

## Ancient Meols.

### A Collection of Finds from the Cheshire Shore in Merseyside County Museums

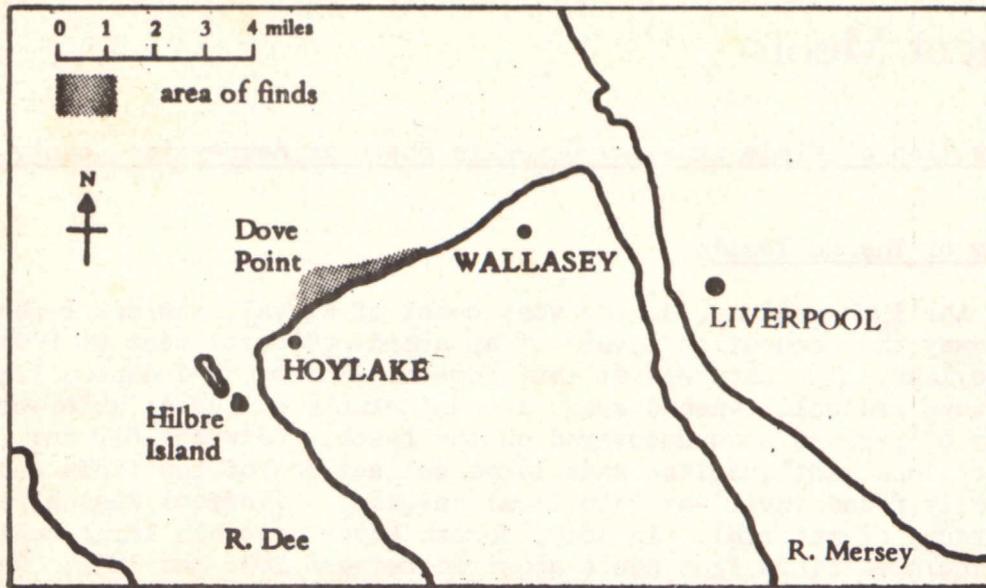
#### History of The Collection

During the 19th century, on the west coast of Wirral, the sea began to erode away the occupation levels of an abandoned settlement at Dove Point, near Hoylake. The site was at that time covered by sand dunes, but as these were gradually washed away, a considerable number of artefacts of a variety of periods were uncovered on the beach. Between 1817 and 1920 a group of local antiquarians made large collections of the finds and these eventually found their way into local museums. Liverpool Museum received four groups of material. In 1867, Joseph Mayer gave his large collection which included finds from Meols acquired between 1846 and 1859. Henry Ecroyd Smith's collection was offered for sale in 1874 for £200. The other two smaller groups were Charles Roeder's gift of 1901, which contained a few items from the Cheshire Shore, and the collection of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, given in 1914. Nothing identifiable has survived from the latter two collections and large sections of the two major collections also appear to have been lost as a result of the fire which destroyed the Museum in 1941. It is only recently that the objects have been recognised as part of the Mayer and Ecroyd Smith collections, as nearly all the objects lost their identifying numbers and some of the catalogues which would have enabled their re-identification were also destroyed. This work therefore owes a great deal to the 19th century publications of Rev. Abraham Hume and Henry Ecroyd Smith whose careful researches and full illustrations are frequently the only surviving record.

Other groups of material are in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester (Potter and Longueville Collections), in Warrington Museum and in the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead. Some small collections still remain in private hands.

This catalogue is arranged chronologically and it includes only the metal-work and coins which are dealt with separately. Ecroyd Smith's large collection of clay pipes is omitted as it is of sufficient importance to deserve a paper to itself.

We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Michael Dolley for his enthusiasm and advice on the Meols coins. Thanks are also due to Dr. G. Lloyd Morgan, Grosvenor Museum, Chester; Mr. A. Leigh, Warrington Museum and Mr. E. V. Forrest, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead, for their co-operation and help.



#### HISTORY OF THE SITE

The position of the deserted village at Meols was in the past a key site for trading down the Dee and Mersey estuaries and with Ireland. The Hoyle or High Lake, now much silted and very shallow in parts, was once an important deep water channel for the navigation of the sand banks along the coast. The objects discovered from the site show an almost continuous occupation of the area from prehistoric times onwards when the marshes, shallow water and sandy beaches would have provided a thinly wooded area, rich in wild life and suitable for clearance and settlement. Although there is no evidence of Roman occupation nearer than Hilbre Island, numerous coins and pieces of metalwork, but very little pottery, attest a population absorbing some influences from the Roman town at Chester and probably trading there. Sub-Roman metalwork (Bu'lock 1960, 3-5) confirms some continuity of activity on the site and the considerable proportion of middle and late Saxon objects amongst the Mayer and Potter Collections (Bu'lock 1960, 5-14) may be taken to indicate a settlement of some substance in the pre-conquest period.

The Hiberno-Norse elements in some of the Potter Collection metalwork (Bu'lock 1960, 14-20) would seem to indicate that the influences of Norse settlers was reaching Meols in the 9th and 10th centuries, probably from Ireland, as one might expect both from the position of the site and the historical evidence, (Wainwright 1975, 63-129). Despite the derivation of the place name Meols (from the Norse *melr* - sand dune), it seems unlikely that there was actually a Norse colony at Meols. The local population seems to have absorbed the changes with little noticeable disturbance, retaining its local character (eg. Cat. No. 13, - a ringheaded pin of Irish influence but of rather poor local manufacture.)

