

Bronzes from Woodeaton, Oxon.¹

By JOAN R. KIRK

TO the north of Woodeaton, just within the boundary of Islip parish, lie three fields known as North, Middle and South Hill (Nat. Grid ref. 42/535127; FIG. 1). For nearly 300 years these fields have been well known for the number of small bronze objects of Iron Age and Roman date² which it has been possible to pick up from the surface. It was not until 1917 that any serious attempt was made to publish some of these bronzes and to explain the nature of the site; this was done by Miss M. V. Taylor in the *Journal of Roman Studies*, VII (1917), 98 ff. Miss Taylor published in full the brooches then in the Ashmolean Museum and in the collection of the late Mr. Wyndham Hughes, and mentioned many of the other objects. In 1931, and again in 1933, Dr. J. G. Milne published the coins,³ and in 1939 a general assessment of the site and its significance, with illustrations—but no descriptions—of some of the more important objects, was included in the *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, I (1939), pp. 299 ff. The present article is intended to follow up the note in the *V.C.H.* with full descriptions and illustrations of as many of the objects as possible.

The three fields lie on the slope of a hill, overlooking the River Cherwell. The centre of the pre-Roman remains appears to lie in South Hill field, that of the Roman occupation farther up the slope in Middle Hill field. The site would have been within fairly easy reach of the Roman road which runs north from Dorchester to Alchester, where it connects with Akeman Street. There may have been other side roads in this vicinity, but the evidence for them, as assessed in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, p. 278 f., is very dubious and, though one of them is marked on the O.S. map of Roman Britain (2nd ed., 1924), and the 1 in. O.S. map (1946 ed.), no certain stretch of any of them can be pointed out on the ground. The district, if not as thickly populated in Roman times as other parts of the county, shows no lack of Roman remains (see map in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, p. 267). There were small villas at Beckley, Headington and Wheatley, kilns along the road from Shotover to Dorchester, and, on the opposite bank of the Cherwell, a number of settlements just to

¹ I am particularly indebted to Mrs. M. E. Cox who has done all the drawings for this article; to Mr. Christopher Hughes and Mr. P. M. Finch who have kindly allowed me to examine and publish objects in their collections; and to Miss M. V. Taylor and Mr. D. B. Harden and many others who have given me help and advice.

² Occasional later bronzes are found, but much fewer in number, and not more than are normally found in ploughed fields in this region.

³ *J.R.S.*, XXI (1931), pp. 101 ff.; *Numismatic Chronicle*, 5th Series, XIII (1933), p. 86.

JOAN R. KIRK

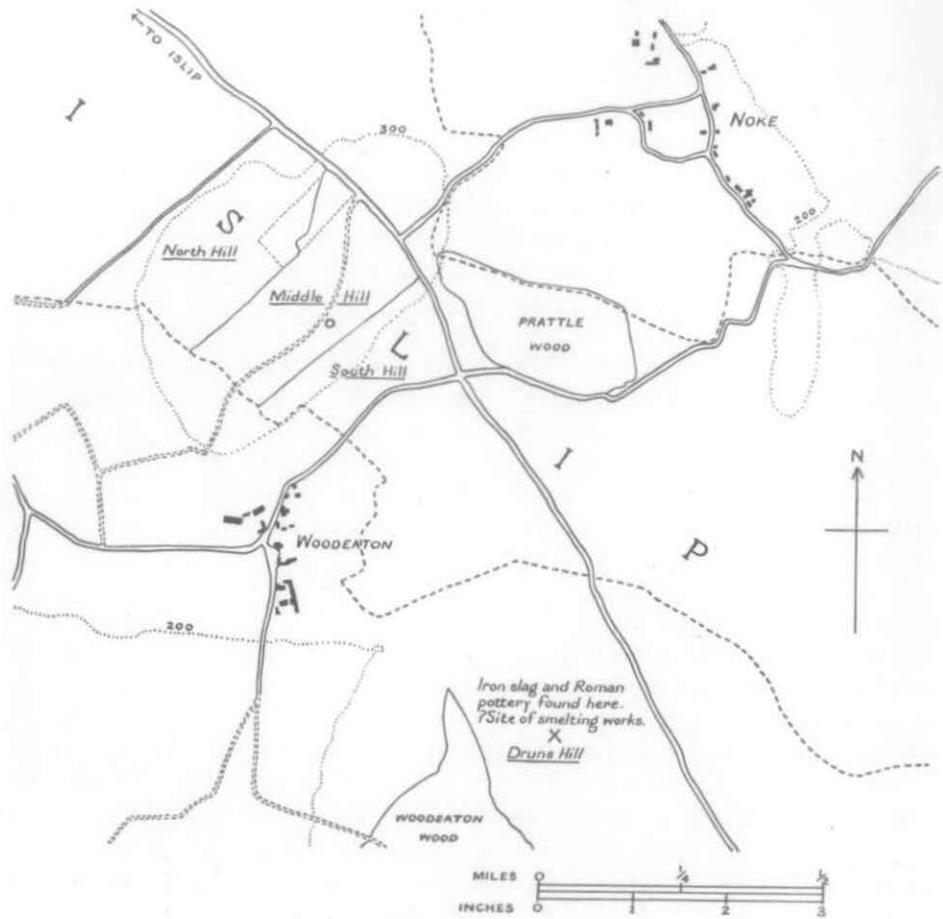


FIG. I
WOODEATON, OXON.
Map showing position of fields

Based on the O.S. 6-in. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationary Office

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

the north of Oxford; isolated finds have been discovered at Cuddesdon, Elsfield, Headington, Waterperry, etc. Thus Woodeaton, whatever its nature in the Roman period, was not isolated nor cut off, though perhaps it did not lie in the richest part of the area. The villas nearby are neither large nor elaborate, being small both in number and size compared with those which clustered on the oolite to the west of the Cherwell. Nor are there villages and settlements to compare in number with those which lay on the opposite bank of the river. Probably this area supported a small, fairly well-to-do farming community, and in view of the small villas and settlements at hand it is not surprising that it has been thought that there was either a house or a habitation-site at Woodeaton.

No large-scale excavations have as yet been undertaken in the Woodeaton fields, though trial trenches have twice been dug by the Oxford University Archaeological Society, in both cases with no conclusive results. The first excavation took place in 1920-21 in the centre of Middle Hill field; a quantity of painted wall-plaster and burnt debris was found lying above some traces of walls, of which no plan could be made out.⁴ In 1934 further excavations were undertaken near the centre of the same field; many traces of foundations were found, but again no definite plan could be made out.⁵ In 1936 the late Major G. W. G. Allen took two air-photographs of the fields, one of which shows a distinct dark circle in Middle Hill field (PL. 1), but no further efforts have been made to discover the nature of the building or buildings by means of excavation.

It is therefore necessary to fall back on the small finds and hope to discover from them what sort of a place this was. The bronzes are mainly from the collections of local antiquaries who picked them up from the fields themselves, or bought them from others who did. Particular mention should be made of Sir Arthur Evans, the Rev. Canon Gordon, Mr. P. Manning, the Rev. E. A. Sydenham and Mr. Wyndham Hughes. The collections of the first four are now in the Ashmolean Museum, as is that of Mr. Wyndham Hughes, which has been on loan since 1919, first from Mr. Hughes himself, and since his death in 1948, from his son, Mr. Christopher Hughes, who has kindly given permission for these bronzes to be published as well as others from his own collection.

Miss Taylor in her article suggested that there was at Woodeaton a workshop for small bronzes.⁶ The very good condition in which many of the objects were found lends weight to this assumption, and it is possible that the

⁴ *Antiquaries Journal*, 1 (1921), pp. 339-40.

⁵ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, 1, 300.

⁶ *J.R.S.*, VII, 99.

JOAN R. KIRK

three bronze ingots and the casting (see p. 28 ff.) might have been pieces left over from some manufacturing work. Dr. Milne, on the other hand, pointed out that no furnaces had been found and that no deposits of metal existed in the neighbourhood.⁷ Deposits of iron ore have been found at Druns Hill (see map, FIG. 1), but no bronzes or traces of bronze-working. Dr. Milne argued that the very large number of coins found suggested a periodic market or fair. Other suggestions have been that it was villa, a shrine,⁸ or a combination of shrine and fair.⁹

A study of the bronzes shows that an overwhelming number of them could have a religious significance. Model axes (see p. 32 ff.) had been used as religious offerings, and actually found in sanctuaries for long before the Roman period,¹⁰ and other model tools and weapons have been found in shrines of Iron Age date in England and elsewhere (e.g. Frilford, Berks., and Talamone, Italy).¹¹ Two of the Woodeaton axes (nos. IV, C, 3 and 4, p. 40) appear to have mystic signs engraved on them. Model spears are not so frequent and have not before been found in any religious connection, but as both swords and shields have been found at Frilford and Talamone, and as the spears were found in the same context as the axes, it seems likely that they were used for the same purpose. Three of the six spears from Woodeaton were bent double, and, though this may be coincidence, it is not impossible that it was done deliberately. It is well known that objects buried with the dead in antiquity were frequently 'killed' by breaking or bending before being placed in the grave, and it is likely that, in a similar way, the sacred nature of the models was emphasized by their being put out of use in this manner.

Many of the fragments of sheet bronze can be related to priestly head-dresses such as those described in *Antiquaries Journal*, v, 258 ff. (see p. 35 ff.) or to votive plaques such as those found at Barkway, Herts., Stony Stratford, Bucks., and Heddernheim, Germany, now in the British Museum,¹² several of which still bear their dedications to local deities such as Mars Teutates, or Mars Alator. On a sceptre-binding found at the temple-site at Farley Heath, Surrey,¹³ is a figure worked in a style very similar to the crude figure on

⁷ *Ibid.*, XXI, 101.

⁸ F. J. Haverfield and G. Macdonald, *The Roman Occupation of Britain* (1924), p. 223.

⁹ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 270, 301.

¹⁰ J. Toutain, *Les cultes païens dans l'empire romain*, III (1920), 366 ff.; cf. also the model axes and other tools and weapons found in the Diktacian Cave, Psykhro, Crete, now in the Ashmolean Museum.

¹¹ *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), 14; O. Montelius, *La civilisation primitive en Italie*, II (1904), pl. 205.

¹² British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain* (1922), p. 35; British Museum, *Catalogue of Silver Plate* (1921), nos. 224-6, 230-41.

¹³ *Ant. Journ.*, XVIII (1938), p. 392 ff.; xxvii (1947), pp. 83 ff.; *Revue Archéologique*, XIII (1939), pp. 273 ff.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

the Woodeaton plaque no. IV, D, 3 (see p. 41), and it is very possible that some of the strips of thin bronze from Woodeaton may be remains of binding of a similar sort.

Even the large quantities of small ornaments such as brooches, bracelets and pins can be given a religious significance. In the excavation of the Roman temple in Lydney Park, Glos., many such small objects were found, and the excavators there pointed out that feminine ornaments had been, since Greek times at least, forms of votive offerings made by women in child-birth.¹⁴ A concentration of feminine ornaments could, therefore, well imply a shrine, the local god of which had especial power for giving relief in child-birth. It is interesting in this connection to note that many of the bracelets from Woodeaton are far too small to be worn by anyone except, perhaps, very small children, and the majority of the rings are not well made, and do not look as if they would stand up to everyday wear. This suggests that both bracelets and rings were only made as votive offerings.¹⁵

There is as yet no evidence for the dedication of the temple, if such indeed it was. The only inscriptions found are one carved on a block of local oolite

D

DECMVS MALVS

which is now in the Ashmolean Museum ;¹⁶ the three letters EDO on a fragment of sheet bronze, the rest of which is missing (IV, D, 2) and the thin bronze fragmentary letters (IV, D, 30-2). The letters EDO may perhaps be the end of a Celtic name,¹⁷ but if so it is not known what the rest of the name would be. The statuettes give no more certain evidence. The kilted lady (III, 1) might represent a Celtic goddess ; the eagles (III, 3-7) may have had their usual association with Jupiter ; the female statuette (III, 2) would appear to be a representation of Venus and, more recently found, there is the thin bronze plaque bearing a figure of Cupid (IV, D, 3) ; but there is nothing to show that any of these represent the deity to whom the shrine was dedicated. The large number of eagles (if all the birds are eagles) suggests that they may have had some special significance.

¹⁴ R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Report on the Excavations of the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Site in Lydney Park, Glos.* (Soc. Ant. Research Rept., ix, 1932), p. 41 f.

¹⁵ Other parallels can be found between the finds from the temple-site at Lydney and those from Woodeaton ; notably at the former place were found fragments of sheet-bronze with embossed decoration, a model pick, two pins with axe-heads, and a large number of letters ; see Wheeler, *op. cit.*, fig. 22, p. 92 and pl. xxxb.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 301.

¹⁷ *J.R.S.*, vii, 102, n. 4 ; *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, iii, p. 145, no. 132.

JOAN R. KIRK

The evidence of the small finds seems to point very strongly towards a temple or shrine, but the possibility of there having been a workshop and a fair on the same site must not be ruled out. The thin fragments of bronze are so crudely made and so frail that it is impossible to believe that they travelled far. It is, indeed, more than probable that the votive bronzes were made on the spot, and sold to worshippers to offer in the shrine, a common practice at all times. Equally a fair held periodically during some special festival or religious celebration is a possibility that should be considered, particularly in view of the very large number of coins found.

The evidence of the coins shows that the building (or buildings) in Middle Hill field was in use from the 1st century A.D. until the end of the Roman period. The fragments of bronze bearing the impressions of coins of Numinian, Constantine and Crispus (IV, D, 21-3) indicate that the temple—if such it was—was certainly in use from the late 3rd into the 4th century. It must not be forgotten, however, that a considerable number of pre-Roman objects have also been found, and that the place must have been occupied before the Roman period. Many of the votive bronzes have a very Celtic character, in particular the kilted lady (III, 1) the two sceptre-heads (?) (IV, B, 1-2) with debased busts of Minerva, the mask with its large outstanding eyes (IV, D, 1) and the crude decoration on some of the pieces of sheet bronze, which is obviously not Roman work. It therefore seems possible that we have a place which was already sacred before the Roman period, and which became much more important as the country developed generally under the Romans, perhaps even becoming the religious centre for the area round Oxford. The only other sacred building so far found in the region has been the Romano-Celtic temple at Frilford, Berks., which, besides not producing anything in the least comparable with the number of small bronzes from Woodeaton, is not known to lie in an area so thickly populated as that adjacent to Woodeaton.

In the catalogue which follows, objects with numbers preceded by the letters Pr. or R. are mainly from the collections of Sir Arthur Evans, and Canon Gordon. Those numbered 1921 are mostly from Mr. P. Manning's collection, and those numbered 1946 are mostly from the collection of the Rev. E. A. Sydenham. The remainder are from various sources.

I. PERSONAL ORNAMENTS

The majority of small finds from Woodeaton (apart from coins), consist of feminine personal ornaments, brooches, pins, rings, etc. A possible reason for this has already been discussed on p. 5.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

Over a hundred brooches have been found, of which eighty-three were published by Miss Taylor in *J.R.S.*, vii; it is not proposed to discuss these latter any further except to mention that the majority of them belong to the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. Only four were considered to be earlier than the 1st century, and the same number later than the 2nd century. The same proportion is shown among the brooches published here. Only two, at most, and possibly only one can be placed before the beginning of the 1st century A.D., and only four can be definitely assigned to the 3rd century, though it is, of course, possible that some of the enamelled disc-brooches may belong to the 3rd rather than the 2nd century.

Next to the brooches, in number, come the pins, which include several pre-Roman types, notably those with swan-necks. These last were in use on the Continent in the early Iron Age and probably first came over to Britain in the 5th century B.C. Most common in this country are those with ring-heads, which were probably an insular development from a Continental type with spiral head. The ring-head is usually plain on the earlier specimens, but later may be decorated with small notches. Another later development occurred in the 3rd-2nd centuries B.C., when the pins became much smaller and acquired a broken back.¹⁸

In the same way as the pins the bracelets found at Woodeaton include types which are clearly pre-Roman. Nos. C, 1-6, with knobbed outer surfaces, are of the Iron Age and are developed from well-known Hallstatt and La Tène forms. Most of the Roman bracelets are decorated with incised ornament, the style of which is very similar to that shown on bracelets from Lydney,¹⁹ though the decoration on most of the Woodeaton examples appears to be rougher and less carefully done than that on the Lydney examples. The latter have mostly been dated to the 4th century A.D.²⁰ As has already been mentioned (p. 5), many of the Woodeaton examples are far too small to have been worn by any except perhaps very small children, and they were possibly made solely for votive purposes.

A great many of the finger-rings also give the impression of not having been made for ordinary wear. They are mostly of a similar style, roughly made and often very small.

Buckles, some of which may be from harness-straps, clasps and a few earrings complete the types of personal ornaments. In all, counting the brooches published by Miss Taylor, about 220 bronze personal ornaments have been found at Woodeaton.

¹⁸ For a full discussion see G. C. Dunning in *Arch. Journ.*, xci (1934), 269 ff.

¹⁹ Wheeler, *Lydney*, fig. 17, p. 83.

