

- <sup>21</sup> Hawkes, op. cit. in note 18, 79; J. Blair, *Anglo-Saxon Oxfordshire* (Stroud, 1994), 12, fig. 15.
- <sup>22</sup> Ager, op. cit. in note 4, fig. 15, nos. 18, 23; for the lozenges see the top left-hand one of a pair of birds on the Nydam silver scabbard-chape, G. Haseloff, *Die germanische Tierornamentik der Völkerwanderungszeit. Studien zu Salin's Stil I* (Berlin, Vorgeschichtliche Forschungen 17, 3 vols., 1981), Taf. 8; K. Böhner, 'Germanische Schwerter des 5./6. Jahrhunderts', *Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz* 34.2 (1987), 411–90, Taf. 78.
- <sup>23</sup> W. Menghin, *Das Schwert im Frühen Mittelalter. Chronologische-typologische Untersuchungen zu Langschwertern aus germanischen Gräbern des 5. bis 7. Jahrhunderts n. Chr.* (Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Beibände zum Anzeiger des Germanischen Nationalmuseums, Bd. 1, 1983), Abb. 51, 1a and Karte 17; for discussion of the dating of his early groups, see further id., 'Schwerter des Goldgriffspatenhorizonts im Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte', *Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica* 26–7 (1994–95), 140–91, esp. 152–58; and P. Périn, 'Les tombes de "chefs" du début de l'époque mérovingienne. Datation et interprétation historique', in F. Vallet and M. Kazanski (eds.), *La noblesse romaine et les chefs barbares du IIIe au VIIe siècle* (Paris, Mémoires de l'Association Française d'Archéologie Mérovingienne 9, 1995), 247–301.
- <sup>24</sup> M. Henig, *The Art of Roman Britain* (London, 1995), 172, figs. 101 and 103; see also J. W. Brailsford, *Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain* (London, 1964), 26; H. Tait (ed.), *Seven Thousand Years of Jewellery* (London, 1986), 230, ill. 581–83; B. Deppert-Lippitz, 'A group of Late Antique jewelry in the Getty Museum', *Studia Varia* 1 (Malibu, J. Paul Getty Museum Occasional Papers on Antiquities no. 8, 1993), 107–40, 125, fig. 23; I am indebted to my colleague Dafydd Kidd for the latter reference.
- <sup>25</sup> Hawkes, op. cit. in note 17, 42–43; Evison, *Invasions*, op. cit. in note 3, 53, 63.
- <sup>26</sup> F. Henkel, *Die römischen Fingerringe der Rheinlande und der benachbarten Gebiete* (Berlin, 1913), nos. 58, 98–99, 113, 401, 972 and 982.
- <sup>27</sup> Böhner, op. cit. in note 22, Abb. 21, 2.
- <sup>28</sup> See M. Martin, 'Zur frühmittelalterlichen Gürteltracht der Frau in der Burgundia, Francia und Aquitania', in G. Faider-Feytmans et al. (eds.), *L'Art des Invasions en Hongrie et en Wallonie* (Morlanwelz, Monographies du Musée Royal de Mariemont 6, 1991), 31–84, at 37.
- <sup>29</sup> Ager, op. cit. in note 9, 244.
- <sup>30</sup> See Hawkes, op. cit. in note 18, 66; id., 'The south-east after the Romans: the Saxon settlement', in V. A. Maxfield (ed.), *The Saxon Shore. A Handbook* (Exeter Studies in History, no. 25, 1989), 78–95, at 80–81.
- <sup>31</sup> Ager, op. cit. in note 4, 13; the author is hereby revising his view expressed on p. 17. Affinities between the style and the cruder, more naturalistic decoration of a late Roman gold bracelet, possibly of insular manufacture, from Hoxne, Suffolk, are noted by L. Webster and M. Brown (eds.), *The Transformation of the Roman World AD400–900* (London, 1997), 213 (cat. 5d). In the light of this new find it is possible that the style also reflects some degree of native influence on early Anglo-Saxon craftsmanship.
- <sup>32</sup> A. Wollman, 'Early Latin loan-words in Old English', *Anglo-Saxon England* 22 (1993), 1–26; G. Rausing, 'The days of the week and Dark Age politics', *Fornvännen* 90 (1995), 229–38.

