LUCERNA

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Roman Finds Group Newsletter 26

Contents

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Editorial

This issue contains several substantial articles on both new discoveries and recent research on old ones

New discoveries include a votive hoard from near Baldock which provides evidence for a new goddess for Britain, who seems to have been combined with Minerva just like Sulis Minerva at Bath. No doubt other native interpretations of the major Roman deities remain to be discovered. Images of the hunter-god are scarce in Britain, and it is all the more exciting that a new one from Yorkshire shares many of the characteristics of Minerva-bust wax spatula handles, though the blade is more likely to be straight than flared.

Other new finds are a clasp-knife handle from Gloucester, unusual both in being made from red deer antler rather than ivory and in depicting a sitting horse, and a much less exotic object, a simple Nauheim derivative brooch from Shetland which can lay claim to being the northernmost Roman find from Britain.

Recent research on writing equipment has identified certain knife forms as penknives, several of which were found at Newstead in the early 20th century. This is a valuable addition to the finds that enable literacy to be detected on archaeological sites.

The vexed question of identifying the sex of brooch wearers is also discussed here, drawing on epigraphic and iconographic evidence as well as gender information from burials.

For light relief there is a suggestion that a German type of pasta may have been a Roman military introduction, as well as another of Digger's crosswords.

Following the meeting on X-rays in London last February, the University of Bradford is offering a 2-3 day course on archaeological X-radiography (see p 15-16), and EH are currently working towards the production of a set of guidelines for best practice.

Nina Crummy

A New Treasure and a New Goddess for Roman Britain

A fascinating new Roman temple treasure has been discovered near Baldock in Hertfordshire.[1] Found by a metal-detectorist in September 2002, it comprises twenty-six gold and silver objects, including gold jewellery, a silver figurine and votive plaques of silver alloy and gold. Aware of the importance of his discovery the finder immediately contacted Gil Burleigh, local archaeologist and authority on the archaeology of the region. Gil arrived at the site shortly after the removal of the last pieces of the hoard and was able to establish and record the precise finding circumstances, to help to ensure the retrieval of all remaining fragments of the hoard and to initiate the Potential Treasure process: the district coroner was notified; the find was taken to the British Museum for report and scientific analysis; and, on 20th March 2003, the hoard was declared Treasure at a Coroner's Inquest. Meanwhile, a highly-successful focused programme of fieldwork by Gil has shed valuable light on the context of the find. The British Museum is seeking to acquire this very significant hoard which, at the time of writing, is going through the normal Treasure valuation process.

From the finder's account it would appear that the hoard had been placed in the ground in a compact and ordered manner. The first object he located was the silver figurine which lay on top of the items of gold jewellery and two silver model arms. Beneath those were the closely-stacked gold plaques and under them the silver-alloy plaques. No trace of any container was found.

The silver figurine, almost fifteen centimetres high, is of hollow construction and was evidently of good quality, but it has suffered badly from corrosion and damage, especially on the front. It shows a standing woman dressed in a full-length garment, her left shoulder bare, and her left arm supporting a fold of drapery. Her hair is parted on the crown and formed into a bun on the nape of the neck, but her arms, feet and face are lacking, and no distinctive attribute survives to identify her as a particular deity. Nevertheless, there is good reason to believe that the image was intended to represent a goddess named Senua.

What is the evidence? Well, it comes both from a study of the hoard's votive plaques and from the fieldwork. There are nineteen plaques - twelve of silver alloy (badly corroded, brittle and fragmentary) and seven of gold - of the 'leaf' type known from sites in Roman Britain and elsewhere in the Roman Empire. They are made from very thin sheet metal, with embossed and incised decoration, and were intended for dedication at a temple or shrine, to one or more gods or goddesses. Of the nineteen plaques in the present hoard five are still stuck together, but of the remaining fourteen twelve have an embossed image of a deity and all except one of those depict the goddess Minerva (the one exception is a most interesting and detailed image of Roma). It was somewhat surprising, therefore, to discover that all five of those that had an inscribed text recording the deity to whom they had been dedicated named not Minerva but Senua (also given as Sena and Senuna; e.g. DEAE SENVA[.....]/

Fig 1. The back of the figurine.
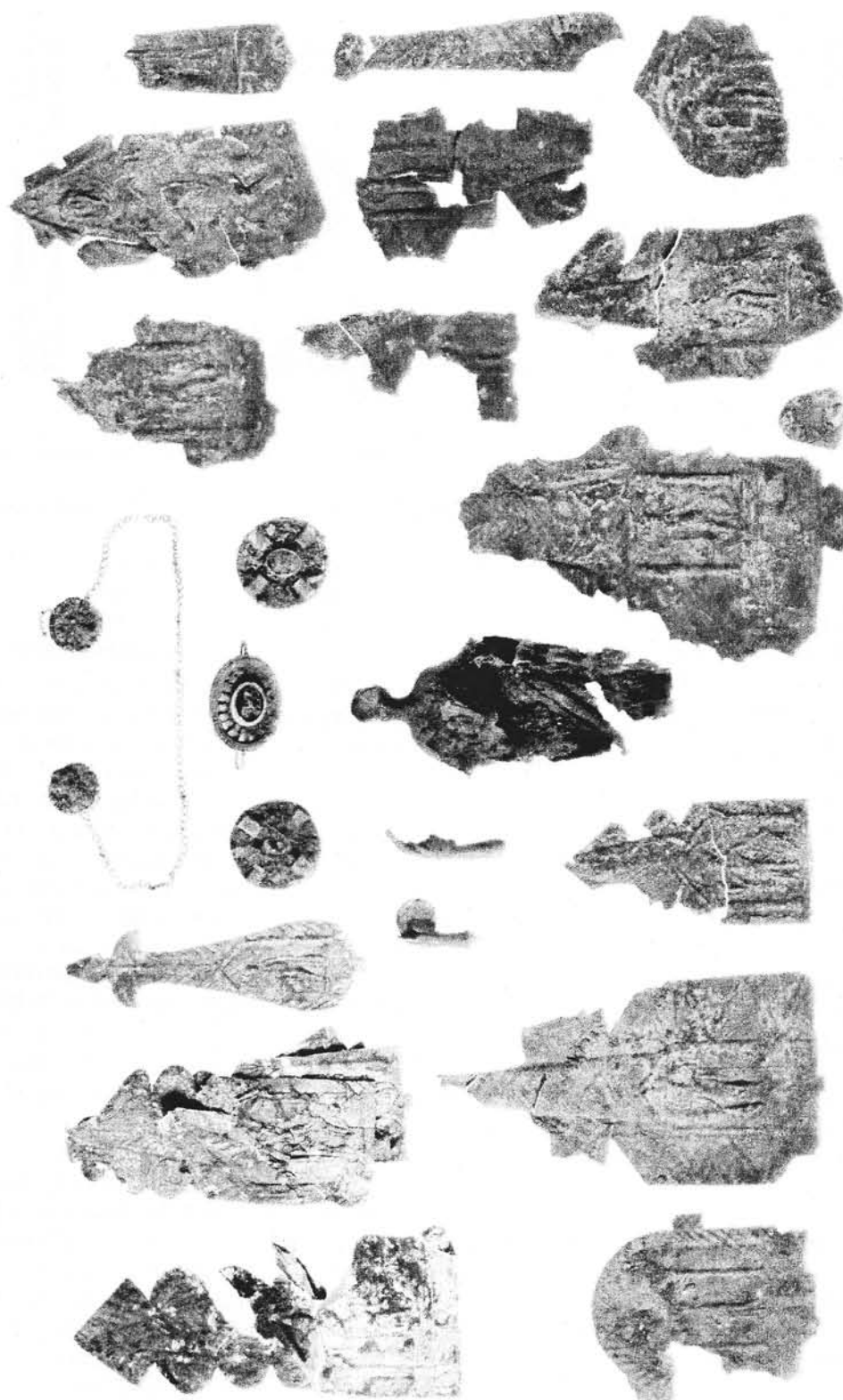
Fig 3. Silver-alloy plaque with embossed inscription, DEAE SENVA[FIRMANV[.

