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Sea Mills

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CHURCHAM. South side of nave, east end 8' ; three rays in arc of circle, 7'.

DIDBROOK. (1), South wall 4' ; four rays below hole, 5" ; (2) 7' , three rays, 4" .

DYMOCK. South side on buttress, 4' 8" ; style-hole filled with wood, circle and five rays, 7" .

HILL. North side of porch, 8' ; several rays radiating from blocked style hole, 4" .

TEDDINGTON. East side of built up south door, 4' 8" ; circle and many rays, those in the circle 3" , three extending beyond stopped, 6" .

GREAT WASHBOURNE (1) West side of south door, 5' ; three rays, freshly cut, 3" ; (2) East end of nave, south side 5' ; four rays from style-hole, 5" . (3) Below (2), style-hole stopped with plaster, seven rays, 3" . (4) Below again, 4' ; big style-hole, four dotted rays, 5" .

GREAT WITCOMBE. (1) South side east of porch, 4' ; circle of stops, no rays, style-hole plastered, 3" . (2) East end, 4' 8" ; circle of stops, 11 rays in lower half, 3" ; (3) Above (2), style-hole and double circle of stops, radius, 3" .

STANLEY PONTLARGE. South wall, west end, 6' ; style-hole and three rays stopped, 2½" .

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SEA MILLS. Since September 1939 no excavation has been attempted on the Sea Mills site, but a spoon was found in the workings there in 1940 by George Boun, the schoolboy who helped with the work. He has kindly presented it to the Bristol Museum. The spoon is of tinned bronze, known as white bronze, according to the identification of the authorities at the British Museum. Its length is $7\frac{7}{8}$ inches, of which the circular bowl accounts for $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. The handle is circular in section, and ends in a point. Such spoons were used for eating eggs, and the pointed end for extracting snails from their shells, hence

the Roman name for them, *cochleare*. The most interesting feature of this specimen is the decoration of the back of the bowl. Incised converging lines from the base to the circumference joined by transverse herring-bone strokes give the spoon the appearance of being rat-tailed, which it is not. From the centre of the back radiating lines, with the tips curled, are formed of a succession of punctuations, and give a butterfly-look to the design. A somewhat similar pattern is on the back of a bronze pendant amulet of lunate design from London.¹

Spoons with circular bowls were in use during the first and second centuries A.D. so that this find agrees with the date for the site arrived at by the pottery.

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¹ *London in Roman Times*, fig. 37, page 113.