²⁰ Other bracelets of the same type have been found at Bloxham, Oxon., and other places; see *J.R.S.*, xxiv (1934), 206, pl. xiii, fig. 4; *Oxoniensia*, iii (1937), 54, pl. viii, D.

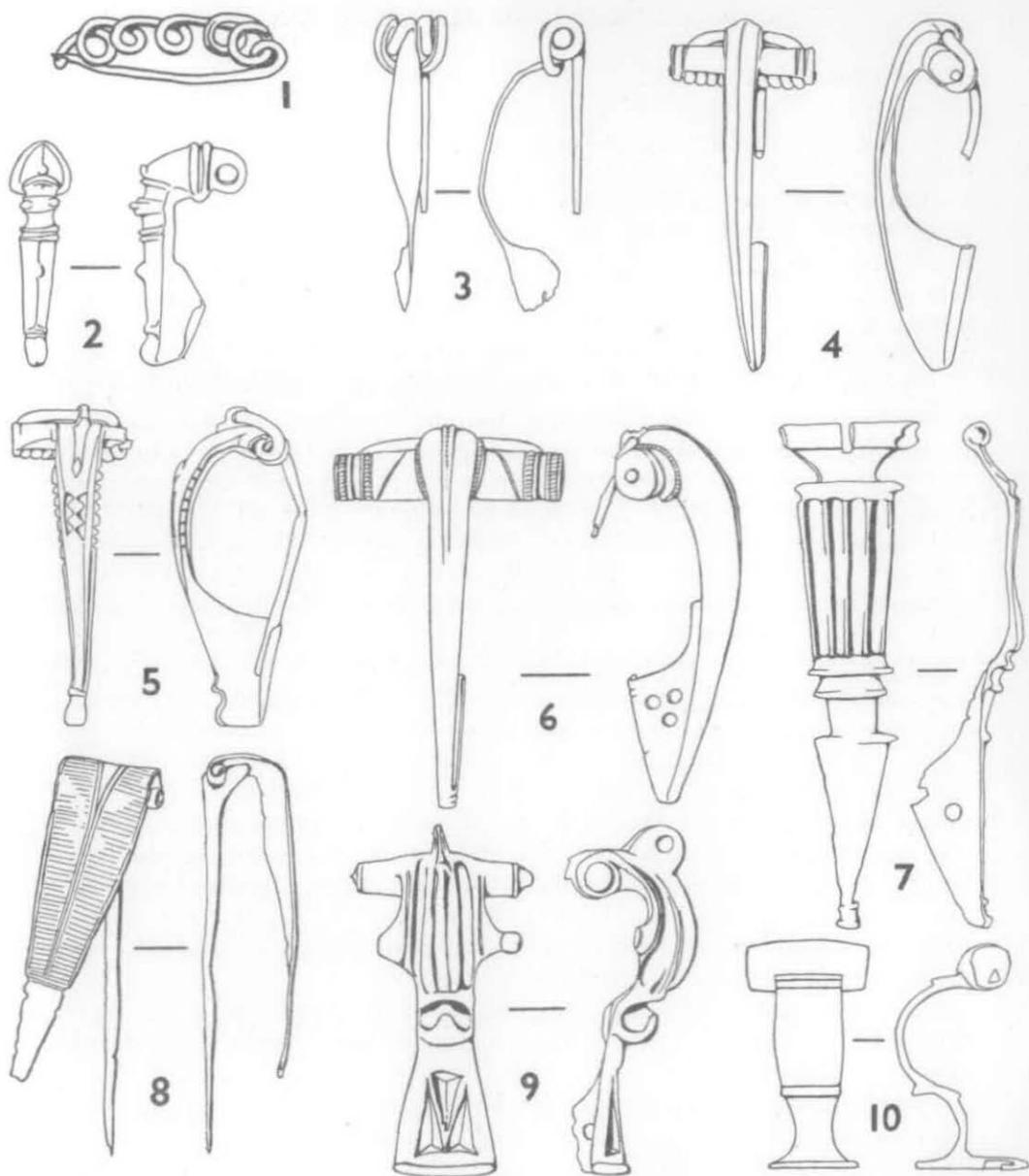


FIG. 2
 WOODEATON, OXON.
 Brooches (pp. 9-11)
 Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

A. BROOCHES

1. Brooch in the possession of Mr. A. Woodcock, farmer, of Woodeaton; the brooch is made in one solid casting, except for the pin; it has a hemispherical body decorated with three circles in relief, and covered all over with punched dots; the under surface is flat; the foot is turned up and back, the top being figure-of-eight in shape, with an incised line running round the edge. L.: 0.031 m.

This brooch was published by C. F. C. Hawkes and P. Jacobsthal in *Antiquaries Journal*, xxv (1945), 122 f., and dated to the late 3rd century B.C.

2. 1937.822 (FIG. 2, no. 1); brooch made of one piece of wire, twisted into five loops, with a sixth forming the single spring and half a loop forming the catch. L.: 0.03 m.

This, from its simplicity and single spring, appears to be of early date. The closest parallel found is a brooch from Hallstatt.²¹ This has the same method of forming the bow of twisted loops of wire, but the bow is much more highly arched than the Woodeaton example. Italian Iron Age parallels also exist.²² It is possible that this brooch is a later make-up, as it is a poor example, and has been broken.

- 3-5. 1921.124, 126, 128 (FIG. 2, no. 3); three brooches of the 'poor man's' type, with strip-bow (R. G. Collingwood, *Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1930), group A). Two have dotted decoration on the bow and are tinned. All seem to have had solid catch-plates and are, therefore, fairly late in their type,²³ being probably of the second half of the 1st century. The pins of 126 and 128 are missing. L.: 0.04, 0.031 and 0.035 m.

6. 1946.189; T-shaped brooch with spring-cover ridged at either end, and loop to hold chord; triangular opening in catch-plate; pin missing, spring restored. Developed La Tène III type of the early 1st century A.D. L.: 0.049 m.

7. 1946.235 (PL. II, B, 1); T-shaped with thin bow and triangularly pierced catch-plate; spring-pin with chord passing through a loop; spring cover with incised markings; beginnings of crest on back of head; pin broken. Same period as no. 6. L.: 0.063 m.

8. 1937.818 (PL. II, B, 6); T-shaped, with ridged spring-cover and triangularly pierced catch-plate; spring and pin missing. Same period as nos. 6 and 7. L.: 0.032 m.

9. 1921.118 (FIG. 2, no. 6); T-shaped, the catch-plate pierced with three small holes (Collingwood, group F); the top of the bow and the spring-cover are ornamented with incised lines and beading; most of pin missing; tinned. L.: 0.055 m.

²¹ E. von Sacken, *Das Grabfeld von Hallstatt in Oberösterreich und dessen Alterthümer* (1868), pl. xiii, 12.

²² J. Sundwall, *Die Alteren Italischen Fibeln* (1943), p. 156, fig. 237.

²³ C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., xiv, 1947), p. 312, pl. xcii, 55-9.

JOAN R. KIRK

This belongs to the 'Swarling' type of the 1st century A.D.²⁴ The bow differs from most examples of this type in its decoration, but otherwise the brooch is the same.

10. 1946.190 (PL. II, B, 2) ; plain rod bow with solid catch-plate. L. : 0.052 m. 1st-2nd century A.D. (*cf.* Collingwood, group G).

11. 1935.425 ; plain rod bow with solid catch-plate and beaded ridge at the top of the bow. L. : 0.04 m.

This belongs to the same period as no. 10, but is probably slightly later as it is thicker and heavier.²⁵

12. 1921.117 (PL. II, B, 3) ; 'dolphin' brooch, so-called from the way the head is humped forward over the arms ; some moulding on the bow ; the spring and pin do not belong. L. : 0.071 m.

Collingwood, group H—the humping forward is a feature of the end of the 1st and beginning of the 2nd centuries, and occurred mainly in the south.

13. 1946.187 (FIG. 2, no. 7) ; 'Hod Hill' type (named after the examples found in the early 1st century A.D. camp at Hod Hill, Dorset), with longitudinal grooving on the top of the bow, which is separated from the plain triangular foot by a horizontal moulding ; small hole in catch-plate ; hinged pin. L. : 0.07 m.

This is a very early Continental form, which in England is scarcely post-Claudian.²⁶

14. 1937.818 (FIG. 2, no. 9) ; brooch with bow of Hod Hill type, with knobs on either side ; the bow is separated from the foot by a hook, with a depression beneath it which was originally enamelled ; the foot is broad and triangular, and was also originally enamelled ; the catch-plate has a small hole in it ; at the back of the head is a small loop to catch the chord of the spring, which, with the pin, is missing. L. : 0.046 m.

This brooch must be allied to the Hod Hill group, though the foot more nearly approaches the fan-tail of Collingwood's group X. Collingwood illustrates one (FIG. 63, no. 93) with a hook at the top of the foot, and two others (FIG. 63, nos. 92, 94) with knobs on either side of the bow. The type probably belongs to the 1st or beginning of the 2nd century A.D. A similar brooch with hook and decorated broad foot was found near Canterbury.²⁷ It is, however, much more lavishly decorated with designs of a Celtic nature.

15. 1946.192 (FIG. 2, no. 8) ; brooch with leaf-shaped bow, with shallow horizontal groovings and two longitudinal ones down the centre ; hinged pin ; rather rough, shoddy work. L. : 0.043 m.

²⁴ J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Swarling* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., v, 1925), pls. xii-xv, pp. 40 ff. ; Hawkes and Hull, *op. cit.*, pl. lxxxix, 6 ; Wheeler, *Verulamium* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., xi, 1936), fig. 44, 20 ; Wheeler, *Maiden Castle* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., xii, 1943), fig. 83, 15 ; K. M. Kenyon, *Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., xv, 1948), fig. 80, 4.

²⁵ Collingwood, *Archaeology of Roman Britain*, p. 247.

²⁶ C. A. R. Radford in *Richborough*, III (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., x, 1932), 76-7 ; Hawkes and Hull, *op. cit.*, p. 323.

²⁷ *Ant. Journ.*, IV (1924), p. 153.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

Collingwood has a similar example in his group K, and he allies it to the early pre-Flavian brooches known as Langton Down. A similar type occurred at Verulamium²⁸ in a late 2nd-early 3rd-century level. An iron fragment exactly like the Verulamium example was found at Maiden Castle²⁹ in the Belgic level, into which the war cemetery graves were dug at the time of the Conquest. Wheeler puts its date at c. 25-45 A.D. A third example was found by Pitt-Rivers at Woodcuts, unstratified in the top-soil.³⁰ This had incised decoration on the foot.

16. 1921.120 (PL. II, B, 7); tapering bow with notched crest on the bow, which also has serrated edges; the foot has a small moulding; spring-pin with the chord passing outside and through a loop at the back of the head. L.: 0.041 m.

A very similar one was published by Miss Taylor in *J.R.S.*, VII, fig. 6. Cf. also Collingwood's group M. Late 1st-early 2nd century A.D.

17. 1946.188 (FIG. 2, no. 5); tapering bow, the centre of which has serrated edges, between which are triangular settings for enamel; small crest on bow and small moulding on foot. L.: 0.046 m.

Similar type and period to no. 16.

18. 1921.121 (PL. II, B, 8); late type of head-stud brooch (Collingwood, group Q); the stud is missing, and there has never been a head-loop; there is a lozenge pattern all down the front of the bow, which was probably originally enamelled; on either side of the bow is a row of small projecting knobs; flat, seal-shaped foot; transverse incisions on the arms; hinged pin; the brooch is tinned. L.: 0.035 m.

The lack of a head-loop suggests that this is fairly late. A similar one from London, but with head-loop, is in the British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 55, fig. 63. Probably late 2nd century.

19. 1921.122 (FIG. 3, no. 4); debased trumpet-brooch, in which the acanthus moulding has degenerated into a mere excrescence on the bow; it has a wire head-loop. L.: 0.04 m.

20. 1921.123 (FIG. 2, no. 2); debased trumpet-brooch, in which the trumpet head is present, and the remains of an acanthus moulding appear on the front of the bow. L.: 0.031 m.

Cf. Collingwood, sub-groups R (iii) and (iv). Inferior imitations of the true trumpet-brooch were made in the south of England in the last half of the 2nd century, and it is probably to this period that nos. 19 and 20 belong. Other examples have been found at Chester and Wroxeter.³¹

21. 1935.509 (FIG. 2, no. 10); tinned bronze knee-brooch (Collingwood, group V), with cylindrical spring-cover and high catch-plate; the turned-up end of the foot shows a rounded profile (cf. British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 59, fig. 70, from Brough, Westmorland). L.: 0.032 m.

²⁸ Wheeler, *Verulamium*, fig. 44, 31.

²⁹ Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, fig. 85, 35.

³⁰ Lt.-Gen. Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations at Cranborne Chase* (1887), I, pl. xii, 1.

³¹ *Liverpool Annals*, XVIII (1928), pl. xivi, p. 132; Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter* (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., I, 1912), p. 13.

JOAN R. KIRK

This German form came into this country during the 2nd century. It appears in several of the *limes* forts in Germany.³²

22. 1921.1052 (PL. II, B, 5); knee-brooch made of a thin, flat piece of bronze, with semi-circular head-plate. L.: 0.037 m.

This brooch gives the impression of being a poor piece of work. A very similar brooch was found at Lydney³³ in the post-Roman reinforcement of the rampart with 3rd-4th-century material. Wheeler considers it to have been too poor a specimen to have travelled far, and thinks it was probably a local adaptation of one of the later types of knee-brooches.

23. 1936.432 (PL. II, B, 4); tinned bronze prototype of the cross-bow brooch. This has small arms and a knob at the back of the head; the foot is of medium length, and there is a projecting semi-circular disc on the bow just above the foot; spring pin. L.: 0.06 m.

There are two such brooches in the British Museum—one from Colchester,³⁴ and the other from Coldham, Cambs. The former is placed in the *Guide* in the 3rd century A.D., and the disc is said to be the last remnant of the disc on thistle-brooches. Others of this type have been found at Segontium and Richborough.³⁵

24. 1923.869 (FIG. 3, no. 1); tinned bronze cross-bow brooch of fairly early type, with small knobs on the ends of the arms and behind the head; a bronze wire thread has been coiled round the head and foot of the bow, and runs from one to the other down a groove in the centre of the bow; the arms and foot are bevelled, and the pin is hinged. L.: 0.071 m.

Mid- to end of 3rd century A.D.

Disc and figure brooches, 2nd-3rd centuries A.D.

25. 1946.236 (PL. II, B, 9); circular brooch, decorated with six small circles round a central one; between the circles are traces of blue enamel; the edges are milled. D.: 0.034 m.

26. 1935.510 (PL. II, B, 10); circular brooch, decorated with blue, orange and green (?) enamel in a radiate, concentric pattern; one half of the brooch is very bent and battered, with hardly any enamel left; the pin is missing. D.: 0.052 m.

27. 1946.185 (FIG. 3, no. 2; *Ash. Mus. Rept.*, 1946, pl. iii, C); circular brooch, the centre raised and decorated with small circles of blue and white enamel on a background of blue enamel; outside this are six radiating arms (one broken), each ending in a knob, and having a stamped circlet at the foot; round the edge of the centre and of the outside are small incisions; pin missing. W.: 0.04 m.

³² E.g. at Pfünz, *Obergermanische-Raetische Limes*, xiv (1901), pl. xii, 76; Zugmantel, *O.R.L.*, xxxii (1909), pl. ix, 42.

³³ Wheeler, *Lydney*, fig. 12, 21.

³⁴ British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 58, fig. 68.

³⁵ Wheeler, *Segontium and the Roman Occupation of Wales* (1923), fig. 58, 4; Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, iv (Soc. Ant. Res. Rept., xvi, 1949), pl. xxx, 54, 5.