The prosperity of the village from this period into post-conquest times may be connected with the establishment of the shrine of St. Hildeburgha on Hilbre Island (Hildeburgheye). During the early medieval period Hilbre developed as a small pilgrimage centre of Our Lady of Hilbre, attested by a large number of pilgrims' badges and tokens from the site (Hume, 1863, Pl.27). There is evidence of widely dispersed contacts all over Mercia and beyond. The mints of the Saxon, Norman and medieval coins include York, Canterbury, Leicester, Winchester, London, Hereford and Dublin, and the pilgrim badges originate not only from the popular English pilgrimage centres but also from the continent (eg. from the Shrine of Our Lady of Roc Amadour, Aquitaine). The village at Meols undoubtedly benefited from the increased numbers of visitors to Hilbre. The gradual shift in the position of the settlement towards the Dee mouth, as indicated by the finds of the early medieval period, may have been stimulated either by the proximity of Hilbre and the flow of visitors and trade up and down the Dee, or by some environmental factor such as the shifting sand dunes. Then in the 14th century, at some period in the reigns of Edward II (1307) and Edward III (1327-1377), the coastal settlement appears to have been overwhelmed by the sea and sand. It has been suggested that the village was inundated during heavy storms, that it was suddenly depopulated by disease or that it was gradually abandoned in favour of a trading site nearer the Dee mouth. The quantity of finds; coins, jewellery, belt fittings, pins, leatherwork belts and shoes, wooden vessels and artefacts, seems to indicate a prosperous community suddenly abandoned rather than a gradual drift of population to another site. The number of coins drops suddenly, from Henry III (72 coins) and Edward I and II (70 coins) to Edward III (6 coins).

There are however, some curious anomalies in the nature of the material which are difficult to explain. There is a surprising lack of pottery of all periods. This may indicate a much greater use of wooden and leather vessels or that such pottery as was uncovered was not of interest to the 19th century collectors. This latter explanation is doubtful as some collectors do record finding sherds occasionally. Ecroyd Smith's catalogue includes 'eighty-one fragments of pottery, mostly medieval, two or three fragments of Roman red glazed ware and of 17th and 18th century English.' Unfortunately, this has been lost or destroyed. There is also a very large number of cross bow bolts of a type usually said to have been used in battle for perforating heavy armour rather than for hunting. Other examples of these bolts come from castles and defended medieval sites and it is difficult to explain their presence at Meols. The most characteristic finds from the site are small metal belt fittings; buckles, hasps, studs, fastenings and ornaments for leather belts or harnesses, of which several thousand have been discovered. It has been suggested that the source of many of these small pieces of personal ornament may be the burial place of the settlement. In support of this there is a report made in the first half of the 19th century that 'a graveyard had been found at low water of spring tides, at a considerable distance from the shore, where turf and timber were also found' (Hume, 1847,25), and also the finding of a thirteenth century grave slab in the embankment at Meols in 1920 (Cheshire Sheaf, March, 1920,23). Against this explanation, however, is an almost complete absence of human remains from the site, although animal bones have been recovered in large quantities.

There are few reliable accounts of the settlement structures uncovered at Meols. Although the precise area is not clearly stated, one report refers clearly to rectangular stake built buildings with wattle and daub walls, superimposed on circular huts of much earlier date, separated by some depth of stratification (Cox, 1894,43). More recently, there are verbal reports that before the last war it was still possible to see the stake outlines of rectangular structures protruding through the sand below high water mark. Part of the site may still be preserved beneath the sand banks behind the sea wall.

Short of excavation, the conclusions which have been drawn from the miscellaneous collections of finds from the site can only be tentative. Hume's original publication still remains the major work on the Meols village site and it is fitting to finish with his own words -

"In fine, here is a collection of which more than three thousand objects exist, such as contributed to almost every convenience and purpose of human life, and yet it embraces articles whose ages differ at least seventeen hundreds years. It is surely deserving of a careful examination and description..." (Hume, 1863,61).



Meols - The Submerged Forest in 1913.

THE METALWORK

The Catalogue is arranged chronologically. A description and the dimensions of each object are followed by published references and any comparable material. The final number is the Museum accession number, (eg. M4356: Mayer Collection; 18.11.74: Ecroyd Smith Collection). Where it has not proved possible to re-identify old numbers, a new running number has been assigned arbitrarily (eg. CS1).

The following abbreviations are used in the text of the catalogue. A full bibliography of the published references to the site will be found at the end of the article.

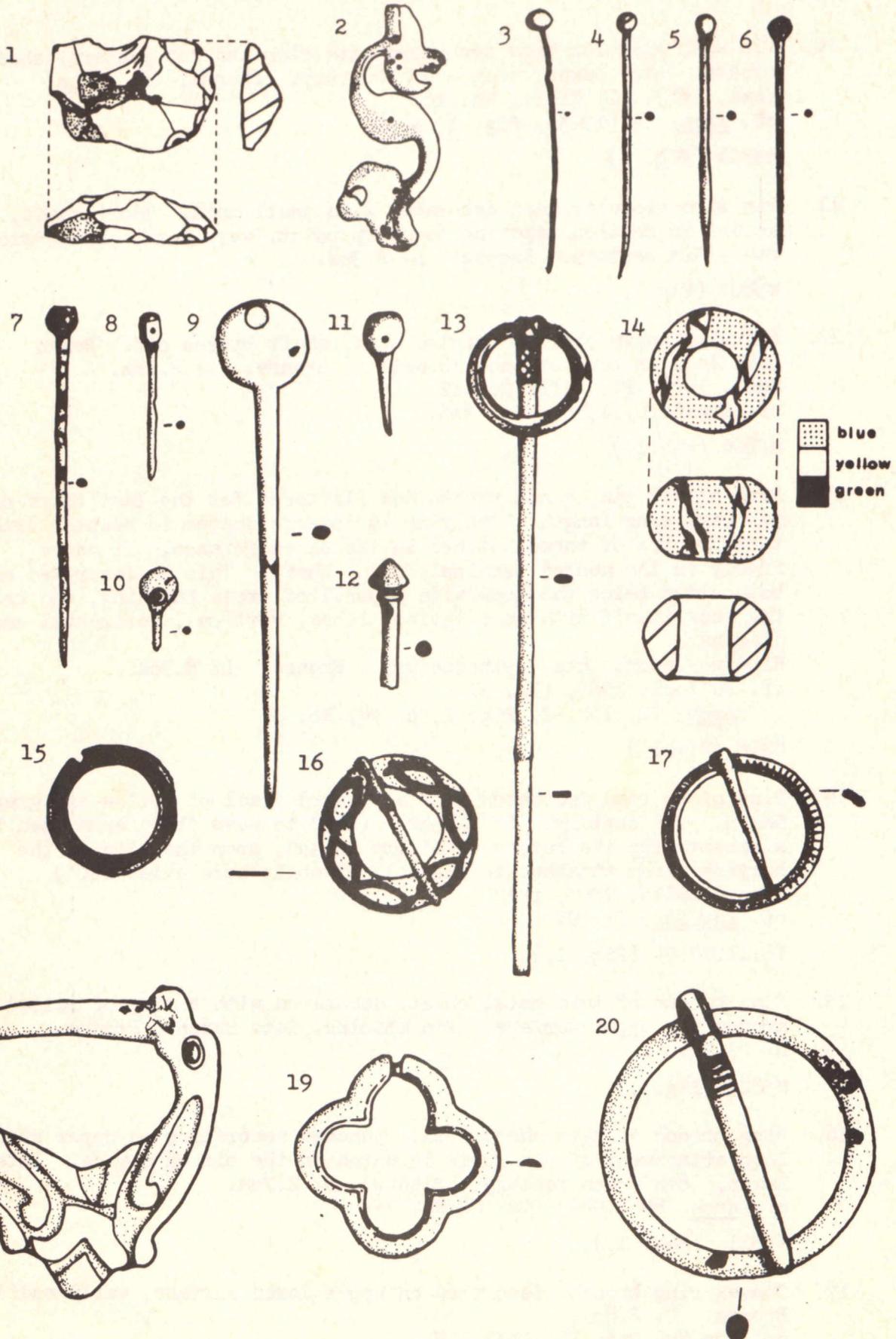
L. - Length      W. - Width      D. - Diameter      cm. - Centimetre