Fig 4. Gold plaque with *punctim* inscription.

FIRMANVS[...../ V[SLM]). Furthermore, during the excavation of the hoard's context a silver base for a figurine was found adjacent to the findspot. It is almost certainly the missing base for the silver figurine, and it, too, is inscribed with the name of the goddess Senua (D(eae) SENVA[E......). This goddess has not been encountered before, and she is a completely new deity for Roman Britain and, indeed, the Roman Empire.

The combination of the name Senua with the image of Minerva would suggest the twinning of a local British deity with the popular Roman goddess of wisdom and the crafts. Minerva also had warlike protective powers and an association with healing and with springs, as at Bath, where, twinned with Sulis, she controlled Roman Britain's only thermal spring. Senua might have been likened to Minerva for any one, or more, of these perceived powers. A watery connection seems probable. Perhaps Senua presided over a sacred spring, or perhaps she was a river goddess: certainly, the Ravenna Cosmography lists a river named Senua which has not yet been located more closely than southern Britain. In addition to Sulis, one thinks also of Dea Sequana, the goddess of the source of the Seine, whose name was also that of the river. It remains to be seen whether the results of fieldwork will provide any further clues to Senua's identity. Meanwhile, the inscriptions on the plaques reveal the names of some of the votaries:

Cariatia (or Cariatus), Celsus, Firmanus, Lucilia. Two complete inscriptions record the same vow: 'Servandus Hispani willingly fulfilled his vow to the goddess Se(nua)'.

Votive objects – gifts to a deity in return for favours requested or already granted – took many forms, and it is very probable that the small group of gold jewellery, like the plaques, figurine and model arms, had been dedicated to the goddess Senua. There are two large circular brooches with coloured glass settings, a neck-ornament comprising a pair of small enamelled discs linked by a gold chain, and, most impressive of all, a large oval clasp with fine gold ornament and a carnelian gemstone engraved with the figure of a standing lion, its paw resting on an ox-skull. All utilise fine gold beaded wire filigree and appear to have been made as an ensemble.

Much work remains to be done on the hoard and on the investigation of its context, and it is likely that there will be new and significant revelations. For the present, although it is impossible to determine unequivocally the reason for its burial we can date the hoard to the later third or fourth century AD and we can suggest that it was connected to a temple or shrine of the goddess Senua.

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Hunter-god handle from Yorkshire

A figured handle depicting a bearded hunter-god has recently been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Yorkshire, UK. It was found at Goldsborough near Knaresborough, and has the museum number 'yorm : E03106'. The handle shares some of the distinguishing features of wax spatula handles of A5 type (Feugère 1995, fig 1). The upper part of the figure is full-round, but it tapers to a narrow rectangular section at the base, which is in the form of a split socket retaining the remains of a thin iron blade (Fig 1).

shown by Merrifield to be a male, and a third figure from London may also be a hunter-god (*ibid*, 87-89).

The Yorkshire handle was fitted with an iron blade, which does not appear to have been of triangular section like a knife blade, but of thin rectangular section like that of wax spatulae. However, unlike the splayed sockets of A5 spatula handles, this is straight-sided, suggesting that the blade was also straight. The handle may therefore be all that remains of a new form of spatula, perhaps more like Feugère's Type C in size.

The figure shows a naked bearded male with his right arm (partly missing) reaching over his shoulder to a quiver passing diagonally across his back. His damaged left arm is reaching forward and would have held a bow. The upper part of the socket has a band of decoration, a line of ring-and-dots flanked by cabled mouldings, and there is another ring-and-dot on his chest. The angle and form of the quiver precisely matches that carried by the stone statue of a hunter-god from London, who is also carrying a bow in his left hand and reaching behind him for an arrow (Merrifield 1986, figs 1-3). Also from London is an altar with a relief on one face of a hunter in the same position, originally identified as representing Diana (Toynbee 1962, 152, no 64, pl 68), but

Bearing in mind the precise suitability of Minerva as a deity to appear on the handles of wax spatulae (Feugère 1995, 332), a similarly appropriate iconography might be expected to pertain here. However, a link between the hunter-god and any form of writing is not immediately obvious, though there are links between hunting and healing (Green 1997, 160-1). As wax was used not only on writing tablets but also for salves and other medicinal preparations, it is worth considering the possibility that the narrower tool represented by this handle was a piece of medical equipment.

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A zoomorphic clasp-knife handle from Gloucester

Evaluation of an area of land close to Glocester Docks was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2002 on behalf of South West Regional Development Agency. The site lies outside of the walls of the *colonia*, some 100m from the site of the Roman south gate, in an area of back plots within the southern Roman suburb and bordering the road to Sea Mills. Archaeological deposits encountered included pits of medieval date and somewhat truncated Roman deposits, predominantly of third and fourth century date. A ditch, which contained a small quantity of broadly datable Roman pottery and ceramic building material, also yielded a clasp-knife handle of unusual form.

DESCRIPTION

SF 1. Red deer antler clasp-knife handle; total length 76mm.

Clasp-knife handle of red deer antler in the form of a seated horse. The blade and folding mechanism are absent, and there is damage to the head end of the handle and to the animal's tail. Additionally there is damage to the muzzle area, with some suggestion that this was joined to the body to form a suspension loop. A rebate at the head end of the handle was clearly the means of attaching the blade, together with a ferrule and pin. An absence of copper staining to the area of the rebate suggests that the ferrule and fixing pin were of iron. The pivot holes are, characteristically for this class of object, offset from the centre. A groove to accept the folded blade runs the length of the back portion of the handle.

The subject is carved in the round with prominent mane, small forelegs, stubby 'docked' tail and hind legs crossed at the base. Although the pose is stylised, as dictated by the functionality of the object, aspects of the design are naturalistic, particularly treatment of the head and hind quarters. Details such as the strands of the mane, foreleg hooves, nostrils, ?tendons to the lower hind legs and folds defining the hind legs and face are picked out by cut strokes or deeper grooves. The mane is sharply defined, serving to frame the face. Deep-cut grooves, depicting the fall of strands within the mane are carefully executed and paired at the rear. It has been suggested (pers comm R Jackson), that the handle viewed from behind mimics the form of a horse's hoof and is an example of an artistic device sometimes employed by Roman craftsmen. The level of craftsmanship is undoubtedly high, the portrayal lively or even humorous and some familiarity with the equine subject is evident.

