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ANGLO-SAXON RELICS FROM WEST STOW HEATH.

[READ MARCH 25TH, 1852.]

AT the meeting of the Institute at Icklingham, in June last, I had the honour to direct attention to an interesting collection of weapons and personal ornaments of the Anglo-Saxon period, found on the heath in the neighbouring parish of West Stow, and exhibited by Mr. John Gwilt. Another collection of similar objects, from the same spot, was shewn by the Rev. S. Banks, at Mildenhall, on the same day. Since then, the attention of the Rev. E. R. Benyon, the proprietor of the heath, has been, for the first time, called to the interesting character of the excavations ; and that gentleman has in the most handsome manner presented to the Institute the many curious relics which are now on the table.

Stow-heath, where these remains have been found, is a large tract of heath land on the north side of the valley of the Lark, in the parish of West Stow, on the borders of the parishes of Lackford and Icklingham. It consists of gravel or sand, slightly covered with vegetable mould. The discoveries have been made by the removal of the soil to procure gravel for ballasting barges, &c. The men have been at work for several years, and the extent of land turned over is estimated at about two acres. The

remains shew it to have been a burial-place of the Anglo-Saxons. The site of the graves, the intervals of which vary from two or three feet to as many yards, which was the most general distance, were indicated by a dark streak in the gravel or sand. The men worked in a trench, running north and south, and the skeletons, about 100 in number, were found lying nearly in the same direction*, *i. e.*, with the heads to the south-west and the feet to the north-east; a position observable at other burial-places of the same people. The bodies were interred just within the gravel, which is only 15 to 18 inches below the surface. With the skeletons were found urns, beads, brooches, spear blades, &c. The situations of the various articles cannot be described, for the excavations, unfortunately, have not been witnessed by any one competent to make a careful investigation; but, from all that can be gathered from the workmen, there is no reason to think that the customs observable at these interments have been different from those practised in other burial-places of the same people, in this and in foreign countries.

Three modes of sepulture appear to have prevailed at West Stow-heath :—

1. That of burning the body, and placing the ashes in an urn.
2. That of burying the body entire, without a coffin or cist, but with the garments, weapons, and ornaments of the deceased.
3. That of burial in coffins.

The two former appear to have prevailed contemporaneously, as at Marston Hill, in Northamptonshire; but it would appear, from the small number of urns containing ashes, that the practice of cremation was on the decline.†

The presence of Saxon urns in graves which contained skeletons may indicate the partial adoption of usages which

* In one spot, about 12 or 14 feet from east to west, and 18 or 20 feet from north to south, several skeletons were found lying in all directions. Nothing was found with them but one small knife.

† “ Tacitus speaks of burning the dead as a common practice with the ancient

Germans; and in the early Anglo or Anglo-Saxon poem of Beowulf the corpse of the hero of the poem is stated to have been burnt, and a barrow to have been made upon the funeral pile.”—*Coll. Antiqua*, ii., 230.

custom had stamped as sacred, after those usages had become superseded by others of a totally different character; but it is clear, from discoveries at Derby,* and at Selzen on the Rhine, where a cemetery was found containing many Saxon or Frankish remains,† that the Saxons resorted to places previously used by the Roman people. No objects, besides a few coins, clearly attributable to the Romans, have been found at Stow-heath, but Mr. Gwilt's collection has a brooch combining the form of the Roman fibula with the ornaments of the Saxon period; and Mr. Roach Smith, referring to the graves at Barrow Furlong, in Northamptonshire,‡ suggests that the cinerary urns may shew an intermixture of the Romano-British population with the Anglo-Saxons.

“This perhaps (he writes) is the most satisfactory and rational explanation that can be given to account for the objects of Roman manufacture in Saxon graves, and for the juxta-position of graves denoting the two different modes of sepulture. In support of this opinion I would particularly direct attention to the workmanship and ornamentation of the urns discovered in Saxon burial-places. Whatever may be their shape or their pattern, they are unlike all those which we may safely term Roman; they bear, in short, the imprint of a late period, a peculiar character which an examination of a few authenticated examples would better convey a notion of than any written description, however circumstantial and minute. From the unornamented, ruder kind of urns, such as those now before us, the archæologist will perceive that it is necessary to pause before he assigns such works to a remote antiquity on account of their rough fabrication, which may as often be indicative of the decline as of the infancy of the art.”

Over what period of time the interments at Stow-heath extended it is not easy to determine, for history is almost silent as to the condition of our island from the third century to the conversion of the Saxons to Christianity; but it is probable that they extended from the fifth to the seventh centuries. Mr. Roach Smith adds:—

“The advent of Jutes, Angles, and the other kindred tribes commonly known by the general term Saxons, to Britain, and the irruption of the peoples north of the Rhine, called Franks, into Gaul, come entirely within the times of paganism, and it is to its influence we of

* Journal of British Archæol. Assn.,
Vol. ii., p. 60.

† Coll. Antiqua ii. 215.
‡ Archæologia, xxxiii., 328.

the present day are enabled from their graves to collect some facts which throw a light on their habits and customs, and give a considerable insight into the state of the arts, such as can be gained from no other source of inquiry. In the contents of these graves and their arrangement a close adherence to the Roman practices may be noticed; so much alike are they in many instances that they have frequently been ascribed to that people, and, for less weighty reasons, as frequently to the Celts. In the ornaments, in the weapons, in the urns, and other objects regarded as artistic productions, we can but recognize the result of no mean or contemptible taste and skill. In nearly all of them there may be detected an imitation of Roman types, combined with peculiarities which give the impress of a nationality in design and workmanship. When Christianity became established, the hills and fields were no longer resorted to for burial-places; the dead were interred in churchyards, and the custom of burying weapons, ornaments, and utensils with the dead was gradually abandoned*.

I will now proceed to offer some description of the various objects presented by Mr. Benyon; making occasional reference to other relics from the same site, as well as to some from distant localities which appear to aid in elucidating them.

Urns.—The urns, five in number, are all of unburnt earth, and of considerable substance. No. 1, in form resembling those of Roman manufacture, was full of burnt ashes of bones and wood. It was found in a round hole at the head of a grave, and had pieces of charcoal about it, but there was no charcoal or bones in any other part of the grave. It fell down with the loosened soil before it was seen, and became much broken. The workmen carefully gathered up all the fragments, which have been united to it; but it is still imperfect. As such urns are but seldom met with in an entire state, it is probable that they may have sustained some injury during the ceremony of cremation; being manufactured on the spot, and dried by the fire of the funeral pile. Several cinerary urns have been found at Stow-heath. Nothing was found in either of the other vessels. Nos. 4 and 5 are drinking cups. No. 4, 3 inches in height and 3 inches in diameter, and of a blacker earth than the rest, is ornamented by angular indentations; and No. 5 has projecting knobs or bosses, formed by the pressure of the finger on the inside, when in

* Coll. Antiqua, ii., 203.

a soft state. Urns with similar knobs have been taken from Celtic barrows, and from the Saxon graves at Derby.

