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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Prehistoric

BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN

In an exchange with Taunton Museum the museum has acquired the Late Neolithic beaker found at Brenley and given to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society by the Rev. W.A. Jones in 1876. It is of Clarke's Primary Southern (British) Beaker type (S.1.) and is no. 387 (fig. 774) in his corpus.¹ Museum accession number: 156.1989/1.

BOXLEY

A flint dagger (Fig. 1, 1) was found by D.L. Applegate: N.G.R. TQ 766591. Light grey, black banded flint with a thin white patina; the top of the grip is broken off. Length 113 mm., max. width 43 mm. When found in association these flint daggers accompany beakers.² Two daggers, both casual finds, from Boxley and the Maidstone area, are in the museum collections.

HAWKENBURY

Sherds from two Iron Age jars were found by N. Simmonds during dredging of the River Beult: N.G.R. TQ 789462. Hand-made, dark grey ware, S-profile rims, perhaps second-first century B.C.

KINGSWOOD

A small group of flints, including blade flakes and a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, was found by R. Goble: N.G.R. TQ 837515.

¹ D.L. Clarke, *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*, Cambridge, 1970.

² Sixteen are listed by Clarke, *ibid.*, 438-447.

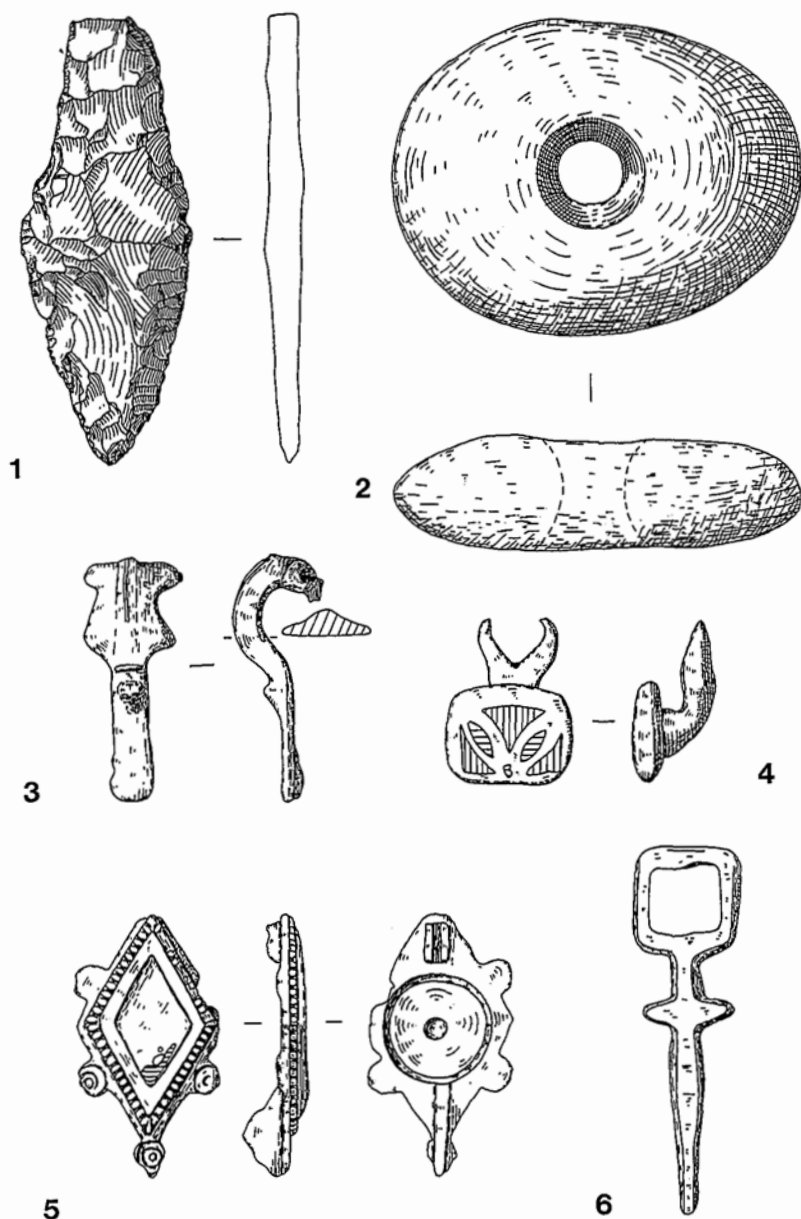


Fig. 1. 1. Boxley: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint dagger. 2. Whitfield: Mesolithic quartzite pebble-hammer. 3-6. Boughton Monchelsea: Roman: brooches (3 and 5); button and loop fastener (4); strap-end (6). (Scale: 1-2: $\frac{1}{2}$; 3-6; actual size).