DISCUSSION

Clasp knives of Roman and post-Roman date are reasonably well known finds from Britain. The most simple Roman-dated examples are made from antler tines, with the iron blade attached by means of a ferrule and pin and folding into a groove cut into the side. More elaborately decorated examples, with handles of bone, ivory, antler or cast bronze take the form of anthropomorphic or zoomorphic subjects. The commonest representational designs are openwork hound and hare types which occur in metal and bone.
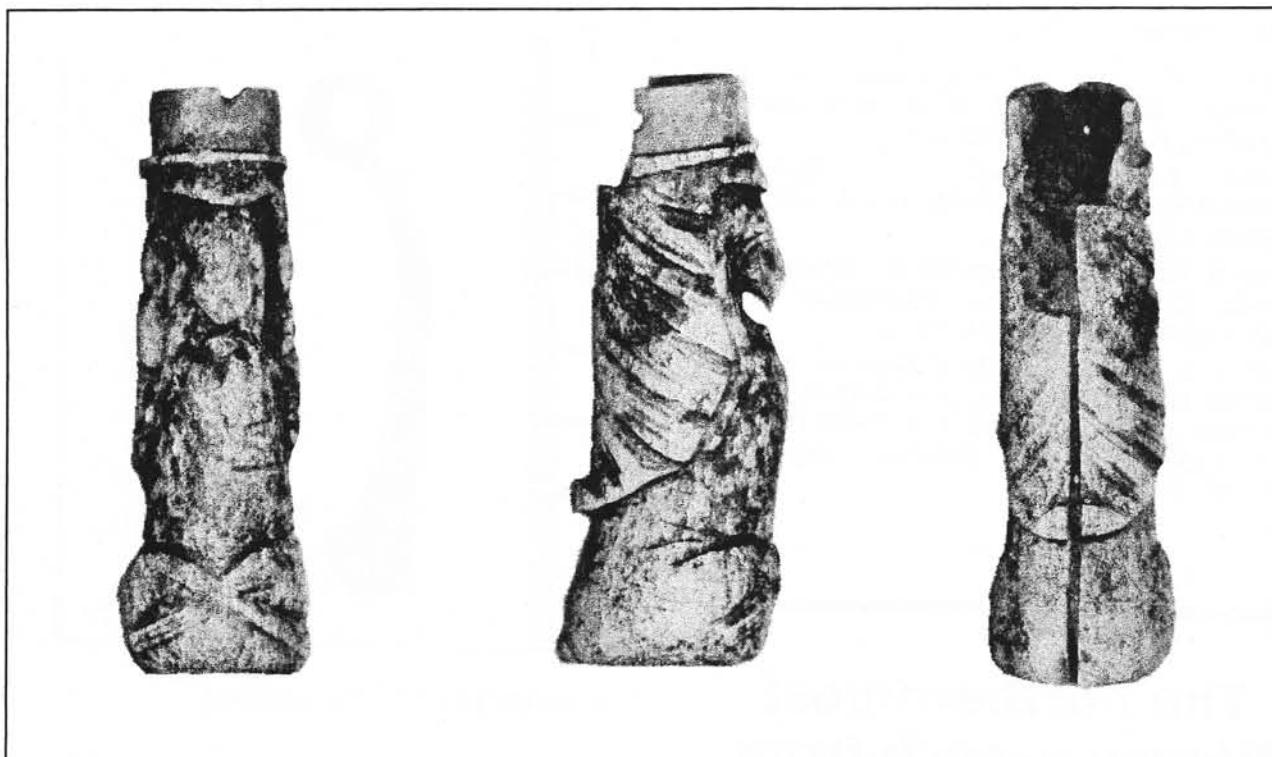
The most unusual forms occurring in Britain are those of bone, ivory or antler which are carved in the round and depict animal or human subjects often in very elaborate fashion. A later 2nd to mid 3rd-century date is most frequently applied to such objects (pers comm N Crummy). The number of the more elaborately representational knife handles from Britain has in recent years significantly increased, with a number of new discoveries. Representational clasp-knife handles appear to be widely distributed in Britain, though they derive mainly from urban, villa or military sites. Western British sites which have yielded clasp knives include Wanborough, Wilts (Vaughan 2001), Cleeve Hill (Cheltenham), Glos, (Rawes 1986) and Shakenoak, Oxon (Brodribb *et al.* 1973).

The continental distribution of the elaborate representational clasp-knife handles would seem to indicate an origin in the Rhineland, with workshops most likely situated in Trier or Cologne (Von Mercklin 1940). Von Mercklin illustrates 45 examples of bone, ivory, jet and bronze depicting a variety of subjects including male and female busts, deities, gladiators, wrestlers and erotic scenes. Animal subjects include hare and hound groups, lions, leopards, dogs, dolphins and birds. The sole reference to an equine subject is a horse head scratched into the side of a plain handle.

In most respects the Gloucester knife handle fits well with the artefact class grouped by Von Mercklin. The means of execution and the high level of craftsmanship are certainly comparable. Significantly, the form of the rebate and method of blade attachment would seem to compare well with the illustrated examples (*ibid*, Taf XXXVIII, nos 1-2). The subject matter is unusual, although the horse is in other media a not uncommon theme in classical art. In respect of the material used, red deer antler, the Gloucester knife is exceptional, although it is not clear whether Von Mercklin's methods of analysis would have been sufficient to discern antler from bone.

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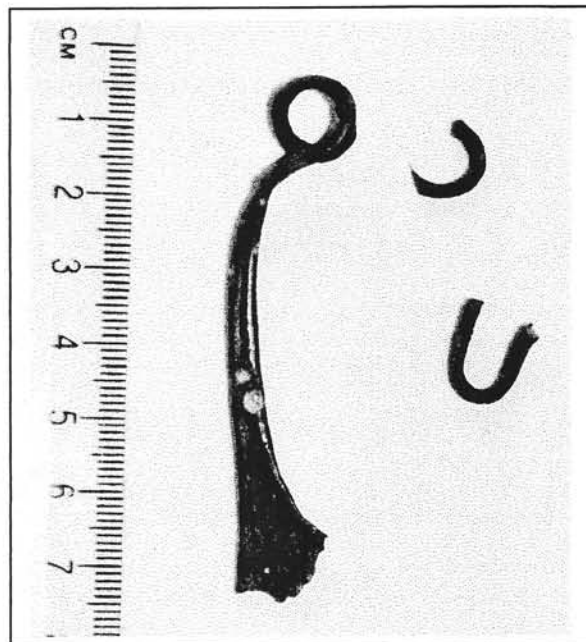*Cirencester GL7 6BQ*

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The brooch from Norwick, Shetland.

The northernmost Roman brooch from Britain

A fragmentary Nauheim derivative brooch was found a few weeks ago at Norwick, a small village on the northern tip of the northernmost Island of Unst, Shetland. It is the only Roman brooch ever found in Shetland and must qualify as not only the the UK's northernmost Roman brooch, but also the northernmost Roman find.

Only a very few other Roman items found in the Islands are in the collections of the Shetland Museum. They consist of:

1) A rim fragment from a glass dish, decorated with a pattern of dots, alternately red, yellow and blue (CLN 76144). Stratified in the Iron Age wheelhouse period phase at Clickhimin.

2) A fragment from the base of a mould-pressed vessel of colourless glass (CLN 79173). Stratified in the Iron Age wheelhouse period phase at Clickhimin.

3) An *as* of Hadrian, AD 119-38 (CUR 65775). Obverse: [IMP CAESAR] TRAIAN H. [ADRIANUS AVG], bust of Hadrian, laureate, draped; rev.: P. M. TR. P. COS. III; reverse S. C. (l. and r. in field) FORT RED (in exergue), Fortuna, draped, seated l., feet on stool, holding rudder and cornucopiae. Reputed to have been found at the Sands of Breckon, Yell.

4) An *as* of Hadrian, AD 119-38 (CUR 81266). Obverse: HADRIANVS.AVG. COS.III. P.P., bust laureate and draped; reverse:

CAPPADOCIA.S.C. Cappadocia wearing turreted crown, sleeveless tunic and cloak, holding small model of Mount of Argaeus and standard. Reputedly dug-up at Breckon, Cullivoe. See details in 'Shetland Times' (July 1954).

