

to acquire this find.

L WEBSTER

56 South Warnborough, Hampshire: Anglo-Saxon silver pin-head (M&ME 315)

Date: 8th or 9th century

Finder: Mrs M Cross

Date of discovery: 27 August 2000

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

Description: A solid silver pin-head and incomplete shank. The head is a cube with its corners faceted and no additional decoration; there is no collar and the shaft is broken off. This is a well-made dress pin which resembles bronze and other copper-alloy examples excavated in the middle Saxon town of Hamwic at Southampton and dates from the same period, that is the 8th to 9th century (D Hinton, *The Gold, Silver and other Non-Ferrous Alloy Objects from Hamwic*, Southampton Finds Vol. 2, 1996, type Ba2i and iii). Examples were also excavated at York on an Anglian site and they are not common on later Anglo-Scandinavian sites (N H S Rogers, 'Anglian and Other Finds from Fishergate', *The Archaeology of York, The Small Finds* 19/9 (London, 1993), 1361–3). This pin lacks the annular collar found on many pins of the period, but collar-less examples are also known from Hamwic with ring and dot decoration. The lower shank is missing which could have confirmed a Saxon date, but an alternative Roman date for such a silver pin is unlikely.

Pins with faceted heads are well represented in Saxon towns and settlements of this period, such as Ipswich, Whitby and York, and also as stray finds. It is much less common to find examples in silver although a few silver pins of a different style are recorded from Hamwic. Such pins, including the Warnborough find, were probably used as dress-fasteners rather than hair pins, to judge from the shape of surviving shanks.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 15.5mm; weight: 1.94g.

Disposition: Hampshire Museums Service hopes to acquire this find.

S M YOUNGS

57 Lyng, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon gilt bronze and silver pin-head (M&ME 243)

Date: 9th century

Finders: Ms T and Mr B Reeve

Date of discovery: March 2000

Circumstances of discovery: While searching with metal-detectors.

Description: Anglo-Saxon globular pin-head of gilt bronze with silver sheath on a stub of shank. The hollow head has four vertical 'S'-shaped scrolls of beaded filigree wire and beaded wire was also used to make a collar at the top of the original shank.

Immediately below this is an applied casing of silver ending in a small knob. The original pin shank is missing and the filigree has lost its upper surface.

Discussion: This is related by the style of filigree ornament to a small group of 9th-century silver Anglo-Saxon dress pins. These are dated by the presence of a related piece in the Talnotrie coin hoard deposited about AD 875. The Talnotrie group are more elaborately decorated with small collets for glass or garnet settings. Examples are known from Canterbury, Kingston Deverill in Wiltshire, Sibton in Suffolk, Flixborough in Lincolnshire and a private collection. The Kingston Deverill pin has similar elegant scrolls of filigree between its mounts which suggests that the Lyng pin head in gilt bronze is a more modest version of the same period. Although superficially similar to pins of the Tudor period these mid-Saxon pins are distinguished by the style of filigree ornament settings as well as by settings for garnet and glass gems. The remarkable Sibton pin-head with quatrefoil arrangement of garnets provides a clue to the ancestry of the pin type which is

probably to be found in globular headed Frankish gold filigree and garnet dress and hair pins of the late 6th century.

Dimensions: Diameter: 12.5mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

S M YOUNGS

(v) Mounts (chronological order)

58 Freckenham, Suffolk: Anglo-Saxon silver pyramidal strap-mount (M&ME 357)

Date: Early 7th century

Finder: Mr M A King

Date of discovery: November 2000

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

Description: Strap-mount in the form of a truncated pyramid, the apex and all four faces incised with crudely executed geometric ornament. The mount is hollow with a flat bar running across the opening to secure a narrow leather strap.

Discussion: Pyramidal strap-mounts dating from the Anglo-Saxon period fall into two groups distinguished from each other by their size and height. The taller and often more ornate versions functioned as part of a sword harness, perhaps tightening the looped strap that held the scabbard to the sword belt. Their currency extends from the early 7th century into the 8th century. The function of smaller, lighter mounts such as this example is not clear, but presumably they were more than decorative and may have controlled straps attaching knives, which were generally scabbarded, to a waist belt.

Both types of mount are well known in both Continental and early Anglo-Saxon contexts. Anglo-Saxon examples are invariably made with a bar across the hollow back in contrast to continental types which are more usually made with an integral plate, designed to be riveted to leather, or are pierced vertically. Their distribution is concentrated in the

Frankish heartlands on the middle Rhine. Pyramidal strap mounts are increasingly well known in the United Kingdom from stray finds. The current distribution of the Freckenham type has an East Anglian bias – for example an identical mount, in copper-alloy rather than silver, was found at Wenhaston, Suffolk, and pyramidal strap mounts with pairs of triangular impressions on each face, have been found at Narborough and Dalling in Norfolk and Pebmarsh in Essex (all unpublished), but recent finds, for example a stray find from Alton, Wiltshire, are extending their distribution south of the Thames.

Dimensions and metal content: Height: 6mm; base: 12 x 12mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

A C EVANS

59 Bury St Edmunds area, Suffolk: Anglo-Saxon gold pyramidal mount (M&ME 277) (Fig. 59)

Date: First half of the 7th century

Finder: Lady Kemball

Date of discovery: 4 August 2000

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

Description: Gold casing for a pyramidal scabbard mount in the form of a truncated pyramid, decorated with filigree zoomorphs on each face and a square-cut plate garnet at the apex. The casing is made from four sheets of gold, soldered edge to edge, with the joins on the display surface disguised by worn beaded filigree. Each of the four faces is ornamented with a single knotted snake-like zoomorph within a fine beaded filigree border. The zoomorphs are arranged in pairs and their bodies are made of triple strand beaded filigree. The pairs are different in both form and execution, as if made by two craftsmen. One pair twists into an elegant knot with a carefully defined head and small filigree beads for eyes. The second pair is not as competently executed resulting in a less



(Fig.59) Bury St. Edmunds area

coherent, headless zoomorph, made of poorly linked and loosely knotted filigree strands. At the apex of the casing is a solidly constructed cell containing a well cut square garnet set over pointillé gold foil. The interior is hollow and featureless apart from a torn edge of gold sheet around part of the base.