Stone Coffin.—The stone coffin is believed to be the only one that has been found in a Saxon burial place in this kingdom. It is hewn out of a solid block of Barnack or Northamptonshire stone; is five feet eight inches in length, and lidless. It was partially embedded in the gravel, and when found was only about fifteen inches under the surface. A few bones, of a small size, probably those of a youth or a female, with the half of a small bronze clasp and one or two pieces of iron, were within it. By the left side of it were a spear blade and a boss, but whether they were deposited with the coffin or belonged to another skeleton is uncertain, as other bones were near to them. The coffin bears a close resemblance to one found by Monsieur E. Lambert in a Romano-Frankish sepulchre at Bayeux.*

Umbones or Bosses of Shields.—There are three umbones or bosses of shields, in excellent preservation, with iron rivets and fragments of wood attached. The Saxon shield was of wood, circular or oval, and convex, with a rim of iron and an iron boss usually terminating in a button, in the centre. It was ordinarily plain, but sometimes it was gilt, painted in circles, or ornamented with rows of star-shaped studs. The conical boss is unusual. It resembles the bosses of the shield borne by an Anglo-Saxon king and his armour-bearer, in a MS. of the 10th century, in the British Museum (Claudius B-4), which has been engraved by Strutt, by Fosbroke, and by Planché.

Sword.—The sword is the only one that has yet been found at Stow-heath.† The Anglo-Saxon sword was of iron, long, broad, strait, two-edged, and rather obtusely pointed. The handle, set in wood, was frequently without a guard. It was only worn by warriors, and was carried in a scabbard made of wood, or lined with wood. The one before us is three feet long and an inch and a half broad, and has fragments of wood adhering to it. Swords of the same form, but varying in length, are found in all Saxon burial-places,

* Coll. Antiqua, ii. 215.

† In the same grave were a boss of a shield, a spear-head, fragments of two

coffers or pails, two elongated fibulæ, two clasps, two flat rings, and some beads.

and in them only. One found in Kent, was exhibited at the Clare meeting by Mr. Boreham, and is engraved in the second part of the Institute's "Proceedings." One, with its scabbard of wood, has been found in a tumulus in Wiltshire.

Spears.—The spear, lance, or javelin, was not only a weapon of war, but the constant companion of the Saxon. He was never without it. In the pursuit of his ordinary vocation, and in his walks and amusements, it was in his hand or near to him. It varied in shape and in length, and sometimes, we are told, was barbed; but no instance of a barbed spear has been met with at West Stow, or it is believed anywhere else. They were placed on the top of shafts of ash, and had sharp-pointed ferules at the ends for the convenience of being stuck into the ground when not wanted. The spear-shaft was so usually made of ash that, according to Ducange, woods were planted with that tree on purpose to furnish staves for spears. In the old Anglo-Saxon poetry the word *æsc*, ash, was constantly used as synonymous with spear. In *Beowulf* a spear warrior is called *æsc-wiga*; in *Cædmon*, the term *æsc-berend*, or spear-carrier, is applied to a soldier; and in the *Codex Exoniensis*, a field of battle is called *æsc-stede*, the place of ash spears.* Fragments of the wooden shafts are discernible in the handles and ferules of some of the specimens presented by Mr. Benyon.

Arrow Head.—There is one example of an arrow head of iron in Mr. Benyon's collection, and another from the same place is in Mr. Warren's possession. The use of the bow had been much neglected, if not totally discontinued, in England during the Saxon era.† Only one arrow head of iron was found in the Saxon graves at Barrow Furlong, in Northamptonshire.

Knives.—Knives nearly uniformly of one shape, but not of one size, appear to have been worn by every Saxon, male or female, and to have been buried with the wearer. They were stuck into wooden handles, carried in sheaths of the

* Journal of Brit. Arch. Assn., iii., 239.

† That the Anglo-Saxons held the bow in contempt, or considered it the missile engine of the the robber, seems evident, says Mr. Akerman, from some Anglo-

Saxon verses quoted from the Exeter Book, as well as from the fact of there being no archers in the army that opposed the Normans at Hastings.—*Proc. Soc. Antiq.* ii. 169.

same material, and attached by buckles to the girdles. The specimens on the table include some of a size very much smaller than those generally met with. One of the more usual size, being nine or ten inches in length, is in Mr. Warren's collection.

Coffer, or Box.—Fragments of two small vessels, formed of staves of wood and bound with bands of bronze, have been found. They both appear to have been four inches in height, and the staves to have been kept together by three circlets of thin bronze, which are themselves held in their places by upright pieces of the same metal, placed at equal distances and ornamented at the top by pieces of thicker metal, in the favourite bi-cornuted form, well rivetted together and overlapping the upper edge. Vessels of a corresponding make and form, but with different ornamentation, and varying in height from four to eight inches, have been found at Bourne Park and at Northfleet, in Kent;* at Marlborough and on Roundway Down, near Devizes, in Wiltshire; and at Little Wilbraham, in Cambridgeshire. The one found at Wilbraham, and exhibited by Mr. Deck at the Newmarket meeting of this Institute, has since been presented by that gentleman to the British Museum. The use of this vessel is not yet well ascertained. From the situation in which this relic was found, being close to the head of a skeleton, Mr. Deck regarded it "as a head-piece or kind of crown, intended as a mark of honour to the illustrious dead." By others, it is designated as a kind of *situla* or bucket; † but, from the smallness of those presented by Mr. Benyon, I would venture to suggest that they may have been used as coffers for holding the ornaments or utensils to which the deceased was attached. ‡ A small bronze coffer or box made of two thin plates of bronze riveted together

* Engraved in the Journal of the British Archæol. Association, iii., 237.

† Mr. Wright, in his History of "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon," suggests that they served at the deep potations in which the Anglo-Saxons indulged; and that the larger specimens may be the "wondrous vats," mentioned in Beowulf, "from which the cup-bearers dispersed the wine."

‡ "The pagan Saxons were accustomed

to inter with their dead not only weapons, personal ornaments, and drinking cups, but also a variety of objects which in some way or other had been associated with the deceased when living, precisely after the manner of the Romans before them. Small metal boxes, containing articles of the toilet, have been found in graves of females both in England and Germany."—*Coll. Antiqua*, ii., 159.

and bound round at the lower part with a narrow band of the same metal, with a ring on one side for suspension to the girdle, found in a Saxon grave at Strood, in Kent, has been engraved by Mr. Roach Smith, in vol. ii. of his "Collectanea Antiqua." It is remarkable in being covered with designs of Christian subjects. An earthen vessel, discovered at the feet of a skeleton in a grave, at Selzen on the Rhine, contained a comb, some beads, a pair of shears, flints and steel, a bronze ring, and other objects. And one, dug up at Newark, contained, with calcined human remains, a pair of tweezers of bronze, a pair of shears in iron, and part of a bone comb.