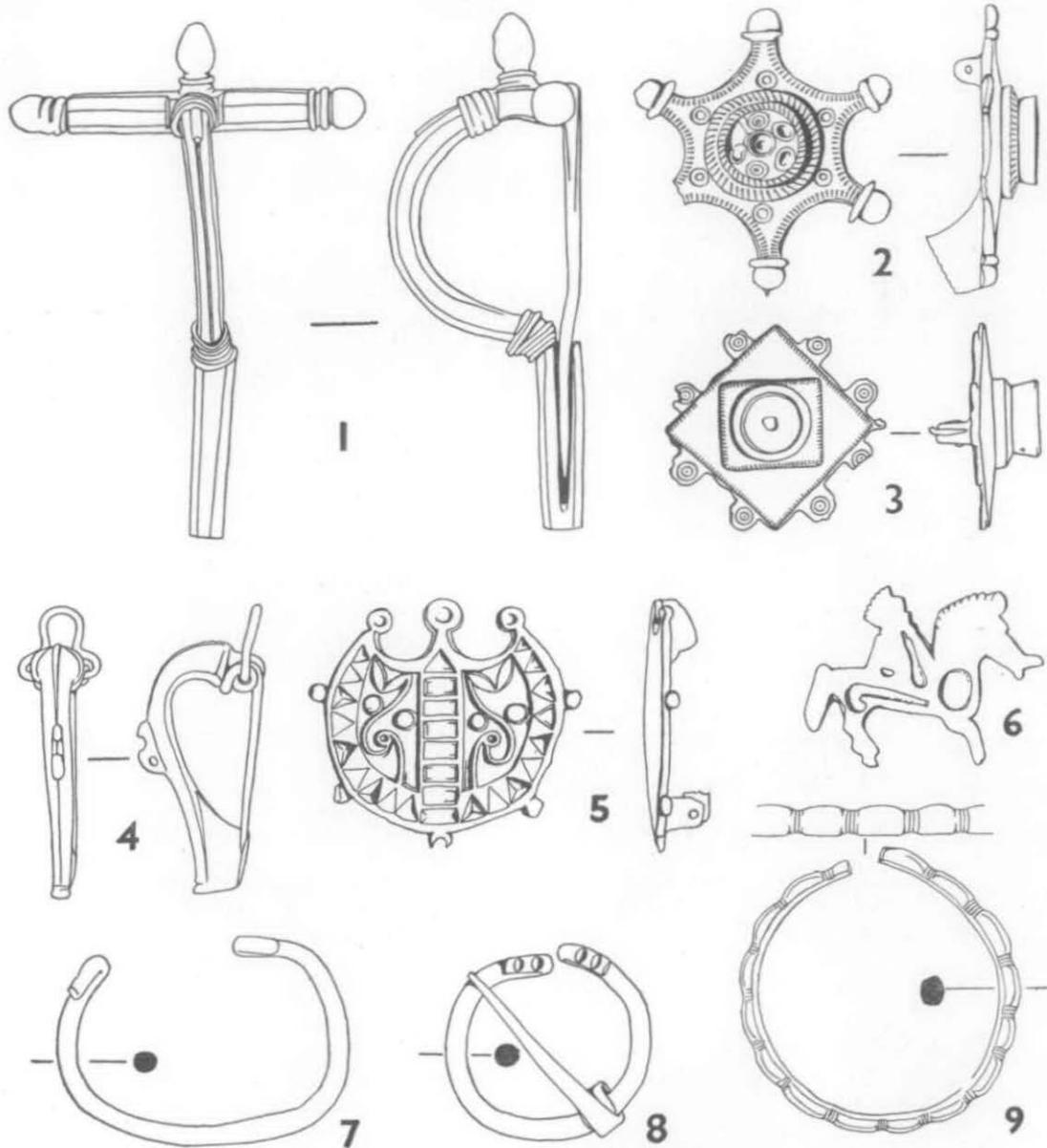


FIG. 3
 WOODEATON, OXON.
 Brooches and bracelet (pp. 11-15, 19)
 Scale †

JOAN R. KIRK

28. 1921.114 (FIG. 3, no. 5); pelta-shaped brooch, with a knob in the centre and at each end of the crescent; round the edge of the brooch are four small knobs, and at the lowest point of the crescent a ring, now broken; round the inside edge is a design of triangles, every other one filled with red and blue enamel alternately; in the centre is a ladder design running from top to bottom of the crescent, the spaces between the rungs filled with yellow enamel, and on either side of the ladder is a scroll ornament, originally enamelled blue; hinged pin, now missing. L.: 0.037 m.; H.: 0.033 m.

Brooches of exactly the same shape and almost identical design have been found at Wolverhill, Somerset, and at Leicester.³⁶ The scroll design is a debased Celtic pattern (*cf.* P. Jacobsthal, *Early Celtic Art*, pl. 265, 110).

29. 1921.115; bird brooch (PL. II, B, 12); the head, which is now missing, appears to have been bent forwards; the tail feathers and one foot are indicated; the body was originally enamelled red and green; spring pin, now missing. L.: 0.028 m.

This differs from the majority of Roman bird-brooches in that it is flat instead of being made in the round.

30. 1946.186, a-b (FIG. 3, no. 6; *Ash. Mus. Rept.*, 1946, pl. iii, C); two horsemen brooches, exactly alike; the horses are shown at full gallop, with the riders' hair flying out behind; the hair and the horses' manes are shown by means of small incisions; the bodies of the horses and riders were originally enamelled, but all trace of the colour is now gone. L.: 0.024 m.

Other brooches of the same type have been found on various sites, generally in no datable context; *cf.* especially one from Brettenham, Norfolk, in the Ashmolean Museum (Evans Collection, 1927.440), one from Hundley, Suffolk, in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, and one from Cold Kitchen Hill.³⁷ Similar brooches have been found in the Rhineland,³⁸ which is probably their place of origin.

31. Christopher Hughes Collection (FIG. 3, no. 3); square brooch with eight circular knobs round the outside, each decorated with stamped circlets; in the centre is a square plaque, its corners set to the middle of the sides of the brooch, surmounted by a circular boss, with sunk centre, originally enamelled red; hinged pin, now missing. L. and W.: 0.029 m.

No exact parallel can be found for this brooch with its diagonally-set centre-piece and circular boss; it probably originated in the Low Countries.

Penannular brooches

These belong to the class in which the ends have been turned back, and the marks of the clinching tools have been incorporated into the decoration giving the effect of crude animal heads.³⁹ This was already quite common by the Flavian period and lasted throughout the Roman era.

³⁶ *V.C.H. Somerset*, I (1906), 357, fig. 99; *Arch. Journ.*, xxv (1868), 53.

³⁷ *Wilt. Arch. Magazine*, XLIII (1927), p. 181, pl. ii, D.

³⁸ E.g. at Osterburken, *O.R.L.*, II (1895), pl. vi, 18.

³⁹ Wheeler, *Lydney*, pp. 78-9, fig. 14, 31-38; Hawkes and Hull, *op. cit.*, fig. 59, p. 327.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

32. 1921.1053 (FIG. 3, no. 7); brooch with turned-back ends with scarcely any marks on them; pin missing; circular section. D.: c. 0.04 m.
33. 1921.154 (PL. II, B, 11); pin missing, circular section, flattening out towards the ends. D.: 0.025 m.
34. 1937.821 (FIG. 3, no. 8); circular section. D.: 0.027 m.
35. 1946.222; small brooch with incised lines just above the ends, square section. D.: 0.02 m.

B. PINS

Swan-necked pins

1. Pr.445 (Dunning, *Arch. Journ.*, xci, fig. 2, no. 2); head bent at right angles to the pin. L.: 0.09 m.
This is derived from one of the commonest types of German swan-necked pin, and can be dated in this country from the 5th century B.C. onwards.
2. 1921.141 (Dunning, fig. 2, no. 5); large pin with flat upright head, splayed out and notched in the centre of the top. L.: 0.127 m.
3. Pr.447; fragment exactly similar to no. 2. L.: 0.06 m.
Types as nos. 2 and 3 are common in Germany, particularly in the north and the Rhineland, and probably came to this country in the 5th century B.C.

Swan-necked pins with ring-heads

4. Pr.428 (Dunning, fig. 3, no. 1); complete; circular section for the pin, the section changing at the head to a diamond-shape. L.: 0.087 m.
5. Wyndham Hughes Collection; thick bronze, circular in section, the point broken. L.: 0.096 m.
6. Pr.445; the point has been bent back on itself; circular section. L. (bent): 0.063 m.
7. 1921.133; the end of the ring has a ridge down the centre. L.: 0.089 m.
8. 1937.823; circular section, the end of the ring decorated with two notches; point broken. L.: 0.07 m.
9. 1937.824; circular section, the point broken. L.: 0.066 m.
10. 1909.911; the pin has been bent back at right angles to itself, and the point is broken; circular section. L.: c. 0.055 m.
11. 1921.134; circular section, made of much thinner bronze than any of the foregoing. L.: 0.075 m.
12. Wyndham Hughes Collection; small pin, of which the shank has been bent back as that of no. 10. L.: 0.047 m.
13. 1937.825; circular section; broken back. L.: 0.035 m.
14. 1946.217 (FIG. 4, no. 1); circular section and broken back; the end of the ring has notched decoration. L.: 0.053 m.
15. Pr.448 (Dunning, fig. 4, no. 11); large ring-head with notched decoration on the end; circular section and broken back. L.: 0.04 m.

JOAN R. KIRK

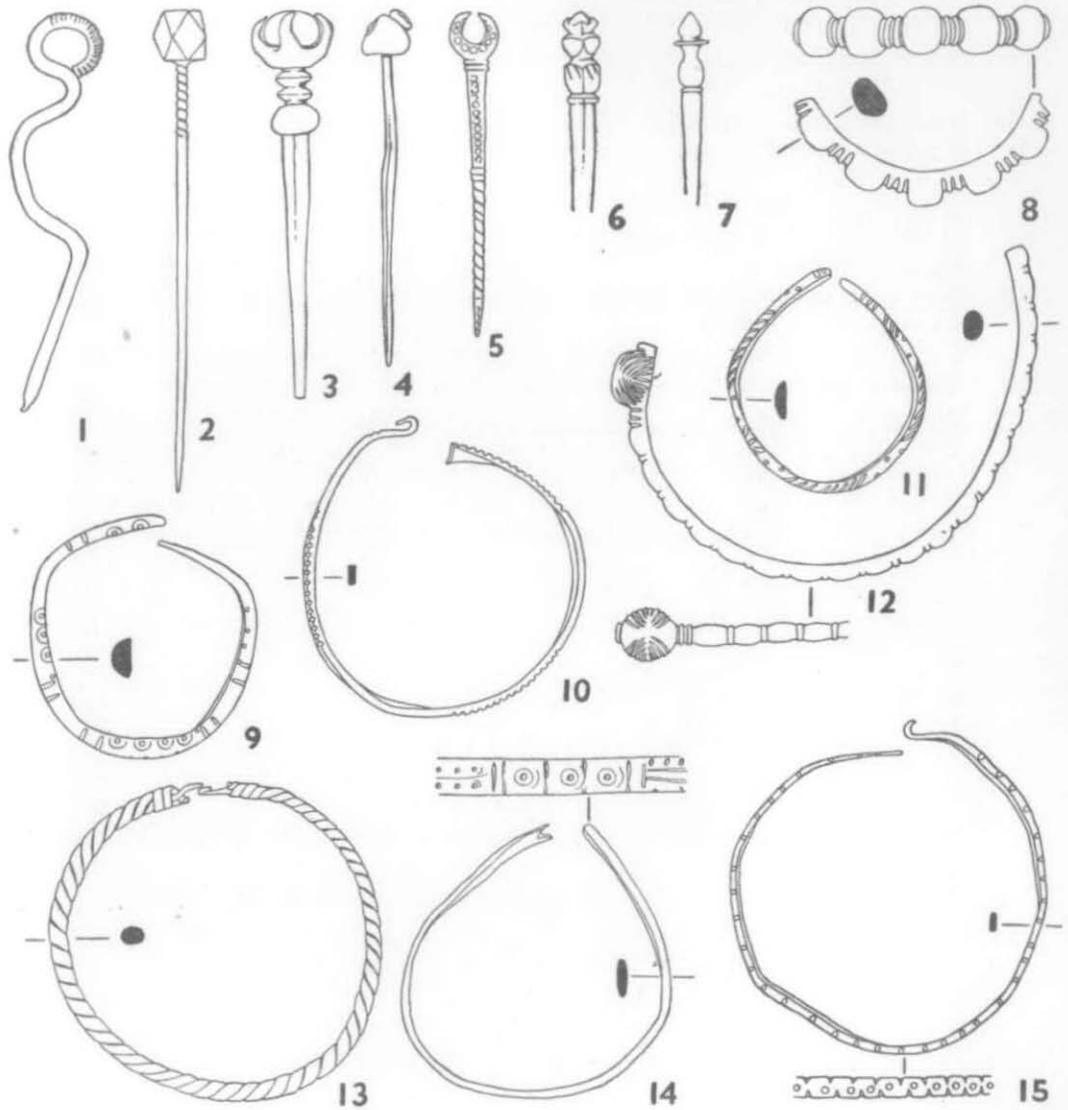


FIG. 4
WOODEATON, OXON.
Pins and bracelets (pp. 15, 19-20)
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

Pins with flat, circular heads

16. Pr.430 (PL. II, A, 2) ; the shank of the pin widens out in the middle and then tapers again, a feature which is pre-Roman. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 171, where it is wrongly numbered 439). L. : 0.078 m. This type, with a swelling in the centre, was probably used as a hairpin.
17. R.141 ; very small thin pin with small flat head ; it has been bent double. L. : 0.045 m.
18. Wyndham Hughes Collection ; the pin has been a little bent ; it has a small moulding between head and shank ; the top of the head is slightly rounded. L. : 0.099 m.
19. Wyndham Hughes Collection (PL. II, A, 8) ; small moulding between head and shank. L. : 0.078 m.
20. R.139 ; small moulding between head and shank ; point broken and end of shank bent. L. : 0.079 m.
21. R.143 ; moulding between head and shank ; slightly bent. L. : 0.094 m.
22. 1921.1054 ; moulding between head and shank, point broken. L. : 0.066 m.
23. 1946.200 ; this pin has a thicker head than most of the others, and a larger moulding between it and the shank. L. : 0.109 m.
24. 1946.201 (PL. II, A, 6) ; moulding between head and shank. L. : 0.098 m.

Pins with conical heads

25. 1946.203 ; large head ; the shank widens in the middle and then tapers again, as no. 16 ; the shank is bent almost back on itself. L. : 0.101 m.
26. 1921.145 ; point missing, shank rather bent. L. : 0.104 m.
27. 1921.146 (PL. II, A, 3) ; tiny moulding between head and shank ; the head is very small in proportion to the shank. L. : 0.10 m.
28. 1946.199 (PL. II, A, 7) ; the head is decorated with incised lines round the point. L. : 0.10 m.
29. 1934.7 ; fragment with almost biconical head decorated with incisions as no. 28. L. : 0.034 m.
30. 1921.147 ; fragment with moulding between head and shank, and incised decoration on the head. L. : 0.051 m.
31. R.140 ; the head is almost inverted piriform in shape, and has a small collar between it and the shank ; the point has been broken and the shank bent. L. : 0.059 m.

Pins with glass heads

32. R.146 (PL. II, A, 1) ; small pin with broken point, and conical head of dark green glass. L. : 0.052 m.
33. 1921.1055 ; exactly similar to no. 32. L. : 0.065 m.

JOAN R. KIRK

34. 1935.422 (FIG. 4, no. 4); similar to nos. 32-33, but on either side of the head has been stuck a tiny bead of yellow glass; one of these is now missing. L.: 0.047 m.

Pins with plain green glass heads were found at Lydney,⁴⁰ but on these examples the heads were set into the pin, whereas on the Woodeaton pins the heads are stuck on top of the shanks.

35. 1938.892 (FIG. 4, no. 3); fragment of pin with triple-moulded collar, surmounted by four claws holding an almost colourless glass knob. L.: 0.051 m.

A pin with a very pale yellow glass head set in a similar fashion, found at Bicester, is also in the Ashmolean (Evans Collection, 1927.815). Two were found at Kettering, Northants.⁴¹

Pins with ornamental heads

36. R.145 (FIG. 4, no. 2); the pin has an incised spiral collar and faceted knob (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 117). L.: 0.064 m.

A pin with similar head, but without the spiral collar was found at Maiden Castle in a late 4th-century level. One was also found at Richborough.⁴²

37. 1946.212; fragment of pin with small long head covered with a tiny incised lattice pattern. L.: 0.055 m.

38. Wyndham Hughes Collection (PL. II, A, 4); small head, consisting of a barrel-shaped moulding between two rings; point missing. L.: 0.109 m.

39. 1921.144 (FIG. 4, no. 7); complex head, consisting of a small ring-collar below an ovoid swelling; above the swelling is another ring, and on top of this a piriform knob. L.: 0.104 m.

40. 1937.813; head very similar to no. 39, but it is longer and has a double collar and circular knob. L.: 0.071 m.

41. No number (PL. II, A, 9); conical knob, which is separated by a double collar from a barrel-shaped moulding, beneath which is a single collar. L.: 0.078 m.

Similar pins were found at Vester Møllerup, Vendsyssel, Jutland, in association with objects of the second half of the 2nd century A.D.⁴³

42. R.137 (PL. II, A, 5); polyhedral knob with excrescence above; the pin widens in the centre of the shank. L.: 0.102 m.

43. 1946.202 (FIG. 4, no. 6); the head is composed of a square with incised markings, above which is a cushion-shaped moulding surmounted by a crown. The pin is very bent. L.: 0.11 m.

44. R.142 (FIG. 4, no. 5); small pin with crescent head decorated with stamped circles; the upper part of the shank is also decorated with stamped circles; the shank has a central moulding, below which are incised spiral lines on one side only. L.: 0.043 m.

⁴⁰ Wheeler, *Lydney*, fig. 18, 67-8.

⁴¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd Series, xxiii (1911), p. 500, figs. 4, 5.

⁴² Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, fig. 96, 8; Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, iv, pl. liii, 199, 201.

