

A HISTORY OF KENT

Roach Smith, however, attributed the coin to Eupardus, a bishop of Autun in the middle of the sixth century, and the rest included a coin of Justin (d. 527), a blundered copy of a Roman type, and a coin of the moneyer Leodulphus.



FIG. 3. GOLD COIN-PENDANT,
ST. MARTIN'S (1).

As the map clearly shows, the downs to the south-east of Canterbury are thickly strewn with records of the past, and have been explored over a long period. In 1866 about twenty graves were found by workmen on Patricbourne Hill in Bifrons Park, 200 yards east of the road from Bridge and within an area 30 feet square. The relics comprised two swords, two spear-heads, a shield-boss with the stays extending to the circumference,¹ and a number of buckles and knives, taken promiscuously from the graves, which were, with one exception, east-and-west. Interred with a woman were found a necklace of amber and glass beads (the latter of double and treble form, like some from Northants²), a pair of small brooches set with garnets of keystone form (as pl. i. fig. 4), keys, a silver finger-ring, a buckle and stud, all of which are now in the collection of the Kent Archaeological Society.³

The excavations conducted by Mr. Godfrey Faussett in 1867 at Bifrons are of special importance, as they were carefully recorded,⁴ and the relics now form part of the Kent Archaeological Society's collection at Maidstone. About one hundred graves were opened on the slope of the hill overlooking the Lesser Stour and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up stream from Patricbourne Church; and the whole of the district is thickly scattered with interments, perhaps more so than any other area in England. The ground was perfectly smooth, no doubt owing to continued ploughing, and the slope was held to account for the direction of the majority of graves: they had been cut horizontally so as to avoid unnecessary labour, and the head was in these cases at the south or south-east end of the cutting in the chalk. A few, however, lay east and west, generally with the head at the latter point, and the explorer did not fail to notice a comparative scarcity of relics in these graves: both features suggesting a Christian origin. The brooches found were observed to be mostly in pairs, the square-headed variety (pl. i. fig. 2) being invariably worn with the pin-point upwards, the square head being below. Another important point is that no fewer than five graves in this, and at least two in a neighbouring, cemetery contained the remains of women with a crystal sphere and spoon (as pl. i. fig. 8) with perforated bowl placed between the thighs. More than once these curious relics were associated with brooches of the Jutish square-headed type (as pl. i. fig. 3) and also of the bird-form, while gold braid was found near the skull as though belonging to the head-dress. Though crystal spheres are not unknown in post-Roman cemeteries on the Continent,

¹ Douglas found the shields were generally $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ft. across (*Nen. Brit.* p. 121).

² *Arch.* xlviii. pl. xxiii.; *V.C.H. Northants*, i. 233.

³ *Arch. Cant.* vi. 331 (three figs.).

⁴ *Ibid.* x. 298; xiii. 552.

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their frequent occurrence in Kent with brooches of a local character is a fact of considerable importance, and points to some special function assigned to women in this region. A certain number of objects from these graves are certainly of Roman manufacture, while two long brooches (as fig. 14) of bronze are early examples of a type subsequently developed in the Anglian area. Several jewelled ornaments are not of the ordinary kind but resemble continental work, and may be the rude beginnings of the Kentish inlaid work. In one grave of a woman there were found, with a pair of radiated brooches (as fig. 13) and other ornaments, four gold bracteate pendants, three of which bear the usual embossed decoration of dismembered animal-forms, while the fourth has a distorted human figure like that frequently seen on Scandinavian specimens. To the same foreign influence may doubtless be assigned the swastikas engraved on a sword-pommel and belt-plate from this cemetery.