Tweezers and Hair Pin.—A pair of tweezers and a pin for the hair, of bronze, suspended on a wire ring of the same metal, have been found at Stow, and are on the table. Tweezers of the same shape have been found at Driffield, in Yorkshire* ; at Chessell Down, in the Isle of Wight ; at Churchover, in Warwickshire ; and several specimens in Kent. Bronze pins, or pieces of wire, have been met with at Chavenage Sleight, in Gloucestershire ; and at Fairford, in the same county, two pins and an ear-pick on a piece of wire.†

The bronze pin on the same card, not on the wire, may have been for the hair, as pins with ornamented heads have been found in Normandy ; but it also closely resembles the handles of some small spoons, assigned to the Anglo-Roman period, found at Woodchester, in Oxfordshire‡ ; at Chesterford, in Essex ; at Leicester ; at Pakenham, in this neighbourhood ; and at Durham, where, according to Mr. Hawkins, it formed part of a remarkable collection of ornaments connected with the worship of the *Deæ Matres*. Mr. Hawkins says§ that these spoons have generally been considered to have been appropriated to sacred purposes, to draw out from the *acerra* or usual store vessel, such small quantity of precious ointment or frankincense as might be required. The spoon handle found at Pakenham, and exhibited at this meeting by Mr. Warren, has a portion of the bowl attached.

* Engd. Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., ii., 56.

† Engd. Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., ii., 54.

‡ Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., vi., 443.

§ Archæol. Journal, viii., 39.

Girdle Hangers.—Among the objects presented by Mr. Benyon are two small pieces of bronze, with hinges. Mr. Roach Smith, F.S.A., one of the Honorary Members of the Institute, has kindly favoured me with the following letter in reference to them :—

London, March 20th, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,

I return the bronze objects (*See plate v, fig. 5*) which you were so good as to entrust to me, and offer you a few remarks on them, and on the remains discovered at Stow-heath, as far as, from a very imperfect knowledge of facts, I am able.

Last year Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, communicated to me some notices of discoveries made at Stow-heath, and at the same time forwarded for my inspection several fibulæ, beads, coins, and bronze implements (*See plate v, fig. 1*), the use of which was by no means obvious. I had seen one in the possession of Mr. Goddard Johnson, found in a tumulus at Sporle (*See fig. 2*); one found at Alborough, in Yorkshire; and one at Mr. Deck's, of Cambridge, found at Wilbraham; but then no evidence had been afforded as to what part of the graves they had been found in, or whether the skeletons upon or near which they had been deposited were those of males or females. In short, no careful eye had seemed to have marked their position, or any circumstance that could lead to their identification with any known article of Saxon art. In order to bring them more prominently before the antiquarian world I published etchings in my "Collectanea Antiqua*," remarking that the use of them could not be determined until an opportunity should be afforded of observing the position in which other examples may be discovered in graves carefully laid open. In the autumn of last year the Hon. R. C. Neville opened a Saxon cemetery at Little Wilbraham, and obtained several which, he remarked, were taken from about the centre of the skeletons. Very recently, through the kindness of Mr. H. W. King and the Rev. H. Maclean, I have been favoured with a more perfect variety (*See fig. 3*), found by the thigh of a female skeleton in a Saxon burial-place at Searby, near Caistor, in Lincolnshire. All of these implements have been found in pairs, so that it may be supposed they were originally united like *fig. 3*. That from the Sporle barrow was found by Mr. G. Johnson, with its fellow and a buckle, about the middle of the skeleton, upon what appeared to have been a *girdle*. Here, then, we gain a clue to what these hitherto mysterious objects were originally intended for. There can now I think be but little doubt of their having been worn suspended from the girdle as the modern ornaments fancifully called *châtelaines*; and it is not unlikely that in like manner keys and other insignia of housewifery were often attached to them. In *fig. 4* is a lower part of one with chains such as it may be inferred were once similar to those from Sporle and Searby. It was found near

* Plate xxxix, vol. 2.

Selzen, and has been engraved by the Messrs. Lindenschmit, in a well-written and illustrated work on researches made in an ancient German cemetery, called "Das Germanische Todtenlager bei Selzen." Mainz. 8vo., 1848. Thus we have before us, for the first time, a new addition to our materials illustrative of Saxon and Frankish costume. In graves opened in Livonia some very analogous ornaments have been found, but without the long shanks, and fastened below the shoulders. From these were suspended across the body, and falling down in front, chains and some other objects. But they are much later in date than those before us. See Dr. Bähr's "Die Gräber der Liven." Dresden, 1850.

I may remark on the fibulæ from Stow-heath, that they resemble those found by Mr. Neville, at Little Wilbraham; and such are frequently found in Norfolk, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and the midland counties; but they are not common in Kent, nor in the West or South of England, an interesting fact, explained by the peculiar customs and fashions of the different Saxon tribes which settled in different parts of Britain.

The stone coffin which Mr. Warren shewed me at the Rev. E. R. Benyon's, closely resembles one found in a Roman and Frankish cemetery at Bayeux, by Monsieur E. Lambert.

The weapons most frequently found in the Saxon and Frankish graves are spears and javelins, or lances, of very unequal lengths, and of very different forms. The prevailing variety, however, is peculiar for its lightness. In this may be recognized the weapon with which Tacitus informs us the Germans in his time were most usually provided, namely, a species of the *hasta*, which they called *framea*. They were slender and short, but so sharp, and used with such dexterity, that they could be used either for close or distant fight as required; and that even the cavalry were contented if armed with a shield and a *framea*. At the same time, this historian remarks, they rarely used swords or the larger kind of lances*. But we must take this expression as signifying only the comparative rarity of swords, for we find them with the *framea* and shield among wedding presents†, and the young men are described as dancing for amusement among swords and *frameas*‡. The characteristics of some of the more remote German nations, he states, were round shields and short swords, *breves gladii*§. The same qualification must be allowed to the alleged rarity of the large spear, when, in the *Annals*, it is spoken of as of great magnitude.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your's very truly,

CHAS. ROACH SMITH.

Samuel Tymms, Esq.,
&c., &c

* *Rari gladiis, aut majoribus lanceis utuntur: hastas, vel ipsorum vocabulo frameas gerunt, angusto et brevi ferro, sed ita acri, et ad usum habili, ut eodem telo, prout ratio poscit, vel cominus vel eminus pugnent: et eques quidem scuto*

frameaque contentus est.--De Mor. Germ. cap. vi.

