

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET\*

REPORT ON THE RESCUE EXCAVATIONS OF MAY/JUNE 1971

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with a Report on the Skeletons by C. B. DENSTON

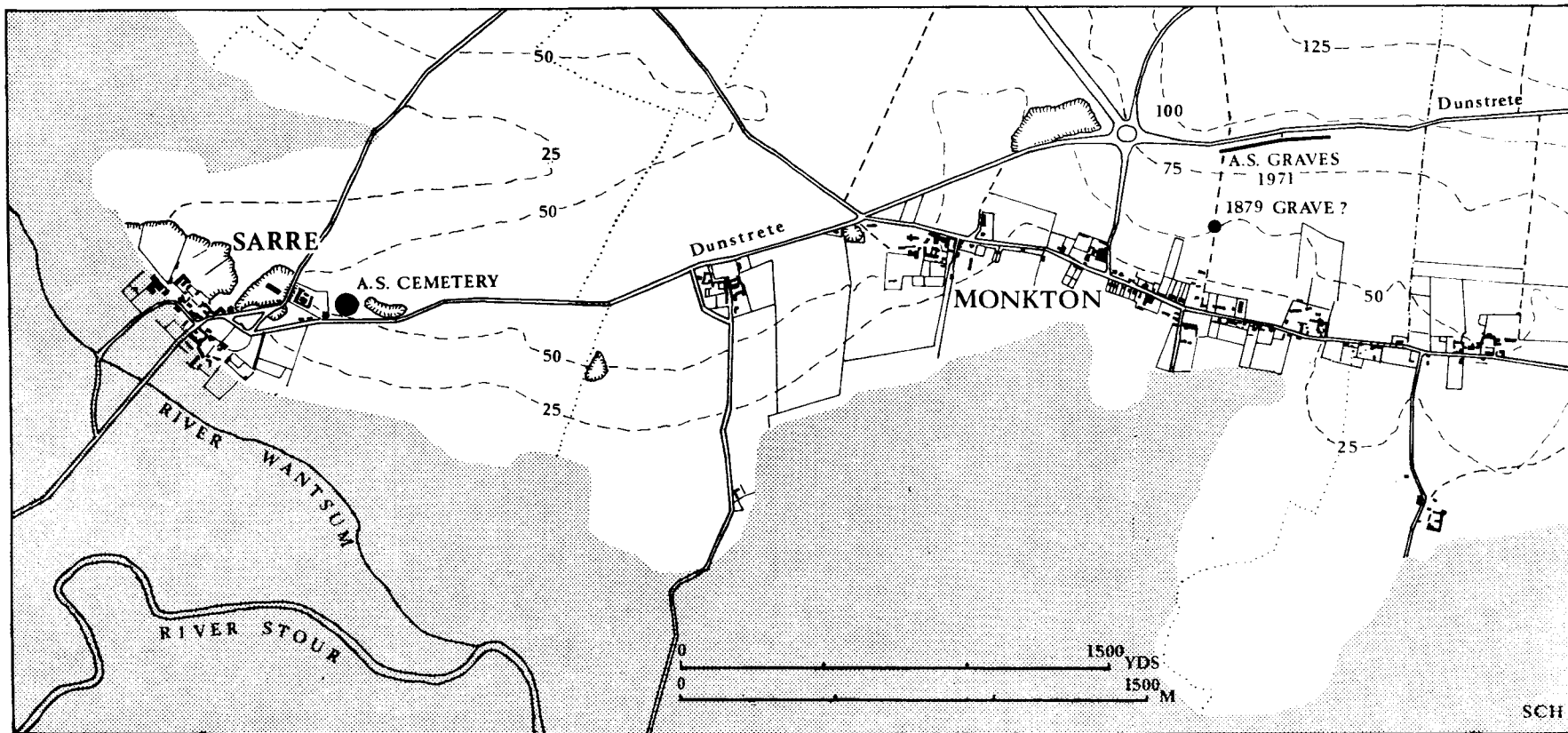
DISCOVERY AND RESCUE

THE South-East Gas Board's new pipe to carry natural gas to Ramsgate runs parallel to the main A253 road from Sarre to Ramsgate (the modern successor of the old 'Dunstrete'), some 85 ft. (25.91 m.) south of the southern edge of the carriageway. During laying operations by the Board's contractors, Messrs. A. E. Bartholomew, a continuous strip of land some 25 ft. (7.62 m.) wide was fenced off and topsoil stripped from about two-thirds of its width and piled on its other third, and a pipe-trench 2 ft. (0.61 m.) wide and about 4 ft. (1.22 m.) deep was dug by a J.C.B. mechanical excavator into the underlying subsoil and chalk.

The Department of the Environment had asked Mr. Frank Jenkins, M.A., F.S.A., to arrange general surveillance of the entire route of this pipe; so, from its start at Aylesham, it was visited regularly by local archaeologists. Once it reached Thanet, responsibility for this fell on local units, a team from Quex Park Museum, Birchington, headed by Mr. Nigel Macpherson-Grant, and the Archaeological Society of Chatham House Grammar School, Ramsgate, led by one of the authors (A.C.H.).

On 27th May, the contractors noticed in their spoil-heap what they correctly understood to be human bones, and, taking the trouble to collect these and pile them by the side of the trench, they also recovered an iron sword. These they showed to the local archaeologists on their regular visit later that day, and early the next morning the find-spot was surveyed and two graves were plotted (Fig. 3, nos. 1-2). On the following day further graves were disturbed, so during the subsequent days archaeologists maintained a constant watch until it was clear that pipe-laying had proceeded beyond the limits of the cemetery. In all, twenty graves disturbed by the pipe-trench were recorded, their position and alignment plotted and their recoverable contents noted and removed for conservation and study. During back-filling two more graves (nos. 21 and 22) were revealed in plan just south of the pipe-trench. Regrettably, such was the risk of looting by members of the

\* The Department of the Environment has contributed to the cost of the publication of this paper.



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**FIG. 1.** Map of South-West Thanet to show the Sites of the Monkton and Sarre Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries. Areas of modern Marshland are stippled.

public attracted to the site by the press and television publicity given to the earlier finds, that these graves had to be explored by the contractor's men. However, detail similar to that of the other burials was recovered and only the exact location of objects within the graves was lost.

When the excavation was over, the skeletal remains were sent to the Duckworth Laboratory, Department of Physical Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Mr. C. B. Denston's report on them is appended. Because of the legal situation, the fate of the grave-goods, which included objects of monetary as well as intrinsic value, could not be settled so easily. In the event, the coroner's inquest that was to confirm the landowners' legal title to the finds did not take place until 1972. Much was to happen in the interim. Already in June 1971, S.C.H. was asked to advise both the excavators and Mr. M. R. Baxter on behalf of the landowners. Early in August, she was enabled to examine the finds in their place of temporary safe-keeping, the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park, only to find that, even in the few weeks that had elapsed since it had been taken from the earth, the composite gold disc brooch in the collection from Monkton had begun to deteriorate for want of conservation. In view of this and of the uncertainty then prevailing about the eventual destiny of the finds, it was agreed by all parties that, to complete the rescue operation, all the grave-goods should be taken to Oxford where the needful recording and scientific work, locally impossible, could be carried out without delay. This was completed between September 1971 and January 1972,<sup>1</sup> when the collection was returned to Kent to await the verdict of the coroner's inquest. Some months later it found a permanent home in Oxford, having been offered to and purchased by the Ashmolean Museum.<sup>2</sup>

#### THE SITE (N.G.R. TR 29106550: FIG. 1)

The Monkton cemetery is situated on the southern dip-slope of the Upper Chalk fold which forms the Isle of Thanet. The surface relief in this area is dominated by the main westerly-thrusting spur of the island's central plateau, which at this point on its southern side slopes gently and uniformly down towards the alluvial Monkton marshes. The crest of the spur is at about 140 ft. (42·67 m.) O.D., the pipe-line itself just above the 75 ft. (22·86 m.) contour line and the margin of the present marshland some 60 ft. (18·29 m.) lower. But there are indica-

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Marion Cox was responsible for the drawings, Mr. R. L. Wilkins, F.S.A. (Oxford University Institute of Archaeology) took the photographs, Mrs. Kathleen Kimber (Ashmolean Museum) did the conservation and Dr. Francis Schweizer (Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art) analysed the gold of the Monkton Brooch.

<sup>2</sup> *Ashmolean Museum, Report of the Visitors 1971-2 (1973)*, p. 7. Reg. no. 1972: 1400-1432.

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tions to suggest that the cemetery as a whole extended much further down the hill. In 1879, according to published references and Ordnance Survey records,<sup>3</sup> a skeleton with a knife and several fragments of pottery of different patterns were found on Primrose Hill, the cart-track joining the main road and the by-road to Minster, on the brow of the hill, at N.G.R. TR 28866530. If this reference is correct, this earlier find was on the line of the track which passes between the 1971 Graves 1 and 2, but down the hill about 200 yards (182·88 m.) to the south of them, on the 50 ft. (15·24 m.) contour. Since the pipe-trench revealed that the cemetery occupies an area of downland measuring 370 yards (338·32 m.) from west to east and is thus an unusually large one, it is by no means improbable that it extends southwards for 200 yards. As to its northern limit, the fact that no discoveries of skeletons have been reported during road-building or maintenance on the A253 suggests that perhaps the entire area of interments lies to the south of the road. As stated already, this modern road is still called 'Dunstrete' and, approximately at least, presumably still follows the line of an old trackway across the downs, which, from its name, must have existed at latest by Anglo-Saxon times and can have formed the northern boundary of the Monkton cemetery.<sup>4</sup> The siting of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery adjacent to such a trackway can be paralleled elsewhere in east Kent at Fingle-sham, where the White Way dictated the western limit of burial.<sup>5</sup> Since there are plans to widen Dunstrete in the none-too-distant future, there is a clear threat to the northern part of the Monkton cemetery. Moreover, the whole site is currently under arable and many of the graves along the pipe trench showed evidence of plough damage.

The relationship of this cemetery to others on Thanet and the mainland of the Kentish Kingdom is shown by S.C.H. in Figs. 1-2, where areas of alluvial silt have been differentiated by stippling from the older and more solid formations of Chalk, Thanet Sand and Brickearth, on which all the settlements occur. The exact shoreline of Anglo-Saxon times is probably irrecoverable now, owing to subsequent flooding and 'inning' of the marshland, and it must be stressed that the maps give

<sup>3</sup> George Payne, *Archæologia*, li (1888), 452, mentioning 'interments'; *V.C.H. Kent*, i (1908), 385-6. These sources cite, respectively, *Thanet Guide* (Bubb), 41, and *Guide to the Isle of Thanet* (Kelly's Directory), 46, neither of which has as yet been traced and consulted by the present authors. See also, Audrey Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* (1964), 132, under 'Primrose Hill, Monkton (Acol)', quoting an unpublished letter from H. Hurd (19.X.1932) in the O.S. records. It should be noted that the crouched burial from Acol in 1942, included with this entry, came from another site at N.G.R. TR 308671.

<sup>4</sup> Unmetalled tracks across open downland could be very wide, as users sought to avoid the ruts made by others, so the present road may follow a route clear of the northern graves in the cemetery.

<sup>5</sup> Excavated by S.C.H. between 1959 and 1967, for the Dept. of the Environment. Here, unfortunately, the modern road just overlies the westernmost graves of the cemetery.

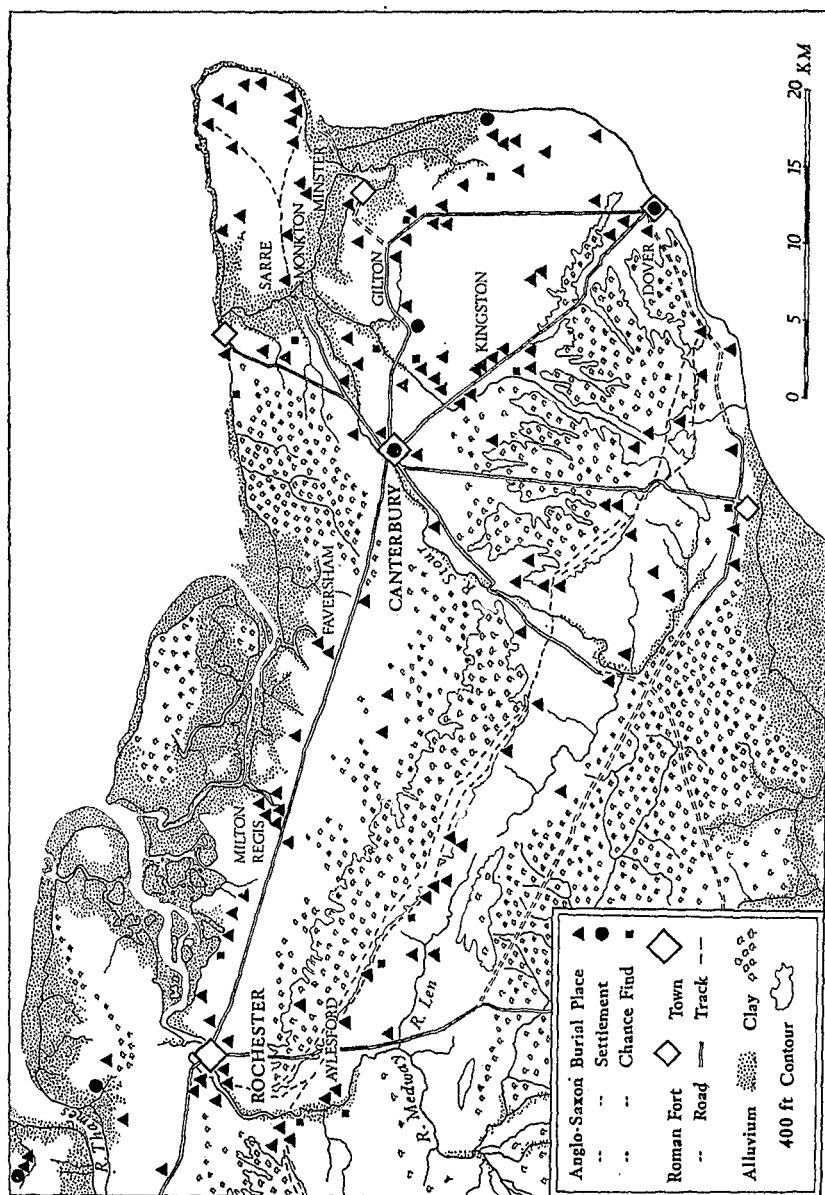


FIG. 2. Map of East Kent to show the Anglo-Saxon Burial Places and Settlements of the fifth to the early-eighth Centuries. Named cemeteries are those which have yielded composite disc brooches (SCH March 1974).