5) A bronze follis of Justinian I, AD 545/6 (CUR 81267). Obverse: D.N.IVSTINI ANVS. P.P. AVG, bust of Justinian, beardless, facing front, wearing headdress (?crown) and ornate dress ands holding a cross in each hand; reverse: large letter M with cross above it and triangle below at middle point of letter, ANNO to left, XVIII to right, in exergue CON (mint of Constantinople). Reputedly dug-up at Breckon, Cullivoe. See details in 'Shetland Times' (July 1954).

6-7) Two sherds of samian ware, one a rim sherd. Accessed with 69 sherds of medieval to post-medieval red ware (ARC 7511), mostly collected by Ian Anderson from Breckon, but some come from various districts of Shetland.

One other Roman coin was found in Shetland, but was lost around 1800. There are other unprovenanced Roman coins in the collection.

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Penknives from Newstead: writing accessories

In 1981, during a three-months stay in Great Britain, I was able to study some finds from the Roman site of Newstead, housed in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh. My visit there was made easier by the kind help of Mrs J. Close-Brooks, then Director of the Museum, and for a few days, J. Tate also accepted to show me the techniques used in the Conservation Laboratories of the Museum. One of my first practical jobs in this matter concerned a knife handle which is now recognized as a penknife.

The cleaning of this object (Curle 1911, pl. LX, 10) clearly showed, with the help of an X-ray (fig 1, 1 & fig 2), that the iron blade had been inserted in the brass handle and then firmly held in place with the help of 3 red copper rivets. As the handle had been sawn to match the exact thickness of the blade, the iron was very precisely inserted in the brass; but, as a consequence, such sawn handles must be very fragile when the object is dismantled.

Parallel traces appearing on the iron blade in the two rectangular hollow windows suggest that these parts were filled with wood inserts, making the handgrip more comfortable as well as producing a nice coloured effect with the brass. It could also have been bone, but such appliqués were never described on similar archaeological finds, so the most likely material for the appliqués is wood. The X-ray fluorescence analysis of the metal parts of the handle gave the following results :

	Cu	Sn	Zn
handle	82	1,7	16,4
rivets	99,6	0,4	-

The use of (nearly) pure copper for the rivets is logical when considering the mechanical properties of this metal. But within the type (a short handle followed by volute-shaped appliqués to protect the finger on the back of the blade), different methods of fastening the handle and blade together were in use on the same site. Another find from Newstead (Curle 1911, pl LX, 12; FRA 276) is a blade, lacking most of the handle (fig 1, 2); the only surviving traces of the fastening system are two volute appliqués and their three copper rivets. Contrary to the former case, the volutes were not cast with the
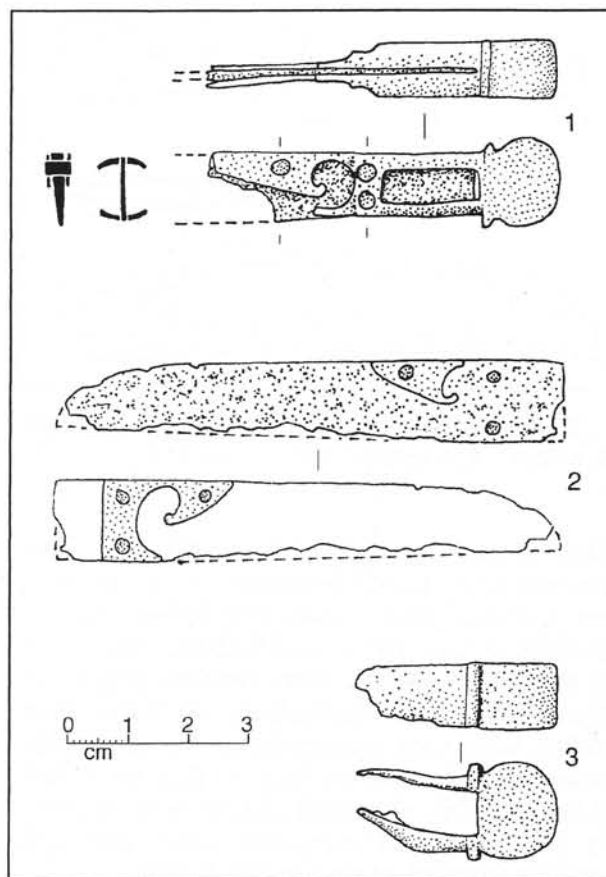

Fig. 1 – Three penknives from Newstead.

handle; one of them is complete and shows a straight edge, perpendicular to the blade. The hidden part of the blade is also shorter than before, and ends at about 10 mm from the rivets.

Only one end of a third knife handle from Newstead is preserved (fig 1, 3), but clearly the handle was not fixed as on our first example. Thus three objects, apparently belonging to a single type, actually display three different constructions, and this in a limited period of time.

Parallels to each type are numerous, suggesting that those were usual versions of a rather current object. For example, handles with sawn slots for the blade were found in London on the Walbrook site (Bank of England; Museum of London, 13.827) as well as in grave II at Winchester (Biddle 1967) ; in London, right in the middle of the rectangular opening, the iron blade is perforated, probably for the fastening of wooden side-pieces. Another handle, but not sawn, comes from the same area
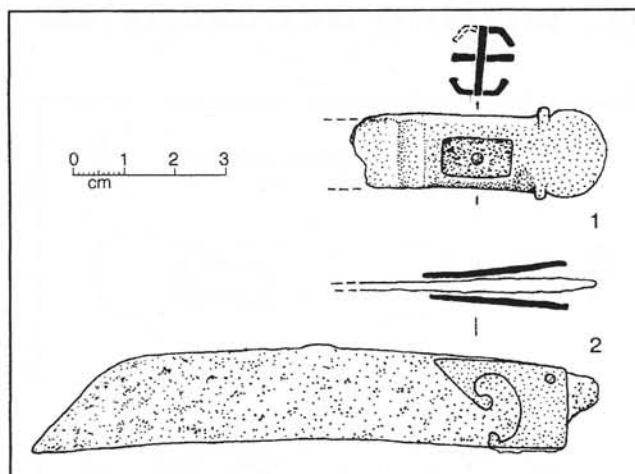
Fig. 2 – Penknives (paralleles to the Newstead finds) from : 1, Vechten (NL) ; 2, Alba (F).

(Tokenhouse Yard, inv. A.28342). The complete knife from Berlingen, tomb 26, with sewn handle, also shows the same feature (Roosens & Lux 1973; Božič 2001, fig 1, 3) and so does a handle from Vechten (fig 2, 1; Rijksmuseum van Oudheiden, VF 760). Two handles with cast appliqués and rectangular windows are known in Neuss (*Bonner Jahrb* 111/112, 1904, pl XXXIII, 32, length 71 mm, and 36, length 53 mm, the later with two openings instead of one in the handle.

The second type is also illustrated among the Walbrook finds, with a very well-preserved handle also ending 10 mm behind the rivets (Bank of England, inv. 13696). Other parallels can be mentioned from Gaul (fig 2, 2 : Alba, "La Plaine", excavations J.-C. Béal and A. Buisson 1981), *etc…* The parallel from Vindonissa, already reproduced by Curle at the beginning of the 20th century (1911, 282, fig 40, left) shows a solid bone handle, probably reproducing the shape of bronze ones. The possibility that some knives of this form may have been fitted with wooden, instead of bone, handles, is still open. I shall not attempt to list more similar finds here, but this short examination shows that a classification of such handles could be made using their construction details. It would be interesting to check whether this difference is linked to chronology or to another aspect of the production.