† *Ibid, cap. xviii.*

‡ *Ibid, cap. xxiv.*

§ *Ibid, cap. xliii.*

Beads.—A large number of beads have been found at Stow-heath, and fine specimens are on the table, and in the collections of Mr. Gwilt, Mr. Banks, and Mr. Warren. They are made of amber, glass, terra cotta, pebble, and jet; and exhibit almost every variety of size, colour, shape, and pattern. The amber beads are the most numerous, that material being esteemed for its supposed virtues. The leader of the Anglo-Saxons at the battle of Cattaeth, in the 6th century, is described by Aneurin, “the King of the Bards,” as having his long hair, which flowed down his shoulders, adorned with a wreath or chaplet of amber beads. Beads were also worn as bracelets and as necklaces. The beads of blue glass are also numerous: some of them are well-formed annulets of glass rather than beads. The beads of greatest rarity are those of jet; one small specimen is in the collection presented by Mr. Benyon; and another found at Stow was seen by Mr. Warren. These are the only beads of that material that have been traced to this locality. It is remarkable that the researches at the Saxon burial-place at Barrow Furlong, in Northamptonshire, recently described by Sir H. Dryden, in the “Archæologia,” should have produced but one jet bead. The one before us, besides the aperture for the string, is pierced on one side with a hole resembling a key-hole. A similar keyhole is observable upon a fine circular flat piece of amber, about an inch in diameter, in Mr. Gwilt’s collection. Some of the beads are joined together in twos and threes. These are rarely met with. Some triplet beads have been found at Marston Hill. One bead of terra cotta and glass mixed, has a red drop or boss within a blue circle repeated four times around the bead. A glass bead, with four bosses on the surface, found at Caerleon, is believed to be Roman.

Coins.—Roman coins were sometimes perforated and worn with the beads. Mr. Warren has four coins so perforated from Stow-heath; and others have been found at Fairford, in Gloucestershire; at Marston, in Northamptonshire; and in the contemporary graves of the Franks, at Douvrend and Envermeu, in the neighbourhood of Dieppe, which have been recently opened by the Abbé Cochet, aided by a grant from the French Govern-

ment. In the museum of Lord Londesborough is a coin of the Emperor Tacitus, with two glass beads or annulets strung upon a wire, found with a human skeleton at Cologne.* The two on the table, and one which Mr. Warren has, are the only instances in which the coins have two holes, which have been made to shew the faces of the coin.† It is probable that these coins were worn as amulets, and that the opinion still prevalent among the common people, that a piece of money with a hole in it is “lucky” has descended to us from this practice of our pagan ancestors. Besides those perforated for suspension, three others of the same people are on the table, but much corroded. Roman coins are commonly found in Saxon graves.

Brooches.—The dress of the Anglo-Saxon, from the hind to the king, consisted of a shirt, a tunic with a belt round the loins, and a mantle. The latter garment was fastened on the breast, or on the right or left shoulder, or on both shoulders, by a brooch or fibula.‡ At Driffield two fibulæ were found with the skeleton of a female, one upon each breast; and on each shoulder of another skeleton was a circular fibula.§ At Fairford a pair of brooches was found on the breast of a skeleton, placed one below the other. The brooch was circular or elongated, frequently cruciform; and sometimes in the shape of birds and insects. A moth-shaped brooch, found at West Stow, was exhibited at the Newmarket meeting by Mr. Warren, and is engraved in the 5th part of the “Proceedings.” The cruciform brooch is rarely met with in the South of England; but is found in Warwickshire, Leicestershire, and Yorkshire; and is

* Coll. Antiqua, ii., 147.

† Mr. Warren has one with three holes.

‡ These brooches were attached to the dress by an iron *acus*, which fell into a small recurved catch, and the intention of the embowed neck, an almost invariable feature of the larger ornaments of this description, appears to have been for facility in passing the finger under it, when it was desired to relieve the *acus* from the fastening. Occasionally a pendant, possibly regarded as an amulet, was attached to the smaller extremity of this kind of fibula, tending to indicate that it was worn, not transversely placed on the

dress, as might have been supposed, but with the broader end uppermost. In the Wiesbaden Museum a large brooch of this description, found at Kreuznach, 5½ in. in length, has at the smaller end a loop to which a ball of red ferruginous stone is appended in a light frame of metal wires; and another, found at Frankfort, has a small ring on the reverse of its smaller extremity, doubtless for the suspension of some object of an ornamental or talismanic nature.—*Arch. Journal*, ix., 180.

§ Coll. Antiqua, vol. ii., part 6.

most prevalent in our own district. It is sometimes of large size, very elegant, ornamented with masks, fishes, heads of horses, birds, reptiles, &c. ; is richly gilt, or inlaid with silver, or set with stones or glass. Mr. Gwilt, Mr. Banks, and Mr. Warren have fine examples from Stow-heath ; and a large one of bronze gilt I had the good fortune to obtain on the day before the Mildenhall meeting, where it was exhibited. (*See pl. VI.*) It resembles one found in Leicestershire, now in the museum of the Society of Antiquaries, and had been broken in half and mended by rivets, in a manner similar to one found at Fairford. The brooches presented by Mr. Benyon consist of 8 single specimens and 3 pairs of the long or cruciform kind, and two single specimens, and 2 pairs of circular ones. All are of bronze, and, with the exception of two of the circular form, had iron pins. None of these, consequently, remain ; but No. 16 is the fragment of one, and No. 17 contains another fragment in a bronze tube. Some of the hinge pieces and catches are perfect ; but all when found had lumps of iron rust about them. No. 1 displays considerable taste and skill in the ornamentation. (*See pl. VII.*) No. 4 has had a rim or boss of silver, a portion of which remains. One resembling the pair No. 3 has been found at Driffield, in Yorkshire.* The five circles in the heading of No. 6 has been met with on a fibula found at Badby†, in Northamptonshire (*see pl. VIII, fig. 3*) ; and the form of No. 8 has been met with in Nottinghamshire‡. No. 11 is the smallest brooch I have seen. No. 12 is ornamented by a circle of holes made by a crescent-shaped punch. No. 14 is divided into 4 divisions by two rows of 3 straight lines. Circular fibulæ have been found at Badby, in Worcestershire. Two of the circular brooches have pins of bronze remaining ; and others with similar pins are in the collection of Mr. Warren.

Buckles.—There are two iron and three bronze buckles. One of the former has a fragment of a bronze strap attached to it. An iron buckle with a brass strap was found at Barrow Furlong, and a similar one is engraved in Douglas's "Nenia Britannica." One of the bronze buckles has an iron pin.

* Engd. Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., ii., 56.

‡ Engd. Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., iii., 299.

† Engd. Journ. Brit. Arc. Ass., i., 61.

Fragments of cloth were attached to Nos. 3 and 4; and No. 3 has one of the small bronze rivets remaining. Nos. 4 and 5 are very perfect, and the smallest buckles found at West Stow. No. 3* is grooved on the under side of the ring.

Clasps.—Similar to those presented by Mr. Benyon, have been found at Driffield and Marston, also in pairs.

Rings.—There are also a few rings of iron and bronze of different diameters and thicknesses.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

. The annexed plates, with one exception, have been printed from anastatic drawings obligingly made by Mr. John Johnson, a member of the Institute.