On the downs between Beakesbourne and Adisham, at a point about 4 miles south-east of Canterbury, excavations were conducted by Faussett in 1773.¹ Some of the mounds had been destroyed in planting trees, and nine burials had been at some indefinite period covered with a long bank, regarded by the explorer as part of a fortification. The grave-mounds varied greatly in size, and one reached the abnormal dimensions of 70 feet in diameter and 10 feet in height at the centre, but nothing was found with the skeleton it covered. Another remarkable grave is described and illustrated as cruciform, the four ends corresponding with the cardinal points, and the head lying at the west end, but it was suggested that two graves had been cut at this spot at different times in opposite directions; and this view is supported by a discovery of the sherds of a cinerary urn in the mound. On the other hand, the excavation measured 11 feet each way and at each extremity was an arched recess about 1 foot deep in the chalk, containing wood-ashes and scraps of iron: this may be taken to prove that the cruciform cutting was intentional.

Of the forty-five graves opened, twenty-nine had coffins which in two cases were seen to be of oak, and all but three had been more or less burnt. Besides the exceptionally large mound already referred to, two of fair proportions consisted of flints; and one mound had been erected over two skeletons placed in a sitting posture with their backs against the head of the grave. Bones of small animals were found in two instances, the largest mound containing several heaps, but here as elsewhere the bones of the head were missing, so that it was difficult to recognize the species. Fragments of urns, including red Gaulish and Roman ware, were noticed in several cases, and coins of Diocletian and Maximian, his partner in empire (d. 305), were found. Also suggestive of Roman civilization were two pieces of openwork leather in different graves, probably belonging to sandals.² Only one weapon was found, a lance on the left of the body; but there was a fair sprinkling of shears, keys,

¹ *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, pp. 144-59.

² *Ibid.* p. 152.

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and other female appurtenances. The only piece of jewellery was a blue glass pendant set in silver.

The next site to be noticed lies immediately west of the Roman road between Canterbury and Dover, but still in the same neighbourhood as the preceding. Mr. Thos. Wright described the exploration during 1844 of a number of barrows in Bourne Park (Bishopsbourne).¹ The operations were conducted in the presence of Lord Albert Conyng-ham, in whose park the barrows were situated; Sir Henry Dryden, Mr. Roach Smith, and the narrator, so that there is every reason to suppose that the greatest care was taken in the excavation. A large barrow proved to have been previously rifled, but unmistakable signs of an Anglo-Saxon interment were noticed, and in the four upper corners of the grave, which measured about 14 feet in length, 6 or 7 feet in breadth, and more than 8 feet in depth, there was a small excavation in the chalk filled with the skulls and bones of mice, mingled with remains of seed. The same deposits appeared in several barrows there and on the Breach Downs.

The second grave-mound was smaller and adjoined the last, scarcely rising above the surface. The body was almost entirely decayed, but seemed to have been placed in a wooden coffin. Near where the right foot must have lain were fragments of small hoops imbedded in wood, evidently the remains of a bucket of the usual type.

