicated inscription, the meaning of which is not clear. The



(fig. 91) Wixford

inscription seems to begin (and end?) with a cross. Thereafter letters are reversed and inverted in a very confusing fashion. It is punctuated with colons and divided by three evenly spaced four-petalled flowers. The top register reads: + I : E S (reversed): (the following letters are then inverted) FLVR: V I (flower) V I F L (reversed) V (flower) I E: S +. The bottom register reads: I F (?): D E (inverted) (flower) I N A M V R : (flower) V M A N L (reversed) (flower) R: D(?) E R

Discussion: The inscription may have amatory significance – the opening letters may be meant to signify ‘je suis un fleur’ (‘I am a flower’) but this is a tentative suggestion. In the bottom register ‘I N A M V R’ may be a means of expressing ‘en amour’ (‘in love’). Alternatively, the inscription’s significance may be magical.

Disposition: Warwickshire Museum wishes to acquire.

J P ROBINSON

92 Kingston St Michael, Wiltshire: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T248) (figs. 92.1, 92.2)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr C Chander

Date of discovery: October 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A medieval, stirrup-shaped finger-ring set with a sapphire. The hoop is slender and triangular in section creating two distinct registers which are decorated with simple double punches which are divided by five, evenly spaced, four-petalled flowers.

Metal content: Scientific analysis at the British Museum has established the metal to be gold.

Disposition: Chippenham Museum wishes to acquire.

J P ROBINSON



(figs. 92.1, 92.2) Kingston St Michael

93 Llanfaes, Isle of Anglesey, Wales: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T288; NMGW 2002.04) (fig. 93)

Date: 13th century

Finder: Mr G Warren

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A decorative gold ring with a small circular bezel, set with a small uncut (cabochon) emerald. There is a small transverse ridge on each side of the bezel, and the junction with the hoop, and the underside of the bezel is chamfered. The hoop, which is misshapen, has a flattened oval cross-section, and expands slightly towards the bezel (width 1-2 mm).

Discussion: The finger-ring has a slender form typical of a 12th- or 13th-century date (see *Treasure Annual Report* 1998-1999, no. 107, from South Kyme, Lincolnshire). Over the last ten years, members of the Department of Archaeology and Numismatics, NMGW, have been able to record a remarkable



(fig. 93) Llanfaes © National Museums & Galleries of Wales

collection of metalwork from Llanfaes, which was once the commercial centre and port of the native Welsh principality of Gwynedd. By 1305 it had ceased to exist, the inhabitants having been removed by Edward I to Newborough on the other side of Anglesey. The discovery of this gold finger ring supports the growing evidence for the prosperity of Llanfaes and its inhabitants during the 13th century. As with these other finds, it probably represents accidental loss.

Dimensions: Weight: 1.218g; original internal hoop diameter: about 18–19 mm; diameter of bezel: 6 mm.

Disposition: Oriol Ynys Mon, Llangefni.

M REDKNAP

94 Cannington, Somerset: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T142) (figs. 94.1, 94.2)

Date: Late 13th or early 14th century

Finders: Messrs. T Barrow and S Barrell

Date of discovery: May 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with metal-detectors.

Description: A medieval gold finger-ring consisting of a slender hoop which gradually widens, extending into a twin bezel set with a turquoise and a garnet. At the point where the bezel construction begins, the shoulders of the ring are decorated with two lozenges on each side containing crosses. Stones were believed to have magical, protective qualities in the Middle Ages. The turquoise, for instance, was believed to protect its wearer from riding accidents, drowning and poisoning.



(figs. 94.1, 94.2) Cannington

Similar rings exist in the British Museum collection (O M Dalton, *Catalogue of Finger-Ring in the British Museum*, London 1912, nos. 1816, 1817 and 1818).

Dimensions and metal content: Weight: 2.5g. Non-destructive X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated a gold content of approximately 90 per cent and that the green-blue stone is turquoise. The red stone was identified by Raman spectrometry as garnet.

Disposition: Somerset County Museum with funding from Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

J P ROBINSON

95 Rocklands, Norfolk: Medieval finger-ring fragment (2002 T182) (fig. 95)

Date: 13th or 14th century

Finder: Mr S Horn

Date of discovery: August 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Fragment of a medieval finger-ring with central band of lozenges flanked by triangular facets.



(fig. 95) Rocklands © Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Facets and lozenges have foliate decoration. There appear to be traces of red substance (?enamel) in the incised lines of the lozengiform and triangular shapes.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

K HINDS



(fig. 96) Kelsall

96 Kelsall, Cheshire: Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring (2002 T 146) (fig. 96)

Date: 14th century

Finder: Mr G Sandland

Date of discovery: July 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring consisting of a basic stirrup shape, embellished on the hoop with

five panels bearing four-petalled flowers. The hoop terminates in two dragons' heads which support the bezel. The bezel is decorated with three pellets – one at its apex and one on each nose of the dragons. A narrow row of centrally placed beading runs between the pellets. The triangular section of the bezel is engraved with letters between crosses. The letters are not entirely legible, but appear to be on one side I H and on the other a reversed C. The letters 'I H C' form the sacred monogram denoting the name 'Jesus'.