MEREWORTH

Flint implements were found by our member R. Earl in Mereworth Woods north of Beech Road near Kent Street: N.G.R. TQ 662549. In addition to a core, three bladelets and a 'thumbnail' scraper, there were six scrapers of Neolithic type, all convex on flakes (length given first):

1. Short end scraper on flake with bulbar end removed; 38 × 40 mm.
2. Scraper on thermal flake; 43 × 33 mm.
3. Short end scraper; 40 × 50 mm.
4. Short end scraper on a very thick (15 mm.) flake; 35 × 43 mm.
5. Short double-ended scraper; 60 × 50 mm.
6. Short double-ended scraper; 48 × 40 mm.

WHITFIELD

A quartzite or sandstone³ pebble-hammer with hour-glass perforation (Fig. 1, 2) was found by T. Allen at Maydensole Farm at the end of 1988 and brought for recording by our member J. Bradshaw: N.G.R. TR 315477. 102 × 77 mm. County number Kent 74. Over seven hundred pebble-hammers are recorded from the British Isles, nearly all of quartzite or sandstone, but the great majority are casual finds. The type certainly appears in the Mesolithic period,⁴ but can be later.⁵ Twelve have previously been recorded from Kent, two of quartzite, two of sandstone and eight (unexamined) of either quartzite or sandstone.⁶

Celtic Coins

Impressions in Maidstone Museum and Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

³ For the distinction, see (Eds.) Clough and Cummins, *Stone Axe Studies*, vol. 2, C.B.A. Research Report no. 67, 1988, 28.

⁴ *ibid.*, 30; *P.P.S.*, xv (1949), 70-6.

⁵ (Eds.) Clough and Cummins, *Stone Axe Studies*, C.B.A. Research Report no. 23, 1979, 36.

⁶ *Op. cit.* in note 3, 164.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7751. Two coins found by K. Parker in area of Roman bath building at Brishing.⁷

1. AV Quarter stater of British type PA (Mack 38). Diam. 10/11 mm.; weight 1.257 g.
2. AE uniface coin. Obverse (convex): horse right with prominent flowing mane; six-point star of two triangles above, six-leaf flower below.

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 765597. AE coin found by R. Parkes. Very worn, horse left/?: ovoid, diam. 12/16 mm.

SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 708620. Billon (or, less likely, AR) stater of Durotriges found in River Medway adjacent to Roman villa by P. Golding. Mack 318, which is AE; diam. 18 mm. Although it is perhaps surprising to find Durotrigan coins in Kent there are two from Richborough and one from Dover.⁸ In his summary of Celtic coins from Richborough⁹ Allen records them as both Mack 318, of a very debased silver.

Roman

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7751. The nine objects below, all of bronze or copper alloy except no. 8, were found by K. Parker in the area of the Roman bath house at Brishing.¹⁰ (See also under Celtic and Roman coins).

1. An enamelled button and loop fastener (Fig. 1, 4). Rectangular head, 13 × 16 mm., decorated with three red triangles, their inward

⁷ See *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 353, and cv (1988), 303, for previous finds of Celtic coins.

⁸ D.F. Allen, 'The Origins of Coinage in Britain: a Reappraisal', in (Ed.) S.S. Frere, *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*, London, 1960, 241.

⁹ *Richborough*, v, Oxford, 1968, 184–8.

¹⁰ See *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 355, and cv (1988), 305–7 for previous finds.

facing sides curved, with two blue 'laurel leaves' between. Length 21 mm.; top of loop missing. Wild's class VIa.¹¹ Second century A.D.