Lucerna readers will know that the function of such utensils was recently the subject of many discussions; there is good reason to suppose that they were used as penknives, used to sharpen the *calamus* during the writing process, rather than razors as it was

previously supposed (Garbsch 1975, as most later authors). The need for a knife during the process of ink-writing was long ago noticed by authors dealing with this activity (Merten 1987, 311, 315), but it is not until very recently that D Božič (2001) established the true nature of this particular form of knife. This new interpretation (see also Božič & Feugère forthcoming) is based on several sources; first, the presence of such knives on the famous relief of *L Cornelius Atimetus* in Rome, a retailer whose shop offered many writing instruments for sale (Zimmer 1982, 180-182, no 114 ; Božič 2001, 28, fig 2); second, the association of the type with other typical writing utensils in a number of Roman graves of the early Empire.

Among such funerary contexts, of which a complete list still has to be established, let us mention here only some clear cases. A rich grave in Winchester (grave II) produced two such knives as well as a wax-spatula, two iron styli and a bronze seal-box, as well as other objects such as board-game counters (Biddle 1967, fig 9, 20, 21, 26-29, 36-53) ; in London, a grave contained a penknife with two or three styli, a seal-box and two possible copper-alloy pens (seal-box: Holmes 1995, and J Hall, pers comm).

Many more cases appear on the continent. In Grave 26 at Berlingen, a penknife was deposited with an inkwell, a wax-spatula, a stylus, a bone ruler, a compass and a folding rule (Roosens & Lux 1973, fig 14, 16, 10, 20, 37-38). Among the numerous graves from Wederath-Belginum, two of them, containing penknives, are worth reproducing here (fig 3). Tomb 2363 (Cordie-Hackenberg & Haffner 1997, pl 653) had a penknife and a bronze needle, an object which is considered typical of female graves. Such a context is in contradiction with the ancient interpretation of the short knives as razors, but fits with the new idea of a penknife. The second grave, tomb 2448 (*ibid*, pl. 673), shows a penknife with another sewing needle, a possible hair-pin, and three styli.

For a study presented at the EAA congress of Esslingen in September 2001, I made a list of seven early Roman graves which contained both a penknife and an inkwell, both utensils connected with ink-writing. But of course writing on wax was even more frequent, and funerary contexts often associate utensils of the two writing techniques. Four of these graves come from the necropolis of Nijmegen-West (Koster
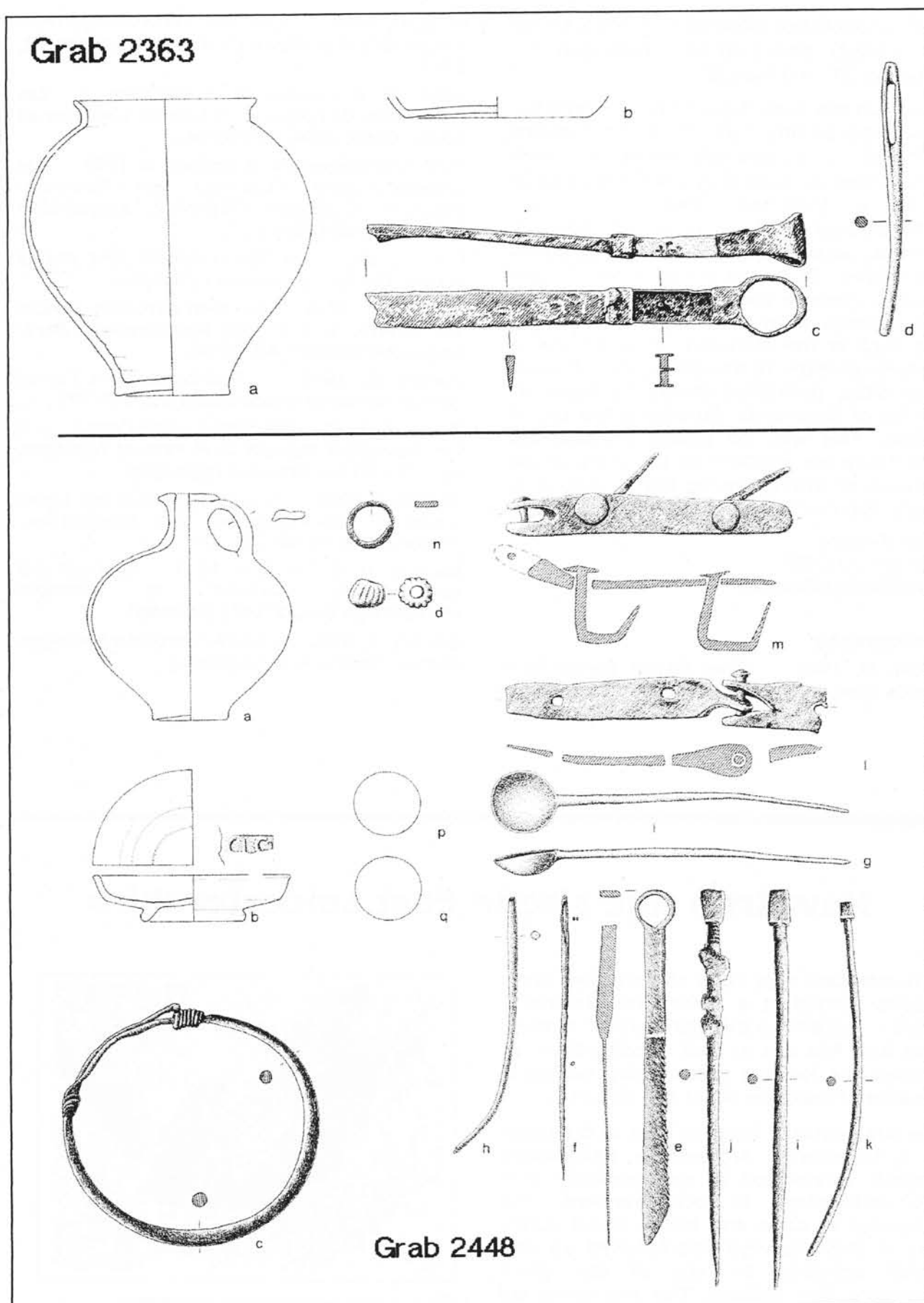
Fig. 3 – Two graves from Wederath-Belginum containing penknives (after Cordie-Hackenberg & Haffner 1997).

1997; unpublished information from A Koster and D Božič), others are from Berlingen (B), Ergolding (D) and Alba (I).

As we can see from these examples (and the archaeological literature no doubt contains many more), the new interpretation of such short knives as writing utensils brings us to quite a different view of many archaeological, and in particular funerary contexts, some of them long ago described and studied. Of course the analysis of other types of contexts containing penknives does also benefits from this new interpretation. One such is the discovery of penknives in military contexts. In Newstead, and on many other sites, penknives should be added to the list of documents illustrating the use of writing. This will, no doubt, increase the importance we attribute to the army in the diffusion of writing among the soldiers and, finally, the civilian society in Roman times.

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New Iron Age site in East Leicestershire

RFG members may have already seen press reports– including a feature on Channel 4 news - concerning the discovery of a major new Iron Age site in East Leicestershire. At present the location is not being disclosed, because of concerns about site security.

The site originally came to light as the result of a Community Archaeology fieldwalking project, established to systematically map the archaeology of local parishes. The discovery of coins and bones found during one of these surveys was followed up with metal detecting by one of the group members, Ken Wallace. This eventually led to the isolation of at least fifteen discrete coin deposits, which were able to be lifted in blocks (although a large number of coins had been scattered in the surface ploughsoil).

Fig 1. A coin deposit being uncovered.

This work was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Service with

funding from English Heritage and the British Museum.