## A GREAT SQUARE-HEADED BROOCH FRAGMENT FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (Figs. 2, 3)

In 1995, Mr Francis Brooks drew our attention to a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon brooch which he had found about six years previously in the parish of Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, Buckinghamshire. The object was found in a large arable field on the western slope of a dry valley. Mr Brooks was unable to recall the precise findspot. The topography of the field suggested no obvious location for a cemetery although the evidence of air photographs hints at the possibility of this find having been made within a rectangular field system of Romano-British or earlier date. No other significant finds are known from this field apart from one late Anglo-Saxon penny.

The item in question is the footplate terminal lobe of a great square-headed brooch, modelled in the form of a full-face mask (Fig. 2). It is in a gilt copper alloy with a row of crescent-shaped punchmarks along the bottom edge. This fragment measures 20 mm by 28 mm and is 2 mm thick. The back of the fragment is completely plain.

This fragment provides us with the second known Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch from the county of Buckinghamshire. The other specimen was found in grave 8 of the cemetery at Dinton Folly, excavated in 1991 (Fig. 3).<sup>1</sup> These two brooches are, on the extant evidence, highly similar in form. Both belong to group X of the Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch series according to a new classificational scheme.<sup>2</sup>

There are now nine known members of this group, eight with known provenance, and these have an interesting and coherent distribution. This centres on the area of southern Cambridgeshire, just E. of the area of northern Buckinghamshire where the two

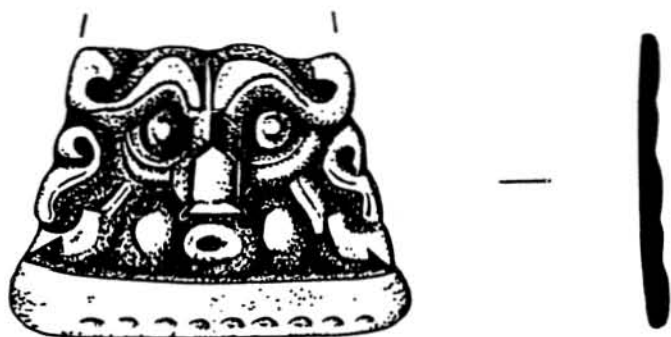


FIG. 2

Great square-headed brooch fragment from Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, Buckinghamshire. Scale 2:1  
 Drawn by Nicky Smith