The use of these objects is uncertain. They are often regarded as dress or cloak fasteners,¹² but Wild¹³ sees no evidence for this and supports those who see them as fittings from horse harness, presumably as strap terminals. Two of them have been found in Mainz attached to a sword scabbard and one with the swords in the double inhumation burial at Canterbury Castle.¹⁴

2. Enamelled plate brooch of lozenge shape (Fig. 1, 5) with lugs in the middle of each side and at foot (? tortoise), decorated with concentric circles. Traces of blue and white enamel in central lozenge; pin missing; length 33 mm. Second century A.D.

3. Fragment of circular plate brooch decorated with two bands of concentric triangles surrounding central boss, the outer ring filled with red enamel. Diam. c. 20 mm. The type is not uncommon.¹⁵ Second century A.D.

4. Brooch with hinged pin (Fig. 1, 3). Short, humped bow with central raised ridge and wings; flat, slightly expanding foot with knob below bow; cylindrical cover to bar holding pin; pin and catch-plate missing. Length 31 mm. Hod Hill or Hod Hill derivative.

5. Foot and part of bow, including acanthus moulding, of trumpet brooch of Collingwood's group Riv. Length 38 mm.

6. Spring (four coils) and part of bow of Nauheim derivative brooch. The bow is broad and has three ribs. Length 24 mm.

7. Spring cover and part of bow of Colchester B brooch.

8. Round, oblate bead of turquoise frit. Like a melon bead, but without gadroons. Diam. 14 mm.

9. Strap end (Fig. 1, 6); flattened, rectangular section; length 46 mm.¹⁶

¹¹ *Britannia*, i (1970), 137-55.

¹² E.g. by Gillam in (Ed.) I.A. Richmond, *Roman and Native in North Britain*, 1958, 79-85.

¹³ *Op. cit.* in note 11, 145.

¹⁴ L. Allason-Jones and R. Miket, *Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort*, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1984, 186; P. Bennett *et al.*, *The Archaeology of Canterbury I: Excavations at Canterbury Castle*, Maidstone, 1982, 44-6; 185-8; fig. 100B.

¹⁵ See *Arch. Cant.*, cv (1988), 308, for comparable brooch and references therein.

¹⁶ Cf. *Richborough* v, 95, nos. 120-1; *South Shields* (*op.cit.* in note 14), 188-190, nos. 3.598-3.602.

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 771585. Bow, spring cover and hook of Colchester brooch, found by R. Parkes. Length (twisted) 57 mm.

(b) N.G.R. c. TQ 781595. Finger ring (Fig. 2, 1) found by R. Cox in February 1989. Bronze/copper alloy. Narrow hoop of D-section, flattened at bezel, which is expanded to take a perforated disc of blue glass in one piece, its centre filled by the bronze. Diam. 25 mm.; width at centre of bezel 12 mm. It is of Henig's type III,¹⁷ dated to the second half of the first and first half of the second centuries A.D. Two similar rings with intaglios were found in the Walbrook, London.¹⁸

COBHAM

N.G.R. TQ 670693. Colchester BB brooch found by R. Parkes near Battle Street. Foot missing; spring of seven coils; length 23 mm.

COWDEN

N.G.R. TQ 4640. Bronze/copper alloy wheel brooch (Fig. 2, 2) found by D.M. Lynn in August 1988. Nine spokes, the spaces between each third pair left solid; central domed boss with three grooves running round lower part; pair of lugs to hold hinged pin (missing) and small catch-plate. Estimated diameter 26 mm. The brooch is bent in half and may well have been rather flatter than shown in the drawing.

LENHAM

N.G.R. TQ 905519. Colchester brooch found by D. Perrott. Most of the perforated catch-plate, the pin and three of the seven spring coils missing; length (bent) 36 mm.

¹⁷ M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites*, B.A.R. 8 (i), 1974, 47.

¹⁸ *Small Finds from Walbrook 1954-1955*, Guildhall Museum, n.d., pl. II, 10.

