

#### IV.

##### NOTE ON ADDITIONAL OBJECTS OF BRONZE AND IRON FROM NEWSTEAD. By JAMES CURLE, F.S.A. Scot.

Two objects, a fibula and small spoon (fig. 1, Nos. 1, 2), which had been picked up by a visitor to the scene of the Newstead excavations, were recently restored to their rightful place in the National Museum. The finder had taken them from the debris of a rubbish-pit on the field lying to the north of the fort, No. 610 of the O.S. Plan. Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to identify the exact pit from which they came, but the statement that they were discovered among the decayed vegetable refuse of one of these repositories is confirmed by the condition of the metal of both objects. The field in question did not contribute in so large a measure to the Newstead collection as some of the other areas, but the finds which came from it indicated that most, if not all, of its pits dated from the first-century occupation of the fort. No. 1, which is the only example of a fibula recovered from the Newstead rubbish-pits, undoubtedly belongs to that period. A brooch of a different type came from the ditch of the early fort, but otherwise these ornaments were almost entirely found near the surface. It is probable that the fibula illustrated in *A Roman Frontier Post*, pl. lxxxv. fig. 1, which has lost its catch-plate, was of the same pattern. The fibula is made of a single piece of metal; the spring has two coils, one on either side of the bow; the cord passes underneath. The catch-plate is solid. The foot terminates in a small round knob. It is a type derived from the brooches of the La Tène period, which continued in use well into the Roman era. In Germany it is found on various sites, among others at Hofheim.<sup>1</sup> In England the type occurs more commonly in the south; it is rare in the north. An example in which the bow is more moderately arched was recently found on the Romano-British site on Lowbury Hill. Mr Donald Atkinson,<sup>2</sup> in describing this brooch, notes that the knob on the bow, which is perhaps a reminiscence of the La Tène I. type, is apparently never found on pre-

<sup>1</sup> Ritterling, *Das frühromische Lager bei Hofheim*, Taf. ix.

<sup>2</sup> Atkinson, *The Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill, Berkshire*, p. 31.

Roman specimens of this class. Another example was found at Wroxeter in 1914, and there are three others in the Museum at Colchester. Mr Atkinson hazards the opinion that the imperfect specimen found at Newstead, already cited, in view of its high-arched almost angular bow, is an importation from Germany. The chief interest of the find lies in the fact that it supplies us with a complete example of the earliest type of brooch discovered in the course of the Newstead excavations.

The spoon, No. 2, which was probably employed for medical purposes, is not a new feature among the Newstead finds. An example came from Pit lxxxv., and is illustrated (*op. cit.*) in pl. lxxiii. fig. 6.

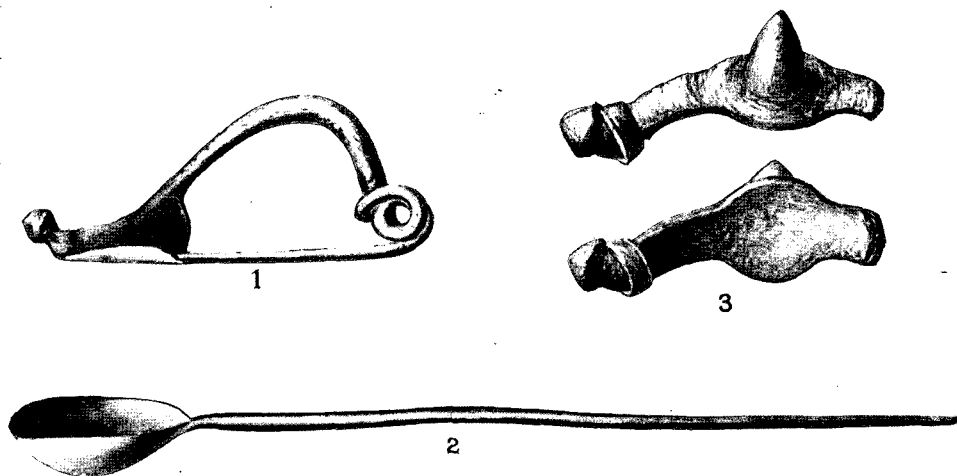


Fig. 1. Fibula, spoon, and spur of bronze from Newstead. †.

From among the debris of small fragments of decayed bronze which accumulate day by day in the excavation of a Roman site, Mr A. O. Curle has recovered the two further objects which follow; both of these add new features to the Newstead collection. Fig. 1, No. 3, is a small bronze spur, showing some remains of the leather thong or strap, which attached it to the boot. These small spurs have been met with before on Roman sites. An example is illustrated among the finds from Novæsium, but they are none the less a familiar feature of the La Tène civilisation. M. Déchelette<sup>1</sup> illustrates examples from such widely separated localities as Stradonitz in Bohemia, where they were numerous; from Trugny in France; and from Northern Germany. In all of these

<sup>1</sup> *Manuel d'archéologie préhistorique*, "Époque de La Tène," p. 1202, fig. 514.

the actual spur consists of a sharp, thorn-like point. In the Newstead example, as in the majority of those figured by M. Déchelette, the flattened segment of metal, which was placed against the boot, terminated at the ends in buttons to which a leather thong was attached; in other examples the place of these was taken by rings. The spurs found on the Continent are made both of bronze and iron. From various finds it would appear that in early times spurs were worn singly and not in pairs.

Fig. 2 is an ox-goad. This has been formed by coiling a strip of iron twice spirally to form a socket, the end being brought to a sharp point by filing. It would then be fixed upon a long rod. Similar objects have been found on the village sites at Rotherley and Woodyates; Lowbury has produced several examples; while one has recently been found at Traprain.<sup>1</sup> Their presence would appear to give an indication of teams employed in cultivation.

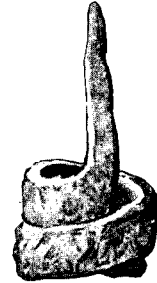


Fig. 2. Ox-goad from Newstead. †.

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, xlix. p. 188.