Discussion: Pyramidal fittings were used on straps which held a scabbarded sword to the sword-belt. Over one hundred examples are known and the majority are listed by Menghin (W Menghin, *Das*

Schwert in Frühen Mittelalter (Nürnberg, 1983), pp. 363–365, Karte 22). Most are plain and made in either copper-alloy or silver, but a very small group are made in gold or heavy gold sheet and are inlaid with glass, garnets or decorated with beaded filigree wire. The majority of this high status group are Anglo-Saxon and the Bury St Edmunds pyramid is a new addition to it. All are individual in design but, structurally, this example can be compared to the pyramidal mount from the high-status burial at Broomfield, Essex (BM M&ME1894,12–16,2) while one pair of filigree zoomorphs are paralleled on a gold ‘pyramid’ of unknown provenance which is ornamented on each face with a single knotted zoomorph in cloisonné garnet (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991), no. 41).

Dimensions and metal content: Height: 11mm; base: 14 x 14mm; weight: 3.41g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 85 per cent.

Disposition: Moyses’s Hall Museum hopes to acquire this find.

A C EVANS

60 Oxborough, Norfolk (1): Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet mount fragment (M&ME 367)

Date: 7th century

Finder: Mr S Brown

Date of discovery: December 1998

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

Description: Gold fragment of one end of an axe-shaped, Anglo-Saxon mount (or pendant?), terminating in a stylised bird’s head. The other, missing, end would have had a matching head facing in the opposite direction. The bird’s beak, delineated by three short, curved filigree wires, is hooked back on itself round a small, circular perforation in the metal. The edges of the mount are bordered with

beaded wire, mostly worn smooth, which continues inside the beak and round the perforation, and the surface is covered with small filigree S-scrolls, figure-of-eights and scroll-ended loops. In the position of the eye of the bird is a triple-celled, petal-shaped setting for inlays, with a circular central cell. Only a single garnet of the setting now survives in the cell next to the break across the bird's neck. The back of the mount is plain.

Discussion: The form of the object may be compared with two complete, gilded copper-alloy mounts from a 7th-century, Anglo-Saxon barrow at Caenby, Lincolnshire (J Y Akerman, *Remains of Pagan Saxondom* (London, 1855), pl. 15, 1) which are probably from a wooden casket. A close parallel to the paired bird heads is found on the head of a 7th-century pin from Wingham, Kent, also decorated with filigree and garnet settings, and the style can be further compared with Kentish gold disc pendants of similar date, e.g. from Faversham (N Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (Uppsala, 1926), figs. 241–243), one of which has three bird heads with cabochon eyes resembling the paired heads on the Oxborough mount, although they are of finer workmanship.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 20mm; weight: 1.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum identified the red stone as garnet and indicated an approximate gold content of 88 per cent.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 100.

Disposition: Disclaimed; to be returned to finder.

B AGER

(vi) Pendants (chronological order)

61 Horncastle area, Lincolnshire (3): Early Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet pendant (M&ME 324) (Fig. 61)

Date: Early to mid-7th Century



(Fig.61) Horncastle area

Finder: Mr Neil Wootton

Date of discovery: 10 October 2000

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

Description: The pendant consists of a large, thick plate garnet with a beveled edge set in a simple gold collar within a finely beaded frame which is itself surrounded by a outer more heavily beaded border. The garnet, now with a fine crack running across its surface, contains heavy dark inclusions. It is backed by a square of pointillé gold foil. This is smaller than the garnet and is placed obliquely beneath the stone so that it reflects through its highly polished flat surface. On the back is a thin and slightly crumpled backing sheet which appears to be burnished onto the back of the beaded border. The top of this border develops into a typical, but delicate, ribbed loop which is tightly curved forward over the frame of the pendant. It is worn through indicating long use. The beading to either side of the loop is also heavily worn, suggesting that the pendant may have been part of a necklace with metal spacer beads.

Discussion: The Horncastle area pendant belongs to a large family of personal ornaments, made in similar

style, that came into fashion in the 7th century. Judging from the heavy wear on the shoulders to either side of the loop, it may originally have been one of several on a high status necklace and it can be compared, for example, to cabochon garnet pendants on the necklace from Desborough, Northamptonshire (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991), no. 13). This splendid necklace dates from the second half of the 7th century and is made up of a centrally placed equal armed cross, flanked by gold ‘bullae’ alternating with garnet droplets and separated by biconical gold beads. The wear on the shoulders of the Horncastle area pendant is consistent with its rubbing against such spacer beads. A stylistically similar pendant, but with a cornelian intaglio as a centrepiece, was found in the Canterbury hoard and is dated to the mid-7th century (ibid, no. 5h). A third example, an irregular garnet cabochon, was found in grave 93, Bosshall, Ipswich, Suffolk. This was the grave of a high status woman who was buried at the beginning of the 8th century with a garnet inlaid composite brooch, four sheet gold disc pendants, two cabochon pendants and a coin pendant placed in a leather pouch at the neck (ibid, no. 33c). The Horncastle area pendant, which has a relatively high gold content, would date from earlier in the 7th century.

Dimensions and metal content: Length overall: 19mm; garnet: 12.5mm long x 10mm wide; weight: 2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 84 per cent.

Disposition: The City & County Museum, Lincoln, hopes to acquire this find.

A C EVANS

62 Carlton Colville, Suffolk: Anglo-Saxon part-gilded silver pendant figure (M&ME 211) (Fig. 62)



(Fig.62) Carlton Colville

Date: First half of 7th century

Finder: Mr Adrian Charlton

Date of discovery: July 1998

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

Description: Silver three-dimensional bearded male figure, wearing a cap and belted knee length trousers; the trousers, hands and face are all gilded; a suspension loop is attached to the cap.