⁴³ *Acta Archaeologica*, xiii (1942), 333, fig. 1, 2.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

A fragment of a pin with an undecorated crescent head (very much larger than the Woodeaton example) was found at Colchester in the Roman occupation level.⁴⁴ Another of the same type was found in the *limes fort* at Weissenburg.⁴⁵

C. BRACELETS

Pre-Roman types

1. Pr.436 (FIG. 4, no. 8); fragment, the outside surface consisting of a series of circular knobs, separated by double ribbed collars. L.: 0.035 m.
2. 1921.8 (FIG. 4, no. 12); fragment of penannular bracelet of semi-circular section, the outer face composed of oval knobs separated from each other by single transverse ridges; round terminal knob, decorated on either side with incised chevrons. D.: c. 0.054 m.
3. R.88 (FIG. 3, no. 9); penannular bracelet, the outer face composed of ovoid knobs divided by double or triple transverse ridges; plain blunt ends. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.037 m.
4. 1946.196; similar to no. 3. D.: 0.041 m.
5. Pr.436; fragment of bracelet, formed of oval knobs hollowed behind. L.: 0.045 m.
6. Pr.443; fragment of large heavy bracelet, cast, with trumpet-shaped ends. L.: 0.063 m.

Complete ring

7. 1914.415; flat, oval section; round the centre of the outer face runs a shallow groove. D.: 0.069 m.

Penannular

8. R.77; gilt-bronze, of semi-circular section with tapering ends; it has been broken in half and mended again. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.062 m.
9. R.87; semi-circular section, tapering to ends, slightly out of shape. D.: 0.053-0.06 m.

With incised decoration

10. 1921.155 (FIG. 4, no. 11); small penannular bracelet, semi-circular section, with decoration of circles and diagonal lines. D.: 0.03 m.
11. R.158 (FIG. 4, no. 9); small penannular bracelet, semi-circular section, tapering to ends; outer face divided by double incised lines into panels, two of which have decoration of dots in the centre, and semi-circles surrounding dots on either edge. D.: 0.03 m.

⁴⁴ Hawkes and Hull, *op. cit.*, pl. c, 28.

⁴⁵ *O.R.L.*, xxvi (1906), pl. vii, 42.

JOAN R. KIRK

12. 1909.912 (FIG. 4, no. 15); narrow, flat band, with hook-and-eye fastening (the eye now missing); decoration of alternating notches on either edge, and dots in the centre. D.: 0.04 m.
13. 1946.220 (FIG. 4, no. 10); small bracelet with hook-and-eye fastening, the hook only remaining; decoration of alternating groups of notches on either edge. D.: 0.035 m.
14. 1938.890; fragment with hook-and-eye fastening, the hook only remaining; decoration of stamped circles between lines. D.: 0.073 m.
15. R.81; fragment, flattened semi-circular section; on one end incised decoration of transverse lines and an elongated lozenge. D.: 0.04 m.
16. 1921.160 (FIG. 4, no. 14); broken at each end; flattened semi-circular section; decoration of dots, concentric circles and lines. D.: 0.039 m.

Sliding-knot fastening

17. R.99 (FIG. 5, no. 1); thin bronze wire, with double sliding-knot, so that it can be expanded and contracted to fit the wearer. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118, where it is stated that a prototype was found at Colchester with 1st-century brooches.) D.: 0.05 m.

Twisted wire with hook-and-eye fastening

Other examples are known from several Roman sites.⁴⁶

18. R.80 (FIG. 4, no. 13); double twist of flat wire; eye broken. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.043 m.
19. R.89; double twist of flat wire, eye broken. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.034 m.
20. R.79; double twist of flat wire, hook broken. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.04 m.
21. R.78; double twist of round wire, both hook and eye broken. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.045 m.
22. 1950.153; treble twist of flat wire, both hook and eye complete, but the bracelet is broken in two. D.: 0.046 m.

D. FINGER-RINGS

1. 1937.810 (FIG. 5, no. 7); oval bezel, originally enamelled, with \square pattern reserved; small mouldings round the outside of the bezel. D.: 0.033 m.
2. R.94; front part of ring with oval bezel, setting now lost, small mouldings round edge. L.: 0.023 m.
3. R.96; made of thin round wire with round bezel, originally enamelled, with rosette reserved; shouldered near bezel. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.018 m.

⁴⁶ Kenyon, *op. cit.*, fig. 83, 7; Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, II, pl. xxii, 60; *W.A.M.*, XLIII, 'Excavations at Cold Kitchen Hill', pl. v, A.

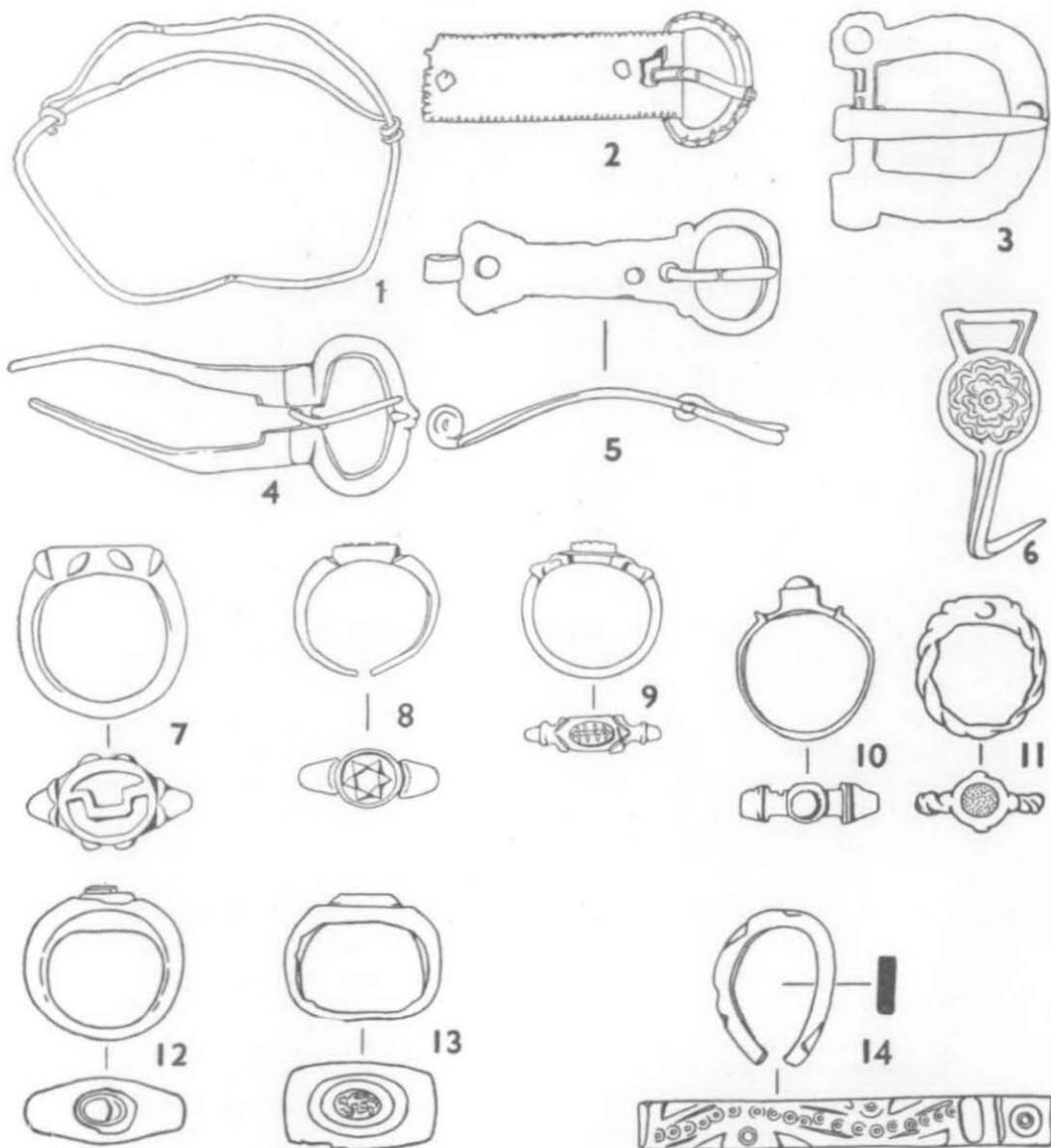


FIG. 5
 WOODEATON, OXON.
 Bracelet, buckles and rings (pp. 20, 22-3)
 Scale †

JOAN R. KIRK

4. In the possession of Mr. P. M. Finch (FIG. 5, no. 10); flat ribbon hoop, high circular bezel, set with plain green glass; shouldered on either side of bezel. D. : 0.018 m.
5. R.97; flattish wire hoop, with circular bezel originally enamelled. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D. : 0.011 m.
6. Wyndham Hughes Collection; thin, flattish wire, circular bezel, setting now missing, collar on each side of bezel. D. : 0.017 m.
7. Wyndham Hughes Collection; oval bezel, with double collar on each side, setting missing. D. : 0.018 m.
8. R.97; fragmentary, shouldered near bezel, which is oval and filled with white enamel. D. : c. 0.019 m.
9. 1946.193 (FIG. 5, no. 8); flattened wire hoop, with circular bezel, originally enamelled, with six-pointed rosette or star design reserved; slight collar. D. : 0.019 m.
10. R.95; flattened wire hoop, widening considerably towards bezel, which is almost rectangular, with circular sunk centre, setting missing. D. : 0.020 m.
11. 1921.1059 (FIG. 5, no. 9); semi-flattened wire hoop, shouldered towards bezel, which is a pointed oval, raised and decorated with cross-hatchings. D. : 0.018 m.
12. R.84; plain ring of thin circular wire, flattened out in the centre. D. : 0.02 m.
13. 1936.115; semi-circular section, with the ends shaved off on one side so as to fit over each other; decorated with groups of incisions. D. : 0.017 m.
14. 1885.140 (FIG. 5, no. 11); twisted wire hoop, with circular bezel with plain blue glass setting; four small knobs round bezel. D. : 0.016 m.
15. R.92 (FIG. 5, no. 12); silver ring, flat section, swollen towards bezel, which is oval and set with red and white glass, the red on top of the white). (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D. : 0.02 m.
16. 1921.116 (FIG. 5, no. 13); flat wire hoop, widening out to oval bezel set with blue glass intaglio of a barbarian archer. D. : 0.021 m.
17. R.98; fragment of very large ring with oval bezel and deep-sunk setting, now missing. D. : 0.021 m.
18. Wyndham Hughes Collection; plain silver ring (broken at the back), beaten flat, and widening out towards the centre. D. : 0.02 m.
19. R.86 (FIG. 5, no. 14); penannular ring, made of a thick band of metal of rectangular section; decorated with a wavy band stamped with circles, between the band and the edge in two places is a circle; at one end of the ring are two stamped concentric circles, separated from the rest of the design by a vertical moulding. D. : 0.02 m.
20. 1946.195; fragment of a ring made of three strands of wire twisted together. D. : 0.019 m.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

21. Pr.444 ; large heavy, spiral ring of four twists, semi-circular in section, tapering to ends ; the inner face is slightly hollowed out. L. : 0.024 m.
- 22-23. 1946.224-5 ; two spiral rings, each of one twist, 225 having incised decoration at the ends. D. : 0.016, 0.017 m.

E. BUCKLES AND CLASPS

1. 1923.870 ; cast buckle, flat-backed with rounded ring, and flat triangular plate with bevelled edges, broken just before terminal hole ; iron pin, now missing, and rivets, one of which remains. L. : 0.039 m.
2. 1921.1057 (FIG. 5, no. 3) ; flat omega-shaped ring, pin circular in section, traces of decoration on cross-bar. L. : 0.026 m. ; W. : 0.03 m.
A buckle of similar shape was found in the German *limes* fort of Hufingen.⁴⁷
3. 1891.410 (FIG. 5, no. 5) ; originally gilt ; long, thin, humped plate, narrowed in the centre, with a hole at either end and remains of a hinge at the end farthest from the ring ; flat, circular ring, thickening in the centre ; flat pin. L. : 0.048 m.
4. 1946.214 (FIG. 5, no. 4) ; buckle shaped like a pair of pincers ; probably post-Roman, cf. one in the London Museum (London Museum *Mediaeval Catalogue* (1940), pl. LXXV, 2). L. : 0.055 m.
5. R.117 ; double rectangular plate, one rivet-hole at the end with remains of iron rivet ; the top bar of the buckle is a cylindrical tube, revolving on wire ; pin missing. L. : 0.037 m.
6. 1937.814 (FIG. 5, no. 2) ; tinned ; long, rectangular double plate, with notched border on the front and bronze rivet still in position at the end ; incised decoration on ring, pin flat. L. : 0.042 m.
7. R.118 ; small rectangular plate, with two rivet-holes at the end ; oval buckle, of oval section ; point of pin missing (the pin, perhaps, does not belong). L. : 0.024 m.
8. 1885.156 ; very small buckle, double rectangular plate, with frilled edge in front, and two rivets still in position ; oval loop of circular section, and square-sectioned pin with curved end. L. : 0.018 m. ; W. : 0.015 m.
9. R.156 (FIG. 5, no. 6) ; (?)fastening, at one end an almost square loop, at the other a pointed hook, in between the two a disc, hollow behind, decorated with an embossed rosette. L. : 0.032 m.

A fastening similar to this was found at Segontium.⁴⁸ Others have been dated to the mediaeval period or later.

F. EARRINGS

- 1-2. Wyndham Hughes Collection ; spiral earrings, made of thin wire ; one has three twists, the other two, the ends of both being broken ; decorated with groups of incisions at intervals. D. : 0.013, 0.015 m.
3. 1946.197 ; fragment of earring of bent wire flattened out at one end into a circle with a depression in the centre. L. : 0.017 m.

⁴⁷ *O.R.L.*, LV (1937), no. 62a, pl. xi, 43.

⁴⁸ Wheeler, *Segontium and the Roman Occupation of Wales*, fig. 61, 26.

II. TOILET AND HOUSEHOLD IMPLEMENTS

These include most of the ordinary types of Roman household implements, objects of feminine interest such as needles, tweezers and other toilet implements being the most abundant. The spoons include the three main Roman types of bowl, namely round, oval and lyre-shaped. The round are earliest in date, being used under the early Empire. The oval and lyre-shaped superseded them in the 3rd century A.D., and were in use throughout that century and in the 4th.

Of the miscellaneous objects listed under this heading, the ingots and casting have already been mentioned on p. 4 above as perhaps providing evidence for the manufacture of bronze objects on the spot. Two very obviously Celtic objects are the button with scroll decoration (II, H, 20) and the pendant (?) with Celtic animal heads (II, H, 21).

A. NEEDLES

- 1-9. Wyndham Hughes Collection ; R.136, 138 ; 1921.137 (FIG. 6, no. 8)-40 ; 1934.8 ; 1946.210 ; six complete and three broken needles, all large and all except one having long, rectangular eyes ; the exception (R.136) has an elongated oval eye.

Lengths of complete examples vary between 0.128 m. and 0.105 m.

10. R.127 (FIG. 6, no. 7) ; fragment of netting-needle(?) ; round shaft, flattening to broad splayed head, with a rectangular hole at its base. L. : 0.055 m.

A similar needle was found at Leicester,⁴⁹ and others have been found on various Roman sites both in this country and on the Continent.⁵⁰

B. EARPICKS

1. 1921.149 (FIG. 6, no. 2) ; between the handle and the bowl are two plaques, one square and one rectangular, the square one decorated with an incised cross, the rectangular with two incised lines ; end of handle bent over and broken off. L. : 0.115 m.
2. 1934.5 (FIG. 6, no. 4) ; thin, flat handle, bent over at the top to form a loop, the end of the loop being twisted round the handle ; bowl slightly hollowed out ; it has been broken. L. : 0.057 m.
3. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 6, no. 3) ; hollowed-out bowl and pointed handle, with incised spiral extending for just over half an inch up the handle from the bowl. L. : 0.106 m.

⁴⁹ Kenyon, *op. cit.*, fig. 89, 19.

⁵⁰ Wheeler, *London in Roman Times* (London Museum Catalogue, no. 3, 1930), pl. xlii, 4 ; *O.R.L.*, xxxiii (1910), pl. vii, 75.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

- 4-13. R.150-4 ; 1921.150-1 ; 1934.6 ; 1946.207-8 ; incomplete and fragmentary examples, three (1921.150-1 and 1946.207) having flat bowls, the remainder hollowed out ; three (R.152, 154 and 1946.208) have an incised spiral line just above the bowl. Lengths vary between 0.023 and 0.09 m.

C. TWEEZERS

- 1-9. Wyndham Hughes Collection ; R.122-6 ; 1921.143 and 143a ; 1946.206 ; all are quite plain, with in-turned ends, of normal Roman type.
10. 1946.205 (FIG. 7, no. 4) ; of the same type as the preceding, but larger than most of them, with three small circles stamped at the top of each leg. L. : 0.06 m.
11. 1921.142 (FIG. 8, no. 14) ; pair of tweezers (? , or split pin ?), with loop and legs circular in section, the legs with flattened, pointed ends ; the outside of each leg is notched for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the pointed end. L. : 0.089 m.