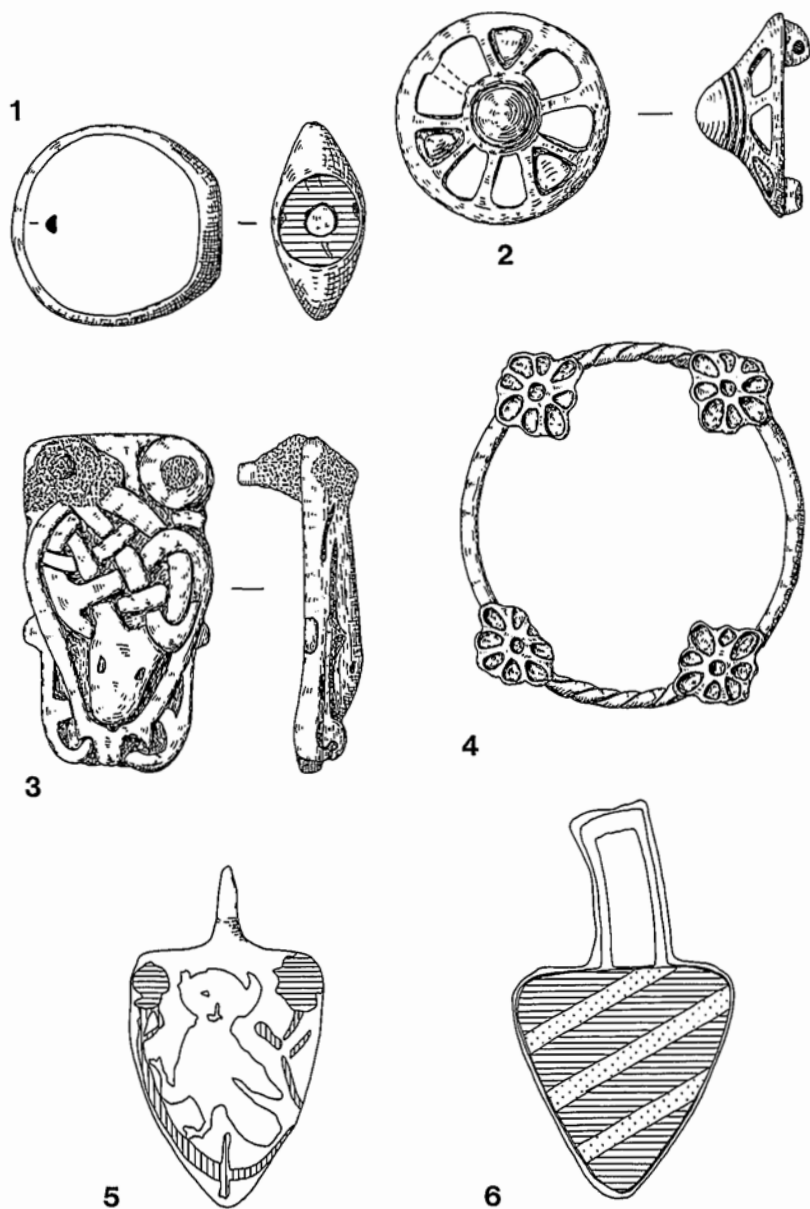


Fig. 2. 1. Boxley: Roman ring. 2. Cowden: Roman brooch. 3. Boxley: Late Saxon casket mount. 4. Boxley: Medieval ring brooch. 5-6. Medieval harness pendants: Sandway; Boxley. (All actual size).

Roman Coins

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7751. Twenty coins found by K. Parker in area of Roman bath building at Brishing.¹⁹ The identifiable or partly identifiable coins range in date from the Republic to Constantine I (GLORIA EXERCITVS, two standards). The four pre-Conquest coins, like the Celtic coins, are to be explained by the building's position within the earthworks of the Quarry Wood *oppidum*.

Two Republican *denarii*: Sydenham 1014 and 1129a; *as* of Augustus, Lyons mint R.I.C., I (rev. Edn.) 230; *as* of Augustus, Nîmes mint, Agrippa and Augustus /COL NEM, crocodile, etc.; *dupondius* of Claudius, R.I.C. 94 or 110; *denarius* of Hadrian, R.I.C. 67; *denarius* of Faustina I, R.I.C. 362; *sestertius* of Faustina II, R.I.C. 1621; *sestertius* of Julia Mamaea, R.I.C. 705; *denarius* of Titus (under Vespasian), R.I.C. 218.

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 771585. Four coins found by R. Parkes: *as* of Faustina II; *antoninianus* of Gallienus (sole reign), R.I.C. 164 ($\frac{1}{8}$); Constantine I, Trier mint R.I.C. (VII) 45; Constantius II, Trier mint R.I.C. (VII) 528.