The soil blocks are currently being excavated by British Museum conservators. So far hundreds of coins have been removed, and X-rays have shown that there are many more still to emerge, with perhaps around 3,000 coins likely to be present at the final count. This would constitute the largest assemblage of coins ever excavated from one Iron Age site. Other sites have produced larger assemblages in the past, particularly Wanborough, but readers will no doubt be aware that the majority of the Wanborough assemblage was removed by illegal metal detecting (O'Connell & Bird 1994). The East Leicestershire site thus has the potential to offer new insights into coin deposition during the Conquest period.

Most of the coins are Corieltauvian silver units, as one might expect, probably produced in the early decades of the first century AD. There are also some coins of Cunobelin, mostly gold quarter staters, including at least one completely new type, which combines the letters 'CVNO' on the obverse and 'DVBN' on the reverse. It might seem that these are somewhat outside of their expected circulation area, but the Midlands has produced Cunobelin gold before, *eg* the Silsden hoard, Yorkshire.
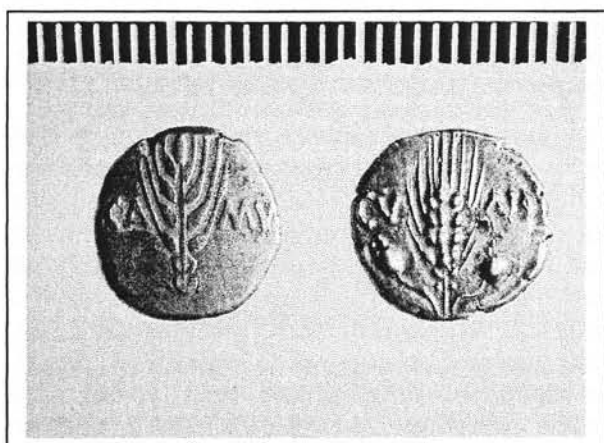
Britain, when this occurred, and subsequent deposition date, are more difficult questions. I personally think they must have been circulating pre-Conquest, but as there are so few Republican coins from stratified contexts, this is impossible to prove. The only site which might have produced some (two coins in fact) is the top fill of an Iron Age ditch from Humberstone, Leicestershire - I reserve judgement on whether or not the proximity of findspots is of any significance.

In addition to the coins, the site has also yielded the fragmentary remains of a Roman cavalry helmet. This consists of iron fragments of the skull-piece and remains of silver-gilt cladding, which implies it was used for parade. As for parallels, it is of similar type to the one from Newstead (National Museum of Scotland), dated to the Flavian period – on this example only a small piece of silver cladding survived on the neck-flange. The best parallel for the cladding itself, from what we can make out at this stage, is a helmet from Xanten, with stylised hair and laurel wreath (Feugere 1994, 105-8). It is too early to say any more at present, until all the surviving pieces have been extracted from the soil block. The other obvious question as well which will need to be addressed is how the helmet ended up on the site in the first place? This might be

Fig 2. Coins of Cunobelin from the site.

Fig 3. Coins of Cunobelin from the site. The new type is on the right.

In addition there are Republican silver coins, and some early imperial pieces, with the latest piece so far of Tiberius. The Republican coins are also not entirely unexpected - hoards in East Anglia sometimes mix Icenian silver units with Republican denarii. Dating, however, has always been problematic. Date of issue is generally not a problem, but how they got to

helped by an examination of the coins inside the block which contains the helmet, as that may assist with the question of deposition date. Enough coins have been found in spoil to suggest that the site may have continued to be used for deposition even as late as the 3rd century, so perhaps the helmet forms part of a post-Conquest phase of deposition. However, all the other stratified deposits in

the assemblage very much indicate a pre-Conquest date.

In addition to the coin hoards and helmet fragments, the site has also produced a series of shallow pits containing animal bones, including some complete skulls and carcasses. This adds another dimension to how the site might be interpreted. We might speculate that is was a ritual meeting ground on a prominent hilltop; the animal bones – which exhibit a number of cut marks - suggest it was also used for feasting. The coin hoards and other objects such as the Roman helmet seem to have been offerings – another part of ritual activities. This is all understandably speculative at the moment; a greater understanding of the site will obviously come with further research.

The finds were declared Treasure at an Inquest held on 8 April 2003. The discovery will constitute one of a new series on archaeological finds called 'Hidden Treasures', which the BBC has scheduled for Autumn this year.

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Acknowledgements

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PASTA SHAPES

The vexed question whether the ancient Romans ate pasta is nowhere near a solution. Finds of spaghetti remains are a pretty unlikely occurrence. That said it is no reason not to indulge in some blue sky research.

The invention of pasta, basically a combination of a variety of flours with either water or egg, certainly precedes the introduction of the tomato though the two are now firmly associated. Pasta can be seasoned with a variety of tomato-less sauces from stewed meat to all sorts of vegetable concoctions like pesto.

There are four basic methods of making pasta. By far the most widespread, these days, is dry pasta, a mix of durum wheat and water. The dough is then processed by mechanical means into the shapes we are familiar with (spaghetti, rigatoni, penne *etc*) and dried. Until we find the right machinery in the Roman archaeological record we can forget about it.

The other three methods are more promising as they can be executed by hand as well as by mechanical means.

The first one requires a flat surface and a rolling pin. The starting point is a stiff dough of eggs and flour (it does not have to be durum wheat). This is rolled out to a fine sheet and cut in ribbons. The end result are tagliatelle and papparelle and so on.

Even less technologically challenging is the family of pastas mixed and shaped entirely by hand. One example are trofie. They have recently hit the UK market: you see them in your local Sainsbury's (but in the dry form which is wrong, in Italy they are fresh). Trofie are still hand made in Liguria by the local housewives out of a dough of wheat and chestnut flour mixed with water and rubbed between the fingers into narrow spirals that are about two inches long. They are traditionally eaten with pesto. I suspect that a fact-finding mission in the unspoilt rural depth of Italy, for which I volunteer for a small fee, would uncover more instances of this family.

Finally there is a technique which I have encountered in a recent visit in Germany in the Stuttgart region in the Suabian Alps, in an area not far from the German and the Raetian Limes which had a strong Roman presence. There I was introduced to a

traditional local dish with a German name I have forgotten and was acquainted with yet another way of making pasta.

The dough of egg and flour, in this case, is rather soft. It is placed on a board and shaved in slivers with a thin tablet with a sharp edge (suspiciously looking like the wooden lunate slickers from Carlisle and from Vindolanda, which according to the commentators, were used for scraping and stretching hides).

The pieces are then dropped into boiling water. As it cooks, each bit about three inches long curls up at the edges. The pasta is retrieved with a perforated ladle and seasoned traditionally with the sauce of a meat stew.
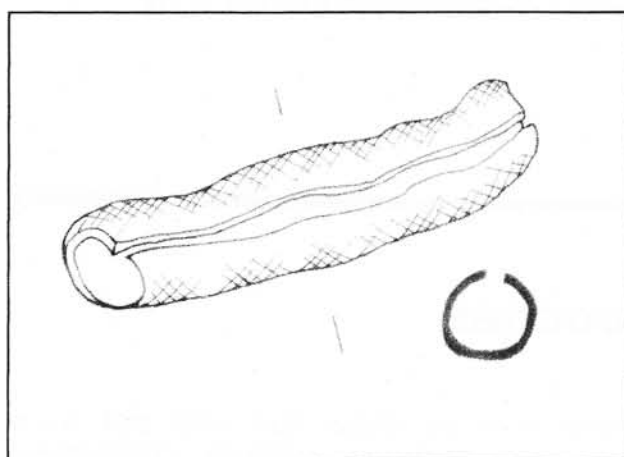

The shape of the final product is very similar, if not identical, to a kind of pasta I had come across in central and southern Italy but only in the dry machine-made form. It bears the bizarre name of strangolapreti or strozzapreti (something to do with the strangling or choking of priests). I had always been intrigued by its design (and by its name for which I have no ready explanation). Although it is now machine-made, it maintains an irregular format which suggests it was originally handmade, perhaps by the method I witnessed in Germany. It is tempting to think that it was introduced there by the military on the move and that the method and recipe became incorporated into the local traditions.

