

than more directly to the Mosan tradition. The Rattlesden St. John therefore is the earliest of the surviving small bronzes from a Crucifixion group and it strongly suggests that this type of composition was created as early as about 1180. It was to enjoy a considerable popularity as altar decoration throughout the middle ages and even into the post-medieval period.¹²

P. E. LASKO

Two Gold Bracelets from Nowton, Bury St. Edmunds. The two gold penannular bracelets (Plate xxxi) which form the subject of this note were discovered by Mr. Terrence Olds while working in a sewer trench situated between the last house on the south side of

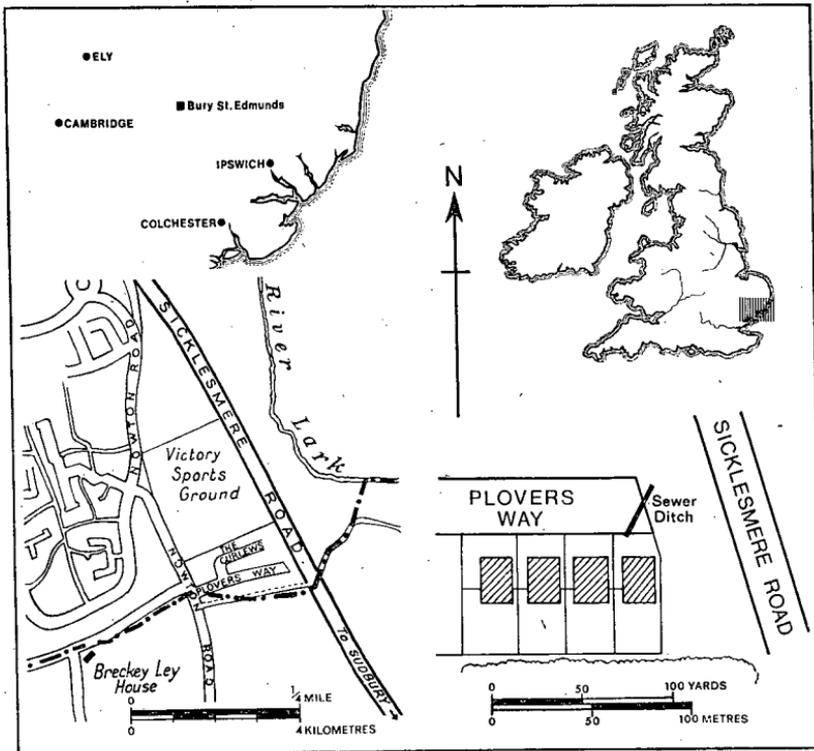


FIG. 50.—Maps showing find-spot of gold bracelets.

Plovers Way and Sicklesmere Road in the district of Nowton, Bury St. Edmunds at NGR TL/866625 (Fig. 50). They were found

¹² J. Braun, *Das Christliche Altargerät*, Munich, 1932.

in undisturbed soil derived from within 2 ft. of the modern land surface. The discovery was made probably in the summer of 1970 but not realizing the nature of the objects he had found, Mr. Olds kept the bracelets on a shelf in his home until late in 1972. It was only when the bracelets were shown to the Curator of Moyse's Hall Museum, Mr. Rowley Edwardson, F.S.A. that the true significance of the discovery was recognized. At an inquest held in Bury St. Edmunds on 6 March 1973 the bracelets were declared Treasure Trove and being of outstanding archaeological interest were acquired for the National Collection and are now in the British Museum (Reg. No. P. 1973, 3-1, 1 and 2).

The bracelets form a matching pair varying only slightly in size and weight and are made of gold of a high fineness (98%) with a little silver and copper and traces of silicon, magnesium and calcium. Both are undecorated and of oval penannular form, the hoops of approximately round section expanding slightly towards the terminals, each of which is of a simple, roughly spherical knobbed form.

Bracelet A has a maximum width across the hoop of 7.95 cm, a maximum rod thickness of 0.4 cm and weighs 55.28 gm. Bracelet B measures 7.9 cm across the hoop, has a maximum rod thickness of 0.3 cm and weighs 64.26 gm. Bracelet B carries a slight groove behind each terminal and there is a slight fracture in the hoop.

Knobbed terminals of this particular form have not previously been found in British Bronze Age gold work, but the general shape of the bracelets is close to the plain bracelets represented in the goldsmith's hoard from Towednack, Cornwall (*Man* xxxii (1932) p.222 pl. H, 3 and 4). The Towednack hoard can be dated to the Bishopsland phase (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.* xxx (1964) pp. 272ff.) of the Irish Bronze Age by the presence of twisted bar torcs. A date perhaps within the bracket 1200-900 B.C. might therefore be suggested for the Nowton bracelets.

I should like to thank Mr. Rowley Edwardson for first bringing this find to my attention and for much help and information concerning its discovery; Dr. A. E. A. Werner and his staff for kindly examining the bracelets in the British Museum Research Laboratory and providing an analysis of their metal content, and Mr. P. C. Compton for kindly drawing the location map, Fig. 50.

I. H. LONGWORTH

A Roman Road at Saxtead.—Practically all archaeological sites on arable land are rapidly being destroyed by modern methods of agriculture. Most of the stretches of Roman road visible as raised *aggers* or stony streaks in the plough soil in 1955, when Ivan Margary wrote his *Roman Roads in Britain*, are now, at best, recognisable only