D. SPATULAE AND UNGUENT-SPOONS

1. R.130 (FIG. 6, no. 1) ; oval spoon of V-shaped section, with long shaft of circular section, with square incised panel just above bowl, and incised moulding in the centre of the handle ; the shaft ends in an ovoid head. L. : 0.194 m.
2. R.128 ; fragment of a spatula(?), round shaft with wide flattened head. L. : 0.057 m.
(This may be the top of a stylus.)
3. R.147 ; fragment of a toilet implement(?) ; at the top a circular loop, then a square ribbed section, which begins to flatten out just before the break. L. : 0.046 m.

E. WICK-LIFTERS. By this name are described the bifid tools generally known as nail-picks. They seem most unsuited for such a purpose, but might well have been used for pulling up the wicks of lamps.

1. 1921.148 (FIG. 6, no. 5) ; small, with shaft of circular section with incised lattice decoration at the top ; the head is formed by a yellow paste bead. L. : 0.039 m.
- 2-3. R.149 ; 1946.213 (FIG. 6, no. 6) ; round loop at the top, beneath which is a moulded collar above a shaft which is circular in section ; R.149 has a groove on one side from about half-way down and is broken at the end ; 1946.213 is grooved just above the bifid end. L. : 0.052, 0.053 m.
4. 1934.3 (FIG. 6, no. 9) ; small round loop, short shaft with moulding in the centre and incised lattice decoration on each side ; flat elongated body, tapering to end. L. : 0.062 m.
5. 1934.4 (FIG. 6, no. 10) ; square loop, short neck with horns curling outwards on either side ; elongated piriform body ; at either edge on the front there is incised fishbone decoration. L. : 0.054 m.
6. 1921.163 ; circular head with remains of iron rivet(?) through the perforation ; elongated piriform body, no decoration. L. : 0.057 m.

JOAN R. KIRK

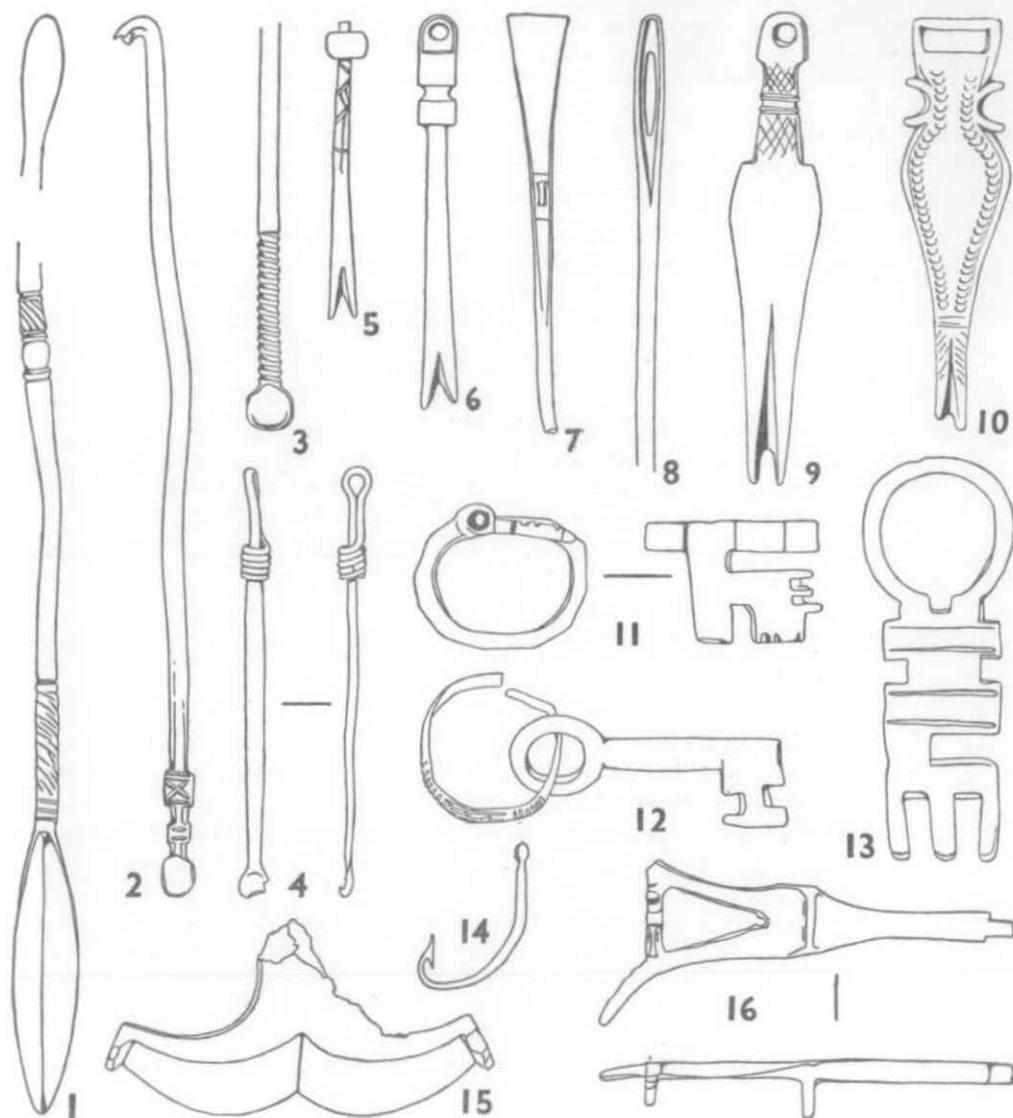


FIG. 6
WOODEATON, OXON.
Toilet and other implements (pp. 24-5, 27-8, 30)
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

F. SPOONS

1. R.148 ; fragment of small spoon, of which the bowl joins directly on to the handle and was, therefore, probably round ; the beginnings of incised decoration are visible on the back of the fragment. L. : 0·045 m.
2. 1921.130 (FIG. 7, no. 2) ; lyre-shaped bowl from a spoon. L. : 0·041 m. ; W. : 0·025 m.
3. R.13 (FIG. 7, no. 10) ; oval bowl, slightly shouldered at the junction of bowl and handle ; long pointed handle. L. : 0·145 m.
4. R.16 ; large, plain, oval bowl, tinned. L. : 0·058 m.
5. R.15 (FIG. 7, no. 1) ; oval bowl of tinned bronze, with incised ray decoration on the back. L. : 0·041 m. This probably belongs to a later period, as no parallel has been found from a Roman site.
6. R.14 ; handle and fragment of bowl of spoon, with hooked shoulder at the junction of the two. L. : 0·112 m.
7. R.14a ; handle of spoon with hooked shoulder. L. : 0·115 m.

G. KEYS

1. R.111 (FIG. 6, no. 13) ; flat, crude-looking key for lever-lock, with large round loop at the head ; perhaps never made for actual use, for which it does not look strong enough, but for a votive purpose. L. : 0·052 m.
2. R.113 ; small key for lever-lock, with circular shank. L. : 0·035 m.
3. R.112 (FIG. 6, no. 12) ; small key for lever-lock ; shank circular in section ; through the loop at the top is threaded a flat wire finger-ring, decorated with incised lines. L. : 0·035 m.
4. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 6, no. 11) ; small key for lever-lock, on finger-ring, both made in one piece. D. of ring : 0·018 m. These small keys on finger-rings approximate to the modern latch-key.
5. R.114 ; fragment of key, the barrel only remaining. L. : 0·041 m.
6. R.115 ; fragment of sliding-bolt, consisting of a rectangular piece of metal, bent back in a double right angle, the two pieces being connected by small bars. L. : 0·057 m.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

1. R.100 ; bronze spur (PL. III, A), with iron prick ; it has mouldings, notched at intervals, down both sides ; the centre-piece is notched at the corners, and has a hook in front which has been bent downwards instead of upwards. W. : 0·061 m.
2. R.23-27 ; four small bells, and fragment of another(?) ; perhaps harness trappings ; all have loops at the top.
3. 1946.191 ; double hook (PL. III, B ; *Ash. Mus. Rept.*, 1946, pl. iii, C), each hook ending in a conical head ; the centre-piece has two swivel bands, and a ring is passed through a hole at the top ; there is applied decoration on both sides of the centre-piece. L. : 0·023 m.

JOAN R. KIRK

A similar double hook, with flat terminals to the hooks, fixed ring at the top and two swivel bands is in the British Museum (from London, 56, 17-1, 1400).

4. R.101; length of chain (PL. III, c, 3), made of S-loops of flat wire, some being doubly interlaced. L.: 0.186 m.
This and no. 5, which follows, are perhaps part of religious head-dresses (see p. 36).
5. R.157; piece of chain, consisting of a small ring, two links of flat S-shaped wire, and a loop of twisted wire, into which is fastened a hook, one end of which is flattened out and perforated. L.: 0.058 m.
6. 1909.915; object of unknown use (FIG. 7, no. 3), consisting of two thin plates riveted together, as for a strap- or belt-tab; at one end is a knob on a swivel, which moves two prongs (one broken) out from between the plates. L.: 0.033 m.; W.: 0.011 m.
7. 1946.198; terminal(?) (FIG. 7, no. 6), consisting of a triangular plate, with a rivet in the base; above this is a circular plate with a rivet in the centre, to the back of which is attached a small piece of metal. L.: 0.026 m.; W.: 0.022 m.
8. 1935.424; object of uncertain use (FIG. 6, no. 16), shaped like a small bracket with two rivet-holes for attachment. L.: 0.054 m.
9. Wyndham Hughes Collection; small bar (? belt-fitting), formed of a flat piece of metal, the edges folded over to the back; it is slightly convex, and has perforated trefoil ends and diagonal incisions on the front. L.: 0.041 m.
10. R.30; nail or rivet-head of tinned bronze, spherical, with triple-cross incisions on the top, and remains of iron shank. L.: 0.017 m.
11. 1934.9; nail-head, saucer-shaped, on ribbed neck, divided from iron shank by a flat disc. L.: 0.014 m.
12. R.29; nail-head, deep saucer-shaped, with small pointed knob in the centre, barrel-shaped neck, separated from iron shank by double disc. L.: 0.022 m.
A knob of this kind was found at Ambleside⁵¹ in a deposit of charcoal, perhaps the remains of a box. It has, therefore been suggested that this type of knob was in fact a drawer-handle. Another was found at Leicester.⁵²
13. R.28; dome-shaped object with two holes in the top; the top portion is hemispherical to a shoulder, the bottom resembles a truncated cone. H.: 0.031 m.
14. R.121; lentoid tube (FIG. 7, no. 5), cast, of octagonal section; use uncertain. L.: 0.048 m.
15. Wyndham Hughes Collection; three bronze ingots:
(a) flat rectangular section, rather ridged on one side. L.: 0.16 m.
(b) (FIG. 8, no. 10), square section, irregular rounded ends, tapering quite sharply to one end. L.: 0.093 m.
(c) (FIG. 8, no. 11), triangular section, top and ends rounded off. L.: 0.072 m.

⁵¹ Collingwood, *Exploration of the Roman Fort at Ambleside* (1914), fig. 32.

⁵² Kenyon, *op. cit.*, fig. 88, 23.

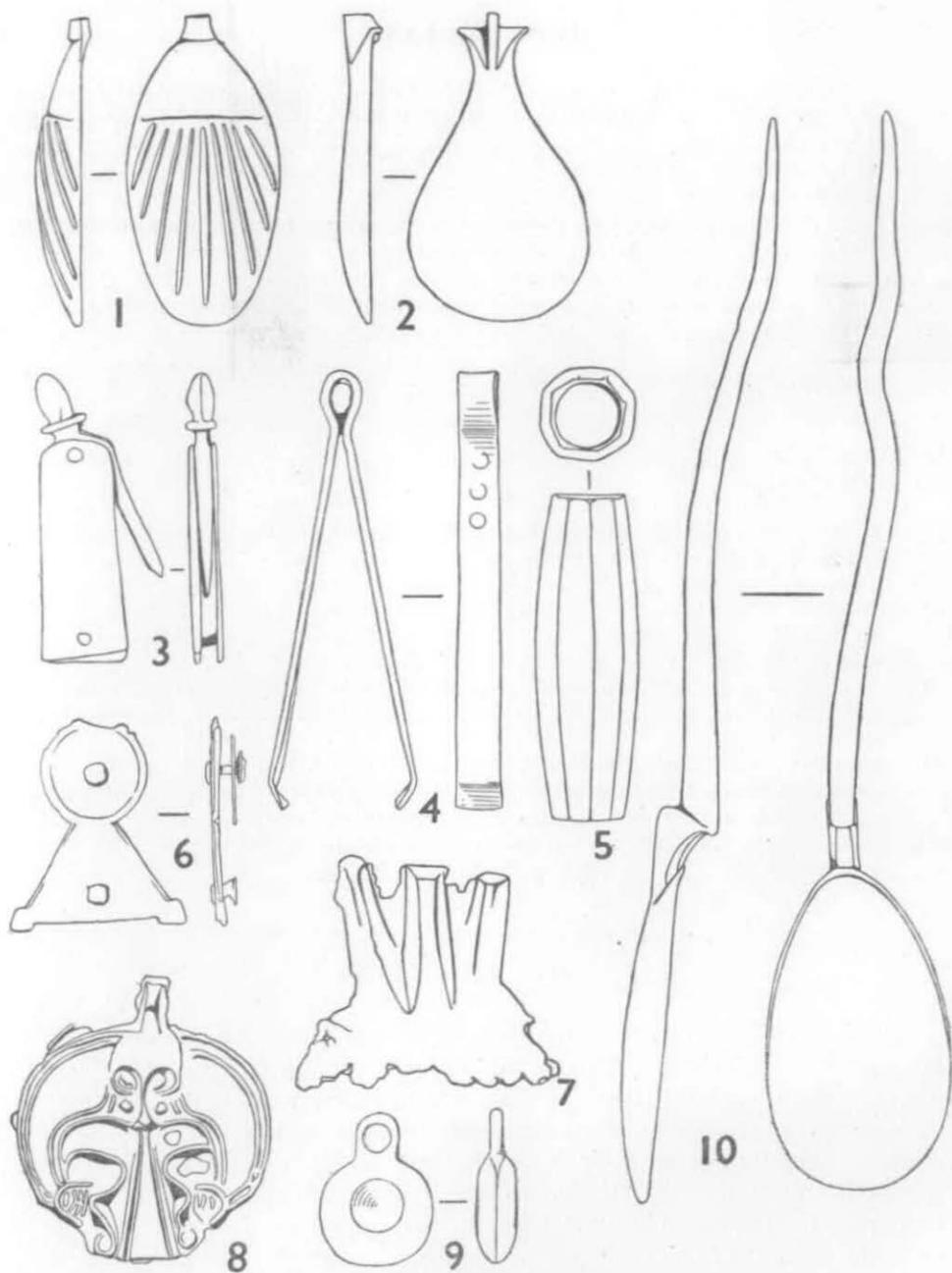


FIG. 7
 WOODEATON, OXON.

Household implements and miscellaneous objects (pp. 25, 27-8, 30, 38)

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

JOAN R. KIRK

In support of the suggestion that Woodeaton was a centre of manufacture of small bronze objects (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 99), it has been thought that these are the remains of pieces of metal from which objects have been made.

16. Pr.439; bronze casting (FIG. 7, no. 7), consisting of an irregular lump of bronze, with three prongs sticking out from it, as if, when melted, it had been poured out of a vessel in three streams. L.: 0.035 m.
This piece would also support the theory that the bronzes were made on the site.
17. 1936.156; staple from a bowl or bucket (PL. III, c, 1), triangular in shape, with a female bust in relief. L.: 0.063 m.; W.: 0.037 m.
18. Christopher Hughes Collection (FIG. 6, no. 14); fish-hook, with single barb. L.: 0.022 m.
19. Pr.440; horn-shaped termination (FIG. 6, no. 15), cast, (?) the bottom of a scabbard-chape. L.: 0.051 m.
20. Pr.437; circular button(?), with convex outer and concave inner surfaces; perforated in the centre, and decorated with Celtic scroll pattern in light relief. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 118.) D.: 0.021 m.
This has already been published and illustrated in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, 1, fig. 17g and p. 260, and by Mr. E. T. Leeds in his book *Celtic Ornament*, fig. 21a, p. 55.
21. 1937.827; pendant(?) (FIG. 7, no. 8) (? unfinished, the lug at the top being unperforated); below the lug a disc cast in relief with two pendant animal heads of Celtic style reminiscent of that shown in Jacobsthal, *Early Celtic Art*, pl. LI, 70(c); between them, above, a face, below, a flat wedge; the whole is crude work. H.: 0.037 m.; W.: 0.034 m.