Discussion: This enigmatic figure has a powerful presence. The distinctive clothing suggests some kind of ritual dress, and the selective gilding of hands, face and trousers also suggests an unearthly nature. The figure was evidently designed to be worn as a pendant, though whether round the neck, or at the waist, is uncertain. It was recovered during excavation of a known Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery site which has produced many rich finds over the years, mostly dating to the later 6th and 7th centuries, but its original context is unknown. However, it seems likely that this striking and exceptional object was some kind of amulet, perhaps invoking the protection of Woden, most powerful of the Germanic gods.

This pendant belongs to a small group of related

amuletic figures dating to the early Anglo-Saxon period, all from sites near the east coast, from Lincolnshire to Kent. Four others are known, two from Kentish graves datable to the 7th century, the others without context. Two of these are male and two female; all are of bronze, but are similar in scale to the silver figure, and have a number of features in common, including their gestures and feet joined together. Only one of the others, however, from the 7th-century cemetery at Breach Down, Kent, appears to be clothed – a male figure who wears the same short trousers, but is clean shaven, and sports a pony tail. One other has a pendant loop, but the rest seem to have been without any attachment, and may have been used in cult contexts.

The human image in all forms is relatively uncommon in the art of the early Anglo-Saxon period (5th–7th century), and where it does occur, usually appears on high-status and often enigmatic objects, reinforcing the impression that these images carried special meaning. Significantly, a number of related contemporary Scandinavian figures occur as deliberate deposits in halls and have been interpreted as cult objects.

Dimensions and metal content: Height: 43mm; weight: 12.2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 93 per cent.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 103. The figure was found in the course of authorised detection on the spoil heaps of a major excavation in advance of housing development; the results of the excavation, including the figure, will be published by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Disposition: British Museum.

L WEBSTER

63 Aylsham area, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon gold pendant with garnet inlay (M&ME 307) (Fig. 63)



(Fig.63) Aylsham area

Date: Mid-7th century

Finder: Mr Jim Blackburn

Date of discovery: February 1999

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

Description: Tear-shaped gold pendant with garnet setting. The garnet is a thick and highly polished plate with a flaring edge and was perhaps ground down from a cabochon. It is set in a simple cell surrounded with a double twist filigree wire border, the strands Z and S twisted to form a herring-bone pattern. The backplate is a simple sheet of gold. Soldered to the top of the pendant is a well formed loop made from a short strip of ribbed gold. This shows little signs of wear. There is a small area of damage to the left edge of the pendant.

Discussion: Pendants such as this often formed part of a necklace. Similar, though slightly smaller, examples can be seen on the magnificent necklace found in 1876 at Desborough, Northamptonshire (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991), no. 13). Singleton finds are also well known from mid- and late-7th century contexts and the style of garnet, with

a faceted edge, is typical. In size alone, the Aylsham pendant is closest to an example of mid-7th century date found at Epsom, Surrey, which is inlaid with a fine garnet cameo from the Eastern Mediterranean (ibid, no. 35).

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 96.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 23mm; weight: 3.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 90 per cent.

Disposition: Norfolk Museums Service hopes to acquire this find.

A C EVANS

64 Beachamwell, Norfolk (1): Anglo-Saxon gold pendant backplate

Date: Second half of the 7th century

Finder: Mr M Carlile

Date of discovery: December 1998

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

Description: Circular sheet of gold with a projection to one side decorated with four longitudinal grooves. Opposite the projection the sheet appears to have punchmarks or crimping around part of the circumference. This object may be the backplate from a cabochon pendant, perhaps at an early stage of manufacture or perhaps never well made and later damaged.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 95.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

HELEN GEAKE

65 Bromeswell, Suffolk: Anglo-Saxon gold suspension loop and pendant frame, unfinished (M&ME 274)

Date: Early 7th century

Finder: Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service.

Date of discovery: 26 September 2000

Circumstances of discovery: Metal-detector survey in conjunction with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service.

Description: Gold suspension loop and pendant frame in process of manufacture. The loop is made from two strips of gold, their ends soldered together to form a single straight strip, 10mm long. Beyond this, the strips flare to form a pendant sized ring, probably in preparation for a cabochon setting. Partially attached to the seam between two of the soldered strips are lengths of a thinner gold strip and on one outside edge a short length of twisted wire.

Discussion: Suspension loops of this type are the usual attachments for necklace pendants of the 7th century and can be seen on a range of high status objects from singleton pendants, eg the four found in grave 93 in the Bosshall, Ipswich, cemetery (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England, Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991) no. 33b), or on exceptional complete necklaces, like those from Desborough or Sarre (ibid, nos. 13 and 31b).

Dimensions and metal content: Length overall: 22mm; diameter of ring: 12mm.

Disposition: To be disclaimed (finds to be deposited at the British Museum).

A C EVANS

(vii) Ingots (chronological order)

66 Norwich, Norfolk: Viking gold ingot (Fig. 66)

Date: Late 9th or early 10th century

Finder: Norfolk Archaeological Unit

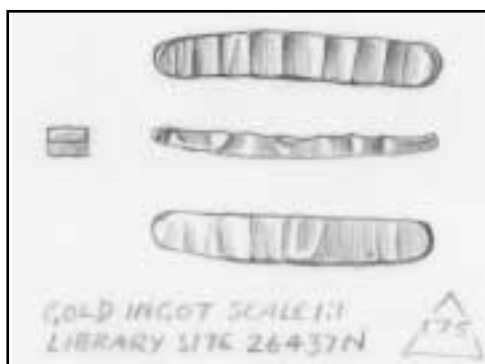
Date of discovery: Early 1999

Circumstances of discovery: Controlled archaeological excavation.

Description: Gold ingot, in the form of an oblong bar



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(Fig.66) Norwich

© David Dobson, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

of sub-rectangular section, with transverse hammering on its upper face creating parallel ridges across the ingot. It tapers slightly to rounded ends. No nicks or pecks.