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only a generalized indication of what must then have been open water, tidal flats or salt-marsh. But it is accurate enough to demonstrate the predominantly coastal and riverine pattern of settlement in east Kent and the overwhelming importance of the old Wantsum Strait. This islanded Thanet throughout Anglo-Saxon times and was much used by shipping plying between the English Channel and the Thames.<sup>6</sup>

The Monkton cemetery is one of a series found along the southern shore of Thanet close to the Wantsum, several with names famous in the annals of Anglo-Saxon archæology. Three km. to the west is Sarre, the site of a large and important cemetery<sup>7</sup> the occupants of which had evidently controlled the ferry from the mainland and exacted royal dues on shipping.<sup>8</sup> To the east at Minster, though no large burial ground has yet been found, a few rich finds<sup>9</sup> indicate the status of the community there before the founding of the nunnery in the late-seventh century. East again, overlooking Pegwell Bay, is the ill-excavated but rich cemetery called Ozengell.<sup>10</sup> No sites of habitation have been found to match them, but the tendency of these and other cemeteries in east Thanet to occur close to areas of good loam soil and natural harbours<sup>11</sup> suggests a preference, amongst the early Anglo-Saxon settlers, for the prime sites which have remained in occupation till the present day. With few exceptions, these cemeteries are situated close to the modern villages, many of which still bear Anglo-Saxon names. At Monkton, the cemetery is not more than 500 yards (457·2 m.) from the present village, which is situated on fertile Brickearth soil, close to the margin of the marshes that now fill what was once a sheltered bay in the northern shore of the Wantsum. The site of the Anglo-Saxon settlement must surely be somewhere here, under or near the modern houses.

<sup>6</sup> Information about the coastline in Anglo-Saxon times has been summarized by S.C.H. in a number of previous publications: Sonia Chadwick 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Finglesham, Kent: a reconsideration', *Med. Arch.* ii (1958), 3 ff., figs. 2-3; Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'Richborough—the physical geography', B. Cunliffe (Ed.), *Fifth Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, xxiii, Oxford, 1968, 224-31; Louise Millard, Shirley Jarman and Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'Anglo-Saxon burials near the Lord of the Manor, Ramsgate: new light on the site of Ozengell?', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiv (1969), 28-9.

<sup>7</sup> C. Roach Smith, *Arch. Cant.*, iii (1860), 36-43; John Brent, *Arch. Cant.*, v (1863), 305-22; vi (1866), 157-85 and vii (1868), 307-21; etc. For numerous further refs. cf. Meaney, *op. cit.*, 135-6.

<sup>8</sup> Brent, *op. cit.* (1863), 305-6; Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'Early Anglo-Saxon Kent', *Arch. J.*, cxxvi (1969), esp. 191-2.

<sup>9</sup> James Douglas, *Nenia Britannica* (1793), 71, pl. XVII, 4; *Arch. J.*, iv (1847), 164, 253 f.; C. Roach Smith, *Collect. Ant.*, vi (1866), 148.

<sup>10</sup> C. Roach Smith, *J.B.A.A.*, i (1846), 242-3, and *Collect. Ant.*, iii (1854), 1-18; Millard, Jarman and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, (1969), 9-30.

<sup>11</sup> Millard, Jarman and Hawkes, *op. cit.* (1969), 29-30.

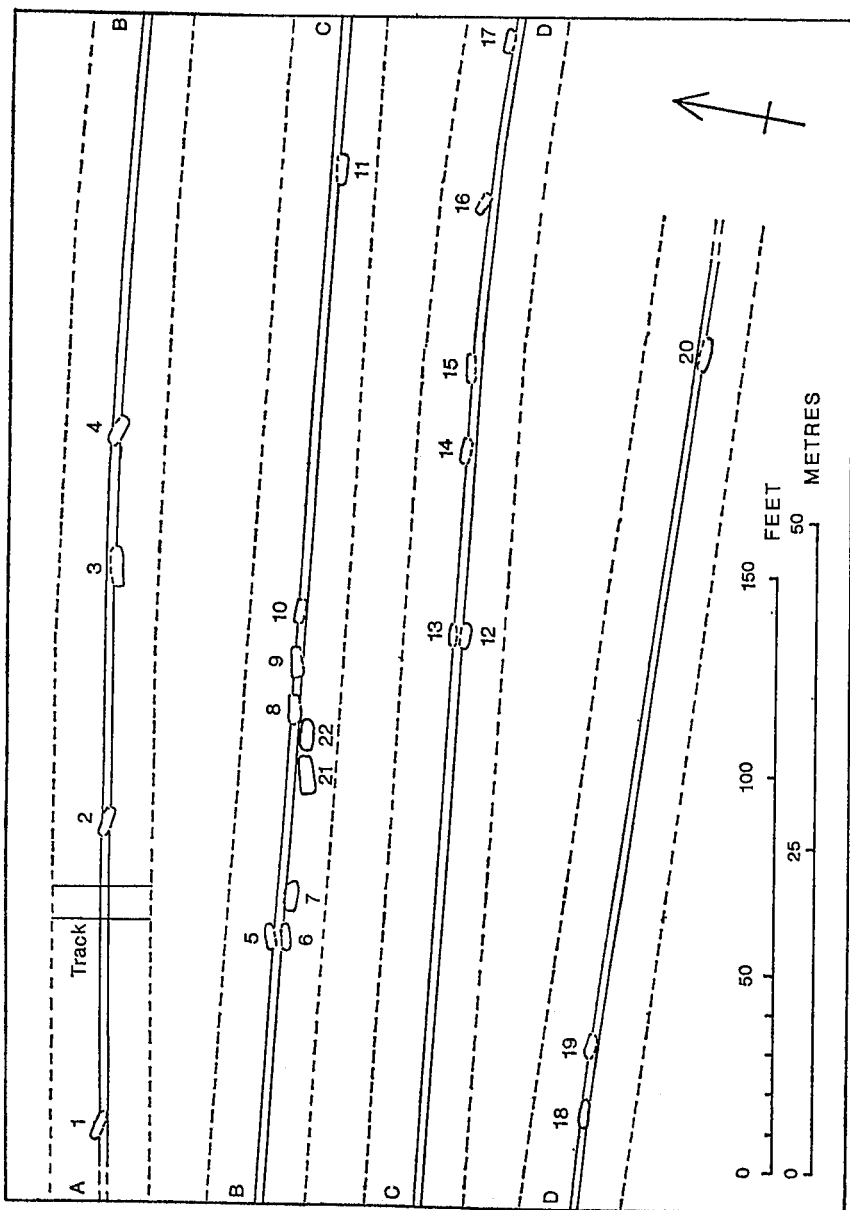


FIG. 3. Monkton, Thanet. Plan of Anglo-Saxon Graves found May/June 1971. For economy in reproduction here, the long length of the North Sea Gas trench has been divided into four sections placed one below the other; on the ground they were, of course, co-terminous. (Drawn by S.C.H. from the excavators' field plan.)

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INVENTORY (See Site Plan, Fig. 3) Depths of graves are measured from the surface of the chalk.

### Grave 1

Orientated WNW.-ESE. Almost completely destroyed by pipe-trench and no dimensions recorded. Contents recovered from the spoil-heap by workmen. Fragmentary remains of a male skeleton, age at death c. 20-25. Only a single find noticed:

1. Fragmentary iron double-edged *long-sword* (Fig. 4), buckled and broken by the ditch-digger; tip of blade missing, tang damaged: overall length of surviving part 50 cm. The tang bears traces of wood, vertically grained, and now terminates in a narrow spike that may have served to attach the pommel. At the junction of tang and blade are traces of the lower guard, thickness 1.5 cm., apparently of wood or horn. The blade, 5.5 cm. wide at the shoulders, bears remains of its scabbard: vertically grained wood with a covering of leather.

### Grave 2

Orientated WNW.-ESE., head at west end. Bisected by pipe-trench. L. 2.0 m., W. 0.70 m., D. 0.25 m. Contents recovered from spoil-heap by workmen. Fragmentary remains of skeleton of adult male. No finds noticed.

### Grave 3

Orientated WSW.-ENE., head at west end. Mostly destroyed by pipe-trench. L. 2.05 m., D. 0.28 m. Contents recovered from spoil-heap by workmen. Fragmentary remains of a female skeleton, age at death c. 25-30. Finds:

1. *Jewelled composite gold disc brooch* (Fig. 4, Pl. I),<sup>12</sup> diameter 6.2 cm., thickness 0.65 cm. Its deep gold rim binds a complex structure, backed by a silver plate and fronted by a polychrome design of gold filigree and garnet and glass cloisonné work. Damage sustained at the time of discovery had detached the two surviving shell bosses and some garnets, while other stones became loose as the brooch dried out in the weeks that followed. During conservation work these were replaced and secured,<sup>13</sup> but three bosses, several garnets

<sup>12</sup> The description which follows is a slightly abbreviated version of that published in Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'The Monkton Brooch', *Antiq. Journ.*, liv (1974).

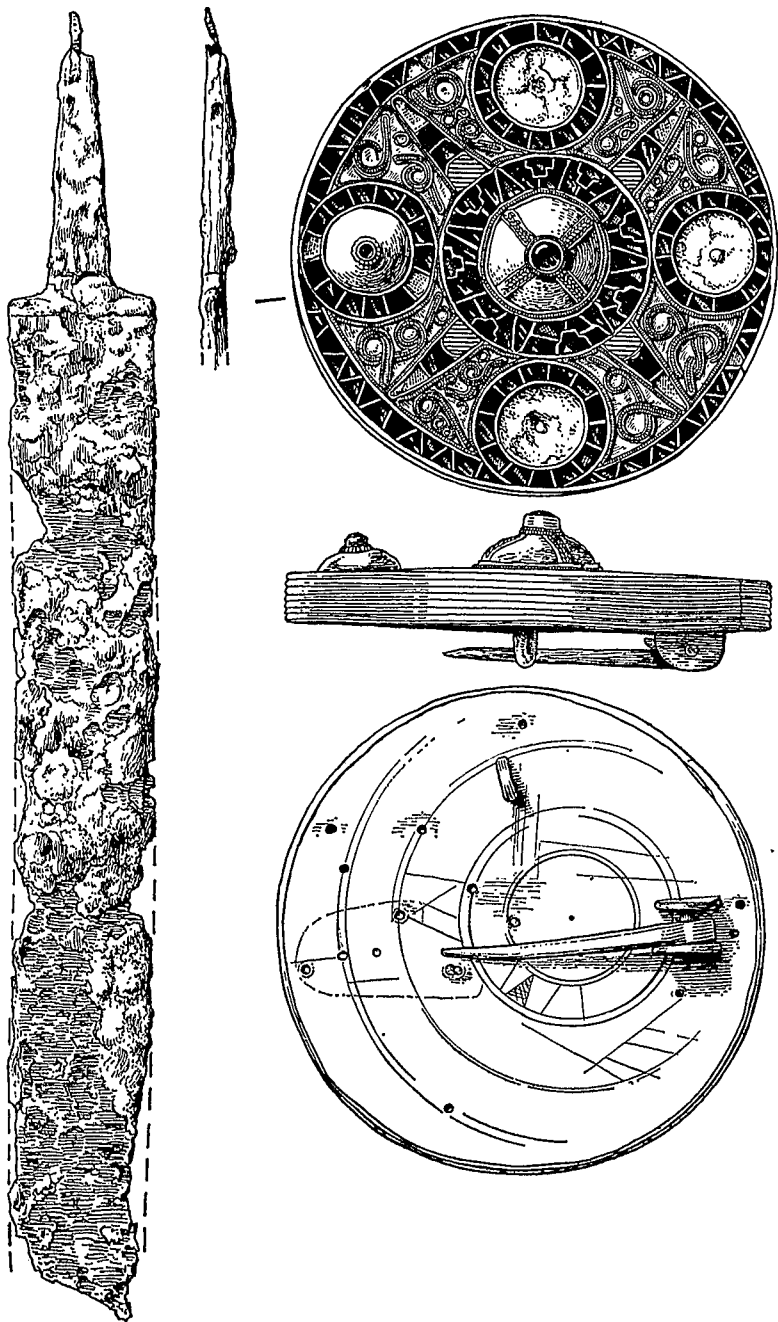
<sup>13</sup> In replacing the central boss there was nothing to indicate the original position of its cross ornament in relation to that of the rest of the brooch: the drawing shows one possibility, the photograph of the brooch after restoration another.



and the catch-plate are still missing; damage is superficial, however, and has not exposed the brooch's internal structure. The analogy of other composite brooches suggests that its cloisons were soldered to a now hidden front- or inner-plate, which was separated from the back-plate by a layer of whitish cement that lent weight and stability to the whole construction. Since conservation has shown that the cloisons, which appeared to be gold when first seen in the Powell-Cotton Museum, are really of gilt bronze,<sup>14</sup> the front plate is presumably of bronze, too.

The central feature of the frontal design is a domed boss of smooth pink-streaked white shell, possibly of eastern origin. This is ornamented in very pale gold by a cross composed of four 'crown arches', each made up of three twisted wires in pseudo-plait filigree flanked by finer plain wires, surmounted by a cylindrical cell, which is trimmed at the base by a pair of beaded wires and set with a brilliant cabochon garnet. The whole is enclosed in a collar of gold strip with a beaded wire around the base where it fitted into its bronze cell. The boss was bedded on to a layer of whitish paste and secured in position by an iron rivet that passed through the whole thickness of the brooch from the centre of the back-plate. Around this central boss is an encircling zone of cloisons set with tabular garnets, each with a backing paste and most with an underlay of gold foil, die-stamped with a fine chequer pattern to lend brilliance to the stones. The basic design is one of stepped T-shapes alternating with triangles, but it is sadly defective in execution: in two places, triangular cells are replaced by simple transverse cloisons; on one side, extra cloisons have been introduced to allow the use of broken garnets, and the spacing is generally very irregular. From the outer edge of this inner cloisonné frame to the inner edge of that around the rim of the brooch, there radiate four equally-spaced long triangular panels, three divided laterally into three compartments, the other into four. Each has the innermost cell set with a slab of opaque pale blue glass, the remainder with tabular garnets on chequered foil. These panels form the arms of a cross, set centrally between which, and extending from the inner cloisonné zone to the rim of the brooch, are four circular cells each framed by simple sub-rectangular cell-work set with paste- and foil-backed tabular garnets. Around the rim itself is a narrow border of chevron-pattern cloisonné, and here again the spacing is irregular and clumsy, few of the garnets being perfectly triangular. The four circular cells, smaller than the central one, also contain white paste and the impressions or remains of rivets, three definitely of iron. Only one

<sup>14</sup> These bronze cell-walls were found to be very decomposed and powdery and little or no gilding now remains.