HAWKENBURY

N.G.R. TQ 787462. *As* of Claudius found by N. Simmonds during dredging of River Beult on line of Roman road from Rochester to Hastings. R.I.C. (rev.) 100 or, more likely, a contemporary native copy.

SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 695609. Four coins found by P. Golding on spoil heap from construction of new Tesco building. All *antoniniani*: Gallienus (sole reign), R.I.C. 210, but with mm. 1N; Victorinus; others not identifiable.

¹⁹ For previous finds see *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 357, and cv (1988), 310.

Anglo-Saxon

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 768595. A Late Saxon bronze or copper alloy casket mount (Fig. 2, 3) was found by W. Reeves. It is trapezoidal in shape with a flange, 8×7 mm., projecting at a right angle at the base; the two rivet holes at the base retain the corroded iron rivets; 42×24 mm. The mount is decorated with a serpent, or perhaps a dragon, if the outer scrolls are taken as legs, its body formed into an interlace pattern. These mounts are usually assigned to the eleventh century.²⁰ Another casket mount was found a few years ago at Boxley, fairly near to this one.²¹

(b) N.G.R. TQ 764597. A sceatta found by R. Parkes: Diademed bust right with cross/Man facing with cross and bird. B.M.C. 18. London derived series. Diam. 11 mm.; weight 1.048 g.

(c) N.G.R. TQ 771582. A penny of Harold I found by S. Parkes; incomplete and badly struck. + HAR(O)LD RE / Jewel cross (? . . IFICI) ON CEN. Canterbury mint. B.M.C. type I.

COBHAM

Two sceattas found in Cobham Park by G. Lloyd.

1. N.G.R. TQ 678684. PADA: B.M.C. Peada 3, Rigold type PIII (AR):²² bust with 'Visigothic fringe', N.VNC / cross with central dot and annulets in angles, . . $\Lambda C \approx | R \approx VC$. . .] Diam. 12 mm.; weight 1.143 g.

2. N.G.R. TQ 683684. Cross and pellets / standard; like B.M.C. 8, but no legend. Frisian. Diam. 11/13 mm.; weight 1.255 g.

Medieval

BEARSTED

N.G.R. TQ 798562. Circular lead seal-die (Fig. 3, 6) found by R. Parkes near Ware Street. + S' RICARDI FIL IO. .S (Seal of

²⁰ S. Margeson, 'A Group of Late Saxon Mounts from Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxxix (1986), 323-7.

²¹ *Arch. Cant.*, civ (1987), 359, and fig. 8, 1. This mount was acquired by Maidstone Museum: Acc. no. 45.1988.

²² *B.N.J.*, xxx (1960), 32.