Discussion: The distinctive transverse hammering on this ingot is found on Viking Age silver ingots. In England it is a scarce technique, occurring on only 16 of the about 360 known ingots (most data here cited from S Kruse, *Viking Age Ingots from England and Wales and their Economic Implications* (unpublished PhD thesis, University College, London, 1988)). Twelve of these were in the Cuerdale hoard (deposited about 905), two were in the Chester 1950 hoard (deposited about 970), one was a single find from Ditchingham, Norfolk (M Blackburn and A Rogerson, 'Two Viking-age silver ingots from Ditchingham and Hindringham, Norfolk: the first ingot finds from East

Anglia', *Medieval Archaeology* 37 (1993), pp.222–4), and one is among the group of ingots and pieces of hack-gold and hack-silver from Torksey, Lincolnshire (M Blackburn, 'Finds from the Anglo-Scandinavian site of Torksey, Lincolnshire', *Moneta Mediaevalis*, ed. B Paszkiewicz (Warsaw, 2002), pp.89–101). If this Torksey group can be associated with the army's wintering of 872/3, it would provide the earliest find context for a transverse hammered ingot in the British Isles or Scandinavia. In Scandinavia transverse hammered ingots are widely spread during the second half of the 10th and the 11th centuries. They occur in southern Swedish hoards from the mid-10th century, and extensively in hoards from Gotland after 1000. Several Latvian hoards of the 11th century have long ingots or rods with similar hammering (B Hårdh, *Silver in the Viking Age. A Regional-Economic Study*, Acta Archaeologica Lundensia ser. in 8°, no.25, Lund, 1996). In Denmark they occur mainly in hoards deposited after the mid-10th century, and during the last quarter of the century they are the most common type of ingot. The earliest occurrence of the technique is therefore insular, but whether these ingots were produced in the British Isles or in Western Scandinavia is uncertain. This is the only transverse hammered ingot I know of in gold from Scandinavia or the British Isles.

The technique indicates that it is Viking Age, and within the date range about 850–1050. The most likely date is the later 9th or early 10th century when the Southern Danelaw had a dual economy – a bullion economy subsisting alongside an emerging regulated monetary economy – a transitional state that ended in the 920s (M Blackburn, 'Expansion and control: aspects of Anglo-Scandinavian minting south of the Humber', *Vikings and the Danelaw. Select Papers from the Proceedings of the Thirteenth Viking Congress*, ed. J. Graham-Campbell *et al.*, (Oxford, 2001), pp.125–42). But it could have arrived somewhat later, as an import from Denmark in the later 10th century, and served merely as a piece of a goldsmith's stock of bullion to

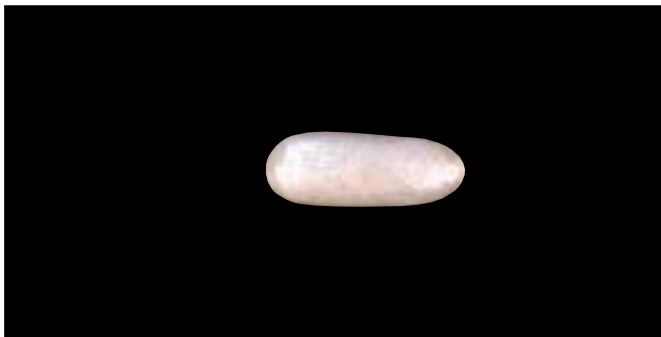
be used for metalworking.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 36mm; width: 6mm; height: about 3mm; weight: 7.06g. Metal analysis indicated an approximate gold content of 85 per cent.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998 – 1999*, no.99. See also J W Percival and A R J Hutcheson, *Excavations within the French Borough (between Theatre Street and Bethel Street), Norwich, 1998-99*, East Anglian Archaeology, forthcoming.

Disposition: An archaeological find and therefore disclaimed. To remain with site archive.

MARK BLACKBURN



(Fig.67) Horncastle area

67 Horncastle area, Lincolnshire (4): Silver ingot (M&ME 325) (Fig. 67)

Date: 9th or 10th centuries

Finder: Mr Neil Wootton

Date of discovery: 10 October 2000

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

Description: Cast silver ingot of short cigar shape.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 23mm; weight: 7.8g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 94 per cent.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

B AGER

68 Over Compton, Dorset: Viking period silver ingot (M&ME 276)

Date: 10th or 11th centuries

Finder: Mr Robert Lovett

Date of discovery: 14 May 2000

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

Description: Silver ingot, cast in an open mould, sub-rectangular in section, and much modified by hammering especially on the upper and lower surfaces. It has been cleaned since discovery, but traces of copper corrosion remain, and one tiny adherent patch of what seems to be gold.

Discussion: The size and general appearance of this ingot indicate that it is more likely to be an ingot of the Viking period, rather than from an earlier or later period. All its distinguishing features – size and shape, casting technique, and evidence of hammering – are consistent with such a context, and closely similar parallels can be found, for instance, in the Cuerdale, Lancashire, Viking hoard, dated to the beginning of the 10th century. The silver content is also consistent with a date in the early medieval period. The present weight may just conceivably represent an approximation to an original weight of one half of a known Viking weight unit of 26 grams, given that the ingot has also undergone some metallic weight loss due to post-deposition corrosion, itself mostly removed by recent cleaning; but this possibility must remain speculative.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 31.5mm; width: 8.5mm; weight: 10g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 86 per cent.

Note: The ingot was cleaned before it was reported.

Disposition: Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire this find.

L WEBSTER



(Fig.69) Springthorpe

69 Springthorpe, Lincolnshire: Viking period gold ingot fragment (M&ME 212) (Fig. 69)

Date: 10th to 11th centuries

Finder: Mr S Trainer

Date of discovery: 16 January 2000

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

Description: Gold fragment of a bar, originally sub-rectangular in section, but modified by hammering and by chiseled and other off-cuts. One face has two contiguous oblique slices cut away back to back, its opposite, two more abrupt cuts to each end, with some traces of hammering visible on the flatter surface in between; the sides seem to show some working after casting.

Discussion: The distorted shape and small size of this piece makes attribution to a particular period somewhat tentative. However, its general appearance and small size tend to indicate that it is more likely to be a fragment of Viking-period 'hack gold', rather than from an earlier or later period. The gold content is consistent with a date in the early medieval period, and the weight might possibly represent a quarter of a known Viking weight unit of 26 grams.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 13mm; width: 7mm; weight: 6.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis

conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 93 per cent.

Disposition: City & County Museum, Lincoln.