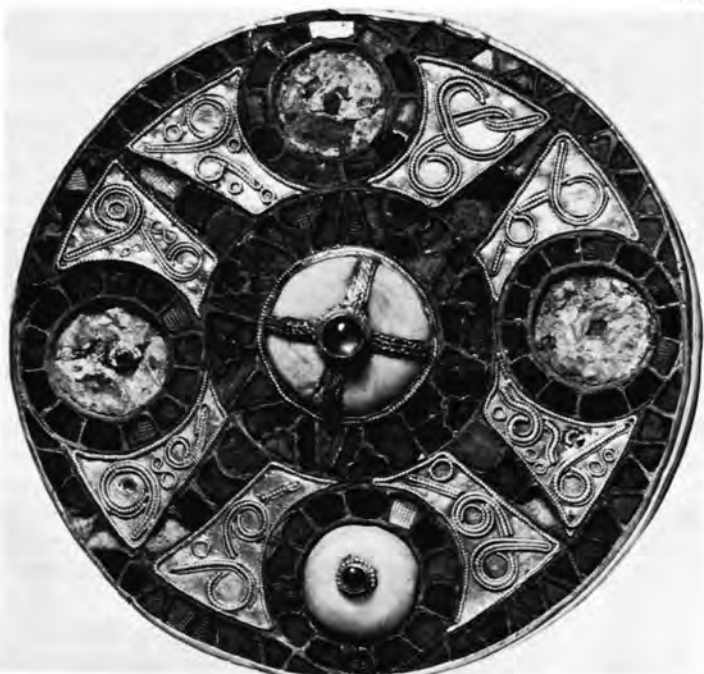
*Drawings by Marion Cox*

FIG. 4. Fragmentary Sword from Grave 1 (1/3); Jewelled Gold Composite Disc Brooch from Grave 3 (1/1).

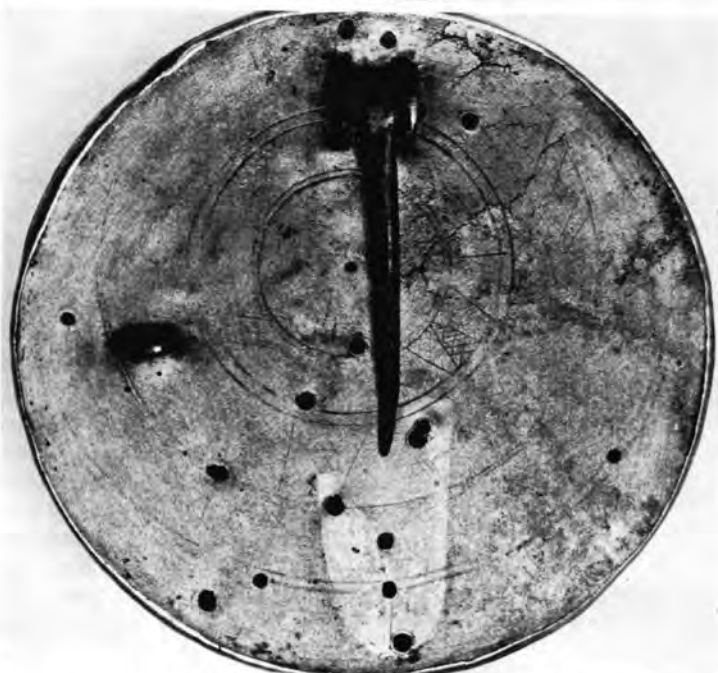
of their settings survives and it is not certain to which of the cells it belonged originally. It is a white boss, of shell or cuttle-fish bone, surmounted by a cabochon garnet set in a cylindrical gold cell with a basal trim of beaded wire. If, like the central boss, it once had a gold collar, this has not survived. Piercing the back of this boss is an iron rivet with paste adhering, but whether it was simply sunk into the paste or actually penetrated the front plate is not clear. Unlike the central boss, however, none of the subsidiary bosses was riveted to the backplate. The remaining surfaces of the brooch are covered by eight paste-backed panels of pale sheet-gold, each with a beaded wire border and with decoration in gold filigree. No two are alike: a few bear interlacing motifs of vaguely zoomorphic character, in the Style II manner, while others bear disjointed loops eked out by subsidiary small ringlets, figure-of-eight and S-shapes. On all of them the main design is carried out in beaded wire flanked by finer wires, while the subsidiary motifs are made of fine, plain or beaded, single wires.

When the brooch was found, its silver backplate was covered by an incrustation composed of corrosion products and chalky accretion, which extended over the area originally covered by the lost catch-plate; its outline could just be glimpsed under strong edge-lighting. After cleaning, however, this outline showed up very clearly as a slight indentation in the silver surface, which was brighter and less pitted where the catch-plate had covered it (Fig. 4, Pl. IB). Thus, though it is possible that the catch had been lost before burial, it seems more likely that chalk had seeped behind it after it had become loosened or detached during the long centuries underground and that it was not recovered from the spoil-heap at the time of excavation. It was U-shaped, with sides of unequal length, and was secured by three iron rivets. The pin is of tinned or silvered bronze, just long enough to engage with the catchplate, and with a looped back that pivots on a bolt affixed between two lugs. These lugs are not cast on, but have been let into the back-plate by means of twin points. For added security the brooch was provided with a silver safety loop, by means of which it might be sewn or chained to the garment on which it was customarily worn.

Even before cleaning it could be seen that the backplate was pierced by an unusually large number of rivet-holes, and it has since become clear that only the four with iron rivets, for attaching the central boss and catchplate, were functional. Cleaning has also revealed that the back bears an off-centre design, very abraded, consisting of concentric circles with a point at their centre made by a scribing compass. In two of the zones are some tentative beginnings of patterns of scratched chevrons, one cross-hatched. Since this was



A



B

*Photo: R. L. Wilkins, F.S.A., Oxford University Institute of Archaeology*  
Monkton, Thanet, Grave 3. Gold Composite jewelled Disc Brooch (Scale 3:2).  
[face p. 58



*Photo: R. L. Wilkins, F.S.A., Oxford University Institute of Archaeology.*  
Monkton, Thanet, Grave 5. Glass Bell-Beaker (Scale 1:1)

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not respected when the brooch was made up, and because of the surplus rivet holes, it is obvious that the basal disc was cut from an old piece of silver, perhaps a trial piece, perhaps even the backplate of an earlier composite brooch of larger dimensions.

The broad rim which binds the Monkton brooch together is made of a strip of very pale gold with chased longitudinal grooves, the ends of which are slightly overlapped and soldered, the edges pressed firmly over at front and back to make all secure. Despite modern damage, the brooch has survived in good condition: its garnets are very little scratched and the surfaces which would have suffered most from friction against clothing are not noticeably worn. All this suggests that the brooch must have been buried not very long after it was made.

The milliprobe analysis of the gold used has confirmed suspicions aroused by its visible pallor. The rim contains only 55-56% gold, 42% silver and a small amount of copper; the filigree on the central boss a mere 41% gold, 56% silver and a similar amount of copper as in the rim. The metal is thus of a low degree of fineness.

2. Twelve *beads* (Fig. 5): a-b, amethyst drops; c-d, opaque orange glass barrels; e, opaque red glass ring; f, opaque red truncated bicone; g, opaque grey-white short cylinder; h, bright grass green opaque short cylinder; i, bright grass green truncated bicone; j, l, semi-translucent deep turquoise glass short cylinders; k, truncated bicone in the same metal.

### Grave 4

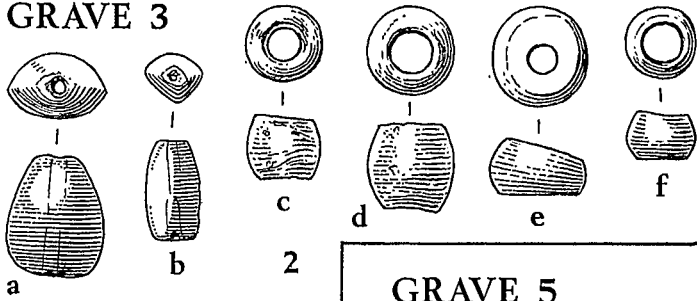
Orientated WNW.-ESE. Almost completely destroyed by pipe-trench. L. 2.28 m., W. 0.91 m., D. 0.18 m. No skeletal remains or finds recovered.

### Grave 5

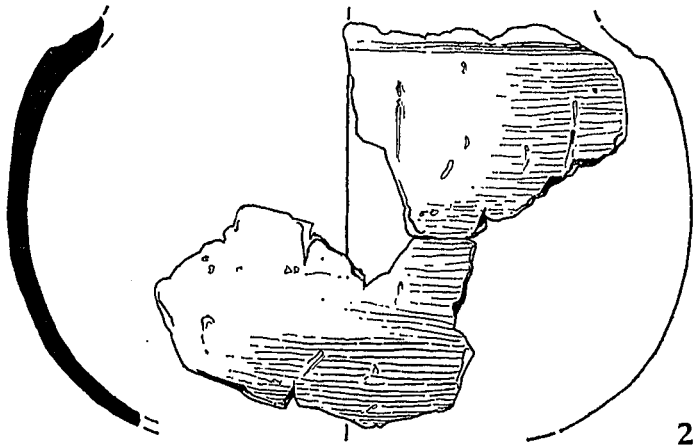
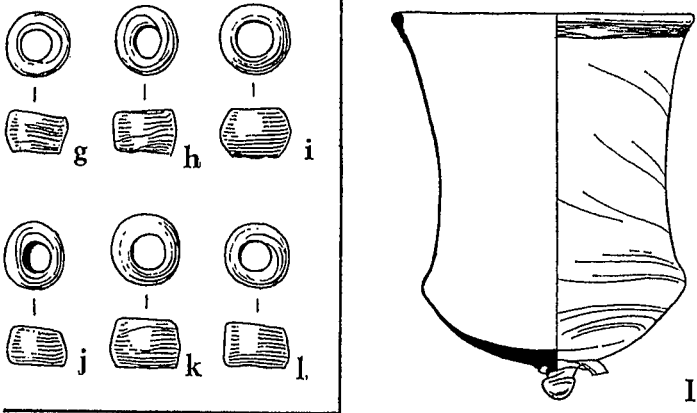
Orientated WSW.-ENE., head at west end. No dimensions recorded. Fragmentary remains of skeleton of ? female adult. Finds:

1. Green glass domed *bell-beaker* (Fig. 5, Pl. II) ht. 9.7 cm., rim diameter 7.6-7.9 cm. The domed base has a glass knob at its centre, which, to judge from a slight indentation in the corresponding place inside, appears to have been hooked out of the metal of the base. The carination is stressed in profile by slight indentations above and below. Above it, the vessel narrows to an unpronounced waist and then flares slightly outwards to form the rim. The thickness of the metal varies from 3-4 mm. on the base around the knob to c. 0.5 mm. at the thinnest part of the sides. Towards the rim the

GRAVE 3



GRAVE 5



*Drawings by Marion Cox*

FIG. 5. Beads from Grave 3 (1/1); Glass and Pot from Grave 5 (1/2).

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glass is somewhat thicker and this influences the rim, which is formed by folding the sides inwards and smoothing their edge into the surface. The working of the rim has not been prolonged enough to result in a thinning out of the fold; its thickness is distributed mainly to the inside of the vessel, the sweeping curve of the outer side being thus hardly at all influenced. On the base, to one side, are the remains of a badly detached punty. Immediately below the rim is a five-fold trail in opaque white glass, occupying a zone 3·5 mm. wide; the thread, starting with a largish blob, runs to the left and mainly upwards, the lowest spiral being quite broad, the uppermost very fine. The threads were nearly molten when applied and are marvered into the wall of the vessel. The basal knob is entirely hidden by an opaque white glass thread, which was applied at the top and wound downwards. The surface is mildly lustrous outside, with areas of decomposition streaks, particularly on the base. The direction of these streaks on the upper part of the body indicates that the vessel was turned clockwise on the punty during the working of the rim. The glass metal is light-green, with hardly any colour density even at the base. There are rather numerous small air bubbles and impurities, mostly tiny particles of iron. There are big scratches inside the base, and scratching of both rim and carination suggestive of a fair amount of use before burial. The scratching of the rim is consistent with up-ending the vessel for storage when not actually in use.<sup>15</sup>

2. Fragmentary hand-made *pot* (Fig. 5): seventeen weathered sherds from the same vessel; fabric finely gritted without grass temper; colouration patchy, dark grey-brown to red-brown; no surviving trace of original burnish. Six sherds join to make up the profile of the upper part of a squat globular body with one surviving neck-groove, but the upper part of neck and rim are unfortunately not represented. Five other joining sherds represent the lower part of the body and, perhaps, a rounded base, but these could not be accurately placed in relation to the rest and have not been included in the drawing. The weathering of these sherds suggests that the pot had not been an accessory vessel, but very possibly an earlier cremation urn that had been smashed up by the grave diggers and backfilled into Grave 5.

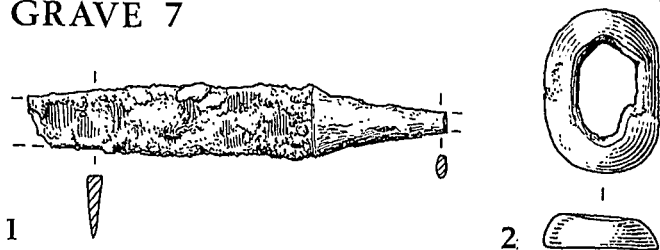
### *Grave 6*

Orientated WSW.-ENE. No details recorded. Fragmentary skeletal remains but no finds reported.

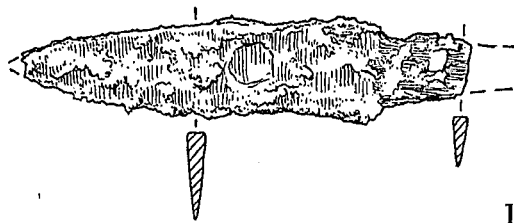
<sup>15</sup> For this detailed technical description of the glass I am greatly indebted to Miss Ursula Slevogt.