<u>Arch.</u>	<u>Archaeologia</u> : Society of Antiquaries of London, Proceedings.
<u>Arch.Camb.</u>	<u>Archaeologia Cambrensis</u> : Cambrian Archaeological Society, Transactions.
Bu'lock, 1960	J. D. Bu'lock, The Celtic, Saxon, and Scandinavian Settlement at Meols in Wirral. <u>Trans.Hist.Soc.Lancashire Cheshire</u> , 112(1960):1-28
"      1972	J. D. Bu'lock, <u>Pre-Conquest Cheshire: 383-1066 AD</u> . Cheshire Community Council. 1972.
Bushe-Fox, 1916	J. P. Bushe-Fox, <u>Third Report on the Excavations on the site of the Roman town at Wroxeter, Shropshire, 1914</u> . Society of Antiquaries. 1916.
Cunliffe, 1976	B. Cunliffe, <u>Excavations at Porchester Castle I, Roman</u> . Thames and Hudson. 1976.
Ecroyd Smith, 1865	Produce of the Cheshire Shore. <u>Trans.Hist.Soc. Lancashire Cheshire</u> , 18: 203-288.
Ecroyd Smith, 1866	Produce of the Cheshire Shore. <u>Trans.Hist.Soc. Lancashire Cheshire</u> , 19: 176-188.
Hume, 1862	A. Hume, <u>Metallic Ornaments and Attachments to Leather</u> . <u>Trans.Hist.Soc.Lancashire Cheshire</u> , 14:(1862) 129-166.
Hume, 1863	A. Hume, <u>Ancient Meols</u> , 1863.
<u>Inv.Sep.</u>	<u>Inventorium Sepulchrale</u> , Rev. Bryan Faussett, 1865.
<u>Lon.Mus.Cat.</u>	<u>Medieval Catalogue</u> , London Museum, 1940.
<u>Med.Arch.</u>	<u>Medieval Archaeology</u> : Journal for the Society for Medieval Archaeology.
<u>Oxon.</u>	<u>Oxoniensa</u> : Transactions of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society.
<u>Soc.Ant.Scot.</u>	<u>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</u>
<u>Trans.Hist.Soc.</u>	<u>Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire</u> .
<u>Lancs.Ches.</u>	
<u>Trans.Essex Arch. Soc.</u>	<u>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</u>
Wilson, 1964	D. Wilson, <u>Catalogue of the Antiquaries of the Later Saxon Period: I Anglo Saxon Ornamental Metalwork, 700-1100</u> . British Museum, 1964.
Wainwright, 1975	F. T. Wainwright (ed. H. Finberg). <u>Scandinavian England</u> .

THE CATALOGUE

1. Flint scraper. Mesolithic. 6000-3000 BC. L: 9cm. W: 1.8cm.  
Bought Woodruff Collection.  
42.17.287 (Fig.1.)
2. Dragonessque fibula, without pin, very corroded. Roman. 2nd Century.  
Bronze. L: 4.4cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. III No. 8.  
cf. Bushe-Fox, 1916, Pl. XVI No. 9.  
M5667 (Fig.1.)
3. Pin with wire shaft and glass head. Roman. Bronze. L: 4.45cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 3.  
cf. Oxon. XIV, Pl. II AI.  
M5798 (Fig.1.)
4. Pin with spherical head, grooved line around circumference. Roman.  
Bronze. L: 4.75cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 4  
M5800 (Fig.1.)
5. Pin, piriform head, shaft swells slightly before tapering to foot.  
Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 4.5cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 5.  
cf. Arch. 89 (1943) fig. 14.  
M5799 (Fig.1.)
6. Pin, slender shaft, decahedroidal head with small central depression  
in each face. Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 4.45cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 11.  
cf. Arch. 89 (1943) fig. 14 & 15.  
    Silchester (Reading Museum 03339)  
M5805 (Fig.1.)
7. Pin with polygonal head, small central depression in each face.  
Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 6.2cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 7.  
cf. Arch. 89 (1943) fig. 14.  
CS1 (Fig.1.)
8. Pin; head has four rectangular faces each with a small central  
depression, badly corroded, related to Nos 6 & 7. Late Saxon.  
Bronze. L: 2.9cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 8.  
M5803 (Fig.1.)
9. Large pin with disc like head, perforated off centre with a circular  
hole. Bronze. Late Saxon. L: 8.9cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. V fig. 11.  
Bu'lock, 1972, fig. 8e  
    " 1960, fig. 3e  
cf. Arch. 89 (1943) fig. 14.  
M5671 (Fig. 1.)