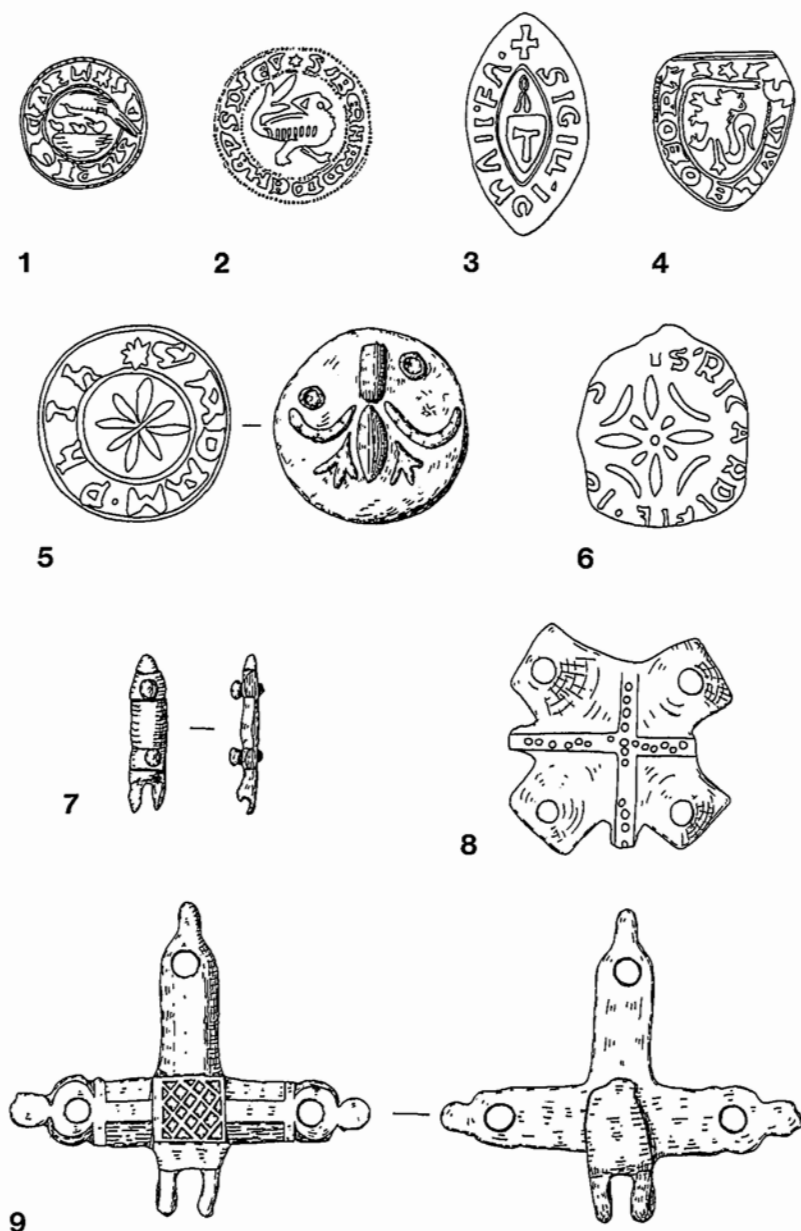


Fig. 3. Medieval. Seal-dies (impressions): 1, 2, 5. Boxley; 3. Chalk; 4. Dartford; 6. Bearsted. Harness mounts: 7-9 Cobham. (All actual size).

Richard Fitzjohn) surrounding design of four-leaf flower and four stamens/stigmas with four crescents between leaves to form lozenge. Diam. c. 25 mm. Late twelfth to thirteenth century.

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 771586. Circular seal-die (Fig. 3, 1) of copper alloy found by W. Reeves. Hexagonal, conical handle with trefoil terminal; 22 × 18 mm. Design of Pelican in her piety; a pelican piercing her breast over a nest with three fledglings. The legend, between beaded circles, appears to be: * SVM RIO(or C) CAELI. The design is a fairly common one, occurring both on personal and 'off the peg' seal-dies.²³ Late thirteenth to fourteenth century.

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Circular seal-die (Fig. 3, 2) of copper alloy found by S. Parkes in field to north of the abbey precinct wall. The die is flat, its reverse plain with a ring lug at the top. Legend: * S' BERNARDI DE MAUSDIEV, within beaded circles, surrounding a harpy or siren. Diam. 20 mm. Late thirteenth to fourteenth century.

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Circular lead seal-die (Fig. 3, 5) found by S. Parkes in field north of abbey precinct wall. Flat; the reverse has crude fleur-de-lys design and solid semi-circular lug at top. Diam. 25 mm. Legend: * S' ADAM. Phlh, between circles surrounding eight-point star.

(d) N.G.R. TQ 770581. Ring brooch of silver (Fig. 2, 4) found by S. Parkes. Decorated with four rosettes, each of eight petals and of lozenge or square shape. Two opposing arcs between the rosettes are twisted. Pin missing; slightly bent; diam. 46 mm. Comparable Scottish examples were discussed by J.G. Callender²⁴ and are fourteenth-century in date, being found with coin hoards from Canonbie (Edward I and II, Alexander III) and Langhope (Edward I-III).²⁵ English finds cited by Callender come from Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight.²⁶

(e) N.G.R. TQ 771586. Papal bull of Gregory IX (VIII) (1227-41), found by W. Reeves.

(f) N.G.R. TQ 771584. Copper alloy purse-bar found by R. Parkes.

²³ *Catalogue of British Seal-Dies in The British Museum*, (1952), nos. 551, 561, 596, 633, 648; *Arch. Cant.*, xciii (1977), 210.

²⁴ *P.S.A.S.*, lviii, (1923-4), 160-84.