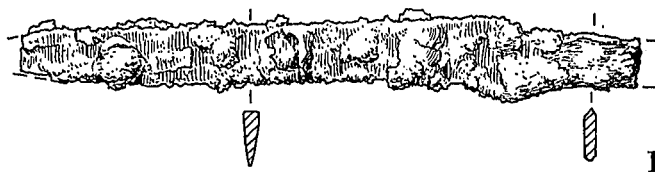
GRAVE 7



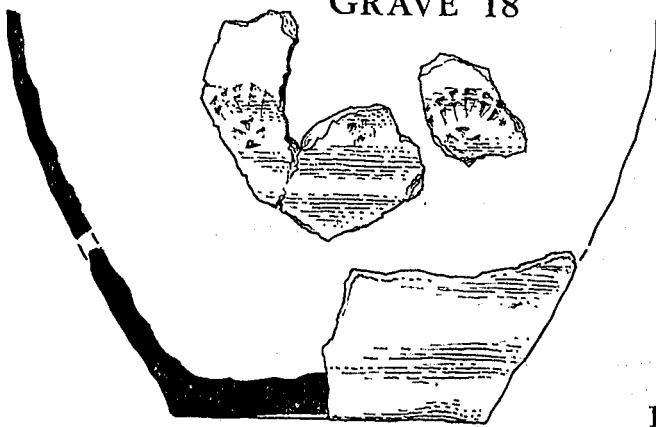
GRAVE 8



GRAVE 14



GRAVE 18



*Drawings by Marion Cox*

FIG. 6. Objects from Graves 7, 8, 14 and 18. 7, 1 (1/1), remainder (1/2).

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*Grave 7*

Orientated W-E., head at west end. At side of pipe-trench so contents could be properly excavated and planned. L. 2.59 m., W. 1.14 m. Fragmentary skeleton of an adult, ? male, age 30-40 yrs., supine extended, legs bent slightly to its right, left forearm lying across lower abdomen. Finds:

1. Iron *knife* (Fig. 6), tang tip and point broken, length 10.7 cm.; well preserved remains of wooden handle, apparently covered in leather. At left side of waist, under bones of forearm, lying diagonally, point towards right shoulder.
2. Bronze *buckle* (Fig. 6), maximum width 2.1 cm. Loop oval with straight hinge-bar; tongue missing but slight rusty traces suggest it may have been iron. Traces of leather on underside. Lying between grave-wall and head of left femur.

*Grave 8*

Orientated WSW.-ENE., directly on line of pipe-trench. L. 2.41 m., W. 0.76 m., D. 0.33 m. Fragmentary skeleton of a female aged 30-40. Finds:

1. Iron *knife* (Fig. 6), with part of tang missing, length 11.3 cm.; blade short and heavy with remains of leather sheath; on tang remains of wood, longitudinally grained.
2. Two sheep's teeth.

*Grave 9*

Orientated WSW.-ENE., directly on line of pipe. L. 2.43 m., W. 0.86 m., D. 0.53 m. No skeletal remains, no finds recovered.

*Grave 10*

Orientated W.-E., directly on line of pipe-trench. L. 1.90 m., W. 0.74 m., D. 0.23 m. Fragmentary skeleton of female, aged 20-25, Finds:

1. Fragmentary iron *knife*.
2. Fragmentary iron ?*keys*?

*Grave 11*

Orientated W.-E., cut by pipe-trench. No dimensions recorded. Fragmentary remains of ?female skeleton. No other finds recovered.

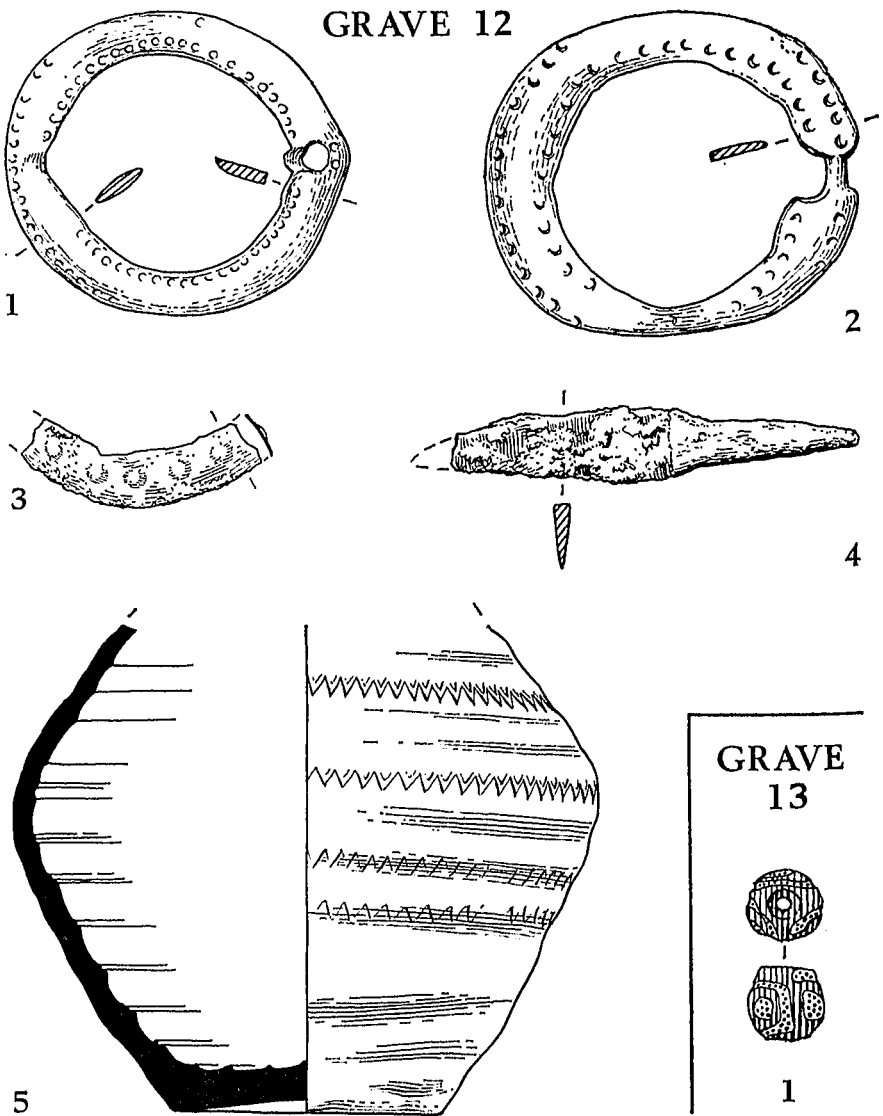


FIG. 7. Objects from Graves 12 and 13. 12, 1-3; 13, 1 (1/1); remainder (1/2).

*Drawings by Marion Cox*

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

Grave 12

Orientated W.-E., cut by pipe-trench. L. 2·13 m., W. 0·51 m., D. 0·46 m. Fragmentary skeleton of a juvenile. Finds:

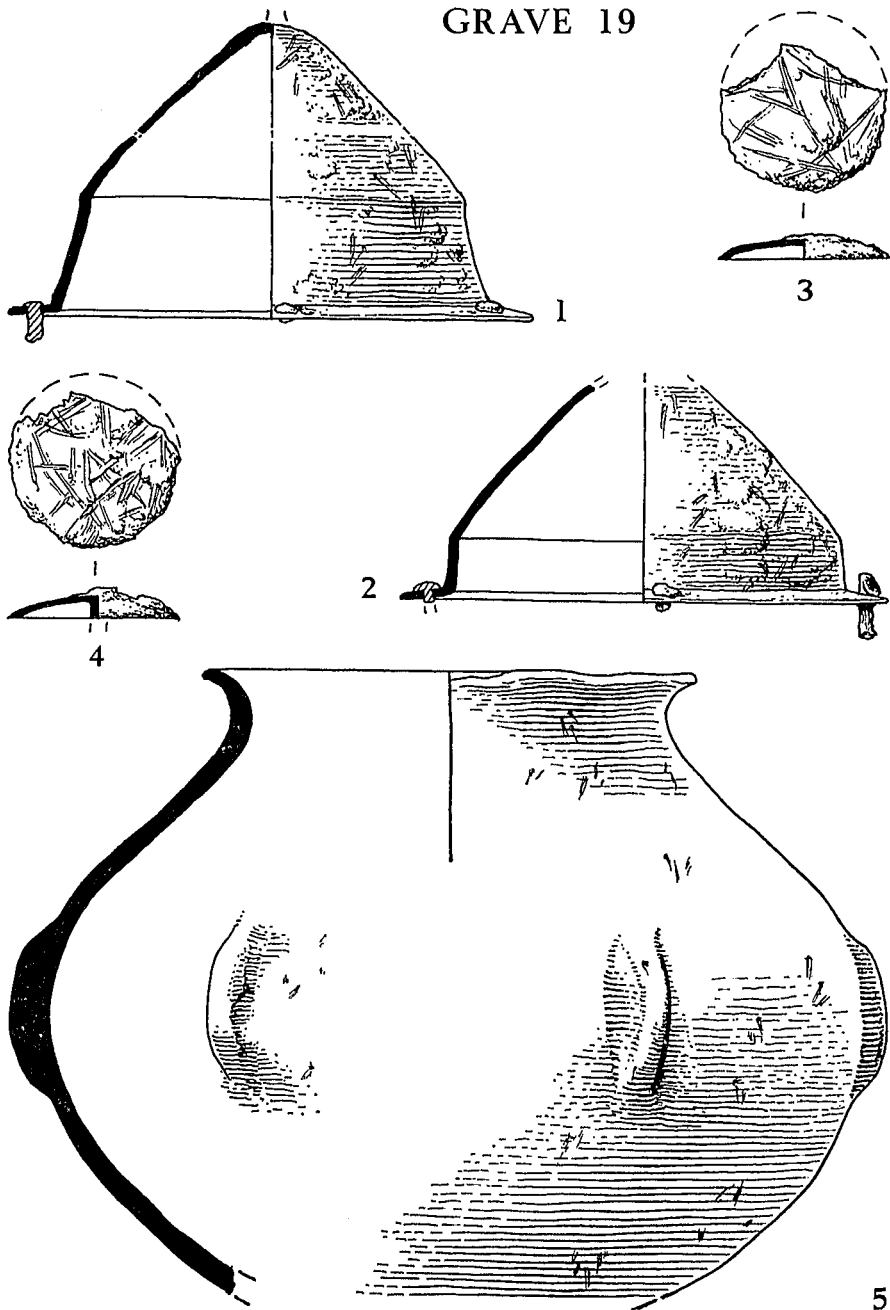
1. Bronze *annular brooch* (Fig. 7), maximum diameter 4·4 cm. The flat ring is very worn especially on its outer edge, where, except by the pin-hole and pin-rest, the border decoration has been abraded away; there is considerable wear also on the inside by the pin-rest, which is marked by a pronounced indentation. The pin-hole is enlarged and distorted; the pin itself is missing but rusty traces suggest it may have been iron. Both edges of the ring were originally decorated by single lines of punched dots.
2. Bronze *annular brooch* (Fig. 7), maximum diameter 4·75 cm. Like the previous brooch, this is very worn and distorted, though not so much on the axis of the pin as at the sides. The pin here was attached to a narrow bar; it is missing but again there are traces of iron. It was decorated similarly to the previous brooch, but with lunate punch-marks.
3. Fragment of bronze *annular brooch?* (Fig. 7), made of sheet metal decorated by low bosses punched up from the back; traces of iron rust on the front.
4. Iron *knife* (Fig. 7), tip of blade missing but original length about 11 cm. The blade has a straight cutting edge, somewhat malformed by grinding, and a straight back that angles down towards the point. Traces of leather on blade; remains of wooden handle, longitudinally grained, on tang.
5. Body of wheel-made *pottery bottle* (Fig. 7), neck knocked off by plough or bulldozer; maximum ht. 12·3 cm., belly diameter 15 cm. Well-fired finely-gritted fabric; grey core, pinkish buff interior, black exterior. Decorated with spiral lines of chevron ornament apparently rouletted. Exterior surface worn.

Grave 13

Orientated W.-E., adjacent to 12, and cut by pipe. L. 1·63 m., W. 0·36 m., D. 0·38 m. Fragmentary skeleton of a female. Finds:

1. Opaque red glass barrel *bead* (Fig. 7), decorated with opaque yellow marvered interlacing trails and spots.

GRAVE 19



*Drawings by Marion Cox*

FIG. 8. Objects from Grave 19 (1/1).

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

*Grave 14*

Orientated W.-E., cut by pipe-trench. L. 1·83 m., W. 0·43 m., D. 0·36 m. Fragmentary skeleton of an adult male. Finds:

1. Fragment of a large iron *knife* (Fig. 6), tip and tang broken, length 15·5 cm.

*Grave 15*

Orientated WSW.-ENE., cut by pipe-trench. L. 2·38 m., W. 0·81 m., D. 0·18 m. Fragmentary skeleton of an adult male. Finds:

1. Tang of iron *knife*, blade missing.

*Grave 16*

Orientated NW.-SE., half destroyed by pipe-trench. W. 0·66 m., D. 0·20 m. Fragmentary remains of skeleton of adult male. Finds:

1. Blade of iron *knife*.
2. Piece of red *tile*, probably modern, in filling.

*Grave 17*

Orientated W.-E., cut by pipe-trench. L. 1·75 m., D. 0·20 m. A little bone only.

*Grave 18*

Orientated W.-E., directly on line of pipe-trench. L. 1·38 m., W. 0·61 m., D. 0·48 m. A few pieces of bone only. Finds:

1. Fragmentary pottery *bottle* (Fig. 6): seventeen sherds from a badly shattered wheel-made bottle vase, one possibly from the neck area but the rest from base and body; few joins possible. Well-fired finely-gritted fabric; grey core, pale-brown interior, dark-grey exterior. Decoration seems to have consisted of rouletted wavy lines made up of triangular impressions, with four similar impressions making a cross or square below the arches, but the exterior is very eroded and the design incomplete.