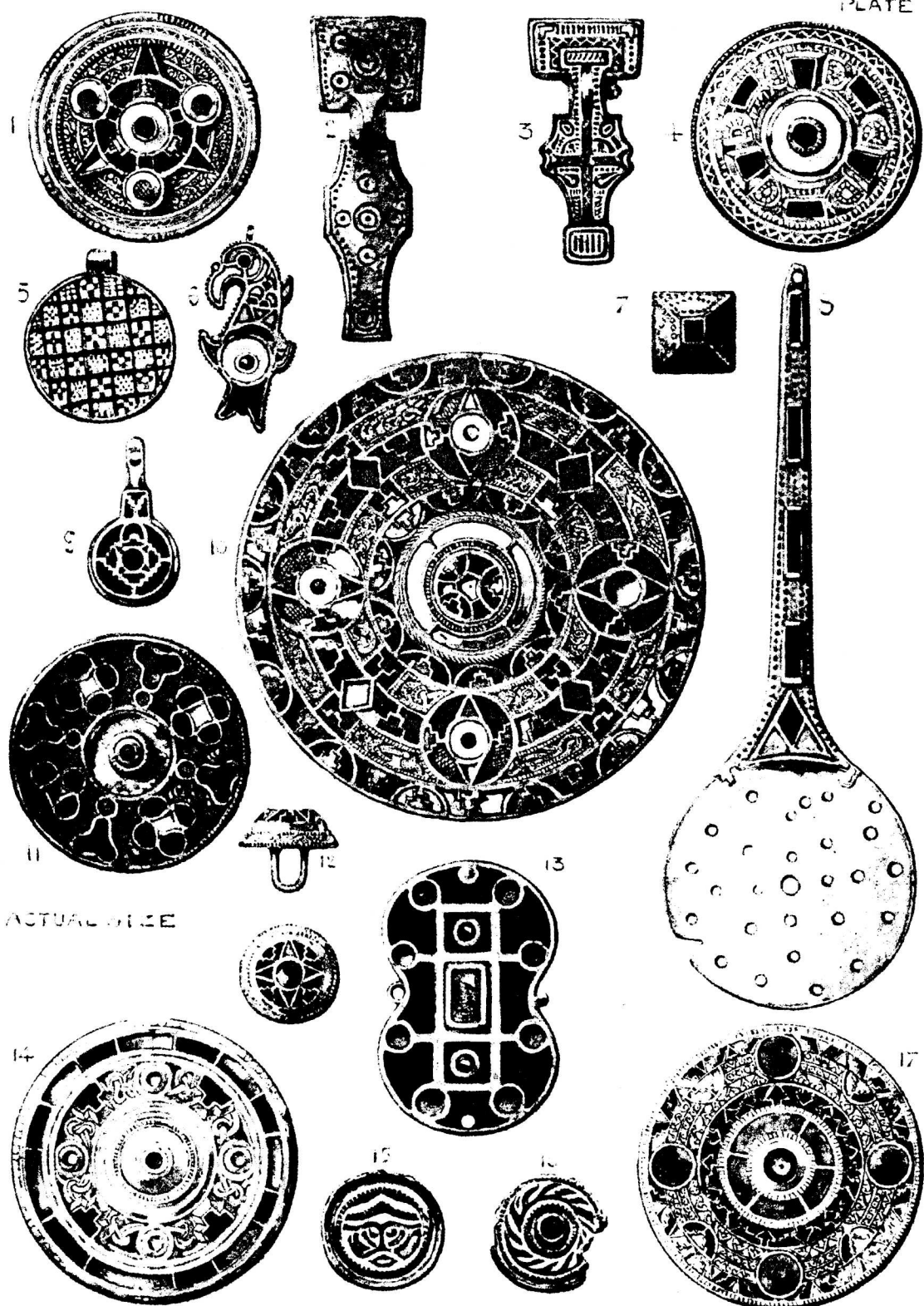
The third burial proved similar to the first, the grave being of almost the same dimensions, but the small holes at the corners, which contained bones of mice, being at the sides instead of at the ends.² At the foot in the right-hand corner had stood a hooped bucket measuring 1 foot both in height and in diameter at the base, but tapering upwards. Beside the right leg were found a shield-boss, a horse's bridle-bit, and a buckle, all of iron; while on the right of the head, placed upright against the wall of the grave, was a thin bronze bowl richly gilt, with two drop-handles of iron, of a not unusual type in Kentish burials. The only other articles found in this grave were two discs nearly 1 inch in diameter, convex at the top, one being of bone, the other of the red Gaulish ware improperly called 'Samian.' These were probably counters or draughtsmen used in some game, and may be compared with those found at Sarre (p. 359) and elsewhere. No trace of the body could be discerned, and from the absence of the typical sword and knife, it was surmised that this was merely a cenotaph and that the body had been buried elsewhere.

The barrows opened on this occasion all contained graves cut approximately north and south, the head towards the south, and it was observed that almost all graves at Bourne and on Breach Downs had large flints at the sides and both ends, possibly used to fix a covering over the body before the grave was filled in.³ Two other grave-mounds,

¹ The barrows examined here by Faussett in 1771 (*Inv. Sep.* pp. 95-100) were of much earlier date.

² Plan in *Arch. Journ.* i. 254, fig. 2.

³ *Ibid.* i. 380.



ACTUAL SIZE

ANGLO-SAXON JEWELS FROM KENT

PRETORIJS