10. Pin with globular head decorated with ring and dot pattern, shaft broken. Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 1.6cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII, No. 10. cf. Arch. 89 (1943), fig. 13 & 14.  
M5804 (Fig. 1)
11. Pin with globular head decorated with small dots. Short shaft, square in section tapering to sharp point, very worn. Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 2.3cm.  
M5807 (Fig.1.)
12. Pin with heavy conical faceted head, shaft broken off. Roman parallels in bone but not in metal. Bronze. L: 2.2cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIII No. 12. cf. Cunliffe, 1976, fig. 116.  
M5806 (Fig.1.)
13. Ring headed pin, shaft broken and flattened for the last third of its remaining length. The ring is lozenge shaped in section with three groups of three notches in its circumference. It moves freely in the hooked terminal of the shaft. This is decorated on both sides below the hook with a panel of cross hatching, and on the hook itself with more incised lines, vertical, horizontal and diagonal. Hiberno-Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. L: 8.9cm. cf. Bu'lock, 1960, fig. 51  
Arch., 72, 1921-2, Fig. 2, p. 74, No. 5.  
CS18 (Fig.1.)
14. Blue glass bead decorated with a twisted trail of yellow and green. Saxon. 7th century. D: 2.25cm. (Said to have 'been excavated by a rabbit from its burrow on Hilbre Island, upon the site of the burying place attached to the cell of monks here existent.') Ecroyd Smith, 1865, p.120  
cf. Inv.Sep. Pl. OV  
18.11.74.74 (Fig. 1.)
15. Ring brooch of thin metal sheet, decorated with a ring of raised dots around the upper surface. Pin missing. Late Saxon? Bronze. D: 2.3cm.  
M5823 (Fig.1.)
16. Ring brooch of thin sheet metal, punched decoration on upper surface. Loop attachment of pin rests in notch in the circumference. Late Saxon. 8th - 9th century. Bronze. D: 2.7cm. cf. Arch. 89 (1943) fig. 12 No. 15.  
M5821 (Fig. 1.)
17. Convex ring brooch, decorated on upper domed surface, early medieval. Bronze. D: 2.8cm. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVII No. 5.  
M5829 (Fig.1.)