*Grave 19*

Orientated WNW.-ESE., and cut by pipe-trench. L. at least 1·83 m., W. at least 0·81 m., D. 0·45 m. Fragmentary skeleton of a male aged 25-30. Finds:

1. Iron *shield-boss* (Fig. 8), damaged and represented by major part of rim and dome with knob knocked off: diameter 13·3 cm., ht. at least 7·5 cm. Low conical dome separated by a slight carination from the tall sloping waist; narrow flange with five knob-headed

rivets. One intact rivet gives the thickness of the shield-board as c. 5 mm. Traces on the underside of the flange indicate that this had had a leather cover and had been built up of two or more thicknesses of wood, with the grain of one lamination running at right-angles to the next as in modern plywood.<sup>16</sup> A band of wood 2 cm. wide, lying at right-angles to the flange of the boss and the grain of the undermost layer of the board, probably indicates the position of the shield-grip, of which no metal part is preserved. There are grass impressions<sup>17</sup> in the rust on top of the boss and white lime incrustation on the underside.

2. Fragmentary iron *shield-boss* (Fig. 8), damaged and comprising about half the flange and part of the dome with the top missing; diameter 12.3 cm., original height at least 6.5 cm. Low conical dome separated by a slight carination from the short vertical waist; narrow flange with five knob-headed rivets, one intact and suggesting a shield-board thickness of c. 6 mm. Again the indications are that this was leather-covered and made up of three-ply wood. The surface of this boss is also covered with grass impressions.
- 3-4. Pair of broad *studs* for a shield-board (Fig. 8), both damaged, original diameter 4.2 cm. The convex upper surfaces are covered with impressions of grass. The lime incrustations on the underside suggest that these studs may have belonged with the first boss.
5. Hand-made *pot* (Fig. 8), recovered in fragments and incomplete; only a small piece of rim and neck survives and the base could not be restored. The poorly-fired clay contains fine grits and a considerable admixture of straw or grass backing, which is clearly visible on the inside; the exterior had been thinly coated with slurry to give a smooth finish but no trace of burnish remains; the core and interior are dark grey-brown and the exterior has reddened patching. The mouth is narrow, with short everted rim; the body of broad sub-biconical form, decorated around its maximum diameter with six solid vertical bosses, short and narrow, made from applied lumps of clay.

<sup>16</sup> For a parallel and discussion of shield construction, see R. J. C. Atkinson, 'Technical notes on the Construction of the Swords, Scabbard and Shields', in E. T. Leeds and H. de S. Shortt, *An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Petersfinger, near Salisbury, Wilts*, Salisbury, 1953, Appendix I, 55-6.

<sup>17</sup> These occur on the other iron objects from the grave and suggest that cut grass had been put in at the time of burial to cover the funerary deposit or to line the grave. Evidence of practices of this kind is not often preserved but at Fingle-sham, in the princely grave 204, part of a layer of cut grass, which had lined the coffin, was found preserved under a bronze bowl.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

*Grave 20*

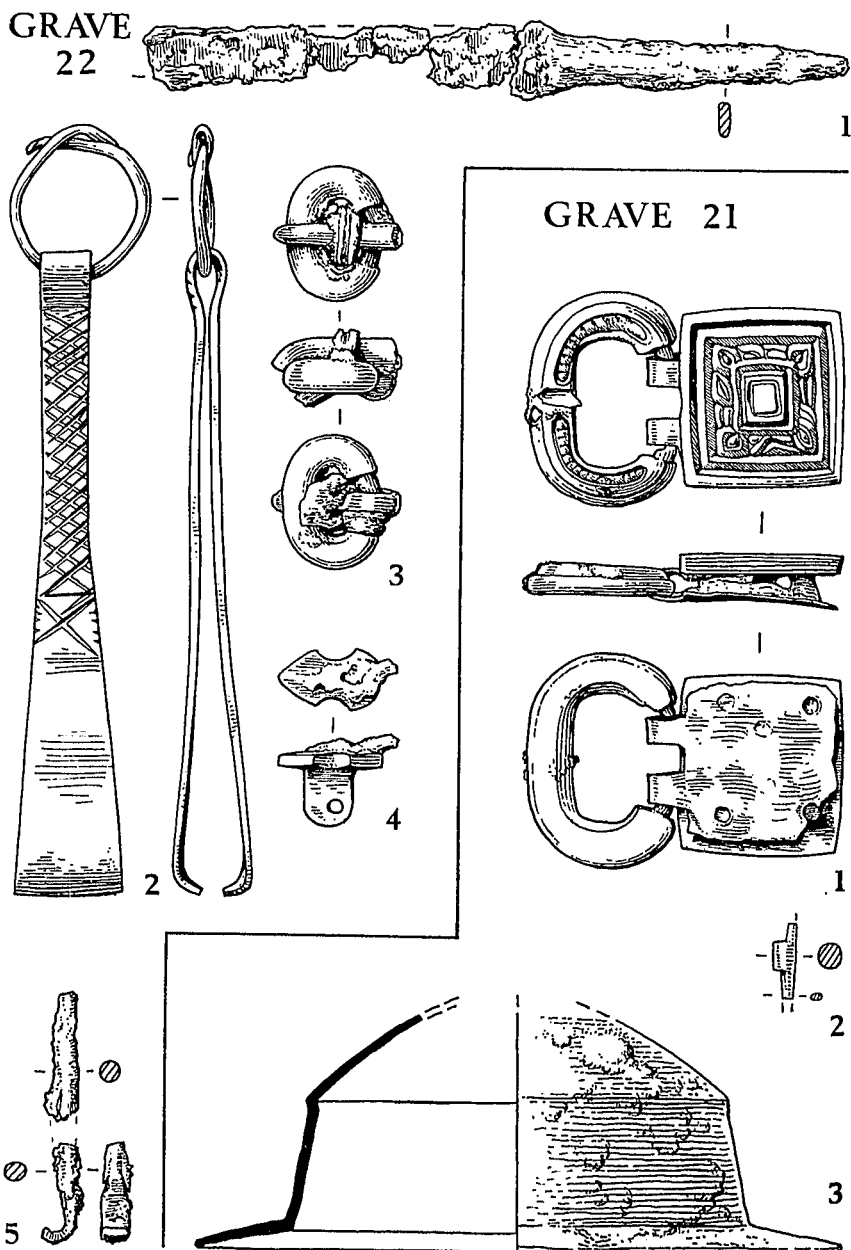
Orientated W.-E., and cut by pipe-trench. L. 2·54 m., W. at least 0·43 m., D. 0·914 m. Fragmentary remains of the skeleton of an adult male. No finds reported.

*Grave 21*

Orientated SW.-NE., head at west end. On south side of pipe-trench and excavated by workmen. L. 3·10 m., W. 1·09 m., D. at foot-end 0·43 m. Regularly cut rectangular grave with rounded corners. About 13 cm. from the foot-end there was a slight depression in the grave-floor, L. 3·51 m., W. c. 0·50 m., which may indicate the original presence of a coffin. But the grave had evidently been robbed in antiquity; only the skull and toe-bones were *in situ* and the leg-bones were found on the south side near the top of the grave-fill. The buckle and plate lay disturbed, 15 cm. apart, at the foot-end and the broken boss was in the top of the filling at the head-end. The bronze fragment lay under the skull. The skeleton was of an adult male aged 35-45. Finds:

1. Gilt bronze *buckle and plate* (Fig. 9), conjoined l. 4·2 cm., W. of loop 2·7 cm. The cast oval loop has a straight hinge-bar, a flat back and a moulded upper surface with decorative billeting and a pronounced pin-rest. It is heavily rust-stained as if the missing tongue had been of iron, and if so it will have been a replacement for a lost original in bronze. But there is no such staining on any part of the plate; so, perhaps, before disturbance, the loop had been in independent contact with an iron object such as a knife. The rectangular front-plate is also cast with decoration in 'chip-carving' style, consisting of a bronze rendering of an oblong central garnet surrounded by a zone of devolved Style I animal ornament. The sheet-bronze back-plate was attached by means of projecting tabs which were folded over the hinge-bar of the loop and then riveted under the front-plate. The four corner rivets attached both plates to a belt c. 3 mm. thick.
2. Tiny bronze *fragment* (Fig. 9), 1·1 cm., consisting of a piece of thin circular wire with a larger cylindrical moulding.
3. Shattered remains of an iron *shield-boss* (Fig. 9), incomplete but diameter calculable as c. 16·5 cm. Low convex dome (top missing) separated by a slight carination from the very tall sloping waist; broad flange (2·5 cm.) originally with five rivets, now missing. Traces of leather on underside of flange.





*Drawings by Marion Cox*

FIG. 9. Objects from Graves 21 and 22. 21, 1, 2; 22, 2, 3, 4 (1/1); remainder (1/2).

## THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

### Grave 22

Orientated W.-E., head at west end. On the south side of the pipe-trench and excavated by workmen. L. 2·49 m., W. 1·12 m., D. 0·31 m. Sub-rectangular and somewhat irregular, perhaps because it had been robbed in antiquity. The skeleton, of an adult male aged 35-45, lay supine and extended, but the right side of his pelvis and right leg had been removed and placed, still articulated, at the foot of the grave. From this we may infer that the corpse had been disturbed not long after burial, perhaps to remove a particularly valuable item of grave furniture such as a famous sword. Surviving finds:

1. A large iron *knife* or perhaps a small *seax* (Fig. 9), blade very incomplete, present length 18 cm. Remains of wood, vertically grained, on tang; traces of leather on blade.
2. Bronze *tweezers* (Fig. 9), length with ring 9·9 cm. Strong type with spring-loop and slightly expanded inturned ends. Decorated on both sides, from below the loop to more than halfway down the blades, with broad grooves making a diagonal lattice pattern, terminating on one side by a single transverse groove, on the other by three, and below them by single diagonal crosses. Decorative edge-notching appears at the sides of the loop and the crosses.
3. Bronze *buckle* (Fig. 9), width 1·7 cm. Sub-oval with short hinge-bar; cast with flat back and rounded upper surface. The plain slender tongue is attached by a cast loop. Adhering to it are the remains of a leather strap c. 8 mm. broad, with the tongue passing through a hole in it, as on a modern belt. Doubled over the hinge-bar are what appear to be the remains of the other end of the belt.
4. Shoe-shaped bronze *belt-rivet* (Fig. 9), length 8 mm., with the usual pierced lug behind. Adhering to the upper surface is a piece of corroded iron ?wire.
5. Two iron *fragments* (Fig. 9); one a piece of round-sectioned rod, the other a piece of rod with flattened terminal bent into a hook.

### Loose finds

1. Small fragment of tinned bronze sheet with a slight lip, length 2 cm., perhaps from a spoon.
2. Iron *shield-stud* with disc head, diameter 2·2 cm. Traces of wood on the underside. Possibly from Grave 21.
3. Parallel-sided flat *strip* of iron, length 4·5 cm., width 1·5 cm., possibly from a shield-grip.

S.C.H. and A.C.H.

## DISCUSSION OF THE FINDS

*Glass*

In view of the find-circumstances it seems almost miraculous that the little glass vessel from Grave 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. II) should have survived intact. It belongs to a type of drinking-glass which, from its frequent occurrences in graves, seems to have been a great favourite in Frankish areas of the Continent. The Germans call it a *Sturzbecher*, a handy package-term for a beaker which will not stand up and must be emptied before it is set down (on side or rim). The English, having modernized the originally comparable 'tumbler', have coined, after the French *verre clochette* or *verre campaniforme*, the term 'bell-beaker'. Since the Germans use the equivalent *Glockenbecher* for a quite different type of glass, we have here a nice example of the conflicting national terminologies which bedevil the archæology of this period.

The bell-beaker never became really popular in England: its appearances in Anglo-Saxon graves are rare and almost wholly confined to Kent.<sup>18</sup> So, whereas for claw-beakers and perhaps for cone-beakers, we may think in terms of glass-workshops operating in England as well as on the Continent,<sup>19</sup> we must see the bell-beakers as imported goods, foreign to Anglo-Saxon taste. Harden has attempted a classification of the motley collection from English graves,<sup>20</sup> but we are unlikely to get them into proper perspective until someone has made a full-scale study of the great Continental series. What follows, therefore, must be regarded as tentative.

The earliest bell-beakers, it seems, are an apparently short-lived series of light-green glasses, their form unconstricted and pointed and with terminal knob (Harden's Class V.a.i.), which are often decorated with opaque white marvered garlands and trails on the body and white trails covering the knob. They occur most frequently in northern France and have been thought to date from the fifth century,<sup>21</sup> though some at least were buried well on in the sixth.<sup>22</sup> Out of, or alongside,

<sup>18</sup> D. B. Harden, 'Glass vessels in Britain and Ireland, A.D. 400-1000', D. B. Harden (Ed.), *Dark Age Britain: Studies Presented to E. T. Leeds*, 1956, 132-67, f, esp. 161.

<sup>19</sup> Miss Ursula Slevogt has assembled much evidence for the existence of English workshop-groups in her as yet unpublished study of Germanic claw-beakers in Europe. I am indebted to her for preliminary information. For the cone-beaker situation see Vera I. Evison, 'Glass Cone-beakers of the Kempston Type', *Journal of Glass Studies*, xiv (1972), 48-65.

<sup>20</sup> *Op. cit.* (1956), 140-1, fig. 25, V.

<sup>21</sup> F. Rademacher, 'Fränkische Gläser aus dem Rheinland', *Bonner Jahrbücher*, cxlvii (1942), 285-344, esp. 307-11; W. von Pfeffer, 'Zur Typologie merowingerzeitlicher Gläser mit Fadenverzierung', *Festschrift des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums in Mainz zur Feier seines hundertjährigen Bestehens*, III (1952), 147-60, esp. 150, List p. 157.

<sup>22</sup> In Kent, for example, in Sarre 4 (*Arch. Cant.*, v (1962-3), 310-20, pls. I-III), a grave of the mid-sixth century, and Bifrons 41 (*Arch. Cant.*, x (1876), 313-14 and figs.), a grave perhaps a decade or so earlier.

these was developed the constricted form with carination and progressively more domed base, which at first still retained the terminal knob (Harden's Class V.a.ii). The earliest of these are compact beakers with graceful concave sides; they have a white terminal knob and either opaque garland decoration on the body or a simple white trail below the rim, as on our beaker from Monkton. Though some may have been manufactured in the later fifth century,<sup>23</sup> Rademacher's early sixth-century dating seems to hold good for most. A fine typologically early and very decorative specimen was buried c. A.D. 530, for example, in the princess's grave under Cologne Cathedral.<sup>24</sup> Further developments vary according to workshop and region, of course, but the general tendency seems to be for the bell-beakers to lose first their white decoration, then their terminal knob, and gradually to become taller and more conical in form, with a bulbous base (Harden's Class V.b.i), until, in the seventh century, they become almost cylindrical.<sup>25</sup> This last development is not at present represented amongst Kentish finds.