Plate I. Fig. 1. Fragment of small drum-shaped vessel of wood, bound with bronze (*see p. 321*). 2. Fragment of another similar vessel. 3—7. Vessels of unbaked earth (*see pp. 4 and 5*). Fig. 5 contained burnt ashes. The objects in this plate are all on the scale of one-fourth of the full size.

Plate 2. Stone coffin (*see p. 319*). The dimensions of this interesting relic are as follows:—Length, interior, 5 ft. 8½ in., exterior, 6 ft. 3½ in.; breadth at shoulder, 1 ft. 10½ in.; at head, interior, 5 in., exterior, 8 in.; at foot, 10½ in., exterior, 1 ft. 4½ in.; thickness at sides, 3½ in.; at foot, 3 in.; at head, 4 in.; depth, 12½ in. at shoulders, and 11 in. at foot.

Plate III. Fig. 1. Spear head and ferule (*see p. 320*), one-fourth the real size. 2 and 3. Iron umbones or bosses of shields, half the full size. 4 and 5. Fragments of iron hasps, half size. 6. Bi-cornuted ornament of iron, half size of original. A similar one found at the Roman villa at Hartlip, in Kent, is engraved in *Coll. Antiqua*, ii., 20. 7. Fragment of iron, half size.

Plate IV. Fig. 1, 2, 3. Circular brooches in bronze, full size. 4 and 5. Thin silver discs, full size. 6. Tweezers and hair pin of bronze on bronze wire, full size. 7. Of bronze, either an hair pin with ornamented head or handle of a spoon (*see p. 322*), full size.

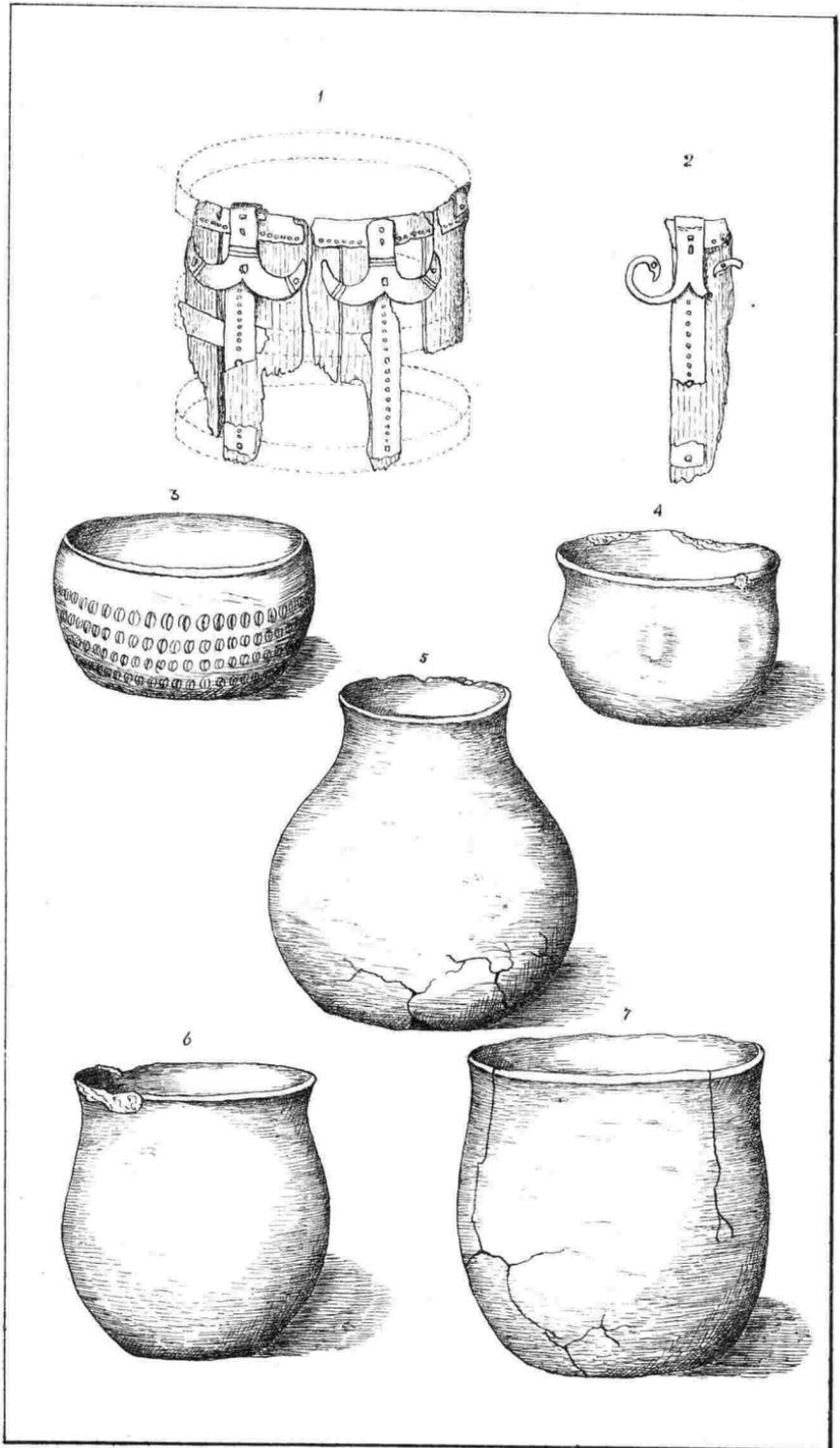
Plate V. Girdle-hangers. Fig. 1. Of bronze from West Stow Heath, in the possession of Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, half size. 2. Found at Sporle, in possession of Mr. Goddard Johnson. 3. Found at Searby, near Caistor, Lincolnshire. 4. Lower part of one with chains attached, found near Selzen. 5. Two sides of one from West Stow Heath, presented by Mr. Benyon, half size.

Plate VI. Bronze-gilt cruciform fibula, from West Stow Heath, full size, in the possession of Mr. Tymms. This plate has been kindly lent by Mr. Roach Smith, by whom it was published in the second volume of the *Collectanea Antiqua*.

Plate VII. Bronze brooch, full size, presented by Mr. Benyon.