III. FIGURINES

Only two human bronze figurines have been found at Woodeaton, the remainder being birds, probably all intended to represent eagles, though some of them are very crude. The two figurines, both female, present a striking contrast to one another, one being obviously native, the other, Venus, equally obviously Roman. Of the birds, three, at least, were not freestanding statuettes, but must have been furniture or box-fittings, and it is natural, therefore, to suppose that the other two were used in the same way, particularly as the feet of both birds are missing, suggesting that they had been broken off a base or other object. Nos. 6 and 7 seem to be quite unparalleled in their method of fitting.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

1. Christopher Hughes Collection (PL. IV, B) ; female figure, naked to the waist, below which she wears a skirt, pleated in front with a decorative panel down the centre ; her right arm is stretched outwards and upwards, her left sideways, and she originally held some object or objects in her hands ; her hair is waved down the sides and drawn into a bun at the back, and she originally wore a crown or diadem, which has now disappeared. H. : 0·058 m.

See M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 102-3 ; as Miss Taylor says, this is clearly native work and may represent some local cult.

2. R.102 ; statuette of seated Venus (PL. IV, A), nude, originally fitted to a pedestal ; her hands are bent across the front of her body, and may originally have held some object ; her hair is done in coils in the front and the sides are drawn back into a coil. (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 103.) H. : 0·112 m.

In contrast to the last, this is quite obviously Roman work.

3. R.103 ; figure of an eagle (PL. V, E), its eyes and wing-markings shown by incisions ; it stands on a rounded base, and the inside claws of both feet are crossed over one another ; under the base are the remains of an iron pin. H. : 0·055 m.

Miss Taylor (*op. cit.*, p. 103) gives references to other birds of the same type found at Colchester, Wroxeter and Corbridge. The birds may have been attached to some piece of furniture or to the lid of a box.

4. 1921.157 ; figure of an eagle (PL. V, D), its feet and legs missing ; traces of incised wing-markings. H. : 0·038 m.

This is not nearly so good and well-made a specimen as no. 3. The lack of the legs and feet leaves no evidence as to whether it was intended to fit on to anything else, but it is most probable that it was attached to a piece of furniture or box as no. 3.

5. 1938.811 ; figure of a bird (? an eagle) (PL. V, E), feet missing, two incised V-markings on wings. H. : 0·031 m.

This again has lost any provision for attachment, if it had such, but was also probably for the same purpose.

6. In the possession of Mr. A. Woodcock, farmer, of Woodeaton ; eagle (PL. V, C), standing with wings outspread ; feathers very well marked ; the base is crescent-shaped, the two horns of the crescent sticking out far in front of the bird ; the feet are not indicated separately, but appear to merge into the base. H. : 0·039 m.

No parallel for such a base has been found.

7. In the possession of Mr. P. M. Finch ; front part of an eagle, apparently the corner-decoration of a box or table (PL. V, A) ; the bird stands with head turned to the left and wings partly outspread ; feathers and other markings are incised ; the back ends in a point, and beneath it and behind the wings the figure is hollowed out to fit on to a corner ; at the back of the hollow are two bronze rivets. H. : 0·042 m.

No parallel for such a fitting has been found.

JOAN R. KIRK

IV. VOTIVE OBJECTS

Under this heading have been grouped four objects which are pierced for suspension and were probably amulets ; the model tools and weapons ; the sceptre-heads, if such they were ; and the fragments of sheet bronze.

The two busts of Minerva, numbered B, 1-2, have been thought to be the handles of knives or mirrors, but this seems impracticable as they would have been very difficult to hold. They were rather, perhaps, the heads of sceptres of a similar kind to those found at Brough, Westmorland.⁵³ The Brough examples, which were also bronze, were in the form of helmeted soldiers' heads and were found with fragmentary iron shafts. The whole sceptres would have been about three feet long. The style of the helmeted heads is certainly not Roman, and they were probably made by some native craftsman, as seems to be the case with the Woodeaton Minerva busts. It is noteworthy that one of the Woodeaton examples still has the remains of an iron shaft in position.

Model axes and other tools and weapons have been found on many sites, both Roman and pre-Roman, in Britain and abroad. Their number seems to preclude the idea that they were just toys. Several of them were, in fact, found in temples or other sacred sites (e.g. at Frilford, Berks., see below, p. 35), and the use of model axes as votive objects from very early times has already been discussed (p. 4). Some have been found in graves (e.g. (o), (w) below), but it is not recorded whether the graves were those of children who might have had their toys buried with them. It is equally likely that the graves were those of adults, who carried with them into the next life the amulets which, perhaps being models of the tools of their trade, had protected them on earth. The existence of many pins with axe-heads suggests that they were actually worn as amulets.

It has been thought that such model tools were connected with Mithraism, in particular because grave-groups from Cologne ((w) below) which contained model tools also contained model animals, including snakes, which have always had some significance in the Mithraic religion.⁵⁴ In *Mystères de Mithra*, II, 525, Franz Cumont discusses this question and rejects the connection. He says that although snakes do indeed appear on Mithraic monuments, and model ladders may represent the stairway to heaven, none of the other objects appear, so far as he is aware, on any Mithraic monuments, or in any definite Mithraic connection. It seems more likely that the models are merely dedicatory offerings and protective amulets, with no special connection with any cult. The incised markings on the Woodeaton axes, nos. 3 and 4,

⁵³ *Ant. Journ.*, xviii, 69 ff.

⁵⁴ *Germania*, xxiii (1939), 56 ff.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

may have had some religious significance, especially as they are rather similar ; two axes from Silchester have incised symbols on them.

The following model axes from Iron Age and Roman sites have been noted :

Iron Age

- (a) Arras, Yorks., from an early Iron Age burial. (*Archaeologia*, LX (1906), 303, fig. 57.)
- (b) Long Wittenham, Berks., from an Iron Age site (*Oxoniensia*, II, p. 3, fig. 2). This axe with splayed-out blade is the only one so far found which approximates in any way to Woodeaton no. 1. H. N. Savory suggests its descent from splayed axes of the Bronze Age.
- (c) Talamone, Italy (Montelius, *Civilisation Primitive*, II, pl. 205). A hoard of model tools and weapons, including axes, was found in the middle of an oval construction, perhaps of some religious significance. Montelius calls it Etrusco-Roman period.

Roman

- (a) Alchester, Oxon. (FIG. 8, no. 2) (Ashmolean Museum, 1946.238). This was found many years ago and its provenance is not altogether certain. It is quite possible that it came from Woodeaton with many other bronzes in the same collection, that of the Rev. E. A. Sydenham, and it is, therefore, illustrated.
- (b) Caistor-by-Norwich (*V.C.H. Norfolk*, I (1901), p. 292, fig. 9). An iron axe with a double moulding at the end of the handle.
- (c) Corbridge, Northumberland (*Arch. Aeliana*, 3rd ser., v, 410, fig. 33). An adze-axe of base silver.
- (d) Cranborne Chase, Dorset (Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations in Bokerley Dyke* (1892), pl. CLXXIII, 13, 14). Two axes with incised cross markings similar to Woodeaton no. 2.
- (e) Hambleden, Bucks. (*Archaeologia*, LXXI (1921), 196). Three fragmentary spears and an axe of bone were found in the first house on the villa-site at Yewden Manor. They are now in the Hambleden Museum.
- (f) Kent (Ashmolean Museum, 1927.607). Tinned bronze brooch in the form of an axe, with incised wavy decoration round two sides.
- (g) Kettering, Northants. (*P.S.A.*, XXIII (1911), p. 500, 3). Bone pin with axe-head, with incised decoration of cross-hatching.
- (h) Lincoln (British Museum, 66, 12.3, 162). Bronze pin with axe-head.
- (i) Poultry, London (*London Museum Roman Guide*, fig. 36). Model pioneer's axe, with a link of chain still attached through a hole in the top, and a similar hole at the base of the handle.
- (j) Lydney, Glos. (Wheeler, *Lydney*, p. 83, fig. 18, 61-2). Pins with axe-heads ; also found at Lydney was an iron model pick (p. 92, fig. 22).

JOAN R. KIRK

- (k) Near Weymouth, Dorset (in the Collection of Capt. A. Jackson Brown, M.B.E.). This one is much more elaborately made and decorated than any of the others.
- (l) Richborough, Kent (Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, iv, pl. lii, 189-90). Two axes, both with single incised cross-marking at junction of haft and blade, as Wood Eaton no. 2. There were also found one bronze and two bone pins with axe-heads, one with incised cross-markings (pl. xxxix, 138 and liii, 195-6)
- (m) Sarre, Kent (*Arch. Cantiana*, xix (1892), p. 31, no. 485). Bronze axe of similar shape to that from Alchester (a), but with two incised lines from top to bottom of blade, just in front of the junction of blade and haft. The axe is supposed to have come from a Saxon grave, but it may have been a Roman relic.
- (n) Silchester, Hants. Four model axes are in the Reading Museum. One is similar in section to Wood Eaton nos. 3 and 4, and has two crescents and a cross incised on the blade; another has a small cross incised on the blade; a third has, apparently, a hole at the bottom of the handle, with the remains of a rivet still in it. In addition to these, there are two others from Silchester, published in *Archaeological Journal*, viii (1851), 245 and xi (1854), 57. The former is exactly like nos. 3 and 4, but has no markings. The latter is like Wood Eaton no. 2, with the same incised cross-markings.
- (o) Sussex (British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, fig. 39). Two axes said to have come from a tumulus, together with a model adze, plough and saw.
- (p) Woodchester, Glos. (British Museum). From a Roman villa; tinned, with (?) remains of incised cross-markings at junction of blade and handle, on one side only.
- (q) Provenance unknown. Three axes in the British Museum: (i) 70, 4-2, 252; (ii) 1904, 2-4, 1060; (iii) H. B. Walters, *Catalogue of the Bronzes, Greek, Roman and Etruscan in the British Museum* (1899), no. 2976; (i) has vertical lines incised on the blade on both sides in continuation of the line of the handle, (iii) has a rude figure of a cock at the handle end of the blade.
- (r) Dura-Europos, Syria (Teresa G. Frisch and N. P. Toll, *The Excavations at Dura-Europos*, Final Report iv, pt. iv, fasc. 1 (1949), pl. xvii, 157-9. Axe-shaped brooches.
- (s) Rennes, France (A. Toulmouche, *Histoire archéologique de l'époque gallo-romaine de la ville de Rennes* (1847), pl. ii, figs. 15, 16). Two model axes, one with vertical and diagonal incised lines on the blade.
- (t) Vermand, France (T. Eck, *Les deux cimetières gallo-romaines de Vermand et de St. Quentin* (1891), pl. xx, 22-5). Four pins with axe-heads; one has incised cross-markings, another incised decoration of circlets, and these two both have holes pierced in a corner of the blade.
- (u) ? France (Walters, *Catalogue of Bronzes*, no. 2975).
- (v) Cannstatt, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xxviii (1907), pl. viii, 50).

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

- (w) Cologne, Germany (*Germania*, xv (1931), p. 115, fig. 11; xxiii, 56 ff.; F. Cumont, *Les mystères de Mithra*, II, p. 525, fig. 492; *Bonner Jahrbücher*, cxlix (1949), pp. 94 ff.). Several late Roman graves found in Cologne and the surrounding district have contained model axes, other tools and animals. Their possible Mithraic connection has been discussed on p. 32.
- (x) Kleinkastell Rinsheim, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xlix (1933), pl. xxiii, 25); pin with axe-head.
- (y) Niederburg, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xii (1900), pl. vii, 9); pin with axe-head.
- (z) Pfünz, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xiv (1901), pl. xii, 14, 15); pins with axe-heads.

In addition to the axes and pins with axe-heads listed above, other model tools and weapons have been found. Some of these have already been mentioned as having been found in connection with axes, e.g. in the Sussex tumulus, at Talamone and at Cologne. Those from Crete have already been mentioned on p. 4, note 10. In Corfu were found a hammer and pick (Walters, *op. cit.*, nos. 2977-8), and from Hungary comes a chisel inscribed in Greek 'Apollodoro' (*ibid.*, no. 324). At Maiden Castle an iron hammer with remains of bronze binding round the handle was found in the vicinity of the temple (Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, fig. 95, 12); in a ritual structure at Frilford, Berks., were found a model sword and shield (*Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), pl. v, p. 14; for other model shields cf. Cyril Fox, *A Find of the Early Iron Age from Llyn Cerrig Bach, Anglesey* (1946), p. 91); a pair of pincers was found in Bell Alley, London (Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, fig. 36); a model spear was found in the 1st-2nd century A.D. Roman cemetery at Welwyn, Herts., and is now in Letchworth Museum (no. 3139); and a model hammer was found in the *limes* fort of Kongen (*O.R.L.*, xxx (1907), pl. v, 7). The existence of six spears all together at Wooddeaton suggests a local tradition. A possible reason for the fact that three have been bent double has been given on p. 4.

Fragments of sheet bronze from other sites have generally been given a religious significance, and in fact have very often come from temple-sites, e.g. Lydney, Glos. In particular the fragments with leaf-vein decoration have been thought to have belonged to a priestly headdress like those from Cavenham, Suffolk, published by Nina Layard in *Antiquaries Journal*, v, 258 ff. These were in the form of crowns with spaces left apparently for the insertion of leaves (or perhaps they were meant to be feathers), of sheet bronze. One such leaf was found near the Cavenham headdresses, and is exactly similar to the Wooddeaton ones. Such leaves are also well known for their connection with votive plaques of silver, generally embossed with the figure of the god to whom the plaque was dedicated, and sometimes also inscribed (e.g. (f), (j) below).

JOAN R. KIRK

Another type of headdress, also found at Cavenham, is described in the same article. This consisted of five bronze discs joined together by eight metal chains formed of S-shaped links. The central disc is larger than the others. A similar headdress was found at Stony Stratford, Bucks. (*Antiquaries Journal*, v, 259, fig. 2). On this example the smaller discs have attached to them an applied disc decorated with an embossed rosette. Examination of the Woodeaton material revealed what would appear to be the component parts of an almost identical headdress. In the Wyndham Hughes Collection is a plain circular disc, with nine holes pierced round the edge (D, 18). This is more than on either the Cavenham or the Stony Stratford examples, but it is not impossible that there were more smaller discs round the edge. In the same collection is a small circular piece of bronze embossed with a rosette (D, 12, p. 43) exactly the same as those on the smaller discs of the Stony Stratford headdress. Finally, on p. 28 have already been mentioned two pieces of chain formed of S-shaped links. It seems reasonable, therefore, to suppose that at Woodeaton we have the nuclei of priestly headdresses of both the crown with leaf-fittings and the disc-and-chain type.

It has been suggested that the other fragments of sheet bronze from Woodeaton may have come off boxes, and in Eck, *Les deux cimetières gallo-romaines de Vermand et de St.-Quentin*, pls. xiii, xiv, are shown boxes complete with bronze fittings. It is of interest to note in passing that in the key-hole of one of the boxes is a small key on a ring similar to that described on p. 27. Some of the fittings on the boxes illustrated by Eck are triangular corner-pieces, embossed only round the edge and attached by rivets, and fragments of apparently similar pieces exist at Woodeaton. The decorated pieces on Eck's boxes are very finely embossed, many of them with scenes from the Old Testament, and are all fixed to the boxes with rivets. The boxes held grave-goods. The style and content of the decoration on the Woodeaton pieces are very dissimilar, and as the pieces exist at present, very few of them have rivet-holes. There is no evidence to suggest a cemetery on the spot, but it is at least possible that similar boxes were used to hold votive offerings.

Fragments of sheet bronze found at Dodona,⁵⁵ in the temple-site at Lydney, and in the temple at Maiden Castle were embossed with figure and other designs, and the plaques already mentioned above in connection with feathers, were also embossed with figures. The recent discovery at Woodeaton of a plaque with an embossed figure of a funerary Cupid in a shrine (D, 3) lends weight to the suggestion that the building was a temple, and the plaques votive, for it is very similar in idea and construction, if not so much in style, to the others, some of which were clearly votive from their dedications.

⁵⁵ C. Carapanos, *Dodone et ses ruines* (1878), pp. 33 ff., pls. xv-xx.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

The examples from Barkway, Stony Stratford, etc., though perhaps not that from Maiden Castle, have all very much more sophisticated figures than the Woodeaton ones. The nearest parallel to the crude skeletal type of figure found on one of the pieces of bronze at Woodeaton (D, 4), is the design on the sceptre-binding from the temple at Farley Heath (see p. 4). The similarity of the decoration suggests that they were both the same sort of local religious art, and some of the long thin pieces from Woodeaton might even have been sceptre-bindings themselves. The fragments previously found at Lydney, etc., have generally been supposed to have been fixed to wood and dedicated as votive offerings, in which the wood must have been cut out to receive them as there are no rivet-holes. No parallels have been found for the pieces impressed with coins (D, 21-23).