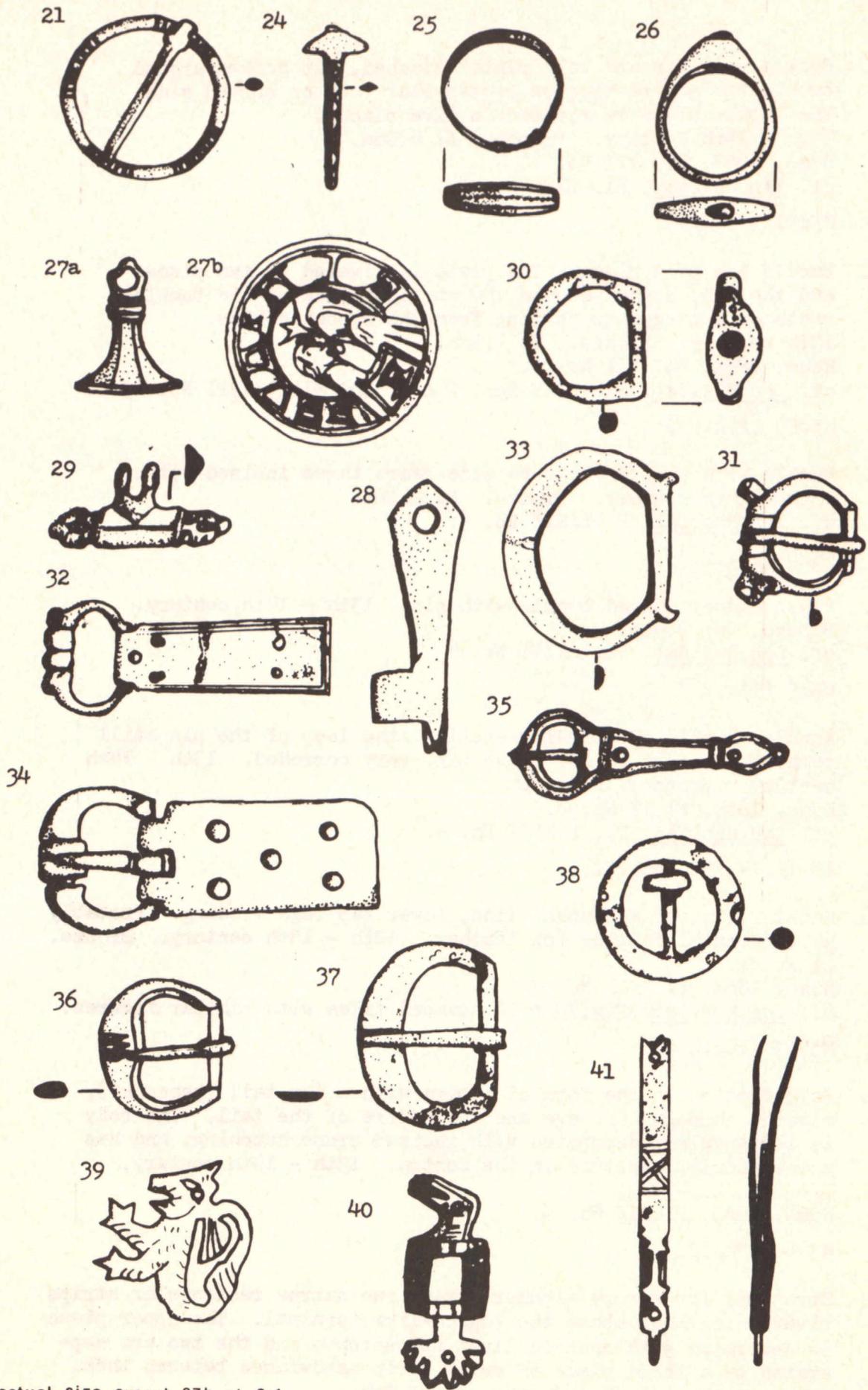


All actual size except 18 at 2:1

Fig. 1

18. Belt buckle with cast decoration in relief on one face. This takes the form of two birds biting either side of the buckle bar. 10th - 11th century. Bronze. L: 2.5cm. W: 2.55cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. VIII No. 5.  
Bu'lock, 1960, Fig. 7b.  
cf. Wilson, 1964, Pl. XXI No. 34.  
M5689 (Fig.1.)
19. Brooch in the form of a quatrefoil, pin missing. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 3.5cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. V No. 10.  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVIII No. 6.  
M5673 (Fig.1.)
20. Ring brooch or clasp, circular section, heavy pin attached by hook with a collar of five raised mouldings at the neck. 14th century. Bronze. D: 4.8cm.  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVII No. 1  
M5826 (Fig.1.)
21. Ring brooch, upper surface decorated with four groups of notches. Pin attached by hook with slight collar at neck. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.9cm.  
cf. Soc.Ant.Scot. 1924 Fig.1 p. 161, in silver.  
CS3 (Fig.2.)
22. Ring brooch similar to No. 21, slightly smaller and pin is broken. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.65cm.  
CS6 (Not illustrated)
23. Ring brooch similar to No. 21, smaller. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.05cm.  
CS4 (Not illustrated)
24. Pin from an annular brooch, projecting collar on neck and chevron decoration down shaft. 13th-14th century. Silver. L: 3.55cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. V No. 19.  
CS12 (Fig.2.)
25. Finger ring of sheet metal, terminals bound around each other with two twists. Decorated with a line of dots between two incised lines. Early medieval? Bronze. D: 2.15cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIV No. 8.  
M5787 (Fig.2.)
26. Stirrup ring, set with a garnet. 13th century. Bronze. D: 2.1cm.  
Ecroyd Smith, 1866, Fig. 9. plate opp.p.175.  
18.11.74.40 (Fig.2.)

27. Seal matrix, conical with faceted convex sides, pierced trefoil shaped handle. Matrix is inscribed AVE MARIA in Lombardic characters and depicts the presentation of the infant Christ in the temple. 13th century. Latten. H: 2.3cm. D: 1.8cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXVII No. 4.  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Fig.90 No. 3  
Med.Arch. 1974 XVIII 143, Fig, 48.  
M5706 (Fig.2.)
28. Plain key with perforated handle and solid rectangular ward, very crudely made. 14th century. Bronze. L: 4.8cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XIX No. 4.  
M5711 (Fig.2.)
29. Pendant hanger, terminals at either end are pierced for attachment to leather, and two pierced lugs projecting from the middle of the bar are for the suspension of an heraldic pendant. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 3.2cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXIX No. 12.  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. p.119.  
M5739 (Fig.2.)
30. Crudely fashioned ring of circular section with flattened bezel pierced centrally with a circular hole. Probably functioned as a buckle. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.3cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XXVIII No. 8.  
M5270 (Fig.2.)
31. Buckle, D-shaped, on the curved side it bears a triple moulding with 'ears' at either side, pin attached. Early medieval. Bronze.  
D: 2.1cm. x 1.95cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. VIII No. 10.  
cf. Arch.Camb. 15 (1915) Pl.8 p.62 (from Dyserth Castle)  
M5690 (Fig.2.)
- 31a. Buckle very similar to No. 31. Bronze. D: 1.95cm.  
CS23 (Not illustrated)
32. Small buckle with trapezoidal belt plate attached. Early medieval. Bronze. L: 5.05cm.  
CS5 (Fig.2.)
33. Plain D-shaped buckle with 'ears' at either end of the straight bar, no pin. 13th - 14th century. D: 3.6cm c 2.9cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl.VIII No. 2  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl.LXXVI No. 6  
M5687 (Fig.2.)



All actual size except 27b at 2:1

Fig. 2

34. Buckle with pin and belt plate attached, pin hooked around buckle bar and resting on rectangular boss on curved side. The buckle plate is riveted in five places. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 6.0cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. VII No. 1. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXV No. 6. M5691 (Fig.2.)
35. Buckle and belt plate. The plate is riveted in two places and the pin, hooked around the straight side of the buckle, rests on a tongue projecting from the opposite side. 13th century. Bronze. L: 4.9cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. VII No. 6. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXV Nos. 7 & 9, and Pl. LXXVII No. 15. M5694 (Fig.2.)
36. Buckle with pin, the curved side bears three incised cuts. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.5cm. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVI No. 4. CS20 (Fig.2.)
37. Plain kidney shaped buckle with pin. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. W: 3.4cm. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVI No. 4. CS19 (Fig.2.)
38. Annular buckle of circular section, the loop of the pin still remains attached to the cross bar, very corroded. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. D: 2.5cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. IV No. 8. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXVII No. 4. 18.11.74,102 (Fig.2.)
39. Metal figure of a rampant lion, lower two legs missing. Probably an ornamental fitting for leather. 12th - 13th century. Bronze. L: 2.7cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. XXII No. 24. cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Fig. 78 & 79 stamped tiles with similar figures. M5765 (Fig.2.)
40. Belt fitting in the form of a bird with a fan tail (peacock?), riveted through the eye and the centre of the tail. The body is rectangular, decorated with incised cross hatching, and has a rectangular aperture in the centre. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 4.0cm. Hume, 1863, Pl. XIX No. 9. M5780 (Fig.2.)
41. Strap end for a very slender strap; two narrow rectangular strips riveted together above the tongue-like terminal. The upper piece is decorated with incised lines and notches and the two are separated by a third piece of metal strip sandwiched between them. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 5.7cm. M5797 (Fig.2.)

42. Belt or strap chape; two pronged with an acorn terminal. 13th century. Bronze. L: 3.8cm.  
cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. Pl. LXXX No. 5  
Hume, 1862, 147.  
Inv.Sep.xxx  
CS14 (Fig.3.)
43. Trapezoidal strap end with cruciform terminal, riveted at that end and with a perforation for a rivet at the other. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 4.6cm.  
CS24 (Fig.3.)
44. Elongated rectangular belt or strap plate of doubled over metal. The open end is riveted together and the upper surface bears incised decoration of straight lines and lozenges. Early medieval. Bronze. L: 3.4cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl. XII No. 20.  
CS8 (Fig.3.)
45. Small rod with circular lugs at either end pierced. Probably a fitting for a leather-work belt. Early medieval. Bronze. L: 3.4cm.  
Hume, 1863, Fig. XII No. 11.  
cf. Inv.Sep. p.152 (a much finer example)  
CS2 (Fig.3.)
- 46.a,b,c,  
Three belt hasps, respectively five sided, trapezoidal and stirrup-shaped in form. 13th - 14th century. Bronze.  
L: a. 1.6cm. b. 1.2cm. c. 1.5cm.  
cf. Hume, 1863, Plate X No. 9.  
a) CS7 (Fig.3.)  
b) CS13 "  
c) CS15 "
- 47a. Belt hasp, stirrup-shaped with an acorn-like terminal on the curved sides and a tooth protruding from the straight bar. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 2.85cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl.X No. 14.  
CS10 (Fig.3.)
- 47b. Belt hasp similar to No. 47a but lacking the projecting tooth. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 2.3cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl.X No. 6.  
CS11 (Fig.3.)
48. Rectangular belt hasp with small ornamented boss on upper side and perforation in the opposite side. 13th - 14th century. Bronze.  
L: 2.4cm. x W: 1.9cm.  
Hume, 1863, Pl.X No. 10.  
CS9 (Fig.3.)