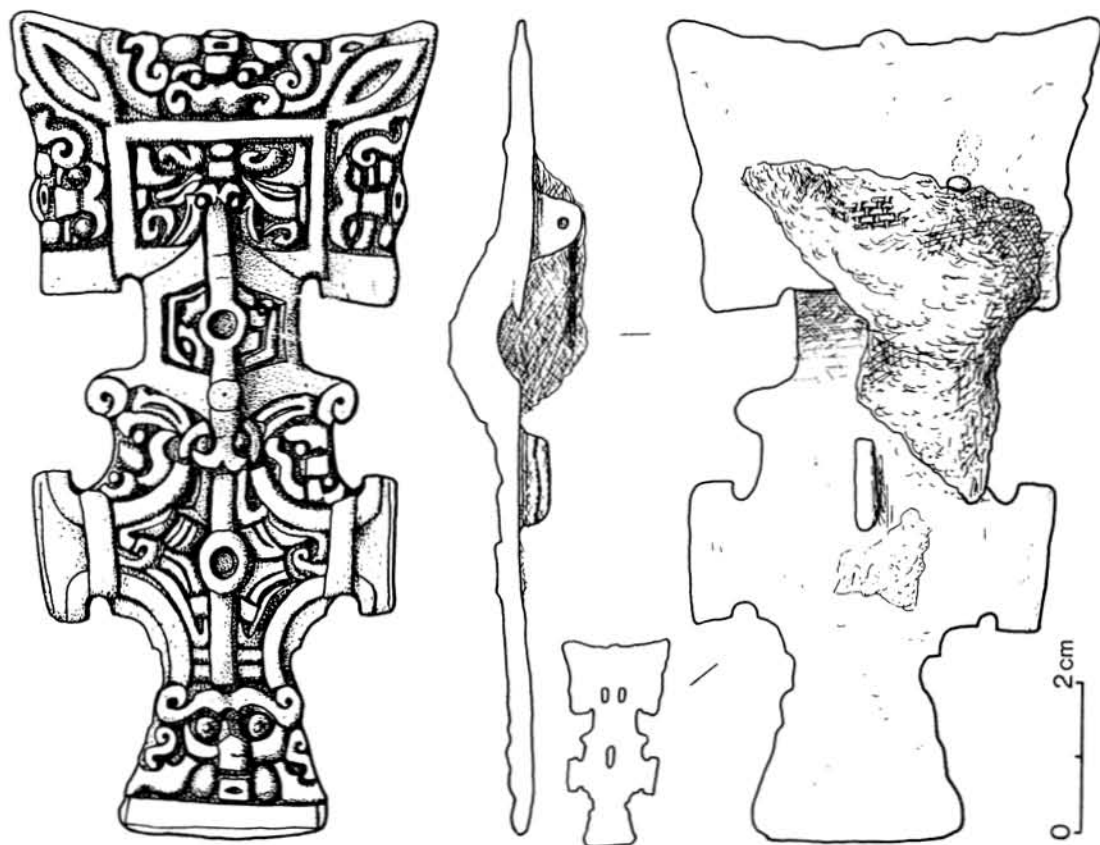


FIG. 3

Great square-headed brooch from Dinton, Buckinghamshire, grave 8. Drawn by Jo Lawson

square-headed brooches were found. The group is especially well represented in the material from the cemetery of Little Wilbraham, where three such brooches were found. The other provenanced examples are from Lackford, Suffolk, urn 50/178, Broughton Lodge, Nottinghamshire, grave 16, and Alveston Manor, Warwickshire, grave 89. The Alveston Manor brooch is of distinctly devolved form, but that from Broughton Lodge has, by stylistic and typological criteria, the earliest known form within this group. A distinctive panel of zoomorphic ornament on the headplate of this brooch, however, finds a close parallel on a small square-headed brooch which is a recent, unstratified, metal-detector find from Edix Hill, Cambridgeshire, the site of the Barrington A cemetery.<sup>3</sup> This implies that a prototype form represented by the Broughton Lodge brooch can also be associated with South Cambridgeshire. Group X of the Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch series is the immediate descendant of group V, the small number of known brooches within which are also distributed across the Cambridgeshire and the southern Midlands (Northamptonshire and the Warwickshire Avon area). The earliest looking specimen of this group is from Barrington B, Cambridgeshire.<sup>4</sup>

Anglo-Saxon archaeology ought to be adapting itself to the substantial increase in the available artefactual evidence now resulting from excavation, various methods of prospection, and metal-detecting. The find noted here exemplifies the potential of artefact studies to contribute to more general reconstructions of early Anglo-Saxon society and economy. The link via the Icknield Way between East Anglia and Cambridgeshire to the E. and the Upper Thames region to the W. that is implied by strong material parallels has long been recognized; other concrete and precise connections around this particular corridor, involving southern Northamptonshire, the Warwickshire Avon area, and Berkshire and northern Wiltshire are emerging from the detailed comparison of artefactual finds.<sup>5</sup> Where early studies would talk of the 'penetration' of an area by some particular culture group, we would think now in terms of the organization of the production of the artefact-types in question and the mechanisms for their distribution in a demographic environment assumed to be more stable. The range and volume of analyses of technical aspects of early Anglo-Saxon craft production is growing significantly.<sup>6</sup> Analysis of the chemical composition of the ubiquitous copper alloys sheds only occasional, though sometimes spectacular, light on production units; it seems that other forms of technical analysis such as punchmark studies will individually yield little more immediate insight,<sup>7</sup> but collectively this work is providing us with a very good sense of the complexity of the practical organization of this production. An understanding of the constraints and possibilities operating within early Anglo-Saxon manufacturing, or even just an understanding of the limitations to our own knowledge in this respect, must be an essential component in social or cultural analyses seeking to explain, in either pragmatic or symbolic terms, the distribution and use of these artefacts. Only then can we try to evaluate alternative answers to the question of whether these inter-regional relationships represent 'merely' workshop-distribution zones (to use a current and appropriately vague concept) or social alliances of some more political form.

MICHAEL FARLEY AND JOHN HINES

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A. Hunn, J. Lawson and M. Farley, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Dinton, Buckinghamshire', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History*, 7 (1994), 85-148.