In conclusion, then, the Monkton beaker should date from the early sixth century, though the amount of scratching on rim and carination suggests that it had been used for some time before burial. It is difficult to parallel exactly, but the number of similarly decorated early bell-beakers in the North Frankish area suggests that it may have been brought to Kent from northern France or Belgium.<sup>26</sup>

### Pottery

The description of the hand-made pot found with the glass in Grave 5 (Fig. 5) includes the suggestion, based on its weathered and fragmented state, that this had been an earlier cremation urn which the grave-diggers disturbed in the topsoil and incorporated in the grave-filling.<sup>27</sup> Only further excavation will prove, by disclosure of other

<sup>23</sup> Harden, *op. cit.* (1956), 141; J. Ypey, 'Vroeg-middeleeuws glas', *Antiek: tijdschrift voor liefhebbers van oude kunst en kunstnijverheid*, ii, nr. 8, Lochem, 1968, 383, fig. 7.

<sup>24</sup> O. Doppelfeld, 'Das fränkische Frauengrab unter dem Chor des Kölner Domes', *Germania*, xxxviii (1960), 89-113, pl. 23, no. 30; O. Doppelfeld and R. Firling, *Fränkische Fürsten im Rheinland* (1966), pl. 96.

<sup>25</sup> For archaeologically dated series, see J. Werner, *Münzdatierte Austrasische Grabfunde* (1935), *passim*; K. Böhner, *Die Fränkische Altertümer des Trierer Landes* (1968), 228-231, pls. 65-7.

<sup>26</sup> For southern Belgium alone, cf. the examples from grave 13 at Merlemont, Y. Wautelet, *La Nécropole franque de Merlemont*, *Archaeologica Belgica* (1967), 23 figs. 15, 2 and 45, 2; from Ciply, graves 673 and 706, Haine-Saint-Paul (2 eggs.) and Trivières, G. Faider-Feytmans, *Les Collections d'Archéologie régionale du Musée de Mariemont, II: Les Nécropoles mérovingiennes* (1970), 77, 125, 206 and 209, pls. XIX, LXXXV, and CXXVIII.

<sup>27</sup> Disturbances of this kind occur very frequently in mixed inhumation-cremation cemeteries, cf. E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire*, 1936, 11.

cremation urns, whether Monkton was in fact a mixed-rite cemetery,<sup>28</sup> but the fine fabric of the pot and what is left of its profile support the hypothesis that it antedates the glass. When complete, very probably it was a plainish example of a type of round-shouldered jar—often rather squat in profile—with rounded base, tall concave neck and strongly grooved linear ornament, which Dr. Myres has illustrated and discussed in connection with Kent's fifth-century colonists from Jutland and Frisia.<sup>29</sup> Such early Jutish pots are known from a number of sites of primary Germanic settlement and burial in east Kent, including Sarre, and have been ascribed to the middle third of the fifth century.

The undecorated hand-made pot with shoulder-bosses found in Grave 19 (Fig. 8) was recovered in fragments and may perhaps have been another cremation urn. It may equally well have been an accessory vessel that was smashed up by the ditch-digger and, if so, must be dated by the associated shield-boss(es) to the seventh century. In support of this later dating, it should be noted that its poorly-fired densely grass-tempered fabric, not generally characteristic of cremation pottery, is closely paralleled by that of several of the seventh-century domestic pots buried in the Finglesham cemetery, where, incidentally, shoulder-bossing survived until very late in that century.

The fragmentary wheel-made bottle-vases from Graves 12 and 18 (Figs. 6, 7) belong to a class of vessel that is represented in many cemeteries in east Kent, and most numerously at Sarre.<sup>30</sup> Only very

<sup>28</sup> Though east Kent has not generally been acknowledged as a region where cremation was practised at all commonly, the rite was probably more frequent, in the fifth century at least, than present evidence would lead one to suppose. Definite instances are known at Westbere (R. F. Jessup, 'An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Westbere, Kent', *Ant. J.*, xxvi (1946), 11-21), Hollingbourne (L. R. A. Grove, 'The Whiteheath Excavations: The Beale Post MSS. II', *Arch. Cant.*, lxx (1952), 160-6) and Folkestone (*P.S.A.L.*, 1st ser., ii (1853), 175); others may be suspected at Howletts (*P.S.A.L.*, 2nd ser., xxx (1917-18), 102-113). But much other information may have been lost by nineteenth-century excavation methods (e.g. the use of the probe to locate graves in the early cemetery of Bifrons ruled out any chance of finding cremations) and by the extensive ploughing which has long since stripped the old topsoil from the chalk downland of east Kent and made it virtually impossible for cremation urns to survive except, perhaps, as at Monkton, in secondary position in the fill of inhumation graves.

<sup>29</sup> J. N. L. Myres, *Anglo-Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England* 1969, 95-9, fig. 40; *The Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes* (The Raleigh Lecture on History, British Academy, 1970 (1971)), 27-31.

<sup>30</sup> For the Sarre series, preserved in Maidstone Museum, cf. Brent, *op. cit.* (1868), pls. IX-X; for examples from Gilton (Ash), Kingston Down, Sibertswold and Barfreston, cf. B. Faussett, *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (ed. C. Roach Smith, 1856), p. xlvii and pl. XX. There are also singletons from Wickhambreaux, Grove Ferry (Canterbury Museum, R.M. 861); Howletts (British Museum, 1935, 10-29, 11); Westbere (Jessup, *op. cit.* (1946), pl. IV); Folkestone and Harrietsham (G. Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, iv (1915), pl. CXXXIX, 2, 4); Lympe (C. Roach Smith, *The Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver and Lympe* (1850), 263); Stowting (F. Wrench, *A Brief Account of the Parish of Stowting* (1845), pl. III); Chatham Lines, Barrow 1 (Douglas, *op. cit.* (1793), pl. 1) and Holborough, Grave 4 (Vera I. Evison, 'An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Holborough,

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few of them seem actually to have been made in Kent, however,<sup>31</sup> the majority being Frankish-made imports, probably wine bottles. Tracking down their centres of manufacture abroad is rendered difficult because of their lower survival rate across the Channel. Whereas the Kentings seem to have valued the bottles for their own sake, often keeping them long after they had been emptied of their original contents before finally burying them with the dead,<sup>32</sup> the Franks seem to have been less enthusiastic conservationists, with the result that bottle-vases tend to be relatively poorly represented in their grave inventories. Thus, to identify the sources of Kentish-found bottles it is necessary to compare their various types of ornament, particularly the rouletted patterns, with those used on contemporary biconical bowls or drinking-cups. These, though not so well represented in Kent, are the kind of pottery vessels found most commonly in Frankish graves. The subject of Kent's wheel-made imported pottery has long been overstanding for detailed study, and it is hoped that this may be shortly forthcoming from Miss Evison. Meanwhile, one may record the impression that, while some of the plainer bottle-vases from Kentish graves, including those with simple zig-zag or incised wavy-line ornament, may have come from the Rhineland, a great number originated in France.

A high percentage of the bottles found in Kent bear wavy-line ornament produced by the toothed roulette-wheel, the variants including undulating lines with flanking stamps and interlacing lines without stamps. It is now becoming clear that vessels with this kind of ornament were produced in a restricted area of northern France, Artois and Picardy, just over the Channel from Kent.<sup>33</sup> This then is the

<sup>31</sup> At Finglesham, for example, besides the imported bottles mentioned in the previous note, there were three bottles and one biconical cup wheel-made in a local fabric. Such Kentish imitations seem at present to be exceptional, but more may be forthcoming from other recently excavated cemeteries.

<sup>32</sup> Two of the imported bottles from Finglesham had had their broken necks (broken during removal of the original stoppers?) carefully ground to a smooth edge to permit re-use, and both had very worn exterior surfaces.

<sup>33</sup> Cl. Seillier and P. Leclerc, 'Découvertes d'Époque mérovingienne à Wierre-Effroy et Wissant (Pas de Calais)', *Septentrion*, ii, nos. 9-10 (1972), 19-26, esp. 24 and fig. 2; Cl. Seillier, 'Remarques sur la Céramique ornée de la Nécropole de Yron (Somme)', *Septentrion*, ii (1972), 61-66, esp. 66 and fig. 2. I am indebted to M. Seillier for further clarification of this distribution, in conversation at Boulogne Museum, 19th July, 1974.

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Kent.', *Arch. Cant.*, lxx (1956), fig. 13, pl. ii). Various museums contain examples from the important but never properly published cemetery in the King's Field, Faversham. There are three examples from Finglesham, one from the 1928-9 excavations (Sonia Chadwick, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Finglesham, Kent: a reconsideration,' *Med. Arch.*, ii (1958), fig. 4), two more from the as yet unpublished graves excavated between 1959 and 1967. Numerous others have turned up in the unpublished cemeteries excavated by Miss Evison at Dover, 1951-2, by Mr. A. C. Hogarth at St. Peter's, 1969-71, and by Mrs. L. Webster at Broadstairs, 1971-4.

origin of the pottery bottle from Grave 18 at Monkton. There are no associated objects to assist with its dating, but similarly decorated bottles have been discussed in connection with one from Holborough,<sup>34</sup> and it is clear that in Kent, at least, such vessels were buried in seventh-century contexts. The closest datable parallel known to the author is an eroded bottle-vase, with nearly identical ornament, which was buried in Grave 86 at Finglesham, together with a spear and glass bag-beaker, during the latter part of the seventh century.

The more simply decorated bottle from Grave 12 at Monkton is more difficult to assess. Bottle-vases with incised wavy lines around the neck and upper part of the body have a wide distribution in Merovingian Europe and burial-dates ranging from the second half of the sixth century into the seventh.<sup>35</sup> The Kentish specimens are probably all imports: one was buried at Chatham Lines with a buckle and shield-boss that suggest a date towards the end of the sixth century or later,<sup>36</sup> one at Strood II<sup>37</sup> was buried during the first half of the seventh century, in all probability, while another from Finglesham Grave 95, found in association with a now famous buckle,<sup>38</sup> may have been buried around the middle of the seventh century. But the Monkton bottle is not really like any of these: its decoration is neater, comes lower on the body and appears to have been rouletted. Its origin and dating may be clarified when the promised *corpus* has been published. For the moment, therefore, all this author feels it prudent to say is that its fabric suggests that it was an import and that the extreme amount of wear on the two sixth-century annular brooches found with it indicates a date of burial sometime in the seventh century.

### *Weapons and knives*

The sword from Grave 1 (Fig. 4) is not datable and all that can profitably be said of it is that it indicates the presence in the Monkton community of at least one male of relatively high social rank.

The low carinated form and broad flange of the shield-boss from Grave 21 (Fig. 9) suggest a sixth-century date, and this is confirmed by the buckle buried with it. Burials with more than one shield are very

<sup>34</sup> Evison, *op. cit.*, (1956), 104.

<sup>35</sup> See, for example, Otto von Hessen, *Die Langobardische Keramik aus Italien* (1968), pl. XX, p. 28 and literature cited in note 21; Faider Feytmans, *op. cit.* (1970), pl. IX, no. 107 and literature cited on p. 73.

<sup>36</sup> Douglas, *loc. cit.* in note 30.

<sup>37</sup> C. Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, v (1961), pl. xi; M. Swanton, *The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements* (Royal Archaeological Institute, 1973), fig. 55.

<sup>38</sup> Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, H. R. Ellis Davidson and Christopher Hawkes, 'The Finglesham Man', *Antiquity*, xxxix (1965), 17-32, pl. IV, a.

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rare indeed,<sup>39</sup> and it therefore seems possible that one of the two bosses reported as coming from Grave 19 (Fig. 8) may in reality have come from the nearby Grave 18. Since the shield-board studs apparently belonged with the larger boss, no. 1, the smaller boss may be an intruder. On the other hand, both bosses have grass-marking in the rust of their upper surfaces, an unusual feature this, so perhaps they did after all come from the same grave. Both are variants of what Miss Evison has termed low-cone bosses, with narrow flange and increased height in relation to diameter, which she regards as intermediate in date and typological development between the squat sixth-century forms and the tall sugar-loaf bosses of the second half of the seventh century.<sup>40</sup> There were two low-cone bosses in the princely grave at Taplow, Bucks.,<sup>41</sup> indicating that the form was current in the early seventh century, but in general their dating is not well established. The numerous examples from Kent derive mostly from pre-modern excavations and few have associated finds.<sup>42</sup> But the impression gained from the discussion of the series from Holborough,<sup>43</sup> of which that from Grave 8 resembles very closely the larger one from Grave 19 at Monkton, is that, in Kent at least, the low-cone form may have been retained in use throughout the seventh century. In the present state of the evidence, therefore, the low-cone bosses from Monkton cannot be dated more closely than to some time in the seventh century.

Knives were recovered from Graves 4, 7 and 8 (Fig. 7), 10, 12 (Fig. 7), 14 (Fig. 6), 15, 16 and 22 (Fig. 9), all in more or less fragmented condition. The large one from Grave 22, with associated belt-fittings of early sixth-century date, may just possibly be the remains of a narrow *seax* of a type known from a few other Anglo-Saxon male graves of this period.<sup>44</sup> The others seem to have been simple domestic knives. Only two from female burials are sufficiently intact to invite comment: that from Grave 8 is of a type which was used from the fifth to the

<sup>39</sup> M. J. Swanton, *A Corpus of Pagan Anglo-Saxon Spear-Types* (B.A.R. 7, 1974), lists only a couple of graves with two shields, the barrow-burial at Taplow, Bucks., and a more doubtful case at Warren Hill, Mildenhall, Suffolk. It should be noted that the outstanding quality of the grave-goods at Taplow indicates that their owner had been a man of very high social rank indeed, possibly a royalty; cf. Elisabeth Crowfoot and Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'Early Anglo-Saxon Gold Braids', *Med. Arch.*, xi (1967), 42-86, esp. 44-50, 65-6.

<sup>40</sup> Vera I. Evison, 'Sugar-Loaf Shield Bosses', *Antiq. Journ.*, xliii (1963), 38-96.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, figs. 12, d and 13, c.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 41.