49. Rectangular belt fitting for reverse of a buckle, perforated in each internal angle. 13th - 14th century. Bronze. L: 2.4cm. cf. Hume, 1862, p.137, Pl. IV.

M5818 (Fig.3.)

50. Rivet with a nail like head. Bronze. L: 3.8cm. Hume, 1863, Pl.XIII No. 14.

M5808 (Not Illustrated)

51. Large hasp from a complex harness buckle, 14th century. Bronze. W: 4.1cm. cf. almost identical example from the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

CS17 (Fig.3.)

52. Large crudely made buckle, 13th - 14th century. L: 5.6cm.

CS16 (Fig.3.)

53. Forty-two crossbow bolts or quarrels, divided into types on the bases described below:

Type 1A: Slim, elongated, spear like form, lozenge shaped section. Greatest width of blade falls near to base. 13th century. Iron. L: 9-10cm. (4 examples).

cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. type i, fig. 16  
Trans.Essex Arch.Soc. n.s. XII, 1912, Pl.E,  
Nos. 1 & 2.

Type 1B: Squatter, more stubbly version of the same type, almond shaped. The greatest width falls about half way down the blade. 13th - 14th century. Iron. L: 7-8cm. (35 examples).

cf. Lon.Mus.Cat. type 9, fig.16 (best paralleled by bolts from the mass graves at Visby,Gotland.)

Type II: Square sectioned with pyramidal point. In general smaller in both length and width than Type I. 13th - 14th century. Iron. L: 6-7cm. (3 examples).

18.11.74.?. (Fig.3.)

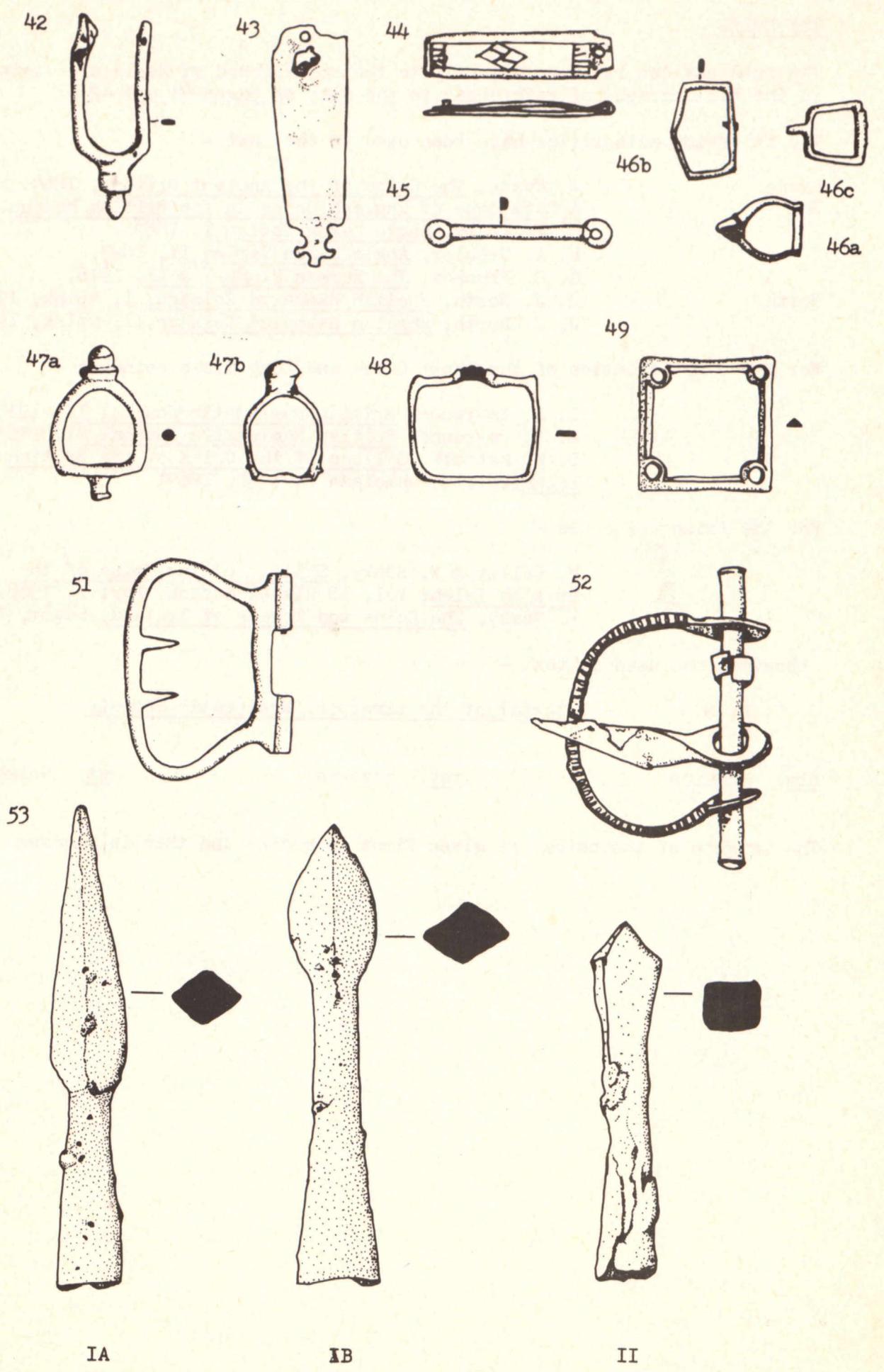


Fig. 3

THE COINS

The publications relating directly to the coins found at Meols are listed in the bibliography of references to the site on pages 41 and 42.