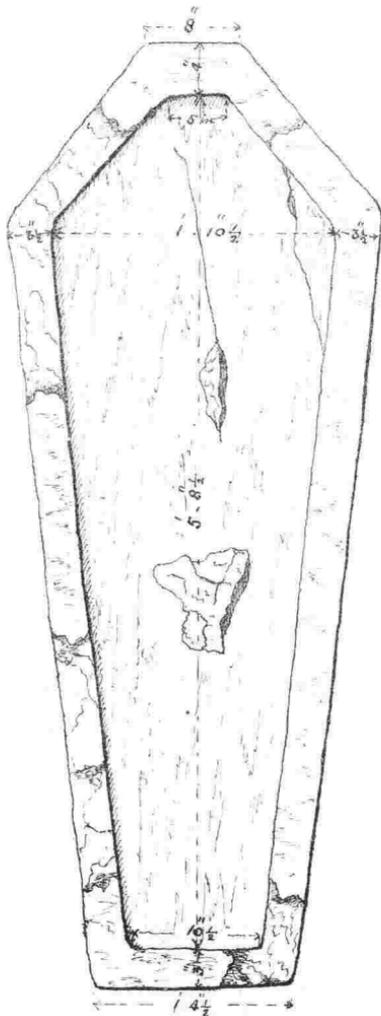
Plate VIII. Figs. 1 to 6. Bronze brooches, half the full size. Fig. 3 resembles one found at Badby. Figs. 7 and 8. Bronze clasps, half size.

* These Nos. refer to the specimens in the museum of the Institute.



J. JOHNSON. BURY.

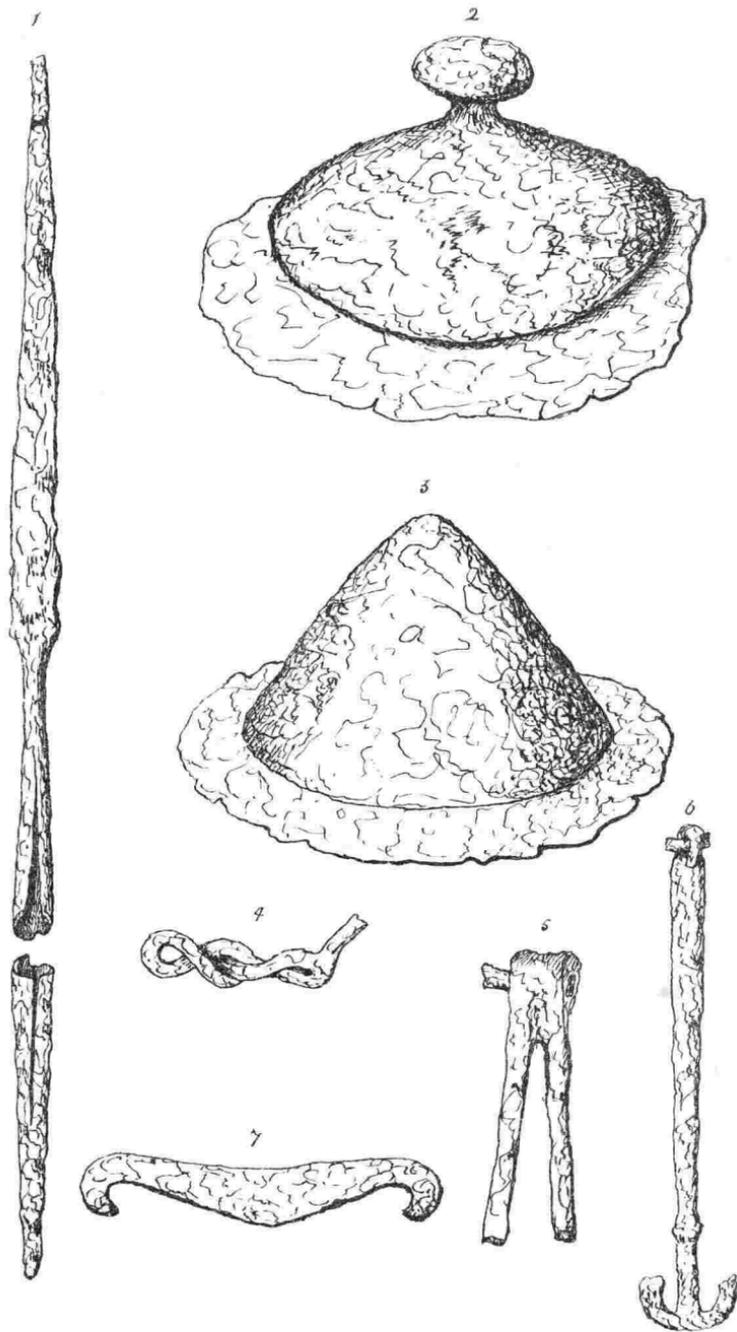
Anglo-Saxon Belts, from West Stow.



J. JOHNSON, BURY.

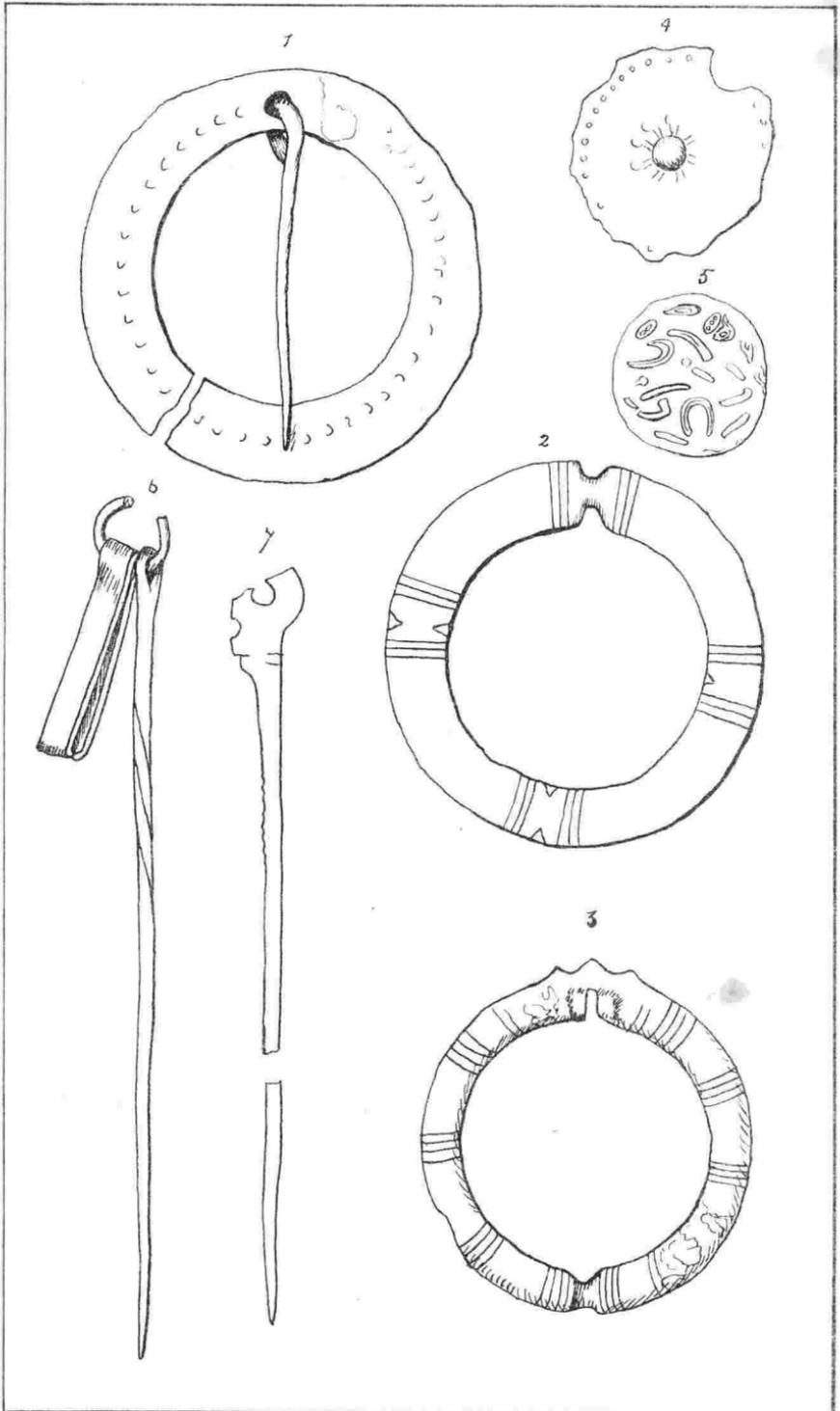
GOWEN'S ANASTATIC PRESS IPSWICH.