The following examples of embossed plaques, etc., have been noted:

- (a) Cavenham, Suffolk. In the Ipswich Museum. See p. 35 ff. above.
- (b) Chedworth, Glos. Fragments of sheet bronze with embossed borders and fragments rolled into tubes are in the Roman villa museum. There was a temple in the vicinity of the villa, but it is not known whether these fragments were found anywhere near it.
- (c) London, Moorgate Street (Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, p. 47, pl. xx). Plaque of debased silver embossed with three mother-goddesses seated beneath arches; round the edges is leaf-veining.
- (d) Lydney, Glos. (Wheeler, *Lydney*, pl. xxvii-xxx). The first three plates show plaques, the fourth a fragment of a disc and chain head-dress. Woodeaton also produced some small fragments of bronze with rows of tiny perforations as shown on pl. xxix.
- (e) Maiden Castle, Dorset (Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, pl. xxxixb). Plaque with debased figure of Minerva in leaf surrounding, from the temple.
- (f) Rookery Wood, near Barkway, Herts. (British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 35; British Museum, *Catalogue of Silver Plate*, 230-6; *V.C.H. Herts.*, iv, 149 f.). Silver plates all with leaf-markings and embossed figures. They are inscribed to Mars Alator, Mars Teutates and Vulcan.
- (g) Stony Stratford, Bucks. (British Museum, *Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 36; British Museum, *Catalogue of Silver Plate*, 237-41). Silver plaques with leaf-markings and embossed figures, and a disc and chain head-dress (see above, p. 36).
- (h) Böhming, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xxix (1907), pl. ii, 3). Fragment with leaf-veining.
- (i) Cannstatt, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xxviii, pl. viii, 4). Silvered bronze plaque with figure of Cupid in embossed beaded border.
- (j) Heddernheim, Germany (British Museum, *Guide to Greek and Roman Life*, p. 53; British Museum, *Catalogue of Silver Plate*, 224-6). Silver plaques dedicated to Jupiter Dolichenus. Walters, in the *Catalogue of Silver Plate*, suggests that the branching leaves are intended to represent thunderbolts.

JOAN R. KIRK

- (k) Kastell Faumingen, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xxxv (1911), pl. viii, 21). Fragmentary silver disc with embossed decoration apparently rather like that on Woodeaton D.12.
- (l) Kastell Hufingen, Germany (*O.R.L.*, lv (1937), pl. xi, 96-8). Thin bronze sheets, one pierced with three holes, the other two embossed.
- (m) Weissenburg, Germany (*O.R.L.*, xxvi (1906), pl. vi). Several fragments with elaborate figure and other designs.
- (n) Bala Hissar, Galatia (British Museum, *Guide to Greek and Roman Life* (1920), p. 54, fig. 45; British Museum, *Catalogue of Silver Plate*, 227-9). Silver leaves with circular bases embossed with representations of Sol, Luna and Mithras.

There remain the small letters of sheet-bronze, of which three fragmentary examples were found at Woodeaton. At the temple-site at Lydney, Glos., as many as forty-five letters were found, of seven different types.⁵⁶ Some were raised to a central ridge as the Woodeaton examples, others were quite flat; all were pierced with nail-holes. As Dr. Wheeler suggested, they were probably for votive inscriptions put up by visitors who bought the letters locally. A letter A was found at Richborough,⁵⁷ but this was attached by a projection at the back. Such letters are quite well known in the *limes* forts, but generally on a larger scale for fixing to stone backgrounds.⁵⁸

A. AMULETS

1. R.104; tiny statuette of a nude female (FIG. 8, no. 7), with ring for suspension attached to the back of the neck; the figure stands on a square base, with her hands folded across her breast. H.: 0.024 m.

If the theory suggested by Wheeler in the *Lydney Report* (see above, p. 5), that the presence of a quantity of feminine ornaments implies a god with power to help in childbirth, can be accepted for Woodeaton, it is possible that this little figure was used as some kind of charm in the same connection.

2. R.46; circular *bullae* (FIG. 7, no. 9), with sunken centre on both sides. D.: 0.016 m.
3. R.119; (?) amulet in the form of a bar with a smaller horizontal bar crossing it at each end; the top bar is broken; there is a loop for suspension at the top. L.: 0.047 m.
4. R.22; triangular fragment of bronze, one corner looped over a penannular ring (PL. III, c, 2); the ring is rectangular in section with flattened-out ends. L.: 0.048 m.; D. of ring: 0.026 m.

This seems to be too poor a piece of work to have served as an ornamental pendant; it seems to have been quickly put together, and was perhaps made in a hurry in a time of need.

⁵⁶ Wheeler, *Lydney*, p. 102, pl. xxxiv.

⁵⁷ Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, iv, pl. lvi, 274.

⁵⁸ E.g. Schierenhof, *O.R.L.*, vii (1897), pl. ii, 2 and 3; Pfünz, xiv, pl. xiv; Holzhausen, xxii (1904), pl. vii; Weissenburg, xxvi, pl. viii, 11-12; Cannstatt, xxviii, pl. viii, 47.

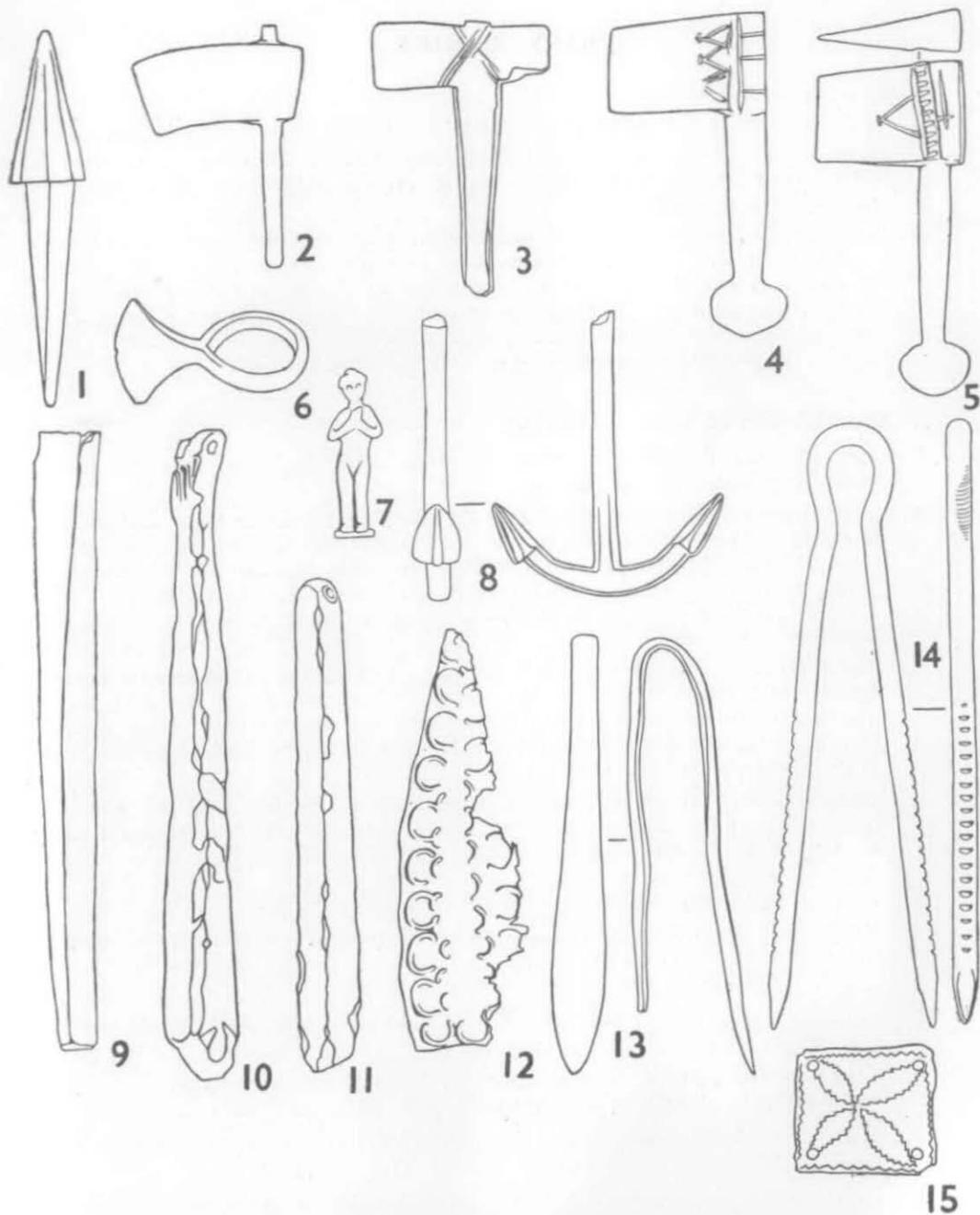


FIG. 8
 WOODEATON, OXON.
 Ingots and votive objects (pp. 25, 28, 33, 38, 40, 41, 43-5)
 Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

JOAN R. KIRK

B. SCEPTRE-HEADS (?)

1. 1921.159 (PL. IV, E) ; debased bust of Minerva ; she wears a helmet with two eyes, part of the crest of which is broken, and a Gorgon's head of very debased form on her breast ; the features of both goddess and Gorgon are very crudely marked. L. : 0.048 m.
2. 1936.335 (PL. IV, F) ; very debased bust of Minerva ; the hair is done like that of no. 1 with parting in the centre ; a small cap and ridge on the back of the head are all that remain of the helmet ; two wing-like projections showing the same sort of design as that on the straps holding the Gorgon's head of no. 1, are all that remains of the breastplate ; features scarcely indicated. Remains of an iron shaft held by rivets, still in position. L. : 0.048 m.

C. MODEL TOOLS AND WEAPONS

1. 1935.423 (FIG. 8, no. 6) ; axe-head with splayed blade and large circular loop for socket. L. : 0.028 m.
2. 1937.815 (FIG. 8, no. 3) ; model axe with almost rectangular blade and thin, flat shaft, broken at the base ; on one side of the blade, at its junction with the shaft are roughly incised cross-markings, probably representing the thongs with which such axes were attached to their handles. L. : 0.04 m.
Of the Woodeaton examples this seems to be the shape most easily paralleled elsewhere.
3. R.116 (PL. IV, C, FIG. 8, no. 4) ; model axe, blade triangular in section, shaft circular with knobbed end ; on one side of the blade are incised two triangles, one upside down above the other, their points meeting, the figure being done in one continuous line ; on the other side are horizontal and vertical lines, and three triangles. L. : 0.045 m.
4. 1934.2 (PL. IV, D, FIG. 8, no. 5) ; model axe of the same shape as the preceding ; on one side of the blade is an incised swastika, on the other a design similar to that on no. 3, consisting of a triangle, horizontal and vertical lines, and a dagger-shaped object. L. : 0.047 m.
5. 1914.421 (FIG. 8, no. 8) ; model anchor, the top of the shaft with loop being broken off ; the ends of the flukes are leaf-shaped with a bar running down the centre. L. : 0.041 m.
No parallels for this anchor have been found.
6. R.17 (PL. III, D, 1) ; model spear, with flat leaf-shaped blade and circular shaft. L. : 0.365 m.
7. 1914.414 (PL. III, D, 2) ; model spear, with flat, leaf-shaped blade and thin circular shaft, tapering to a point at the end. L. : 0.276 m.
8. 1921.135 ; model spear (bent double), with flat, leaf-shaped blade with sharp point ; circular shaft, broken at the end. L. : c. 0.144 m.
9. 1921.136 ; model spear (bent double), with flat, leaf-shaped blade, the point broken ; circular shaft, the end of which is broken, and appears to have been originally flattened out. L. : c. 0.158 m.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

10. R.132 (FIG. 8, no. 13) ; model spear (bent double), consisting of a flat piece of bronze with one end hammered out to form a crude blade ; it is much more roughly worked than any of the others. L. : c. 0.124 m.
11. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 9, no. 1) ; model spear, with flat, leaf-shaped blade and twisted shaft, the latter being broken. L. : 0.108 m.
12. 1937.816 (FIG. 8, no. 1) ; (?) model spear- or arrowhead, consisting of an octagonal pointed head, set on a short wedge-shaped shaft. This may be only a peg. L. : 0.059 m.

D. SHEET BRONZE

Only the most complete out of many fragments have been listed and illustrated.

With embossed decoration

1. 1937.812 ; a small mask (PL. VI, B), hollowed out behind as if to cover a wooden core, but without any holes for attachment ; the face is that of a bald-headed man with large ears, and projecting eyes, which give it a very Celtic appearance. L. : 0.034 m. ; W. : 0.023 m.
2. 1937.809 ; fragment of a rectangular strip (FIG. 9, no. 7), with embossed ovolo border ; in the centre is incised the end of an inscription, consisting of the letters EDO, which perhaps form the end of a Celtic name (M. V. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 102, n. 4) ; in the middle of the complete end is a hole for attachment. L. : 0.07 m. ; W. : 0.049 m.

This piece has had a varied history. It was certainly known in 1841 when R. Hussey wrote his *Account of the Roman Road from Allchester to Dorchester*, for it is mentioned on p. 38. It was published in *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, III, p. 145, no. 132. This volume appeared in 1876-7, but the reference to this piece was taken from Hussey, so it had probably already disappeared. In 1917, when Miss Taylor wrote her article, its whereabouts were unknown, but in 1937 it turned up in a sale of the effects of the owner of Woodeaton House, and was bought and given by Dr. A. R. Bowen to the Ashmolean Museum.

3. Found 1950, and in the possession of Mr. P. M. Finch ; fragment (FIG. 9, no. 2), with embossed figure of Cupid in an arched shrine ; the figure is standing with his legs crossed one over the other ; his right arm is bent across his chest, with the hand resting on the tip of an inverted torch which is itself resting on a low altar ; his left elbow is leaning on his right hand and his left hand supports his head ; the shrine has a pitched roof, beneath which is an arch resting on two pillars. L. : 0.057 m. ; W. : 0.042 m.

Cupids with crossed legs, leaning on or holding inverted torches, appear frequently on Roman sarcophagi, and are known on coins, especially those of the early Imperial period from the East (*cf.* British Museum, *Catalogue of Greek Coins* (Caria and the Islands), pl. VI, 2, where the torch is resting on a low altar). The torch on which the Woodeaton Cupid is leaning seems to be the type figured in Daremberg and Saglio, *Dictionnaire des Antiquités*, under *Fax*, fig. 2914. A similar style of architecture also appears on coins from Caria (*cf.* British Museum, *op. cit.*, pl. III, g).

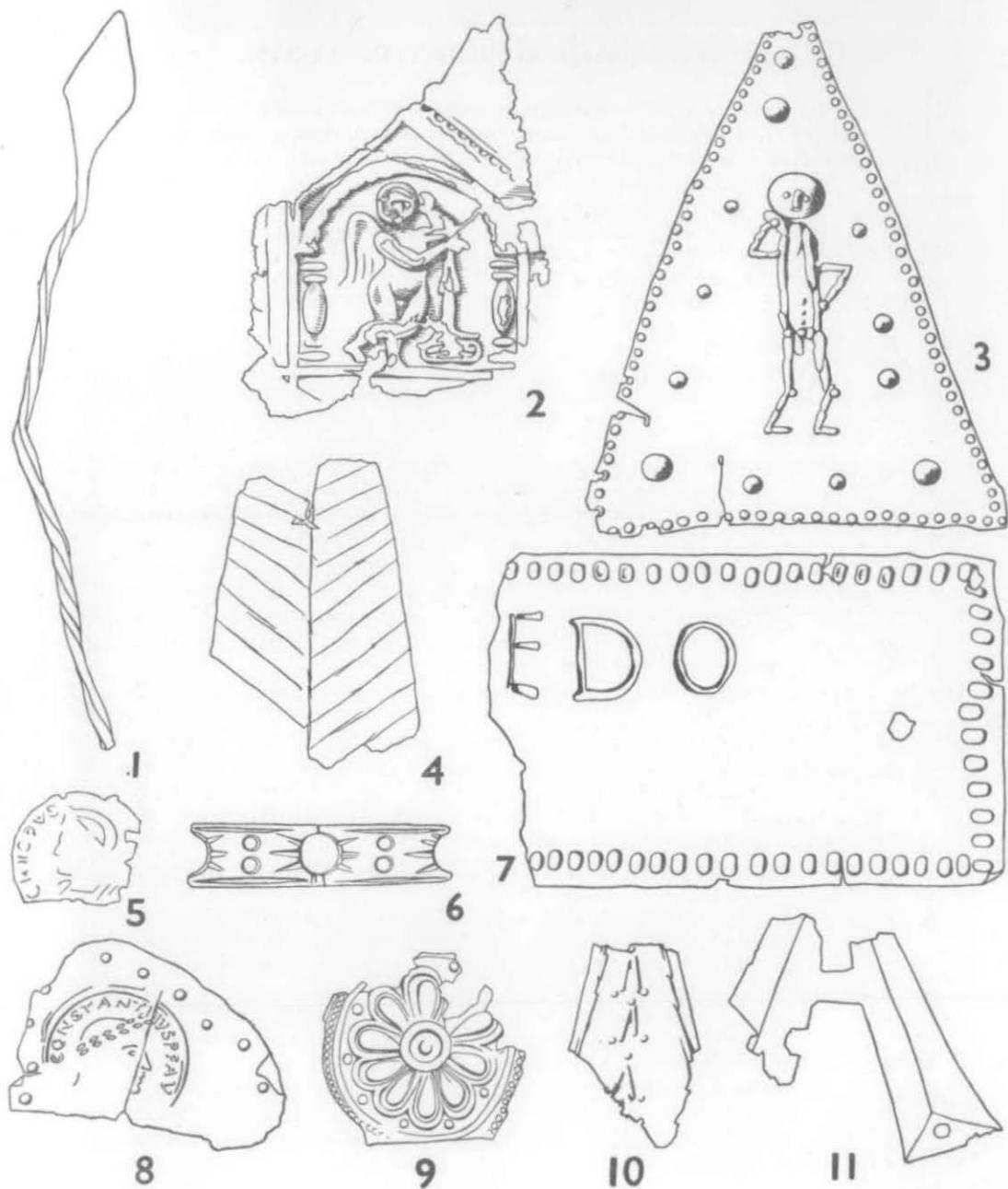


FIG. 9
 WOODEATON, OXON.
 Model spear and fragments of sheet bronze (pp. 41, 43-5)
 Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