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Odd object

Colin Jeffreys asks if anyone recognises this object. It comes from a site in Kent, and is in Folkestone Museum. Note the decoration on the outer face. If anyone knows what it is, please could s/he email Colin at Wreckologist@aol.com
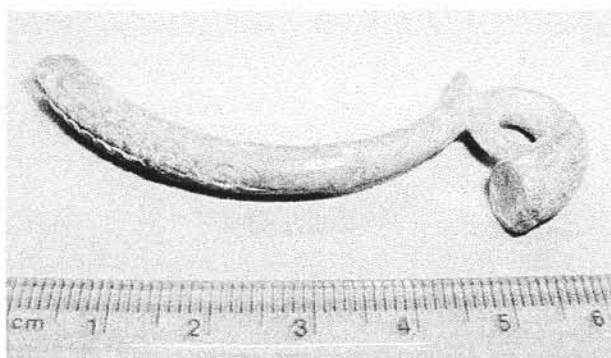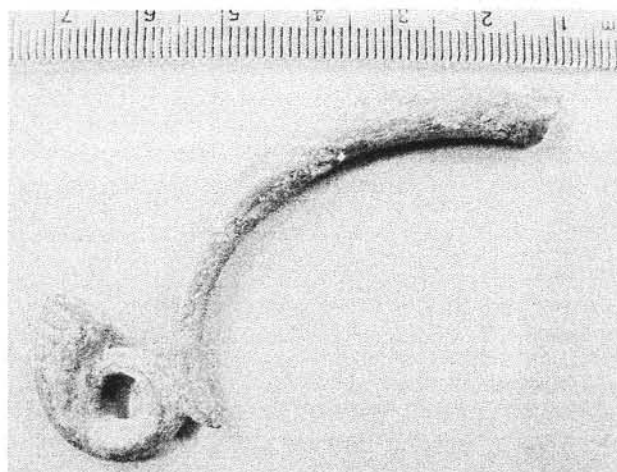
X-Ray Course

A two-/three-day course on Archaeological X-Radiography, *Image Quality, Enhancement and Interpretation*, is being run by the Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, 4th–6th November 2003.

It will cover the basics of archaeological X-radiography, aimed at conservators, finds researchers and all specialists who work with, or commission, X-radiographic images. This course will be a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical sessions. The emphasis of the course will focus on the

production, interpretation and limitations of high quality images and a range of techniques will be covered. Other subjects will include safety, new applications for X-radiography, image digitisation and basic digital image processing. There is an optional practical course on the third day for those delegates who would like to develop or update their proficiency in X-radiography or DIP.

The cost of the two-day course, on Nov 4th and 5th, will be £165. A limited number of places only are available for the full three day course, on Nov 4th, 5th and 6th, at a cost of £245.

The course co-ordinator is Sonia O'Connor Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford.

Tutors are:

Sonia O'Connor, Robert Janaway, Yannick Minvielle Debat, Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford

Steve Milner, Department of Radiography, School of Health Studies, University of Bradford

Graham Hart, Bradford Royal Infirmary

Julie Jones, York Archaeologcial Trust

Vanessa Fell, English Heritage

Janet Lang, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading

Jason Maher, Edutech, Bradford

For further details and information on accommodation and travel please contact:

John McIlwaine, Co-ordinator of Continuing and Professional Education, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, BRADFORD BD7 1DP
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Sexing brooches

Since brooches in the ancient world were overwhelmingly functional their use is inextricably connected to the clothing they fastened. In many ways they should be viewed as part of the clothing itself, in the same way that buttons are today. The Edict of Justinian shows that cloaks were sometimes sold with brooches (for example, 53-6, 18-9; *fibulatorium*) and a tomb painting from Silistra of slaves carrying their master's clothes to be put on after he has bathed shows the brooch left attached to the cloak (Croom 2000, fig 14.2).

Pictorial evidence shows that brooches could be used to fasten both tunics and cloaks. Men are only ever shown using a cloak brooch, while women, at different times and different locations, use them for undertunics, overtunics and cloaks, and at other times never appear to use them at all. There is, for example, no pictorial evidence that women ever wore brooches with the Gallic coat which was worn throughout Gaul and Britain, which must at least heavily suggest that the majority of brooches found during the period when the coat was in fashion must have

been worn by those men who still wore cloaks (in particular, soldiers). Tombstone evidence shows that brooches were used in very obviously different ways by different groups, and so presumably helped to distinguish cultural identities.

Crossbow brooches

Evidence clearly suggests that the late Roman crossbow brooch was worn only by men. The tomb painting mentioned above shows a crossbow brooch, whilst the famous diptych of Stilicho shows the general wearing one fastening his cloak. Of the eight crossbow brooches found in graves at Lankhills, the accompanying grave goods suggest male burials for at least seven, and the crossbow found at the Eastern Cemetery in London was found associated with a man (Barber & Bowsher 2000, 207, no 3). It has been argued that they became a symbol of official rank or military status (Philpott 1991, 139-40), and as such would be even more unlikely to be worn by women.

If one style of brooch, in this case the crossbow, was only worn by one sex, can

other brooch types also be identified as being either male or female items? Philpott's study of Romano-British burial practice lists a large number of graves containing brooches and while some of these may be in the grave fill or be grave goods that did not necessarily belong to the deceased, their position on the body suggests that some at least were probably being worn when buried (1991, table A30). However, many of these examples come from old reports where details of either brooch type or the sex of the burial is missing, and others from graves where a lack of accompanying grave goods or the poor condition of the bones meant that the burials could not be sexed. As women are much easier to identify from accompanying grave goods, more brooch types can be identified for them: penannular (Colchester, p 340, no 647), plate brooches (York, p 346, no cvi), and 'bow-brooch' (Normangate Field, p 343). Of particular interest is a man who was a possible drowning victim whose corpse was left in the flood-silts. As it can be argued that brooches in burials may have been used as shroud pins, this example is significant since as he was not deliberately buried he must have been still wearing his everyday clothes, in this case including a cloak pinned on his left shoulder by a dolphin brooch (Olivier 1982, fig 14, no. 4).

Brooches with attachment loops

The tube dress, a tunic fastened at the shoulders, is known in the ancient world from Denmark to Greece and is a long-lived and wide-spread fashion. Fastening the dress by a pair of brooches is known from Germany, Pannonia and Noricum (Fig 1) and survives into the pagan Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods. Grave evidence shows that

they were usually worn at the shoulders (sometimes as low as the collar bone; see Fig 2), as illustrated by a recently published example from a grave in London (Barber & Bowsher 2000, 183, B374). Roman tombstones clearly show that they were used to fasten the overtunic rather than a cloak. The brooches from London were connected by a necklace or chain made up of silver rings, 85 glass beads and possibly also copper-alloy fittings or links (*ibid*). This is a fashion more commonly known in this country from the pagan Anglo-Saxon period (Owen-Crocker 1986, 55, fig 30; see here Fig 2) where it is found in many inhumation burials.
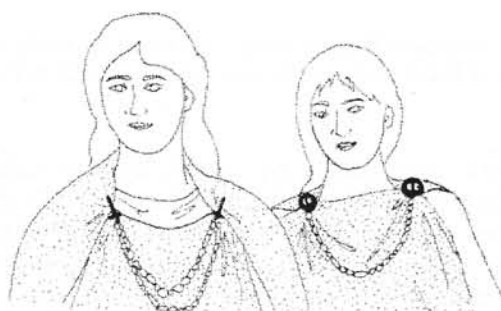

Fig 2. Reconstruction of pagan Anglo-Saxon costume using grave evidence.