The following authorities have been used in the text -

Evans	J. Evans, <u>The Coins of the Ancient Britons</u> , 1864.
BMC	<u>A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum.</u>
	C. F. Keary, <u>Anglo Saxon Series I</u> , 1887.
	H. A. Greuber, <u>Anglo Saxon Series II</u> , 1893.
	G. C. Brookes, <u>The Norman Kings I &amp; II</u> , 1916.
North	J. J. North, <u>English Hammered Coinage</u> , I, Spink, 1963.
	J. J. North, <u>English Hammered Coinage</u> , II, Spink, 1960.

For the classification of the Short Cross and Long Cross coinages -

	L. A. Lawrence, <u>British Numismatic Journal IX</u> , 1913.
	L. A. Lawrence, <u>British Numismatic Journal XI</u> , 1915.
	D. M. Metcalf, <u>Sylloge of the Coins of the British Isles: Vol. 12 Ashmolean Part II</u> , 1969

For the Irish coins see -

	M. Dolley & W. Seaby, <u>Sylloge of the Coins of the British Isles: Vol. 10 Ulster Museum, Part I</u> , 1968.
	P. Seaby, <u>The Coins and Tokens of Ireland</u> , Seaby, 1970.

Abbreviations used in text -

J. L. N. S.	<u>Journal of the Liverpool Numismatic Society</u>
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<u>obv.</u> obverse	<u>rev.</u> reverse	<u>wt.</u> weight
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The weights of the coins are given first in grains and then in grammes.

THE CATALOGUECELTIC COINS

The designs used on Celtic coins are derived from Greek prototypes, the most popular being a gold stater of Philip II of Macedon (359 to 336 BC) which had a head of the Greek god Apollo wearing a laurel wreath on the obverse and a two horse chariot on the reverse. The representations of these designs on Celtic coins are often crude and disjointed.

55. Billon (base silver) stater of the Coriosolites, a tribe which inhabited Brittany and the Channel Islands, early 1st century BC. obv. head of Apollo, rev. horse, wt. 95.3/6.18  
cf. Evans l. pl.

M4069

56. As 55. wt. 95.7/6.20

M4070

For both see Hume 1863, p. 292.

It seems unlikely that these two coins could have reached the north west at or soon after their date of issue. They are, however, published by both Hume and Ecroyd Smith and described in the Museum's catalogue as being found at Meols, and so are included here.

ANGLO-SAXON COINS

Silver Sceatta Series 680 - 730 AD

The 'Standard' Series

The model for these coins was a common small bronze Roman coin of the 4th century AD which had on the reverse a military standard between two captives. The head on the obverse of the Roman coin was also copied. During the numerous types of the 'Standard' series, the copying gradually changes it from a recognisable head to a bird-like creature.

57. BMC type 4, North 45. obv. degraded bust resembling a porcupine, rev. standard containing symbols, wt. 17.0/1.10, die axis 90°, found in 1867.

Ecroyd Smith, 1867 p.107 pl.98

J.L.N.S. I p.19

Bu'lock, 1960, p.5

Dolley, 1961, p.197

18.11.74

58. BMC type 5, North 48. obv. bust even more degraded, rev. standard with symbols, wt. 6.8/0.44 chipped round edge, die axis 270°, found in 1865.

Ecroyd Smith, 1865, p.215, pl.p.207

J.L.N.S. I p.14

Bu'lock, 1960, p.5

Dolley, 1961

Copper Styca Series

The sceatta coinage continued in the north of England much longer than in other parts of the country. When it ended in about 790, it was replaced after a short gap by the copper styca series. The design on both sides is usually a cross surrounded on the obverse by the king's name and on the reverse by the moneyer's name.

59. Aethelred, King of Northumbria, first reign 841-844  
 moneyer: Fordred, wt. 21.0/1.36, die axis 90°  
 Hume, 1863, p.292  
 Bu'lock, 1960, p.7  
 Dolley, 1961, p.198  
 M4089
60. Redwulf, King of Northumbria, 844 AD  
 moneyer: ? Coenred, wt. 14.5/0.94, die axis 0°  
 Hume, 1863, p.292  
 Bu'lock, 1960, p.7  
 Dolley, 1961, p.198 18.11.74

Kings of All EnglandEadgar 959-975

61. 'Reform Portrait' type (BMC vi North 752)  
 obv. diademed bust to left; around, inscription between two circles  
 rev. small cross pattee; around inscription between two circles  
 mint: York (EFER) moneyer: ? unknown ( $\mathcal{A}$  ...)  
 wt. 12.8/0.83 cut in half, die axis 315°  
 18.11.74

No moneyer with the name beginning  $\mathcal{A}$  is recorded for York for this reign, but, in the following reign at York, the moneyers Aelfstan and Aethelwald are recorded.

Hume, 1863, p.292  
 Dolley, 1961, p.198

62. Uncertain, but possibly the centre from a 'Reform Portrait' type of Eadgar or from a coin of Eadward the Martyr 957-978  
 wt. 7.4/0.48  
 Hume 1863, p. 293 as head of Cnut  
 Dolley, 1961, p.200  
 M4090

Aethelred II 978-1016

63. 'First Hand' type (BMC iia North 766)  
 obv. diademed bust to right; around inscription between two circles  
 rev. Hand of Providence issuing from clouds, at sides A.W.; around, inscription between two circles.  
 mint: Shaftesbury (CAFT) moneyer; Aethestan  
 wt. 21.8/1.41, dia axis 270°

64. 'Crux' type (BMC iiii North 770)  
 obv. bare-headed bust to left with sceptre in front; around  
 inscription between two circles. rev. short cross, voided with  
 CRUX in angles; around, inscription between two circles.  
 mint; London (LV....) moneyer: ? Godric (....RIC)  
 wt. 12.4/0.80 cut in half, die axis 270°  
 Hume 1863, p. 292  
 Dolley, 1961, p.199  
 18.11.74
- Cnut 1016-1035
65. 'Pointed Helmet' type (BMC xiv North 787)  
 obv. bust left wearing point helmet, in front a sceptre; around,  
 inscription between two circles. rev. short cross voided, limbs  
 united at base by two circles, in centre a pellet; in each angle  
 a broken annulet enclosing a pellet; around, an inscription between  
 two circles.  
 mint: Chester (L.EICE:), moneyer: Gunleof  
 wt. 14.4/0.93, die axis 30°  
 Not this moneyer for this type in BMC  
 Hume 1863, p. 293 as Leicester & pl. XXVII, 16  
 Dolley, 1961, p. 199