4. 1921.1051 (FIG. 9, no. 3) ; triangular fragment, almost complete with a hole for attachment(?) at the apex ; in the centre is embossed a crude figure with large circular head, standing in a frontal position, but with the feet in profile ; the body is shown in outline, with small circles for the hands, and knee and hip-joints ; the left hand is on the hip, the right appears to be supporting the head ; the figure gives the impression of being a skeleton ; round the central figure is a border of widely-spaced bosses, and round the outside an edging of small bosses, placed very close together. The head of this figure is treated in exactly the same way as that of the Cupid (no. 3). The outline treatment of the remainder of the figure is very similar to that of the figure on the Farley Heath sceptre-binding already mentioned (p. 37). L. : 0.072 m. ; W. : 0.057 m.
5. 1923.875 ; almost triangular fragment (PL. VI, A, 2), tinned, with hole for attachment at the narrow end ; embossed with a figure(?) in the centre, outlined in tiny dots, with a dotted border round the edge. L. : 0.039 m. ; W. : 0.017 m.
6. 1935.431 (PL. VI, c) ; fragment with remains of embossed dot pattern, and in the centre a swastika cut a jour. L. : 0.04 m. ; W. : 0.03 m.
7. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 8, no. 12) ; long triangular piece, tinned, with double border of crescents. L. : 0.06 m. ; W. : 0.02 m.
8. 1921.1060 (PL. VI, A, 3) ; fragment of a square piece, with leaf-shaped pattern of small dots in the centre, and remains of a dotted border round the edge. L. : 0.028 m. ; W. : 0.033 m.
9. 1946.234 (PL. VI, A, 9) ; leaf-shaped fragment, with pattern of small dots at the pointed end. L. : 0.032 m. ; W. : 0.015 m.
10. 1921.1060 (PL. VI, A, 10) ; long thin strip, with all-over dot pattern and hole for attachment at either end. L. : 0.065 m.
11. 1938.893 (FIG. 9, no. 10) ; fragment of triangular piece, tinned, with embossed lines and dots to form a spray pattern. L. : 0.029 m. ; W. : 0.018 m.
12. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 9, no. 9) ; circular disc with embossed rosette, and border of small dots (see above, p. 36). D. : 0.028 m.

Besides these there are many fragments, generally triangular (PL. VI, A, 6) or rectangular (PL. VI, A, 4), the majority having embossed ovolo borders, and some having dots in the middle as well.

With incised decoration

13. 1935.430 (PL. VI, D) ; incised with concentric circles, dots and herring-bone pattern. L. : 0.057 m. ; W. : 0.045 m.
14. 1921.167 (PL. VI, A, 8) ; rectangular fragment, with border of three incised lines, and notched edges ; several holes exist, but it is not clear whether these were for attachment, or happened later. L. : 0.044 m. ; W. : 0.031 m.

JOAN R. KIRK

15. 1921.167 (PL. VI, A, 7); fish-shaped piece, with pattern of circles with dots inside, arranged in groups, as often found on fragments of carved bone, e.g. on weaving-plates from Alchester, Oxon. (Ashmolean Museum, 1928.566a, b), and on a fragment of a knife handle(?), from Watts Wells Roman villa, Ditchley, Oxon. (Ashmolean Museum, 1935.412). L. : 0.038 m.
16. 1921.167 (FIG. 8, no. 15); square piece, in the centre a four-petalled flower with wavy outlines and a wavy border; hole for attachment in each corner. L. and W. : 0.019 m.
17. Wyndham Hughes Collection (FIG. 9, no. 6); small bar, probably part of a long strip, as another incomplete piece exists (1921.167); repeat pattern of two small holes, one above the other, and one large hole with incised ray pattern round the edge. L. : 0.036 m. An exactly similar piece was found by General Pitt-Rivers in Cranborne Chase.⁵⁹

Plain, often pierced with small holes

18. Wyndham Hughes Collection (PL. VI, A, 5); circular disc, plain, with nine holes round the edge (see p. 36 above). D. : 0.044 m.
19. 1921.167; squarish fragment, in the centre a triangle marked out in little holes, joined together by an incised line; fragmentary remains of leaf-veining occur on the edge of this fragment. L. and W. : c. 0.052 m.
And many other fragments.

Fragments with leaf-vein or feather decoration (PL. VI, A, I, II, FIG. 9, no. 4). These pieces are frequently tinned, and often also have a dotted border. They resemble long pointed leaves; most of them have no holes for attachment, which would fit in well with the theory of their insertion into a head-dress such as that described on p. 35. The largest is 0.073 m. long and 0.035 m. wide.

*Fragments with impressions of coins*⁶⁰

21. Wyndham Hughes Collection; fragment impressed with coin—possibly of Numerian (A.D. 283-4), radiate bust to right, legend (?) [NUM]AERIANVS N[OB CAES], which would be characteristic of the mint of Cyzicus, Asia Minor; but the reading is not certain. D. : c. 0.02 m.
Numerian coins from the Cyzicus mint are rare in Britain.
22. 1921.165 (FIG. 9, no. 8); fragment impressed with coin of Constantine I (A.D. 306-337); legend CONSTANTINVS P.F. AVG. Border of dots: L. : 0.04 m.; W. : 0.026 m.
23. No number (FIG. 9, no. 5); fragment impressed with coin of Crispus (son of Constantine); helmeted head to left and CRISPVS [NOB CAES].
And four others too small to be identified.

⁵⁹ Pitt-Rivers, *Bokerley Dyke*, pl. clxxiii, 17.

⁶⁰ I am very grateful to Mr. C. M. Kraay who identified these fragments.

BRONZES FROM WOODEATON, OXON.

Pieces of sheet bronze rolled into tubes

24. R.134; this piece originally had an iron core. L. : 0·077 m.
25. 1935.427. L. : 0·03 m.
26. 1921.153; tinned, in the form of a scabbard-chape, with a perforation at the top of one of the sides. L. : 0·044 m.
27. 1921.152 (FIG. 8, no. 9); tapering to one end, which is closed. L. : 0·091 m.
28. R.133; conical shape, with the base hammered up. L. : 0·03 m.
29. 1921.167; two fragments roughly rolled, with incised decoration.

Letters of thin bronze

30. 1935.426 (FIG. 9, no. 11); fragment of an A, the point and end of one leg missing; there is a central ridge down each leg, which divides at the bottom to run to the corners; the bottom of the complete leg is perforated. L. : 0·038 m.; W. : 0·029 m.
31. Wyndham Hughes Collection; very small fragment of an A, comprising the cross-bar, and the end of one leg, with central ridge and perforation.
32. 1935.428; fragment of a T, comprising part of the cross-bar, with a hole in the middle and a central ridge, and a small piece of the leg.



WOODDEATON, OXON.

Air-photograph of North, Middle and South Hill fields from the south, showing a circular structure in Middle Hill field (p. 3)

Ph.: the late Major G. W. G. Allen



WOODEATON, OXON.

A. Pins (pp. 17, 18); B. Brooches (pp. 9-12, 14-15)
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

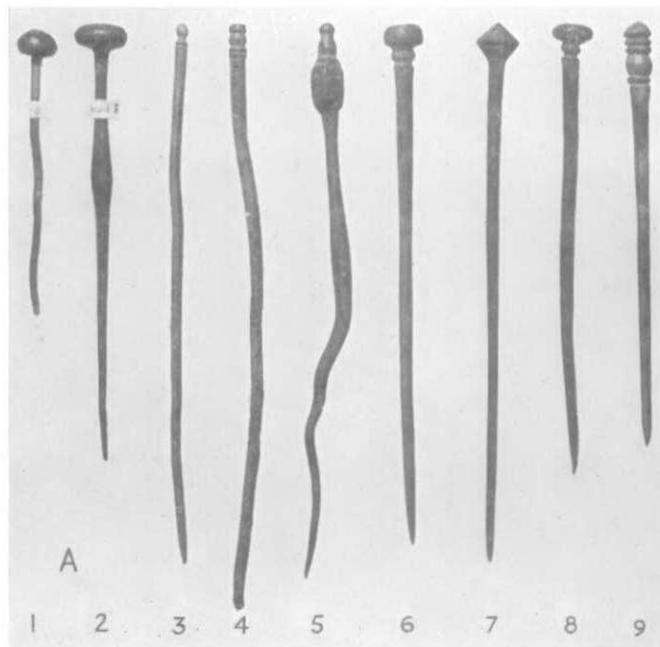
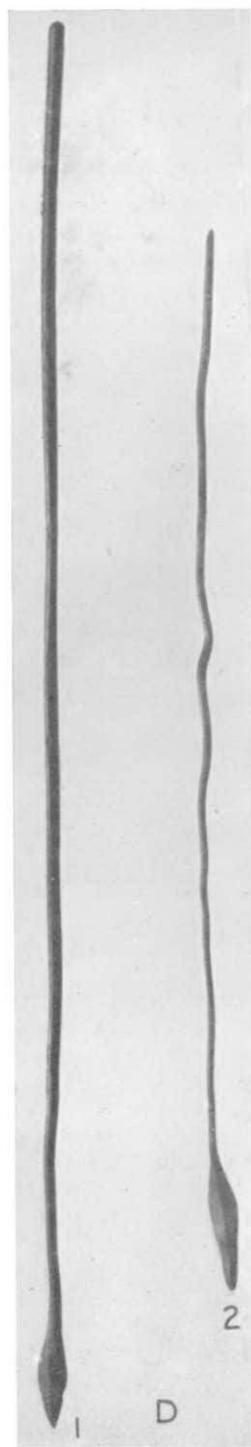


PLATE III

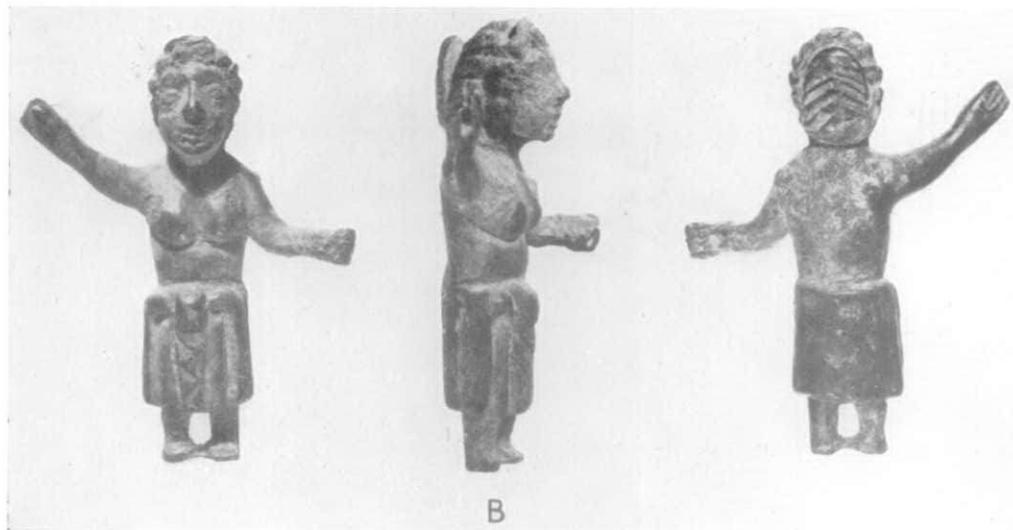


WOODEATON, OXON.

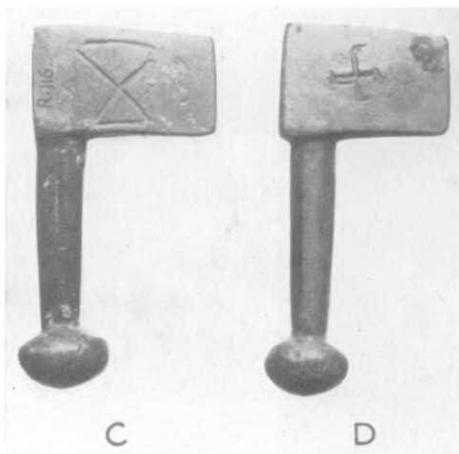
- A. Spur with iron prick (p. 27). B. Double hook (p. 27).
 C. Staple, amulet(?) and chain (pp. 28, 30, 38) Scale $\frac{1}{4}$
 D. Model spears (p. 40) Scale $\frac{1}{2}$



A



B



C

D



E

F

WOODEATON, OXON.

- A. Seated statuette of Venus (p. 31). B. Statuette of (?)Celtic goddess (p. 31)
C, D. Model axes (p. 40). E, F. Sceptre-heads in the form of busts of Minerva (p. 40)
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

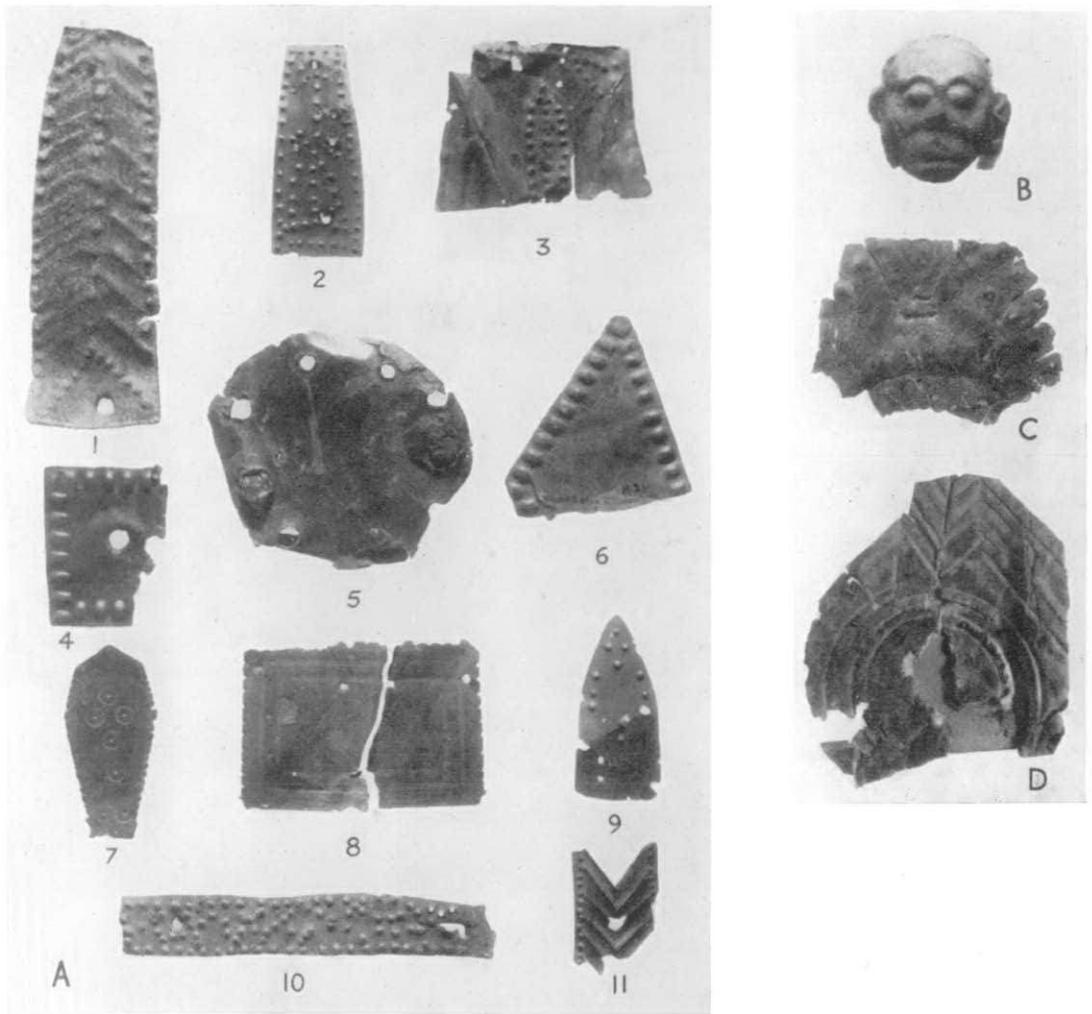
PLATE V



WOODEATON, OXON.
Figurines of birds (p. 31)
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

Phh.: Ashmolean Museum

KIRK: WOODEATON, OXON.



WOODEATON, OXON.

A, C, D. Fragments of sheet bronze with embossed and incised decoration (pp. 43, 44)
 B. Mask of thin bronze (p. 41)

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

Phh. : Ashmolean Museum