²⁵ J.D.A. Thompson, *Inventory of British Coin Hoards, A.D. 600-1500*, Royal Numismatic Society, Special Publications, no. 1, 1956, 22, 82, and pls. IX and XVI.

²⁶ *Op. cit.* in note 24, 177.

Ward Perkins type B3²⁷; shield-shaped central boss with scallop shell ornament on both sides; twisted terminals; 46 × 98 mm. Early sixteenth century.

(g) N.G.R. TQ 771584. Belt hook of tinned copper alloy (Fig. 4, 1) found by R. Parkes. Lozenge shape; openwork design of cross and border of roundels. On the back, above and below the openwork cross, are two spikes or rivets for fastening. 44 × 32 mm. Probably late fifteenth to mid sixteenth century.

(h) N.G.R. TQ 774595. Harness pendant of copper alloy (Fig. 2, 6) found by D.L. Applegate. Heater shield shape with a long, wide, flat attachment, the suspension hook or hole missing; 50 × 28 mm. Some gilt and patches of green, decayed enamel remain, which are taken to be blue. If so, it may be described: azure, three bendlets sinister or.

CHALK

N.G.R. TQ 687728. Copper alloy seal-die of pointed oval shape (Fig. 3, 3) found by K. Saggars at East Court Farm. + SIGILL' IOhAN. FA., surrounding design of an axe on a heater shield with pincers above. FA is presumably for Faber (Smith). Reverse has semi-circular ring lug at lower end. 30 × 17 mm. Thirteenth to fourteenth century.

CLIFFE

N.G.R. TQ 7476. Oval lead seal-die found by B.S. Ashby. *S' WILLI EDMVND, surrounding eight-point flower. Reverse plain, with lug; 36 × 24 mm. Mr Ashby kindly gave the die to the museum: Acc. no. 28.1987a.

COBHAM

(a) N.G.R. TQ 684684. Two harness pendants and three pendant mounts found by G. Lloyd within a few yards of the mount and pendant reported last year.²⁸

1. Gilt copper alloy pendant in form of a fleur-de-lys swinging within a quatrefoil frame, similar to pendant found previously.²⁹

²⁷ *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940) (hereafter *L.M.M.C.*), 168 and fig. 52.

²⁸ *Arch. Cant.*, cv (1988), 314–7, Cobham nos. 1 and 6; fig. 7, 1 and 3.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 316.

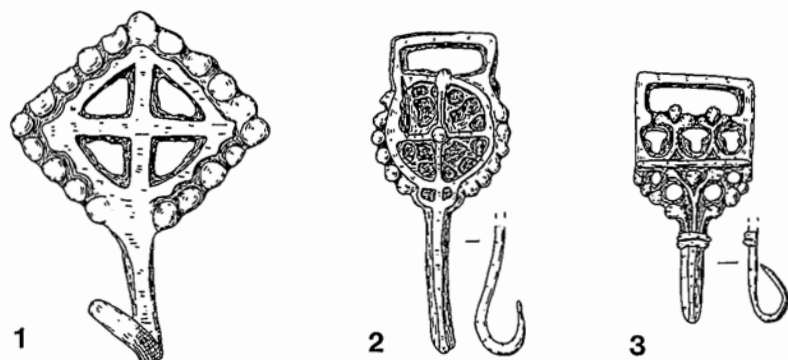


Fig. 4. Late medieval – Tudor belt or strap-end hooks: 1. Boxley; 2. Cobham; 3. Snodland. (All actual size).

2. Pendant as no. 1, but fleur-de-lys only, the frame missing.
3. Three-armed pendant mount (Fig. 3, 9), 40 × 46 mm. There is a rivet hole at the end of each arm and at the junction of the arms a square decorated with a diaper pattern. This outer face is gilt all over except for the cells of the diapering, which were perhaps enamelled, though no enamelling remains. The attachment for the bar holding the pendant loop was made by cutting a wide slot in the lower arm of the cross and bending it back to form two rings. An almost identical mount, in the Musée de Cluny, is illustrated in the *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*.³⁰
4. Three armed pendant mount like no. 3, but with the vertical arm missing; length of horizontal arm is 51 mm. The two fastening studs remain, 8 mm. long, of copper alloy with domed heads.
5. Small vertical mount for pendant (Fig. 3, 7) of copper alloy, gilt; length 20 mm. The two small rivets, of copper alloy, remain.
- (b) N.G.R. TQ 678688. Mount of thin copper alloy sheet (Fig. 3, 8) found by Capt. L.E. Mulcrow. It is in the form of a saltire with a cross, decorated with stamped circlets, incised between the arms. There is a rivet hole at each corner and traces of gilt remain all over; 29 × 29 mm. Perhaps attached to harness at a cross strap junction.
- (c) N.G.R. c. TQ 670693. Belt or strap-end hook (Fig. 4, 2) found at Battle Street by R. Parkes. Copper alloy; length 41 mm. The body, between the bar and hook, is circular with a cross design and a beaded edge. The irregular depressions between the arms of the cross are the result of poor casting and an almost identical hook found