<sup>43</sup> Evison, *op. cit.* (1956), 95-6, 107-11. It should be allowed, however, that here, as in her 1963 paper, Miss Evison was gearing her chronology to the then current mid-seventh-century dating of the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial and of the Taplow grave, whereas now the generally accepted dating for both graves is a generation earlier.

<sup>44</sup> Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'The Dating and social Significance of the Burials in the Polhill Cemetery', in B. Philp, *Excavations in West Kent, 1960-1970* (1973), 186-201, esp. 189, on the sixth-century *seaxes*.



seventh century, that from Grave 12 is more characteristic of the seventh century,<sup>45</sup> a dating supported by other evidence from this grave.

### *Buckles and belt-fittings*

In contrast with other Anglo-Saxon regions in the fifth and sixth centuries, the grave-record from Kent, and Kentish-influenced areas of south-east England, shows that both men and women had adopted a style of dress in which the buckled belt played an important, probably vital, rôle. The influence came from the Frankish dominions and, not unnaturally, the types of buckles and subsidiary fittings worn were very similar on both sides of the Channel, so that it is often difficult to tell whether some of the simpler types were made here or abroad. The stout oval bronze buckle from Grave 7 (Fig. 6) is a sixth-century type, but the absence of a tongue makes closer dating impossible. The similar buckle from Grave 22 (Fig. 9) has a simple tongue, slightly thickened at the back but without any basal shield. Tongues of this type occur on buckles from the fifth into the first half of the sixth century. At Bifrons, for example, there are similar buckles from Grave 5, associated with button-brooches of the late fifth or early sixth century,<sup>46</sup> and from Grave 77, with late fifth-century Thuringian small-long brooches.<sup>47</sup> They also occur in combination with a class of distinctively Kentish rectangular buckle-plates, in which we may include that from Monkton Grave 21 (Fig. 9) as a poor and possibly late specimen. Its ornament is an unintelligent rendering of the two Style I animals, with bodies bent at right-angles, which pursue each other around the central garnet settings on the classic buckle-plates in the series.<sup>48</sup> Though none of them is well dated by associated finds, there are grounds for thinking it likely that those with the coherent animal ornament were in production

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, 199, on knives, following Böhner, *op. cit.* (1958), 214–16.

<sup>46</sup> T. G. Godfrey-Faussett, 'The Saxon Cemetery at Bifrons', *Arch. Cant.*, x (1876), fig. between pp. 302–3.

<sup>47</sup> Maidstone Museum, K.A.S. 371–2.

<sup>48</sup> Stylistically good plates complete with buckles are known from Gilton, Ash (W. Boys, *Collections for a History of Sandwich* (1892), 868–9, fig. 4; Faussett, *op. cit.* (1856), p. xxix, 4), Howletts (*British Museum Quarterly*, x (1936), pl. XXXIX, 9) and Lyminge, Grave 1 (A. Warhurst, 'The Jutish Cemetery at Lyminge', *Arch. Cant.*, lxi (1965), 1–40, esp. 7, 33, pl. IX, 1), all in Kent, and from Alfriston Grave 89, Sussex (A. F. Griffith, 'An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Alfriston, Sussex', *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, lvii (1915), 197–210, esp. 205, pl. XXX, 5) and Fairford, Gloucs. (E. T. Leeds, *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology* (1936), pl. XX, b). Plates only are known from Howletts (*British Museum Quarterly*, xii (1938), pl. XXIII, 7, Rochester, Star Hill (*J.B.A.A.*, ix 1854, pl. XXXII, 3), Barn Elms, London (*British Museum Guide to the Anglo-Saxon and Foreign Teutonic Antiquities*, (1923), fig. 67), West Meon, Hants. (*Antiq. Journ.*, xvii (1937), 199–200) and there is another, with an unknown Kentish provenance, in Canterbury Museum.

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at latest by the second quarter of the sixth century. Those grounds include such considerations as the early form of buckle attached to one of the plates from Howletts,<sup>49</sup> the typological development of Style I ornament in Kent after its introduction from south Scandinavia by way of late fifth-century square-headed brooches,<sup>50</sup> and the influence of our Kentish buckle-plates on the head-plates of some later English square-headed brooches.<sup>51</sup> The Monkton plate, with its garbled Style I ornament and central setting copied in solid bronze, is certainly the product of an inferior workshop and very likely of mid-sixth-century date. Finally, the shoe-shaped belt-rivet from Grave 22 (Fig. 9) is a type commonly worn during the sixth century, usually in two's or three's, in place of a buckle-plate, to secure the end of the belt where it was doubled over the buckle-loop.

### *Tweezers*

A pair of stout bronze tweezers was buried with the man in Grave 22 (Fig. 9). The type, described as traditionally 'Roman', has been discussed recently in connection with its appearances in fifth-century cremation burials in England and north Germany.<sup>52</sup> In the inhumation cemeteries of southern England such tweezers are found in the graves of either sex, but most commonly with well-furnished males. Presumably, they were used for plucking facial hair. Tweezers comparable in size, proportions and strength, sometimes with similar decorative elements, have been found in a number of well-dated graves of the late fifth and earlier sixth centuries.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>49</sup> The kidney-shaped loop and rectangular plate on the back of the tongue hark back to Frankish forms of the beginning of the sixth century.

<sup>50</sup> E. Bakka, *On the Beginnings of Salin's Style I in England* (Universitetet i Bergen Årbok, 1958); Chadwick, *op. cit.* (1958), 45-57. A new study of the subject, shortly forthcoming from Professor G. Haseloff, suggests a slightly earlier date for the introduction of Style I into Kent from Denmark.

<sup>51</sup> N. Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (1926), 117-20 (but his dating is, as always, on the late side); E. T. Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Square-Headed Brooches* (1949), 54; Chadwick, *op. cit.* (1958), 58-9.

<sup>52</sup> J. N. L. Myres and Barbara Green, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of Caistor-by-Norwich and Markshall, Norfolk*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, xxx, Oxford, 1973, 105.

<sup>53</sup> Some good specimens were found during the author's excavations at Worthy Park, Kingsworthy, Hants., in Graves 41 and 50, second half fifth century, and Grave 49, late fifth-early sixth (50 and 49 being somewhat sketchily published in M. J. Swanton, *The Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*, Royal Archaeological Institute, 1973, figs. 83 and 85). Another was found in the late fifth-early sixth-century Grave 21 at Petersfinger, Wilts. (most conveniently illustrated in Vera I. Evison, *The Fifth-Century Invasions South of the Thames* (1965), fig. 18, and Swanton, *op. cit.* (1973), fig. 78). Another was found in Grave 1 at Lyminge, which is datable, as we have seen (p. 78), to the first half or at latest the middle of the sixth century (Warhurst, *op. cit.* (1955), fig. 6, and Swanton, *op. cit.* (1973), fig. 79).

*Beads*

The assemblage of beads from Monkton Grave 3 (Fig. 5) is typically seventh-century. All the types were represented at Polhill, a cemetery which seems not to have come into use much before the middle of that century, and the author's discussion of them need not be repeated here.<sup>54</sup> It remains only to say that the association with the composite brooch affords a useful and reasonably firm dating around the middle of the seventh century.

Beads like the singleton from Grave 13 (Fig. 7) are said to have been worn in the Trier region during most of the sixth and seventh centuries.<sup>55</sup> This dating, however, is very generalized. In Kent, I know of such beads from Bifrons Grave 22<sup>56</sup> and Finglesham Grave 203,<sup>57</sup> both datable to the second half of the sixth century, and from Eastry House, Eastry, Grave 1,<sup>58</sup> datable to the early seventh century, but none from reliable later seventh-century contexts.

*Annular brooches*

The annular brooches from Grave 12 (Fig. 7), of large size and with flat narrow ring, belong to a type which makes only very occasional appearances in Kent and southern England generally: the distribution is predominantly Anglian<sup>59</sup> and the date sixth-century. The Monkton examples may perhaps have been brought by a bride from the east Midlands, but the extreme amount of abrasion on both of them suggests use during more than one lifetime. Quite possibly they had seen secondary use on a girdle or *châtelaine*. In view of their condition, it seems unlikely that they were buried before the very end of the sixth or sometime in the seventh century.

*Jewelled composite disc brooch*<sup>60</sup>

Composite brooches, the most sumptuous versions of the disc form, are great rarities,<sup>61</sup> and the discovery of a new one in Grave 3 at

<sup>54</sup> Hawkes, *op. cit.* (1973), 192-3.

<sup>55</sup> Böhner, *op. cit.* (1958), 77.

<sup>56</sup> Godfrey-Faussett, *op. cit.* (1876), 307. Beads in Maidstone Museum, K.A.S. 301.

<sup>57</sup> *Med. Arch.*, xii (1968), 158.

<sup>58</sup> *Med. Arch.*, xvi (1972), 156-7.

<sup>59</sup> E. T. Leeds, 'The Distribution of the Angles and Saxons archaeologically considered', *Archaeologia*, xci (1945), 48-9.

<sup>60</sup> A fuller discussion of this brooch will be found in Hawkes, *op. cit.* (1974).

<sup>61</sup> Until the discovery of the Monkton brooch no substantially complete composite brooch had been found since 1935 (M. Hyslop, 'Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries at Chamberlain's Barn, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire', *Arch. Journ.*, cxx (1963), 176, fig. 10). It is something of a coincidence, therefore, that another one was found in Kent last year, at Gilton, Ash: it too has been acquired by the Ashmolean Museum.

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Monkton (Fig. 4; Pl. I) is an event of considerable archæological importance. We may regret that it was not found in the course of a properly controlled scientific excavation but, so unceremonious was the manner of its disinterment, we are lucky that it survived at all. Though by no means the finest of its class, the Monkton brooch exhibits many interesting features.

The primary distribution area of these magnificent brooches lies east of the Medway, within the frontiers of the ancient Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent, where they have been found only in the richest and most aristocratic of cemeteries (Fig. 2). The evidence suggests that Kentish master jewellers produced the earliest of them during the first two decades of the seventh century and that production continued thereafter for another generation. During this period of about half-a-century, the workmanship of the composite brooches underwent marked stylistic and technical changes.<sup>62</sup> The finest and earliest of them have all their metal parts, excepting the back-plate, made of good quality gold;<sup>63</sup> their cell-work, dominated by the step-pattern but including a rich variety of other motifs, is generally regular and well executed, and their garnet settings, varied with blue glass, usually of good size. The latest of the brooches, some of which have been found and were probably made outside Kent, have bronze-walled cells of simple rectangular, triangular or honeycomb shape set with very small garnets. The reduction in the amount of gold used is probably to be explained by the progressively decreasing supply of it in England after c. A.D. 625;<sup>64</sup> the smaller and simpler garnets used may likewise result from a shortage of imported stones and a need to use or re-use existing supplies as economically as possible.

The Monkton brooch is unique in that it shows a combination of early and late cloisonné patterns. The inner ring of alternating triangular and stepped cloisons is clearly a bungled attempt at a design seen at its best on the 'Amherst' brooch, an all-gold master-composite from

<sup>62</sup> The best general account of them is still that of Leeds, *op. cit.* (1936), 115-124, under Class III. With proper caution respecting his chronology, reference should also be made to T. D. Kendrick, 'Polychrome Jewellery in Kent', *Antiquity*, vii (1933), 429-452. See also, S. E. Rigold and Leslie E. Webster, 'Three Anglo-Saxon Disc Brooches', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxv (1970), 1-18. A full corpus-publication is shortly forthcoming from Richard Avent in *British Archæological Reports*.

<sup>63</sup> Of the two which have been analysed, that from Grave 42 at Gilton has gold 85 per cent. fine (S. C. Hawkes, J. M. Merrick and D. M. Metcalf, 'X-Ray fluorescent Analysis of some Dark Age Coins and Jewellery', *Archæometry*, ix (1966), 98-138, esp. 106-7 and fig. 2, no. L.12), while that from Sarre or Minster, the so-called 'Amherst Brooch', has gold 83 per cent. fine (P. D. C. Brown and F. Schweizer, 'X-Ray fluorescent Analysis of Anglo-Saxon Jewellery', *Archæometry*, xv (1973), 175-92, esp. 180, no. AM 27).

<sup>64</sup> Hawkes *et al.*, *op. cit.* (1966), 100-1, 120-1.

Sarre or Minster.<sup>65</sup> A possible explanation is that the jeweller was making use of ready-cut garnets salvaged from an earlier brooch, perhaps even the same brooch which provided the re-used backplate. The cloisonné pattern is faulty: were it corrected it would suit a brooch of the larger size indicated by the circles on the backplate. The pseudo-plait filigree cross on the central boss is similar to that on the brooch found at Sarre in 1860.<sup>66</sup> This, perhaps the earliest of the bronze-cell composites and a transitional piece, has associated coins which date its manufacture to c. A.D. 620–25.<sup>67</sup> The rings of cloisons around its subsidiary bosses, alternately straight and half-heartedly stepped, seem to foreshadow the adoption of the simple straight-walled sub-rectangular cells used on the Monkton brooch and the majority of the later composites; the ‘Kennard’ brooch from Faversham,<sup>68</sup> the ‘Vallance’ brooch from Milton Regis,<sup>69</sup> the Ashmolean Museum’s brooch from Milton, Berks.,<sup>70</sup> and the brooch from Leighton Buzzard.<sup>71</sup> The outer border of alternating triangular garnets on the Monkton brooch is a more unusual feature, but one which recurs in miniature around the central boss of the ‘Kennard’ brooch. The eight panels of exuberant filigree work on the Monkton brooch contain some elements which appear to have been inspired by zoomorphic ornament in the Style II manner. This type of ornament occurs in early form on the famous all-gold composite from Kingston Down Grave 205<sup>72</sup> and in later form on the two brooches from Milton, Berks.<sup>73</sup> While the fragmented

<sup>65</sup> Leeds, *op. cit.* (1936), pl. XXXIII, 5; Brown and Schweizer, *op. cit.* (1973), 180, AM 27. This brooch was found with a bronze bowl in a grave disturbed in the early 1840s either at Sarre or Minster. The Sarre provenance is usually preferred (*Trans. B.A.A.*, Gloucester, 1848, 87, pl. I; *Arch. Cant.*, ii (1859), p. xlii and v (1862–3), 308) but Charles Roach Smith, usually a reliable witness, always subscribed to the alternative tradition, that it was found at Minster (*Arch. Journ.*, iv (1847), 253–4; *Collect. Antiqua*, vi (1868), 148 and the introduction to Faussett, *op. cit.* (1856), pp. xxi–xxii).