L WEBSTER

(viii) Finger-rings (chronological order)

70 Oxborough, Norfolk (2): Silver finger-ring (M&ME 366)

Date: Mid-5th to mid-6th century

Finder: Mr M Carlile

Date of discovery: April 1999

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

Description: Spiral ring (one-and-a-half turns) of silver strip with plain, pointed ends and decorated along each side with a row of punched, vertical dashes. Eight silver examples from various early Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites in Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire and Kent, of which three have punched decoration, are usefully catalogued in A MacGregor & E Bolick, *A Summary Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Collections, Non-Ferrous Metals* (Oxford, 1993), British Archaeological Reports, British Series no. 230, pp. 169–170. Others from Chessell Down, on the Isle of Wight, are illustrated in C J Arnold, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of the Isle of Wight* (London, 1982), figs. 19, 96ii-iii, and 28, 55. More elaborate versions of these rings have animal head terminals and bronze rings of the same type also occur.

Dimensions and metal content: Diameter: 22mm; weight: 2.8g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 94 per cent.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 101.

Disposition: Disclaimed; to be returned to finder.

B AGER

(ix) Other objects

71 Blaxhall, Suffolk: Merovingian silver buckle (M&ME 345)

Date: Late 5th or early 6th century

Finder: Mr Roger Geary

Date of discovery: 29 October 2000

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

Description: Silver buckle, burnt and partially melted, probably during a cremation ceremony. The buckle has a large oval loop and tongue which are attached to a small, flattened semi-circular plate.

Discussion: See Frank Siegmund in A Wieczorek, P Périn, K von Welch und W Menghin (eds), *Die Franken, Wegbereiter Europas* 9 (Mainz, 1996). This type of buckle is well known on the Continent from the late 5th century (Siegmund 1998, 695 ff, Abb. 570, 2 and Kat. IX.2, 47) and examples are very occasionally found in early Anglo-Saxon contexts.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 39mm; width: 27mm; weight: 17.4g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 79 per cent.

Disposition: To be disclaimed and returned to finder.

A C EVANS

72 East Walton, Norfolk: Fragment of a silver Anglo-Saxon wrist clasp (M&ME 408)

Date: Late 5th or 6th century

Finder: Mr S Brown

Date of discovery: 15 March 2000

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

Description: Fragment of a silver wrist clasp: an example of Hines's Form B17 (J Hines, *Clasps, Hektespenner, Agraffen. Anglo-Saxon clasps of classes A-C of the 3rd to 6th centuries AD* (Stockholm, 1993)), with

conjoined knobs along the rear edge and a patch of solder in front from a missing tube or bar.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

HELEN GEAKE

73 Costessey, Norfolk: gilded silver wrist-clasp fragment (M&ME 303)

Date: 6th century

Finder: Mr J Carrigan

Date of discovery: January 2000

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

Description: Part of a gilded silver wrist-clasp plate. The object is early Anglo-Saxon and comes from one half of a pair of matching, sub-rectangular plates, worn to fasten the sleeves of a woman's dress. The plate has a broad hook on one side to fit into a slot on the other, missing, plate. It is a good quality example, decorated with interlocking, nielloed triangles on the raised frame of the central panel and the remains of stylised animal designs in Salin's Style I, including a foreleg and triple-stranded body, in this panel and in the surviving part of one of the two smaller, lateral panels. The form of the plate is unusual, making it difficult to classify satisfactorily, but it is possibly an individualistic example of Hines's Class C of the 6th century, which all have animal decoration (see J Hines, *Clasps, Hektespenner, Agraffen. Anglo-Saxon clasps of classes A-C of the 3rd to 6th centuries AD* (Stockholm, 1993), 67-73). It comes closest to form C3, which also has tripartite, sub-rectangular plates, and occurs in East Anglia and neighbouring areas.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 20mm; weight: 2.25g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 69 per cent.

Disposition: Norfolk Museums Service hopes to acquire this find.

B AGER



(Fig.74) Eye area

74 Eye area, Suffolk (1): Anglo-Saxon gold conical fitting with garnet inlay (M&ME 343) (Fig. 74)

Date: Early 7th century

Finder: Mr John French

Date of discovery: 13 November 2000

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

Description: Conical fitting, hollow with damage to the lower edge. The fitting is divided into four panels by lightly faceted and flaring pillars. Between them each field is filled with a single trapezoidal cell divided by thin lateral cell walls into seven settings, each originally filled with a single rectangular garnet cut carefully to size and polished to reflect the curve of the fitting. Only one panel retains its full complement of garnets. The garnets are thick and it is not possible to see whether or not they are set over gold foil. Empty cells are still filled with earth. The fitting is defined above and below the panels by separately made collars set with small rectangular garnets, again carefully cut to reflect the proportions of the fitting. The upper surface of the top collar is polished, indicating that it was meant to be seen, whereas the underside of the lower collar remains in its rough state. Soldered to the underside of the lower collar, where the mount has sustained considerable

damage, is part of a pillar and, equally spaced on the underside of the lower collar are faint traces of three missing pillars. The unfinished state of the lower end of the fitting, together with the remains and scars of four pillars, suggests that the fitting may originally have been biconical. If so it can probably be identified as a rather magnificent bead.

Discussion: The fitting is unparalleled although the simple style of garnet inlay is well known from other gold and garnet finds dating from the early to mid-7th century. Similar small square and rectangular garnets can be seen for example outlining the arms of the mid-7th century Ixworth, Suffolk, cross and surrounding the *solidus* of Heraclius (613–632) at the centre of the Wilton, Norfolk, cross (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991), nos. 11 and 12). In other Anglian areas, a similar use of garnets is seen on the cross from Holderness, Humberside (*Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 63). In early 7th century pagan contexts, the gold and garnet collar of an unprovenanced boar's tooth pendant (Bonham Brooks *Antiquities Sale*, May 2001) is set with similar small garnets in narrow panels separating fields ornamented with 'mushroom' and stepped cells and small square cut garnets are used on both the Sutton Hoo purse lid and shoulder-clasps to outline features of the figural designs.

