

A Medieval Curry-Comb from Rickinghall Superior. The curry-comb illustrated in Fig. 29 was found by Mr. Basil Brown in September 1962, and is published by his kind permission.

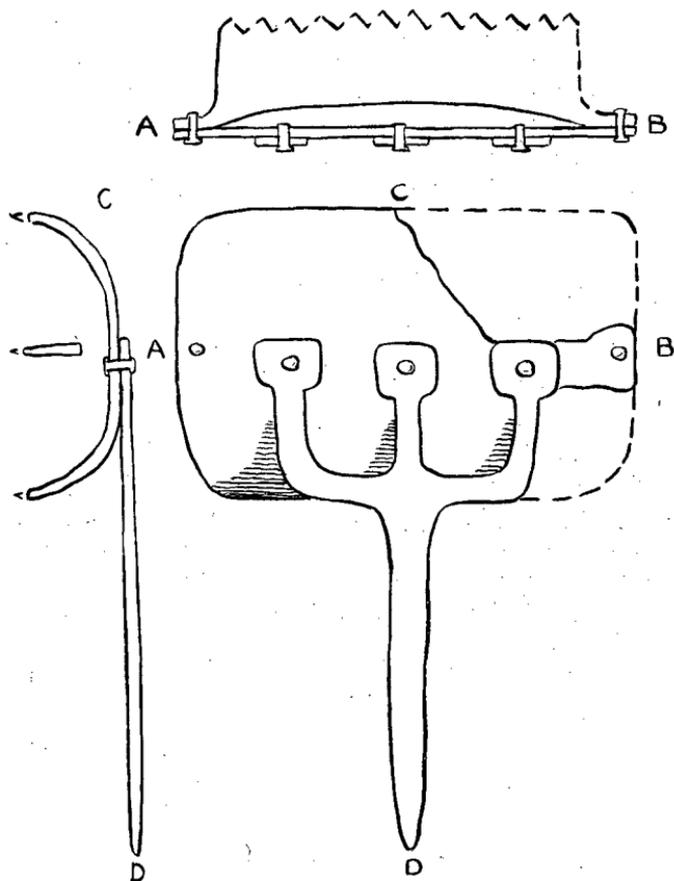


FIG. 29.—Curry-Comb from Rickinghall Superior.

It consists of an iron three-pronged fork rivetted to a curved iron plate, the edges of which would have been serrated. A second plate is rivetted in the centre making three scraping edges. The iron tang would have been inserted in a handle of some kind. It was found during excavations in the grounds of Falcon's Hall, Rickinghall Superior, near Diss. Falcon's Hall, the home of Mr. P. Barker, is a moated site, which has been occupied from at least as early as the late 11th or early 12th century until the present day.

The comb is of interest as being similar to a less developed specimen, equipped with only one scraping edge, found in one of the Black Prince's manors at The Mount, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, (*Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XVI, Part 3 (1957-58), 161 and Fig. 12.5) and there dated to the middle of the 14th century. A number of examples have been found in 13th century associations on the Continent, references to which are given in the above mentioned publication.

The Falcon's Hall specimen may date from the 14th/15th century. There was no closely associated pottery.

G. M. KNOCKER.

P.S. Since this note was written Mr. Basil Brown has reported (Dec. 1962) the finding at the same spot of a serrated central plate from another curry-comb.

Sherds of a Belgic Vessel from Westhall. Two sherds were found in September 1959, near the Mill House at Westhall (TM/40928161), and were identified by Mr. K. S. Painter of the British Museum as fragments from a lathe-turned jar or tazza of shale, of Iron Age 'C' date (50 B.C.-A.D. 50).

R. R. Clarke¹ in his account of the Westhall hoard of horse-trappings (TM/396804 approx.), notes the Belgic influence in the disc-brooch and in the enamel work, which he considers to date from the second third of the 1st century A.D., the 'degenerate Celticism' of its ornament showing Roman influence. It seems probable therefore that these sherds are associated with the same occupation and may be imports from the more southerly Belgic area, although in a later appraisal² Clarke reviews the evidence for the presence of Belgic overlords in Breckland, not a far cry from Westhall. The spread of Belgic settlers into East Suffolk is now known to extend further than was formerly suspected; there was a large farmstead at Burgh near Woodbridge and pottery of Belgic and Claudian date has recently been found at Chediston.

The two sherds have a common fracture and form part of the wall, just extending to the return, of a jar or similar vessel (Fig. 30). The upper edge of the larger sherd is grooved to take the tongue of the next section. The fragments are too small to determine whether the very slight and thin return represents the remains of a base, or whether the upper section of a tazza is in question. For the purpose of illustration, therefore, this question is left undetermined.

¹ R. R. Clarke, 'The Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk', *Arch. Journ.*, xcvi (1940), pp. 68-71.

² R. R. Clarke, 'East Anglia', *Ancient Peoples and Places* (1960), p. 108.