<sup>66</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, iii (1860), 36–41, pls. II–IV; Kendrick, *op. cit.* (1933), pl. IV, 4.  
<sup>67</sup> The coins on the necklace buried with the Sarre brooch constitute a small hoard of Provençal light-weight *solidi*, which can have been assembled and conveyed to Kent between c. A.D. 615 and 620. Once in Kent, they were equipped with loops, mounted on the necklace and then worn for some time before burial. Assuming that the woman’s brooch was acquired at much the same time as the necklace, this gives us a very approximate date for it.

<sup>68</sup> Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.*, iv (1915), pl. CXLV, 4; Åberg, *op. cit.* (1926), fig. 205; Kendrick, *op. cit.* (1933), pl. IV, 2.

<sup>69</sup> Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.*, iv (1915), pl. CXLV, 3; Leeds, *op. cit.* (1936), pl. XXXIII, 6; Rigold and Webster, *op. cit.* (1970), fig. 2, pl. I, A.

<sup>70</sup> Audrey L. Meaney and Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, *Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries at Winnall, Winchester, Hampshire*, Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph, 4, 1970, pl. IV, C; Brown and Schweizer, *op. cit.* (1973), 180, AM 28.

<sup>71</sup> See footnote 61.

<sup>72</sup> Faussett, *op. cit.* (1856), pl. I; Åberg, *op. cit.* (1926), fig. 206; Kendrick, *op. cit.* (1933), pl. IV, 1.

<sup>73</sup> The second one is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, cf. Baldwin Brown, *op. cit.*, iv (1915), pl. CXLV, 1; Åberg, *op. cit.* (1926), fig. 204; Kendrick, *op. cit.* (1933), pl. IV, 3.

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and slap-dash designs on the Monkton brooch scarcely bear comparison with the neat articulated work on these other brooches, the shape and proportions of the gold panels and a few details of their filigree ornament are more reminiscent of the Milton brooches.

In overall design, perhaps the closest parallel to the Monkton brooch is the now lost 'Vallance' brooch from Milton Regis, which likewise had a four-point-star motif and rings of sub-rectangular cell-work, though it had no step-pattern cloisons. The 'Vallance' brooch has been compared with a brooch from Faversham in the Ashmolean Museum.<sup>74</sup> This bears rather crude step-pattern bronze cell-work not dissimilar to that on the Sarre 1860 brooch, which, as we have seen, is not without relevance to the Monkton brooch. Though the inter-relationships need working out more fully, one may suggest that the Monkton brooch is typologically a little later than the Sarre brooch and the approximate contemporary of both the 'Vallance' brooch from Milton Regis and the Ashmolean's brooch from Faversham. The products of one or more second-rate Kentish jewellers, this quartet would seem to represent stages in the development of the composite brooch, which were intermediate between the fine all-gold masterpieces of the early-seventh century and the scarcely less skilful productions with small-cell bronze cloisonné work. These, the 'Kennard' brooch from Faversham and the two brooches from Milton, Berks., are not generally considered to have been made before the middle of the century.<sup>75</sup> On archaeological grounds, therefore, the Monkton brooch is likely to have been made in the period c. A.D. 630-50.

The gold analysis results tend to support this dating. The milliprobe has shown that the gold of the Monkton brooch is much more debased with silver than that of the 'Amherst' and Gilton brooches:<sup>76</sup> rim and filigree are only 55-56% and 41-42% fine, respectively. The metal of the comparable brooch from Faversham has a similarly low gold content of only 45%. The significance of these and other analysis results from Anglo-Saxon jewellery has been discussed at length elsewhere.<sup>77</sup> For present purposes, it should suffice to say that in all cases we are dealing with coin-type alloys, gold alloyed with varying amounts of silver and a tiny percentage of copper, and this supports the hypothesis that the main source of the gold used for Anglo-Saxon jewellery was melted-down coinage. Much of this had been imported from the Merovingian dominions and beyond. Merovingian and Anglo-

<sup>74</sup> Brown and Schweizer, *op. cit.* (1973), 179, AM 20.

<sup>75</sup> Leeds, *op. cit.* (1936), 120-1; Sonia Chadwick Hawkes and L. R. A. Grove, 'Finds from a seventh Century Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Milton Regis', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1963), 27; Meaney and Hawkes, *op. cit.* (1970), 39-42.

<sup>76</sup> See note 63.

<sup>77</sup> Hawkes *et al.*, *op. cit.*, (1966); Brown and Schweizer, *op. cit.* (1973); Hawkes, *op. cit.* (1974).

Saxon coinage has been subjected to large-scale analysis recently, and we can now see in detail how it was debased during the course of the seventh century with increasing amounts of silver.<sup>78</sup> We are thus in a position to say that, whereas the makers of the Gilton Grave 42 and 'Amherst' composite brooches were using gold of the standard current during the last twenty years of the reign of King Ethelbert (*d.* 616), the earliest likely date for the melts which produced the quality of gold on the Monkton and Faversham brooches is sometime in the 640's, during the first decade of the reign of Ethelbert's grandson Eorcenberht (640-664). Even allowing for its unworn condition, the Monkton brooch is unlikely to have been buried before the middle of the century.

### CONCLUSION

It is virtually certain that some finds from the twenty-two graves destroyed at Monkton were not recovered by the excavators. For example, the absence of spearheads from the three graves with other weapons is uncharacteristic, and one might have expected to find more than a handful of beads in the grave with the composite brooch. Nevertheless, the sampling of this cemetery by means of the North Sea gas-pipe, far from being wholly destructive, has produced a great deal of important information. It has shown us that the graves cover a very large area, have a wide date-range and include the burials of persons of rank. The weathered sherds from Grave 5 suggest that Monkton may have been a mixed-rite cemetery, with cremation burial starting already in the fifth century. Grave 5 itself, together with Graves 21, 22 and perhaps 7, date from the first half and middle of the sixth century, and it is noticeable how all these early graves are bunched together near the middle of the excavated strip. The burials on either side of them are more widely scattered and, where datable at all, are later. Thus the possibly early seventh-century Graves 12 and 13 lie about 100 m. east of the sixth-century nucleus, while the probably later seventh-century Graves 18 and 19 lie further east again. About 60 m. west of the sixth-century graves lies the mid-seventh-century Grave 3 with the composite brooch. All this suggests that when the Monkton cemetery is fully excavated, it may prove that it spans the entire pagan Anglo-Saxon period and yields a significant horizontal stratigraphy. A social stratigraphy is already apparent. The ancient robbing of Graves 21 and 22 suggests that these may have been rich graves and holds out the hope that the sixth-century group had included high-ranking individuals.

<sup>78</sup> D. M. Metcalf, J. M. Merriek and L. K. Hamblin, *Studies in the Composition of early medieval Coins*, *Minerva Numismatic Handbooks*, no. 3, 1968; and a series of articles by D. M. Metcalf, J. P. C. Kent, W. A. Oddy and others, in E. T. Hall and D. M. Metcalf (Eds.) *Methods of Chemical and Metallurgical Investigation of Ancient Coinage*, Royal Numismatic Society Special Publication, no. 8, 1972.

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The presence of imported Frankish pottery, a sword and, above all, the jewelled composite gold disc brooch, indicate the moderate to high social status of some persons in the seventh-century community at Monkton.

All in all this new cemetery, situated between Sarre and Minster in what was evidently a prosperous and important area of the Kentish Kingdom, promises to be one of the most critical sites of the Anglo-Saxon period to offer itself for excavation since the nineteenth century.

S.C.H.

## REPORT ON THE SKELETONS

By C. B. DENSTON

### INTRODUCTION

Owing to the circumstances of their discovery, some of the skeletons were represented by only a few fragments, others by more substantial remains, and this has precluded a detailed report. Apart from being fragmentary, the bones also showed varying degrees of post-mortem decay, due to the soil conditions.

Grave 22 had the most complete or near complete bones; two other graves, nos. 10 and 19, had fairly complete mandibles, and only Graves 7 and 21 contained any remains of skull which could be partially restored.

The measurements of the two nearly-complete femora of the male skeleton in Grave 22 allowed the reconstruction of the individual to be computed as approximately of 5 ft. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in stature. The series of Anglo-Saxon long bones measured by Dr. A. H. Munter and the calculation of the stature by Dr. J. C. Trevor, on the basis of the Trotter-Gleser formulæ, suggested a mean stature of 5 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Comparative material from Holborough, Kent, gives a mean stature of 5 ft. 9 in., and a mean stature of 5 ft. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. and 5 ft. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  in., from Burwell and Melbourn, Cambs., respectively. The stature of the Monkton skeleton would seem to fall within the range of stature for the Anglo-Saxon period, as at Holborough the range was 5 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. 11 in., and at Melbourn 5 ft. 4 in. to 6 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. The individual from Monkton must have been quite large and masculine, as seen from the size and robustness of the bones, one of their characteristics being a fairly wide lower jaw, with a mandible measuring about 140 mm. bi-gonial breadth.



From the appearance of the bones, at least four other males probably possessed physiques similar to that in Grave 22.

#### SEX AND AGE

Though most of the Monkton skeletons were very fragmentary, there were enough sex characteristics present to suggest that eight were adult males, two adult ? males, three adult females, one adult ? female, two ? females of indeterminable age; one immature; and two of indeterminable sex and age.

Age at death was estimated primarily from the degree of attrition of any surviving teeth and, secondarily, from the closure of cranial sutures or any other evidence of maturity. The male individuals were tentatively restricted to the following age-groups: 20-25 years, 1; 20-30 years, 1; 30-35 years, 1; 30-40 years, 1; 35-45 years, 1; and five others could only be aged as adult. The females were: 20-25 years, 1; 25-30 years, 1; 30-40 years, 1; and one could only be aged as adult.

#### OSTEOMETRIC VARIABILITY

Some standard measurements could be taken with reasonable accuracy on three mandibles and one cranium. Maximum length measurements were recorded on two femora from the same skeleton and were used for the computation of the individual's stature. The only other measurements obtained were those relating to the anterior-posterior and transverse diameters of the shafts of the femora and tibiae. The two measurements are calculated as an index, and all such indices from the Monkton bones come in the region of 69.7 mm. 80.0 mm., within the index known as platymeria, a condition which may be attributed to nutritional causes or, more probably, mechanical causes.

#### DENTAL AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY

Owing to the fragmentary and decayed condition of the alveolus of the mandibles and maxillæ, nothing could be certainly recorded about the ante- and post-mortem conditions of the teeth; of the 79 permanent teeth, from seven individuals, only one mandibular molar showed evidence of caries.

The condition of the bones precluded the possibility of discovering any general pathology. A hole, however, in one case (Grave 6), passing through from the external to the internal surface, involving the mastoid process and supramastoid crest of a left temporal bone and measuring 11 × 8 mm. in diameter, may have been of ante-mortem origin, probably the result of an abscess.

## THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL SKELETONS

Grave 1. Very fragmentary remains of a cranium and mandible. A few very small fragments of postcranial bones. One mandibular molar and two premolars.

Sex:	? Male
Age at death:	20-25 years

Grave 2. Very fragmentary postcranial remains only. From the evidence of the proportions of the bones, this individual was probably rather robust.

Sex:	Male
Age at death:	Adult

Grave 3. Very fragmentary remains of a cranium and a mandible, also postcranial bones. Dentition: Two molars; five premolars; three canines; three incisors: mostly of the mandible.

Sex:	Female
Age at death:	25-30 years

Grave 5. Very few and very fragmentary remains of a cranium and postcranial bones.

Sex:	? Female
Age at death:	? Adult

Grave 6. Very few and small fragmentary remains of a cranium and postcranial bones.

Sex:	Indeterminable
Age at death:	Indeterminable

Grave 7. Very fragmentary postcranial remains and a calotte of a cranium.

Sex:	? Male
Age at death:	30-40 years

Grave 8. Very few and fragmentary remains of a cranium and a mandible, also postcranial bones. Dentition: Two molars; four premolars, all of the mandible.

Sex:	Female
Age at death:	c. 30-40 years

Grave 10. Very fragmentary remains of a cranium. Mandible fairly complete. Fragmentary postcranial bones. Dentition: Four molars, one canine, one incisor; all of the mandible.

Sex:	Female
Age at death:	c. 20-25 years

Grave 11. Very fragmentary remains; four fragments of long bones.

Sex: ? Female  
Age at death: Indeterminable

Grave 12. Very fragmentary remains of a cranium and a mandible. Six small fragments of postcranial bones.

Sex: Immature  
Age at death: Indeterminable

Small mastoid process of a left temporal bone. Portion of a mandible from the anterior aspect (mental protuberance), and although the alveolus was rather eroded there were signs of probable abscesses.

Grave 13. A few very small fragments of a cranium and post-cranial bones.

Sex: ? Female  
Age at death: Indeterminable

Grave 14. Very fragmentary remains, mostly postcranial, with a few fragments of a cranium and a mandible. Possibly a rather robust individual.

Sex: Male  
Age at death: Adult

Grave 15. Very fragmentary remains of a cranium and a mandible; also postcranial bones.

Sex: Male  
Age at death: Adult

Grave 16. Fragmentary remains of shafts of long bones.

Sex: Male  
Age at death: Adult

Grave 18. Just four very small fragments of postcranial bones.

Sex: Indeterminable  
Age at death: Indeterminable

Grave 19. Fragmentary remains of a cranium and a mandible, postcranial bones. More remains of this skeleton. Dentition: Two molars; three premolars; two canines; and two incisors of the maxilla. Six molars; four premolars; two canines; and one incisor of the mandible.

Sex: Male  
Age at death: c. 25-30 years

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MONKTON, THANET

Grave 20. Very fragmentary postcranial remains only. Possibly a rather robust individual.

Sex:	Male
Age at death:	Adult

Grave 21. Remains in less fragmentary condition. Cranium, mandible, and postcranial bones. Probably a rather robust individual. Dentition: Five molars; three premolars; one canine; and two incisors of the mandible.

Sex:	Male
Age at death:	c. 35-45 years

Grave 22. The most complete of the series. Two intact femora, an axis and a cervical vertebra, a talus, a patella and two metacarpal bones, a nearly complete mandible and two tibiae. Other fragments were of a cranium and various postcranial bones. Probably a rather robust individual. Dentition: Three molars and two premolars of the maxilla. Six molars, three premolars, two canines, and three incisors of the mandible.

Sex:	Male
Age at death:	c. 35-45 years
Stature:	c. 5 ft. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

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