The function of this fitting is uncertain. Biconical beads in glass and precious metal are well known from both pagan and early Christian contexts where they are found on necklaces in women's graves for example a multi-coloured reticella bead from grave 68 at Mill Hill, Deal, Kent (Parfitt and Brugmann, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery on Mill Hill, Deal, Kent* (London, 1997), p.60, fig. 38, no. 27) or the gold spacer beads on the Desborough necklace (L Webster and J Backhouse, op. cit., no. 13). However high status beads are also found as an enigmatic feature on swords and on balance it seems possible that this rather long biconical bead would be more appropriately interpreted as part of the

fittings of a high status sword.

Dimensions and metal content: Height: 21mm; weight: 2.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 68 per cent.

Disposition: Ipswich Museum Service hopes to acquire this find.

A C EVANS



(Fig.75) Nornay

75 Nornay, Nottinghamshire: Early Anglo-Saxon gold and cloisonné garnet boar's head terminal (M&ME 199) (Fig. 75)

Date: First quarter of the 7th century

Finder: Mr Michael Bott

Date of discovery: 30 January 2000

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

Description: Boar's head terminal made of gold and inlaid with garnets. The boar's head is damaged at the back where it has been torn away from a larger object.

Its structure is complex: the shape of the head is built up using deep cells with robust walls which are soldered onto a sturdy base-plate. The cells are largely covered by sheet gold except where they contain small, well cut garnets which are skillfully used to create the boar's characteristic features: the tusks are clearly defined with triangular garnets, slashing across two thin garnets which form the mouth; the eyes are carefully picked out with semi-circular garnets within a lunate eye surround (also garnet), while the ridge of the nose and the edge of the ruff are highlighted with small square-cut garnets.

Discussion: The head is a remarkably fine piece of the Anglo-Saxon metalsmith's art and, unusually for this period, is seen in the round. Stylistically, the head can be compared to the head of the boar on the Benty Grange helmet (see R Bruce-Mitford, 'The Benty Grange Helmet' in *Aspects of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology* (London, 1974), 236–242 and pl. 71), particularly in the treatment of the lentoid eye and tusk and the careful delineation of the ruff. The decorative techniques, using small square garnets to emphasise detail, are similar to the fine gold and garnet work on the figural plaques on the Sutton Hoo purse-lid and the entwined boar's on the shoulder clasps from the same burial. Its function is not entirely clear: although small and narrow, it is possible that the terminal was one of two from either end of a sword or seax pommel, flanking or integral with an equally jewelled central element.

The boar is a potent symbol of power and physical strength in early Anglo-Saxon England and can be seen on some of the finest objects from the period (L Webster and J Backhouse (eds), *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600–900* (London, 1991) no. 46). A free-standing boar broods over the Benty Grange helmet (idem). A profile boar's head, with a carefully defined tusk and a glittering cabochon garnet eye, forms the terminal of the silver inlaid, copper-alloy eyebrows on the Sutton Hoo helmet, and boars fill each end of the Sutton Hoo

shoulder clasps (see A C Evans, *The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial* (London, 1994), 46–49 and 87, pls. III and VI).

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 14mm; height: 10mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 83 per cent.

Disposition: Bassetlaw Museum (with funds from the Resource/V&A Purchase Grant Fund).

A C EVANS

76 **Corpusty, Norfolk: Early Anglo-Saxon silver sheet fragment**

Date: 5th to 7th centuries

Finder: Mr P Dawson

Date of discovery: September 1999

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

Description: A silver sheet fragment with part of a curved edge, decorated with punched double 'V' motif. Perhaps part of a 5th to 7th century scutiform pendant.

Note: See *Treasure Annual Report 1998–1999*, no. 97.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

A ROGERSON

77 **Melbourn, Cambridgeshire: Anglo-Saxon silver items (M&ME 260)**

Date: 6th to 7th centuries

Finder: Bedfordshire County Archaeological Service

Date of discovery: May 2000

Circumstances of discovery: Controlled archaeological excavation of Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in advance of development.

Description:

Grave 1019; remains of silver bead and silver wire ring

Grave 1036; silver wire ring

Grave 1175; silver wire ring

Grave 1269; silver pendant (incomplete), two silver spangles and a silver wire ring

Grave 1291; two silver wire rings

Grave 1306; copper-alloy square-headed brooch with silver appliqué; unidentified object possibly containing silver.

Note: These items have not been examined in the British Museum.

Disposition: To be disclaimed when an appropriate receiving institution for the entire archive has been confirmed.

L WEBSTER

78 **St Mary's Football Stadium, Southampton, Hampshire: Middle and late Anglo-Saxon gold and silver finds (Fig. 78)**

Date: (1) Gold pendant, 7th century (2) Gold pendant, silver coins and associated finds, late 7th–8th century (3) Skein of gold thread or wire

Finder: Wessex Archaeology

Date of discovery: February–April 2000

Circumstances of discovery: Controlled archaeological excavation of a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery and rubbish pit.

Description:

(1) Grave 4202: gold pendant, consisting of a crescent-shaped strip with filigree wire and coiled ends. The type can be dated broadly to the 7th century and appears to be a development of Frisian, gold, kidney-shaped pendants with skeuomorphic bird-head terminals, eg, from the Wieuwerd Hoard, dated about 625–30. There are also some Kentish pendants of similar date that are related in form, but rather different in style, so it would appear that the one from St Mary's Stadium is a direct Frisian import. Other Frisian metalwork, apart from sceattas, is beginning to be identified in this country, eg, at Wharram Percy.

(2) Grave 5508: gold disc pendant with a garnet cloisonné roundel surrounded by four panels decorated with gold filigree zoomorphs. The cloisonné roundel is composed of a single, rather battered



(Fig.78) St Mary's Football Stadium
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cabochon garnet enclosed within a double ring. The inner ring is made up of 12 small, poorly cut garnets against which the outer band of 12 larger roughly semicircular garnets rest. The central roundel is set within a beaded filigree border and is enclosed by four panels each containing a single knotted snake. The pendant was recovered as part of a necklace

comprising beads of glass, silver and copper-alloy. The grave also contained three silver sceattas and a cylindrical casket with copper-alloy fittings. The coins must place the deposition of the possessions in the grave in the later 7th century, if not the early 8th, and a date for the pendant in the second half of the 7th century is not inconsistent with this.