<sup>2</sup> J. Hines, 1984, *The Scandinavian Character of Anglian England in the pre-Viking Period*, British Archaeol. Rep. British Ser. 124, 110-98; 1997, *A New Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches*, Society of Antiquaries of London, Research Report 51.

<sup>3</sup> Excavations were carried out on this site by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology in the years 1989-91. A report on the site by the director, Tim Malim, and John Hines, is in preparation, supported by funding from English Heritage.

<sup>4</sup> E. T. Leeds, *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches*, no. 108; Hines, *Corpus*, op. cit. note 2, pl. 18a.

<sup>5</sup> See, for instance, E. T. Leeds, 'The distribution of the Anglo-Saxon saucer brooch in relation to the Battle of Bedford, AD 571', *Archaeologia*, 63 (1912), 159–202; J. Hines, 'An early Anglo-Saxon wrist-clasp from the parish of Baydon', *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, 89 (1996), 130–32.

<sup>6</sup> See, for instance, R. Brownsword and J. Hines, 'The alloys of a sample of Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooches', *Antiq. J.*, 73 (1993), 1–10.

<sup>7</sup> A detailed punchmark study by Catherine Mortimer will appear in the Edix Hill cemetery report, loc. cit. in note 3.

#### A 'WINCHESTER-STYLE' MOUNT FROM NEAR WINCHESTER (Fig. 4)

The copper-alloy object illustrated was found by a metal detectorist, J. de Montfalcon, who reported to the Winchester Museums Service that he had found it on a public footpath at Three Maids Hill, Headbourne Worthy, Hampshire (SU 468 322), c. 3.5 km NNW. of the West Gate of the city.

The object is 34 mm long, cast so that its section is an arch with slightly flaring sides and out-turned ends. There is an attachment hole near each corner. A rectangular panel in the field is deeply cast with a central foliate stem and a pair of bird-like, back-to-back creatures. The stem springs from a central trefoil bulb, from which also spring two side stems which bifurcate, the upper fronds ending in simple scrolls. The main stem ends in a calyx from which two fronds end in scrolls in each corner. Interlaced with the plant, the two creatures have their heads raised upwards: both have slits for mouths. Each has a body which curves round and ends in a lobed leaf, and a leg which ends in the corner of the design in the form of a divided acanthus leaf.

Inhabited plant-stems with addorsed creatures are found on copper-alloy strap-ends, censer covers and other objects, and also occur in bone.<sup>1</sup> Some can be dated to the first half of the 10th century: one of the finest examples is a strap-end from a mid 10th-century grave at the Old Minster, Winchester.<sup>2</sup> The series may have continued into the early 11th century.<sup>3</sup>

The object was presumably a mount of some kind. Its slightly everted ends would help it to stand securely on a flat surface, and would be inappropriate if it had been intended as an ornament to be sewn on to a leather belt or the edge of a scabbard. It might therefore have been nailed on to some sort of raised strip. There are no wear patterns to indicate usage. The only other 'open tubes' with attachment-holes of the approximate period seem to be a pair of decorated red-deer bone objects from Thetford, Norfolk, appropriately

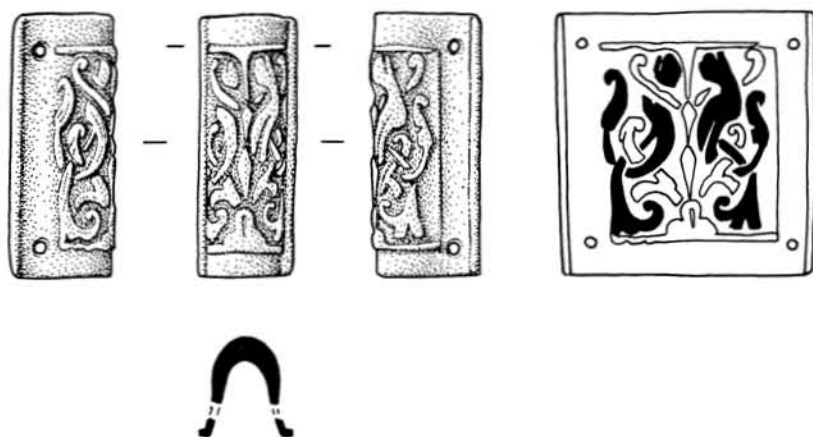


FIG. 4

'Winchester-style' mount. Scale 1:1