

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 40/93

IDENTIFICATION OF A RED STONE
FROM MUCKING, ESSEX. CEMETERY II.

Mrs M E Hutchinson

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Summary

A red stone in an Anglo-Saxon buckle plate was
identified as an almandine garnet.

Author's address :-

Mrs M E Hutchinson

29 Elliscombe Road
Charlton

LONDON
SE7 7PF

IDENTIFICATION OF A RED STONE FROM MUCKING, ESSEX. Cemetery II.
AML Site Number 239

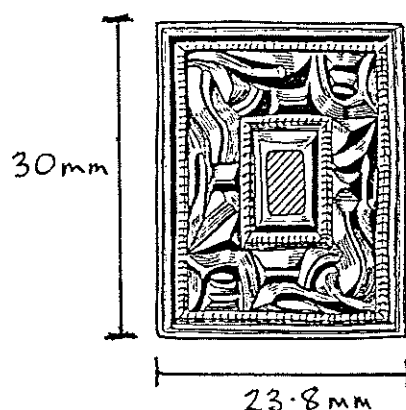
M E Hutchinson, FGA DGA

Catalogue Number: Grave 281/3

The stone is rectangular and tabular in shape, and is set in a chip-carved gilded copper-alloy buckle plate. A bevel has been ground on the two long sides, but the short sides have just been roughly shaped. Both the top and the bottom have been polished. The stone is small, measuring 6.3 x 3.5mm, and is mounted rather crookedly in the centre of the buckle plate in a band setting. There does not appear to be a foil underneath: if there is, it is not patterned. The stone retains a high polish.

Examination by low-powered microscope and by hand-held spectroscope showed the stone to be almandine garnet, identified by characteristic inclusions and the absorption spectrum.

The stone contains many acicular inclusions arranged in three different directions. Two of these are parallel to the surface of the stone, but the third is not. One of these directions is in roughly the same direction as the cross-hatching on the stone, but this cross-hatching is purely a graphics convention, and should not be mistaken for an attempt to show the direction of the inclusions.



Drawing by unidentified illustrator.

Another almandine garnet in a similar buckle plate was reported on in AML Report 10/92, Identification of a Red Stone Set in an Anglo-Saxon Buckle Plate from Mucking, Essex. AML Site No. 239