(3) Skein of gold thread or wire which appears to be made from a length or lengths of flat gold sheet twisted into wire and wound like a skein of wool in preparation for use. Fragments of flat gold thread are well known, from the princely grave at Taplow and from other high status inhumations, particularly in Kent. Gold thread was woven into the fabric of braids used on the cuffs of garments (predominantly on women's clothes) and also as headbands, see E Crowfoot and S Hawkes, 'Early Anglo-Saxon Gold Braids', *Medieval Archaeology* 11, 1967, pp.42-86). The identification of this skein as gold thread for weaving into textile can, however, be challenged as the thread is twisted into a fine wire. This is inconsistent with the majority of threads associated with textile which are generally short lengths of flat strip (Crowfoot and Hawkes, op. cit., p. 43), although wire and twisted thread are also occasionally found which are thought to be associated with textile production. It is possible that this skein, which may well be unique, would be more properly identified as twisted gold wire for use in the production of filigree decoration and consequently part of a goldsmith's stock. This find was recovered from a rubbish pit dating to the Middle Saxon period.

Note: The St Mary's Stadium excavation report is forthcoming.

Disposition: To remain with Wessex Archaeology site archive.

B AGER AND A C EVANS

79 West Rudham, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt cosmetic implement (M&ME 309) (Fig. 79)



(Fig.79) West Rudham

Date: Second half of the 8th century

Finder: Mr Ashley Mears

Date of discovery: 28 September 2000

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

Description: Silver-gilt cosmetic implement (ear-scoop) with suspension loop. At the two ends of the narrow central shank, below the loop and above the elongated bowl of the scoop, are two dog-like collared animal heads with blue-green glass eyes. The shank and the bowl of the scoop appear to issue from their grinning jaws. The undersides of their heads have a 'D'-shaped decorative recess. The shank is faceted and has a polyhedral collared knob at its center; now bent directions, it would originally have been straight.

Discussion: Cosmetic implements of various kinds are not uncommon in the early and middle Anglo-Saxon periods (about 500–830) and include tweezers and

pointed cleaners as well as ear-scoops, tweezers being the most commonly found. This silver-gilt example, though corroded and distorted, is clearly an elegantly crafted piece; in its decorative vocabulary, it is evidently very closely related to Anglo-Saxon pins of the 8th century, to which it too dates. The faceted shank and collared polyhedral knob are characteristic features of pins of this period, and the two animal heads also have very close parallels in the pin series.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 65mm; weight: 4.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 99 per cent.

Disposition: Norfolk Museums Service hopes to in two acquire this find.

L WEBSTER



(Fig.80) Dunchurch

80 Dunchurch, Warwickshire (1): Continental gold looped spherical fitting (M&ME 398) (Fig. 80)

Date: 8th to 9th century

Finder: Mr Keith Bennett

Date of discovery: June 2000

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

Description: Looped spherical fitting inlaid with garnets, crushed almost flat. The fitting is decorated with applied spiral whorls and five irregularly shaped cells, each with a beaded collar. Four of the cells contain poorly shaped garnets (one crushed). No foil is visible behind the stones. A small, well shaped wire loop, also with a beaded collar, is soldered to the top of the element. The loop shows no sign of wear.

Discussion: The fitting is unusual and while it is generically similar to the globular pin-heads of the later Anglo-Saxon period, its function is completely different: the small loop is clearly designed to be used either to stitch the fitting to a garment or to act as a suspension loop to attach it to a composite metal object. The loop type, however, is not found in insular contexts and the fitting can be better compared with 8th/9th century looped dress and jewellery elements found on the Continent.

Dimensions and metal content: Diameter: 12mm; height of loop: 3mm; weight: 1.2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 73 per cent.

Disposition: To be determined.

A C EVANS

81 Bawsey, Norfolk: Fragment of an Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt disc (M&ME 256)

Date: 8th to 9th century

Finder: Mr Steven Brown

Date of discovery: 1998

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

Description: Quadrant of a small silver disc with some gilding on the front surface, with sinuous ornament cast in low relief inside a plain border. The hind quarters of an animal are enmeshed with plant fronds. This could be part of a hooked tag or a pin head.

Dimensions: Maximum dimension: 15mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.



(Fig.82) Sutton-on-the-Forest

S M YOUNGS

82 Sutton-on-the-Forest, North Yorkshire: Anglo-Saxon gold fitting (M&ME T255) (Fig. 82)

Date: Second half of 9th century

Finder: Mr Robin Sykes

Date of discovery: 15 April 2000

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

Description: Gold fitting in the form of a three-dimensional animal head with a suspension loop protruding from its jaws, and two short sockets at the back of the head representing formalized ears. The protruding eyes are inlaid with blue glass studs and encircled with filigree annulets. The brow and muzzle are decorated with scrolls of beaded filigree wire, and the eyes and cheeks are emphasized by arcs of the same; the mouths and bases of the twin sockets are encircled with beaded wire, and the tubes themselves decorated with strips of the same; the plain underside of the head is edged by another. The sockets are discrete elements, and do not interconnect. The much plainer suspension loop is attached by a crude gold rivet which overlies original decoration, and may thus be a replacement or addition.

Discussion: The function of this remarkable fitting is

something of a mystery, although stylistically, its snub-nosed animal head, blue glass eyes and filigree decoration have good parallels in a number of mid-to-late 9th-century Anglo-Saxon objects, such as the strap-ends from Ipsden Heath, Oxfordshire, and Braughing, Hertfordshire, and more distantly, in some of the sculptured animal heads at Deerhurst church, and the terminal on the much more elaborate Alfred Jewel. The angled twin sockets representing the creature's ears are quite exceptional. They seem to have been intended to be functional rather than purely decorative; but the fact that they do not interconnect suggests that they were intended to hold some rigid element, rather than a suspension chain or braided textile, and the lack of rivet holes to attach any element must have meant that whatever went into the sockets was wedged in very tightly, or was firmly glued. This is odd, to say the least, and if they were intended to be purely decorative, they are also without parallel. However, this playful translation of ears into sockets is matched by the dual nature of the suspension loop protruding from the jaws. Even though the present loop may be a replacement, the jaws were intended to hold a loop from the outset, since the loop takes the form of a lolling tongue when seen from the front.