Stone Coffin, from West Sion.



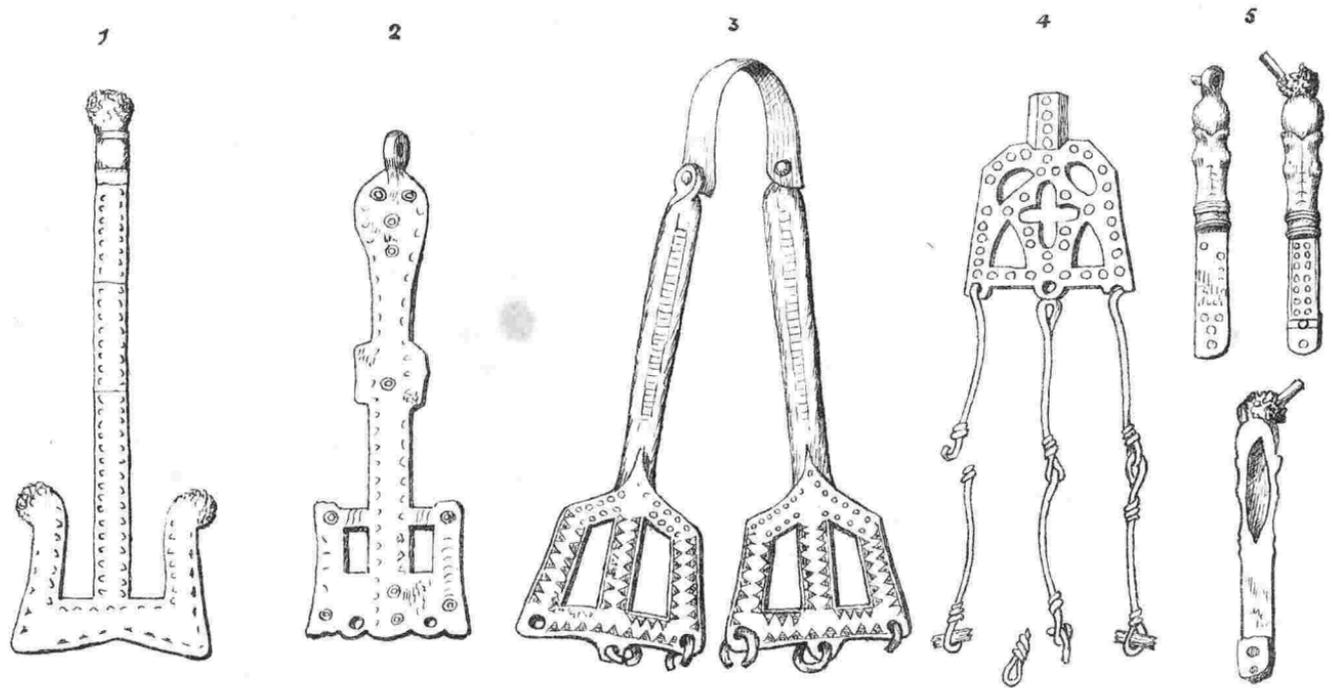
J. JOHNSON. BURY.

Anglo-Saxon Relics, from West Stow.

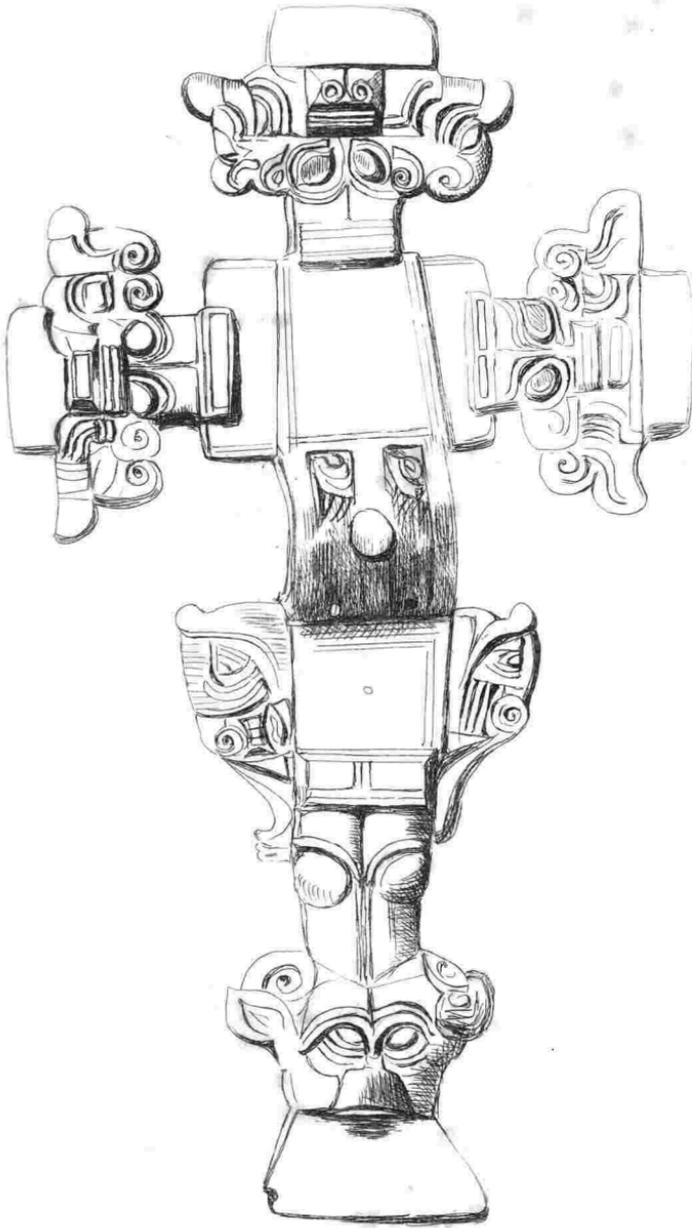


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Anglo-Saxon Relics from West Sax.