³⁰ *L.M.M.C.*, 119, fig. 39, 1.

unstratified during the excavation of The Mount Roman villa at Maidstone shows that an openwork design was intended. A further example from St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, has the openwork cross design.³¹ Comparable examples with a Tudor rose instead of an openwork cross come from London (in Maidstone Museum) and Woodeaton³² and one with an open centre, perhaps for a stone, from Coventry, dated to between 1545 and 1557/8.³³ A date during the first half of the sixteenth or the end of the fifteenth century seems likely.

DARTFORD

N.G.R. TQ 537744. Copper alloy seal-die (Fig. 3, 4) found by C.M. Sackett and identified at Dartford Museum, where it was kindly suggested that it be brought to Maidstone Museum for recording. Heater shield shape, 20 × 17 mm; hexagonal, conical handle with a pierced trefoil terminal, height 27 mm. Legend within beaded lines, surrounding a lion rampart: * I SVM LEO FORTI (I am a strong lion), the redundant initial I presumably filling a space. Circular dies with a lion and the same legend are in the Museum of London³⁴ and the British Museum.³⁵ Late thirteenth to fourteenth century.

SANDWAY

N.G.R. TQ 878512. Copper alloy harness pendant (Fig. 2, 5) found by G. Lloyd. Heater shield shape; length, including suspension ring, 43 mm., width 24 mm. Device of an owl passant guardant between two stems, each bearing leaves and a flower, its feet resting on the left stem. Most of the enamel remains, the owl white, the flowers a greenish blue, the stems and leaves red. If the field was gilt, no trace remains of this. Two pendants in the Museum of London, from Kensington and London Wall, show similar owls.³⁶

³¹ *Antiq. Journ.*, i (1970), 346 and fig. 1, 5.

³² *Oxoniansia*, xiv (1949), 23 (E 9) and fig. 5, 6.

³³ *P.M.A.*, xv (1981), 98 and fig. 6, 105.

³⁴ *Antiq. Journ.*, lxiv (1984), 380, and fig. 4, 17.

³⁵ *Op. cit.* in note 23, no. 741 and pl. XVI.

³⁶ *L.M.M.C.* (1940), 120 and pls. XVIII, 4 and XXI, 4.

SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 695609. Two objects found by P. Golding on spoil heap from new Tesco building.

1. Ring brooch of copper alloy, diam. 41 mm., like the one found at Marden.³⁷
2. Belt or strap-end hook of copper alloy (Fig. 4, 3). Design of openwork tracery; 31 × 15 mm. Late fifteenth to early sixteenth century.

WEST MALLING

N.G.R. TQ 683577. Papal bull of Innocent VI (1352–62) found by L. Mabb during building work at the abbey in the 1970s.

Post-Medieval

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 771584. Leaden cloth seal found by R. Parkes. A row of four joined discs, each disc 14 mm. in diameter. The outer discs (1 and 4) are plain, one having a rivet, the other perforated for fastening the seal.³⁸ The second disc has a double rose below a double arched crown, within a circle, reminiscent of the reverse of the type I rose farthing tokens of Charles I. The third disc bears the initials T.W., with a pierced mullet above and below, within a circle. Surrounding the initials is the legend SHROVSBRY, preceded by a pierced mullet and within a beaded circle.

D.B. KELLY

³⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 256, and fig. 7, 5.

³⁸ See G. Egan, *Leaden Cloth Seals*, Finds Research Group, 700–1700, Datasheet 3, Fig. 10.