Although to our eyes, the object may seem best viewed and understood with the muzzle and 'tongue' pointing downwards, and the 'ears' pricked upwards, as on the contemporary strap-ends, the position of the suspension loop strongly suggests that it was designed for use the other way up; what function it might have had in either orientation remains at present a puzzle.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 22.5mm; weight: 3.72g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 90 per cent.

Disposition: Acquired by the Yorkshire Museum (partly funded by the NACF and Resource/V&A Purchase Grant Fund).

83 Thorpe Salvin, South Yorkshire: Fragment from an Anglo-Saxon silver fitting (M&ME 409)

Date: 9th century

Finder: Mr James Rickett

Date of discovery: 1996

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

Description: Silver niello-inlaid fragmentary fitting, originally consisting of two arching ribs (one now lost), each terminating in a stylized animal head with rounded ears and blue glass settings for eyes; the ribs branch off above a similar animal head, and at the point of convergence, there is a small rivet hole, surmounted by a stylized leaf. The animal heads are inlaid with niello contours on brow and muzzle, and the ribs, which form their necks, are also inlaid with beaded niello decoration. Concealed behind the stylized leaf and the muzzle of the central animal head are two delicate vertically pierced lugs, one above and one below the rivet hole. The back is otherwise undecorated.

Stylistically, this elegant fitting relates to mid-9th century artefacts; the carefully delineated animal heads with their nielloed detail and blue glass eyes have many close parallels among the terminals of strap-ends of this period, on the Strickland brooch and on the Dunwich seal-die. However, the piece has no functional parallel and its purpose is uncertain. The lugs at first sight look as if they might have accommodated a slender rod or attachment pin, but this would possibly have been fouled by the protruding end of whatever passed through the rivet hole, probably the shank of a small decorative boss of some kind. Alternatively, the lugs might have been endstops for linking elements. The high quality and careful execution of the piece suggest that it is likely to have come from an object of some status.

Dimensions: Length: 24.5mm; width: 16mm; weight: 3.812g.

Disposition: Rotherham Museum hopes to acquire this find.



(Fig.84) Maldon

84 Maldon, Essex: ?Early medieval gold fragment (M&ME 371) (Fig. 84)

Date: ?Early medieval

Finder: Mr N Lambert

Date of discovery: 31 December 2000

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

Disposition: To be determined; full report to appear next year.

L WEBSTER



(Fig.85) Swavesey

85 Swavesey, Cambridgeshire: ?Early medieval item of worked gold (M&ME 397) (Fig. 85)

Date: ?Early medieval

Finder: Mr Tim Jackson

Date of discovery: 17 September 2000

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

Disposition: To be determined; full report to appear next year.

L WEBSTER

86 Folkestone Warren, Kent: ?Anglo-Saxon gold fitting (M&ME 200)

Date: Possibly Anglo-Saxon

Finder: Mr James Walker

Date of discovery: 1 February 2000

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

Description: A circular gold fitting, the outer and internal divisions made of gold, with internal infill of red-coloured glass or garnet.

Dimensions: Diameter: 10mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

CATHERINE READ

87 Bicester, Oxfordshire: Silver finial (M&ME 329)

Date: It has not been possible to find a convincing parallel for this object, so, although it is probably not recent, its date remains undetermined.

Finder: Mr Alan Rogers

Date of discovery: 2000

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

Description: Silver finial with a rectangular head of square section, each side and the top incised with a roughly equal-armed cross. The head is separated by a moulding from a narrow, tubular socket, now empty, of the same length as the head and with a rivet hole close to the opening on one side, possibly for sewing to a lace. The internal diameter of the socket is probably too narrow to allow insertion of, say, a pin or rod of metal, and the function of this object remains enigmatic.

Dimensions and metal content: Length: 22mm; weight: 3.6g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 95 per cent.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

B AGER



(Fig.89) Hillington

(d) Medieval Artefacts

(i) Finger-rings (chronological order)

88 Dunham-on-Trent, Lincolnshire: Medieval gold finger-ring (M&ME 354)

Date: 12th or 13th century

Finder: Mr Dean Wilson

Date of discovery: 19 December 2000

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

Description: A medieval gold ring formed of a slender hoop and an asymmetrical, hexagonal bezel set with a deep red stone. The bezel has suffered some damage which may be the result of the stone being re-set.

From a purely visual inspection, the stone appears most likely to be a garnet.

Dimensions: Diameter: 21mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON

89 Hillington, Norfolk (2): Medieval gold finger-ring set with a garnet (M&ME 312) (Fig. 89)

Date: Late 12th or early 13th century

Finder: Mr C Merchant

Date of discovery: 17 July 2000

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

Description: A medieval gold ring set with a garnet.

The hoop of the ring is thin; the garnet is oval and contained within a circular and slightly conical bezel. Similar rings in the British Museum's collections are published in O M Dalton, *Catalogue of Finger-rings in the British Museum*, (London 1912), cat. nos. 1752 and 1771. The most strikingly similar example is published in A B Chadour, *Rings: The Alice and Louis Koch Collection*, Vol. I (Leeds 1994), cat. no. 560 where other, comparable rings are mentioned from Roskilde in Denmark and from excavations at Bremen Cathedral in Germany.

Dimensions: Diameter: 21mm.

Disposition: Disclaimed; returned to finder.

J P ROBINSON

90 Kelvedon, Essex: Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring set with a garnet (M&ME 235)

Date: Late 12th or early 13th century

Finder: Mr R Gold

Date of discovery: 3 January 2000

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

Description: The ring is silver-gilt with a polygonal bezel set with a garnet. It corresponds very closely with a ring from the Lark Hill hoard (MME 1854, 8–20,3) which is set with yellow paste (see G Zarnecki, *English Romanesque Art 1066–1200*, London 1984).

Dimensions and metal content: X-ray fluorescence