66. 'Short Cross' type (BMC xvi North 790)  
 obv. bust left diademed with sceptre in front; around, inscription  
 divided by bust. rev. short cross voided; in centre a circle  
 enclosing a pellet; around, an inscription between two circles.  
 mint: Shrewsbury (SCRO), moneyer: Etsige  
 wt. 16.8/1.09, die axis 30°  
 Hume 1863, p. 293  
 Dolley, 1961, p.200

67. 'Short Cross' type as 65.  
 mint: Winchester (PIN), moneyer: Swileman  
 wt. 16.8/1.09, dia axis 195°  
 Hume 1863, p. 293  
 J.L.N.S. p. 10  
 Dolley 1961, p.200  
 18.11.74

Edward the Confessor

68. 'Pacx' type (BMC iv North 813)  
 obv. diademed bust to left with sceptre in front; around, inscription  
 divided by bust, outer circle. rev. long cross voided, each limb  
 ending in a crescent; in centre a circle enclosing a pellet; and in  
 angles PACX; around, inscription, outer circle.  
 mint; London (C V ....), moneyer: ? Legfric (...RIC)  
 wt. 7.3/0.47 cut in half, die axis 105°  
 Hume, 1863, p. 293  
 Dolley, 1961, p.200  
 18.11.74

THE NORMANSWilliam I 1066-1087

69. 'Paxs' type (BMC viii North 848)  
 obv. bust facing crowned and diademed, to right a sceptre; around,  
 an inscription divided by bust between two circles.  
 rev. cross pattee, in angles the letters PAKX each enclosed in a  
 circle; around, inscription between two circles.  
 mint: Winchester (PIN), moneyer: Spraelinc (SPRIELIN)  
 wt. 20.1/1.30, die axis 15°  
 This is probably the coin described on a Museum catalogue card as  
 STIFFEN ON PIN

THE PLANTAGENETSShort Cross Coinage 1180-1247

This issue started in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) and continued  
 with slight variation through those of Richard I (1189-1199), and  
 John (1199-1216), and partly through that of Henry III (1216-1272).  
 The title HENRICVS REX was used by all the kings. The coins are  
 divided chronologically into classes on grounds of style.

## Class 5 (1205-1210)

70. mint: Canterbury, moneyer: Samuel, wt. 21.9/1.42, die axis 330°

## Class 6 (1210-1217)

71. mint: London, moneyer: Rauf, wt. 16.31/1.06 die axis 90°  
 72. mint: uncertain, moneyer: Rauf, wt. 19.9/1.29, die axis 210°

The provenances of these three coins are taken from Museum records. It  
 is not known from which collection the coins come. The most likely  
 source is Ecroyd Smith's collection (18.11.74).  
 See Hume 1863, p. 293 & J.L.N.S. I & II.

Long Cross Coinage

This type of penny replaced the short cross type. It was introduced  
 during the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). The type, with the title  
 HENRICVS REX III, was also issued for the first years of the reign of  
 Edward I (1272-1307). The coins are divided chronologically into  
 classes on grounds of style.

Pennies

## Class 3 (1248-1250)

73. mint; Hereford, moneyer: Ricard, wt. 17.9/1.16, die axis 135°  
 M4111

## Class 5b (1251-1253)

74. mint: Canterbury, moneyer: Nicole, wt. 22.1/1.43 die axis 15°  
 ? M4108

Cut Halfpennies

## Class 3 (1248-1250)

75. mint: Hereford or Durham, moneyer: Ricard, wt: 8.4/0.54  
die axis: 225°  
M4120
76. mint: uncertain, moneyer: uncertain, wt: 8.1/0.52  
?M4102a
77. mint: uncertain, moneyer: ?Philip, wt: 9.7/0.63, die axis: 300°  
?M4103
78. mint: uncertain, moneyer: Willem, wt: 7.2/0.47, die axis: 90°  
?M4117

## Class 5 (1251-1253)

79. mint: ?London, moneyer: Henri, wt: 10.1/0.65, die axis: 315°  
?M4107
80. mint: London, moneyer: uncertain, wt: 8.8/0.57, die axis 75°  
?M4105

Cut farthings

81. wt: 4.3/0.28  
M4127
82. wt: 4.0/0.26  
M4127

In 1279 a new coinage was ordered. Denominations included round halfpennies and farthings. The basic designs varied little until the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509).

Edward I 1272-1307

## Class 2 (1280)

83. farthing wt: 6.1/0.40, die axis: 75°, mint: London  
M4156

## Class 3b (1280-1282)

84. halfpenny wt: 9.8/0.64, die axis: 330°, mint: London  
M4154

## Class 4 (1282-1283)

85. halfpenny wt: 9.1/0.59, die axis: 270°, mint: London  
M4153

## Class 10b (1302-1310)

86. penny wt: 19.9/1.29, die axis: 75°, mint: London

## Class 10f (1302-1310)

87. penny wt: 19.3/1.25, die axis: 135°, mint: London

Edward II 1307-1327

## Class 15

88. penny wt: 19.4/1.26, die axis: 330°, mint: Canterbury

89. penny wt: 19.6/1.27, die axis: 60°, mint: London

IRELANDJohn as King of England and Lord of Ireland 1199-1215Coinage of 1205-1210

90. penny wt: 21.0/1.36, mint: Dublin, moneyer: Roberd  
M4099

91. halfpenny wt: 16.3/1.06, mint: Dublin, moneyer: Roberd  
M4101

92. penny wt: 21.6/1.40, mint: Limerick, moneyer: Willem  
M4100

Edward I as King of England and Lord of Ireland 1272-1307

## Group 1c (1279-1284)

93. penny wt: 18.5/1.20, mint: Dublin  
M4157

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