

[From the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, Nov. 19, 1885.]

JOHN EVANS, Esq., President, exhibited and read the following paper on a Bronze Hoard from Felixstowe, Suffolk:—

“Some years ago, I know not how many, a hoard of bronze antiquities was found near Felixstowe, Suffolk, of which the greater portion, if not indeed the whole, now forms part of my collection.

The deposit was of the kind usually known under the designation of a bronze-founder's hoard, and consisted of twenty-four objects, which may be thus classified:—

Rough metal	1
Fragments of tools and weapons	6
Heads and runners	3
Knives or daggers	3
Socketed celts	6
Gouge	1
Spear-heads	2
Saw	1
Scabbard end	1
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There was also with the bronze objects, when they came into my hands, a small piece of pottery, possibly part of a crucible or of an urn in which the hoard was deposited.

The lump of rough metal is of an irregular, somewhat semi-circular, outline, and appears to have been run into a rude saucer-shaped mould. It is rather more than half-a-pound in weight.

Among the fragments of tools and weapons are three portions of the upper end of socketed celts, two of the cutting ends, and a curved fragment of the blade of a sword about 2½ inches in length.

The socketed celts are of ordinary character, much like my

Fig. 116.* The largest, which is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, has a bold semi-circular moulding round the mouth, like that on my Fig. 112. The smallest is 3 inches long; the others from $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length.



Fig. I.
ROUGHLY CAST
CELT (half-size).

One of them is of interest as having been left in the condition in which it came from the mould, without having been in any way trimmed. The two halves of the mould not having been in perfect contact, the metal has run into the space between them, so that the joint of the mould is shown on the casting by a thin projecting ridge, which in places extends a quarter of an inch beyond the side of the celt, and indeed beyond what was intended to be its cutting edge. I am unable to say whether the mould in which this hatchet was cast was formed of metal, or of sand or loam. This celt is shown half-size in Fig. I.

The heads and runners, or waste pieces of metal broken from castings, are all three different in character. One is of conical form with a single thin runner coming from it, showing that the metal for the casting from which it was broken found its way into the mould by a single orifice. The second, also, has a nearly conical head, but two runners proceed from it. The distance between them is a little more than half-an-inch, which is less than the width of the socket of any of the celts. The gouge, however, is of the same diameter as the distance between the outer sides of the runners, while its socket corresponds with that between their inner sides. This may, therefore, be the head from the casting of a gouge. There is a shoulder on the outside of each runner about an inch above the broken ends, which conveys the impression of the casting to which the head belonged having been run in a metal mould.

The third waste piece is unusually large, consisting of a boat-shaped head $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, with five runners projecting from the bottom at intervals of about half-an-inch. It is hard to determine the kind of casting from which it was broken. It may possibly have conveyed metal into several distinct moulds. The two last-mentioned heads are shown half-size in Figs. II. and III.

The gouge is of the common kind, nearly 4 inches long and about $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch broad at the edge. The socket end is plain without any moulding.

* Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain.

The spear-heads are both leaf-shaped, with rivet-holes through the sockets. The larger one has been broken in two, and only



Fig. II.

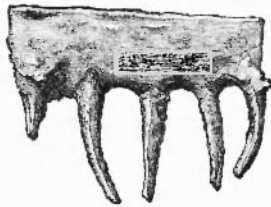


Fig. III.

HEADS AND RUNNERS (half-size).

the lower half remains. The smaller is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and in general character much like my Fig. 386, but the projecting part of the socket is shorter and more expanded.

Of the knives or daggers, one is a small lanceolate blade, 4 inches long and barely $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide. The second appears to be formed from the end of a leaf-shaped sword, in the same manner as has already been observed in the Harty and Dowris hoards.* In this case a fragment of a sword, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, has been utilized, the edges for about two inches from the fractured end having been hammered down, so that it may be grasped without cutting the hand. The point has been somewhat rounded. The extreme width of the blade is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The third blade is of peculiar character, and differs from any that I have figured. The blade is spatula-like in character



Fig. IV.

SPATULA-LIKE BLADE (half-size).

and slightly curved. It is flat on one face and convex on the other, and provided with a broad flat tang with a single hole

* Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain, p. 211.

for a rivet. Its extreme length is 6 inches and width barely $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. It would appear to be a tool rather than a weapon, and may possibly have served the bronze founder in tempering his clay and adjusting his moulds and cores. It is engraved as Fig. IV.

Another tool present in the hoard is well worthy of remark. It is a saw—or rather, a fragment of one; what is left of the blade being about $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch broad. The rivet by which it was secured to its handle is still in position. The blade tapers backwards from the serrated edge, so that in sawing it would not be clogged. The teeth of the saw are spaced rather unevenly. Near the handle they run about six to the inch, but farther along the blade, about eight. In form the teeth are pyramidal, the blade, or rather the model or pattern for the blade, having been brought to an edge represented by an angle of about 60° before the teeth were cut. The joint of the mould can be seen passing through the teeth at the rivet end of the blade, but farther along, the teeth would seem to have been sharpened after the blade was cast. In my book upon *Bronze Implements* I was unable to refer to an undoubted British example of a bronze saw, though I cited some foreign examples

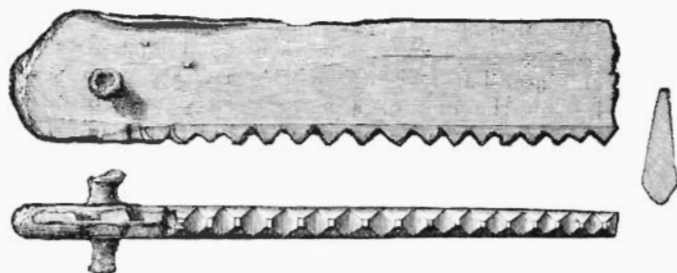


Fig. v.
SAW (full size).

of this useful tool, and referred to the serrated blade from Mawgan now in the museum of this Society. The serrations in this have been left in the state in which they came from the mould, and its purpose seems questionable. There can be no doubt as to the Felixstowe tool being really a saw. It is shown full size in Fig. V.

The only remaining object that I have to notice is the scabbard-end of a sword almost identical in form and size with that from Reach Fen, my Fig. 371. It is beautifully cast and finished, but not improbably came into the possession of the bronze founder as old metal, together with the broken sword, of which a part was utilized as a knife."