Disposition: Grosvenor Museum, Chester with funding from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Headley Treasure Acquisition Scheme.

J P ROBINSON

97 Manley, Cheshire: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T140) (figs. 97.1, 97.2, 97.3)

Date: Late 14th century

Finder: Mr J Wood

Date of discovery: May 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: An elaborate, medieval gold finger-ring set with a diamond. The hoop is flat and keyed for enamel, traces of which (coloured white) survive on the upper-side. At each shoulder there is an open-work lozenge, with four projecting pellets, which contain the letters V (left) and A (right). From these spring the open-work supports of the bezel, containing a star at each side and crowned hearts with pierced trefoils above and below. Some damage has occurred to the trefoils below. Pellets decorate each corner of the pyramidal bezel while six further pellets (in pairs of three) frame an inscription at the back of the hoop. The letters of the inscription are arranged in three distinct registers. The most enigmatic component occurs on the back register and consists of the letter E set into a square, followed by three five-pointed stars set into circles; another letter E set into a square; three further stars as before and a third E as before. The significance of this arrangement is unclear. The remainder of the



(fig. 98) Lackford

98 Lackford, Suffolk: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T262) (fig. 98)

Date: Late 14th or 15th century

Finder: Mr T Lees

Date of discovery: October 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A medieval gold finger-ring, with a circular hoop of triangular section. The two outer surfaces are engraved with a devotional inscription which reads: *AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA DOMI * IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDEOUM (Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord [is with thee], Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews).

Discussion: For a similar ring of earlier date, see *Treasure Annual Report 2000*, no. 95.

Dimensions and metal content: Diameter: 24 mm; weight: 3.44g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated a gold content of approximately 84 per cent.

Disposition: Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds with funding from the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund and the Headley Treasure Acquisition Scheme.

B NENK



(figs. 97.1, 97.2, 97.3) Manley

inscription is in French and reads, on the top register, SANS FIN while on the bottom register appears the word LOIAUTE. Taken together the legend reads 'Loiaute sans fin' ('Loyalty without end').

Discussion: Such rings were often high-status love tokens. The letters V and A may represent the names of two lovers. A similarly constructed ring in the British Museum has an arrangement of letters which spells AMOURS (O M Dalton, *Catalogue of Finger-Rings in the British Museum*, London 1912, no. 989).

Disposition: Cheshire Museum Service wishes to acquire.

J P ROBINSON

99 Orton, Cumbria: Medieval finger-ring fragment (2001 T126) (figs. 99.1, 99.2, 99.3)

Date: 15th century

Finders: Messrs D Daly and A Gee

Date of discovery: April 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with metal-detectors.



(figs. 99.1, 99.2, 99.3) Orton

Description: One half of a medieval 'gimmel' ring with the figure of female standing saint represented on its bezel. The hoop is cabled with punch marks and decorated with flowers (three on the left shoulder and four on the right). Substantial amounts of green enamel survive in the leaves and stems of the flowers. Underneath the bezel is engraved the word *cuer* and beneath the shoulders of the ring are two grooves which indicate where the two halves originally intersected.

Discussion: Gimmel rings become popular from the 15th century. The name is derived from the Latin term *gemellus* (a twin) and describes the fact that the rings

divide into two parts (and sometimes more). The female saint represented on the bezel of this ring is likely to be the Virgin Mary. The other half would have completed an Annunciation scene with a depiction of the Archangel Gabriel. The British Museum has one half of a gimmel ring with a representation of Gabriel and the inscription *en bon* (O M Dalton *Catalogue of the Finger Rings in the British Museum*, London 1912, no. 746). The full inscription ought to read *en bon cuer* (in good heart).

Dimensions and metal content: Examination at the British Museum has established the precious metal content to be in excess of 10 per cent of its weight.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finders.

J P ROBINSON



(fig. 100) Audley End

100 Audley End, Essex: Medieval gold finger-ring (2002 T80) (fig. 100)

Date: 15th century

Finder: Mr T Carter

Date of discovery: March 2002

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with a metal-detector.

Description: A gold medieval finger-ring, the hoop decorated with a series of letter S's juxtaposed with knots, a continuous band running between them. The background is heavily grooved, while the border is left plain. The diminutive size of the ring suggests that it was designed either for a child or a young woman.

Dimensions and metal content: Diameter: 16 mm; gold content in excess of ten per cent of its weight.

Disposition: Saffron Walden Museum.

J P ROBINSON