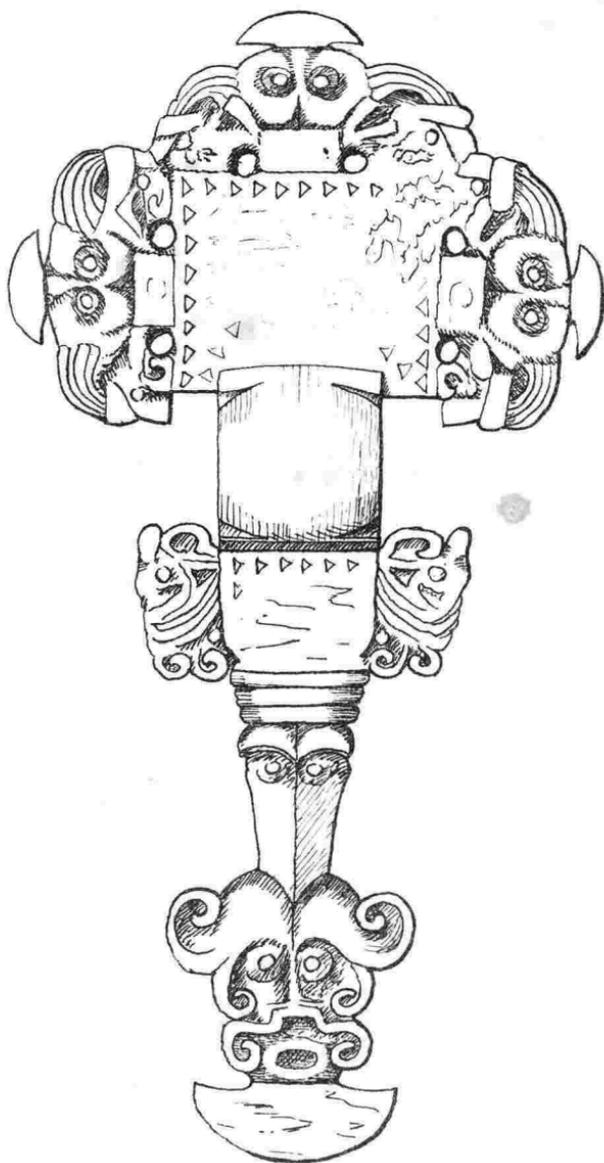


J. Johnson, Del.
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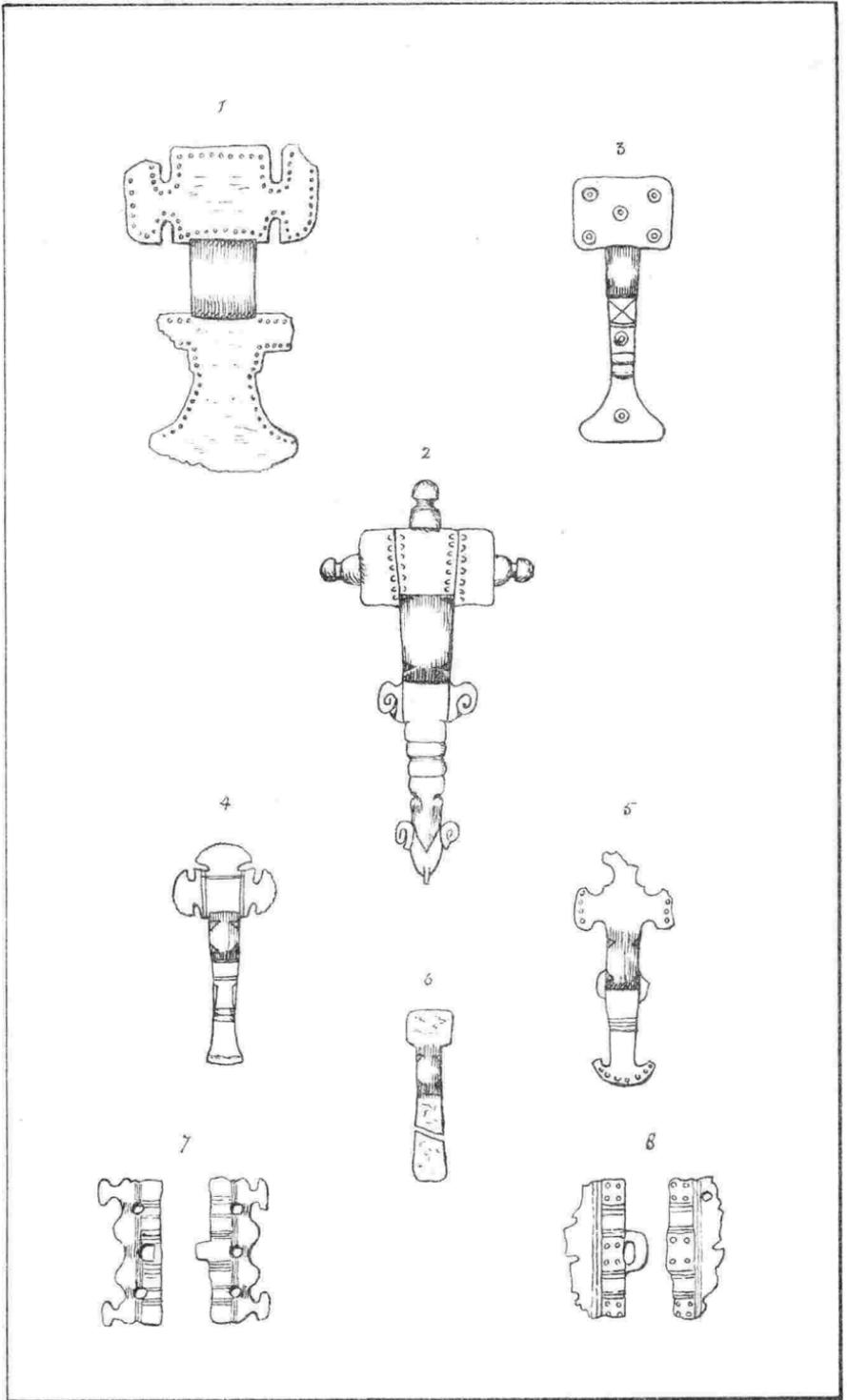
FROM STOWE HEATH.



J. JOHNSON, DEL. BURY.

COWLEY ANTIQUARIAN PRESS IPSWICH

Anglo-Saxon Relics from West Sax.



J. JOHNSON, DEL. BURY-

COWELL'S ANASTASIOFF PRESS NEWBURY

Anglo-Saxon Relics from West Sax.