

heraldry in the church, the Rector, the Revd. W. Philpot, has agreed to exhibit them again in the church together with the above-mentioned pedigree.

T. M. FELGATE

*The Fornham Sword.* This 12th century iron sword (Fig. 23)<sup>1</sup> was found in 1933 in mud at the bottom of a ditch in Fornham Park (Fornham St. Genevieve), the site of the battle of Fornham in 1173 at which the King's men defeated the Earl of Leicester.<sup>2</sup> Its overall length is 3 ft. 5 ins. The blade is 3 ft. long and is broken 11 ins. from the tip. On each side of the blade is a groove with letters of an inscription inlaid in silver equally spaced along it. On one side is I- I NOMINE DOM . . ., presumably 'In Nomine Domini', with a design towards the tip of the Hand of Providence. On the reverse the inscription reads: +SES BENEDICTVS, the last three letters being upside down. The first three letters, with the elongated cross bar of the E, are a standard abbreviation for 'Sanctus'.

The sword was placed on loan to Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds, by the present owner, Mr. John Macrae, in 1966.

A. R. EDWARDSON, F.S.A.

*A sixth gold torc from Ipswich.* On 18 October 1970 Mr. Peter Gorham found an Iron Age gold torc at a depth of 4 ins. in his garden at 50 Holcombe Crescent, Ipswich (TM/13744273) (Plate XI). Two years ago Mr. Malcolm Tricker had found a hoard of five torcs about 200 ft. away when the flank of a hill was being removed by bulldozer to provide level ground for the houses on the west side of the Crescent.<sup>1</sup> Part of the earth thus removed was piled up nearby and later spread thinly over the gardens of nos. 46 to 52; any of these may produce a torc when they are dug over in the spring of 1971.

The torcs found in 1968 were very similar in style; all had hoops consisting of two octangular bars and loop terminals, one faceted the others bearing curvilinear decoration. In contrast the hoop of the latest find is made up of two pairs of bars, though these also are octangular. The terminals are in the form of rings composed of

<sup>1</sup> Cf. London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue* (1967), p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> See *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxv (1950), p. 134.

<sup>1</sup> J. W. Brailsford, 'A hoard of Early Iron Age Torcs from Ipswich', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxxi (1968), pp. 158-9 and Elizabeth Owles, 'The Ipswich Gold Torcs', *Antiquity*, XLIII (1969), pp. 208-11.

three bars with a fourth inside. The bars are divided by a notched fillet and a similar fillet borders the inner bar, but only on the side which shows when the torc is worn. Between hoop and terminals there is a collar decorated with an oblique slashing arranged herring-bone fashion reminiscent of that on the terminals of torcs 4 and 5 in the 1968 hoard.

Although in appearance the latest find resembles the torc from Ulceby (Lincs.)<sup>2</sup> and Glascote (Staffs.)<sup>3</sup> more closely than the previous Ipswich torcs, the circumstances of the discovery leave little doubt that it was part of the same hoard and probably a product of the same workshop. It may have been buried with the other five and removed by the bulldozer before Mr. Tricker passed the site, or it may have been a different deposit, perhaps a different order or the work of an apprentice. This theory would be strengthened if another torc of similar style were to be discovered in one of the neighbouring gardens. However this hope is probably unwarranted. Already Ipswich has provided the richest Iron Age hoard yet found in England just as in the Mildenhall and Sutton Hoo treasures Suffolk has produced the most spectacular finds of the Roman and Saxon periods.

At an inquest held at Ipswich on 4 February 1971 the torc was declared Treasure Trove and acquired by the British Museum. An *ex gratia* payment of £8,500 was made to the finder.

ELIZABETH OWLES, B.A., F.S.A.

*A Carving on the Porch at Badingham Church.* On the slope or weathering of the south-east buttress of the 15th century south porch<sup>1</sup> at Badingham Church is a carving which looks like a dog (and, indeed, Munro Cautley called it 'a couched hound'<sup>2</sup>) playing with a circular object (Plate XII, a), but if this is a correct description, what was its purpose? It could be described as a purely domestic scene, but is it not much more likely to depict the legend of the Tiger and Mirror? This legend can be traced back to Pliny's 'Natural History' (Bk. VIII, ch. 25) and it found its way into some of the medieval bestiaries where it was given a religious implication. One such is a 13th century bestiary in the British Museum where

<sup>2</sup> Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. See E. T. Leeds, 'Torcs of the Early Iron Age in Britain', *Ant. Jour.*, XIII (1933), p. 466.

<sup>3</sup> Birmingham City Museum. K. S. Painter, 'An Iron Age gold-alloy torc from Glascote, Tamworth, Staffordshire', *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society*, XI (1969), pp. 1-6.

<sup>1</sup> V. B. Redstone dated the porch 1482, but did not give his documentary evidence (*Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, X (1900), p. 388).

<sup>2</sup> *Suffolk Churches and Their Treasures* (1937), p. 220.