Parallels therefore suggest that pairs of brooches (not always identical) were most commonly worn to fasten a female tunic on the shoulders, and that they could be linked by jewellery such as chains or strings of beads (*eg* Allason-Jones 1989, fig 18). A 2nd-century burial at Guilden Morden may well reflect this fashion; an iron brooch and an enamelled bow-and-fantail brooch with attachment loop were found 'at the throat', with a glass bead corroded to the iron example (Lethbridge 1935, 117, pl VII). Brooches are also found with a copper-alloy chain of varying lengths (Johns 1996, fig 7.7; Wardle 1998, fig 19). It has been suggested that the those joined by short chains were worn lower down on the chest in a purely decorative way, such ornamental brooches being shown on some tombstones elsewhere in the Empire. However, where chained brooches are worn on the chest they are shown as being of a different design to the brooches worn at the shoulders. Bow brooches were designed to hold together a quantity of cloth, which is not required when the brooch is simply pinned to the tunic for decorative purposes. Romano-British

Fig 1. Tombstones from Pannonia and Noricum showing tube dresses fastened by brooches.

Fig 3.   Romano-British brooches used to fasten a tube dress in a number of ways. Note (with Fig 2) the variety of ways the deceptively simple tube dress can be worn.

brooches connected by short chains could have been used by girls, or alternatively the brooches were worn close to the neck where a long chain would not be necessary (Fig 3.1; compare Fig 1.2). As this style of wearing the brooches would result in a small neck-hole, a brooch would have to be undone to take the tunic off at night (not necessary when the brooches are worn further out on the shoulders. See Fig 3.2 and compare Fig 1.1); having it safely linked to the other brooch could then be an advantage.

Reconstructions have shown that single strings of beads can be attached to brooches fastening a tunic by either a small loop at both ends to slip onto the pin of the brooch, or larger loops to go over the whole of the brooch (Fig 2). A number of Romano-British brooches were designed with a very obvious, integral loop (headloops) for the attachment of strings of beads or chains, and this design may suggest that wearing these brooches with jewellery was more common than wearing them without. This use of brooches with jewellery may be significant. Philpott's study of Roman burial practice has shown that very little jewellery was worn by men, and what there is confined to finger-rings and (occasionally) bracelets (1991, 144). Therefore it could be suggested that brooches designed to be worn with a necklace (ie all those with a loop) should be considered a female style of brooch.

Could a single brooch with a loop still have been worn by a man to fasten his cloak? This seems unlikely if the brooch was designed to

both fasten a style of tunic worn only by women, and to incorporate a necklace, also used only by women. In the Mediterranean Roman world men could be ridiculed merely for wearing colours or fine cloths that could be considered 'feminine', let alone for wearing female garments. The Emperor Commodus, for example, was condemned for his 'complete indifference to propriety' in wearing female clothing in public (SHA XIII.4). Whilst Roman women could wield great political influence and have immense wealth, they were still considered to be weaker creatures who were not the equal of men. To be female was to be inferior both physically and mentally, which made it of some importance for men to avoid appearing feminine. In Celtic or Germanic societies it is possible that women were held in higher esteem and that therefore there may not have been the same fear of appearing feminine, but their societies were as much warrior societies as the Romans, and I would argue that any society that honours physical prowess above all else is unlikely to genuinely consider women as equals. It seems likely that their menfolk were just as unwilling to be associated with female clothing or jewellery as the Mediterranean Romans.

Unisex brooches

It is possible that men and women could wear the same type of brooch for fastening the cloak as there is nothing in the cloak itself to identify it as either a male or female item of clothing. However, women are not often showing wearing the cloak in the same

way as men (*ie* covering both shoulders and fastened on the right shoulder) and as well as being worn in a different fashion it may also have been fastened with a different form of brooch. Cloaks worn by men, whether civilian, soldier, Roman or barbarian, are always shown fastened by a single brooch on one shoulder.

The penannular brooch may be one such form of brooch worn by either sex. Grave evidence shows penannular brooches could be worn by women; another example to add to this list may well be the penannular brooches reported on in *Lucerna* 25 since they were linked by a chain (Hill 2003, 11; although since these are a pair they must have been used to fasten a tube-dress). A penannular has also been found in a grave of a possible male in the Eastern Cemetery of London (Barber and Bowsher 2000, p175, B329.1; table 7). This brooch type might therefore have been acceptable for either sex, but there could well still be minor differences in the design between male and female styles. Even nowadays items used by both men and women such as buttons, belts and watches have differing designs for the two sexes, the differences sometimes being slight but obvious to those who know the conventions (consider also such subtle differences, such as buttoning coats *etc* on opposite sides).

Conclusion

Brooches must surely be a greater source of information than they are currently. It is likely that many subtle differences between who wore what and how have been lost to us (and unless we find a large number of convenient flood victims we may well never be in a position to untangle all the proprieties of brooch-wearing), but there is still much work to be done to see if at least some brooch types can be divided by tribal fashions, function (cloak/mantle/tunic) and use by the different sexes.

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Acknowledgements

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Roman Society Publication Discounts

ROMAN FINDS GROUP MEETING
Harlow 17th March 2003

<u>Chris Lydamore</u>: *An Introduction to Roman Harlow*

There have been numerous excavations during the 20th century and many of the sites were dug by the West Essex Archaeological Group. The main excavation was the Harlow Temple site conducted by Mortimer Wheeler and the discovery of the stone head of Minerva cult statue. During the construction of the M11 corridor in 1973-75, a series of probable small farmsteads, 1 km apart, were excavated. The main part of the Harlow settlement was concentrated in the river valley and was 25-30 acres in extent. Six villas have been identified in the Stort Valley.

The main site Chris described was the excavation of the Holbrook Engineering Works. It was a large site with limited time and manpower. The then curator, Stuart Edgington Mead, devised a trenching policy and recruited volunteers. The result was a series of deep trenches, evidence for 4 masonry buildings, tessellated flooring and many finds but little or no paperwork. Unfortunately, the curator died the following year in a car crash but is to be congratulated for the amount that was achieved.

Harlow Museum therefore has a good selection of material, (really nicely displayed in their new museum) but lacking contextual information. The collections include local pottery (Hadham ware), evidence for metal and leather working and 550 coins. The settlement was originally Iron Age and the Roman settlement pre-dated the temple, a site thought to have been closely associated with the nearby settlement.

<u>Martin Dearne</u>: *Roman Enfield, 30 years of finds from gardens*

Martin introduced us to a different type of archaeology, that of small-scale excavations in back gardens. Enfield is a 100% built-up residential area and much of the work has been done by Enfield Archaeology Society. The society conducts back-garden archaeology which plugs the gaps in PPG16. They investigate holes dug for fish ponds, garden landscaping and footings for extensions. Finds have been recorded since the early 19th century when quarrying for brickearth and gravel in the valley of the River Lea and the construction of the railway led to finds. Enfield is 81/2 miles north of Roman London with the line of Ermine Street running north through the area.

Evidence for a settlement lies to the east of the A10 and to the west of Ermine Street. Boundary ditches, grain driers but few structures have been found, although there is pot and coin evidence. But was it military, a roadside settlement with a *mansio* or a simpler settlement?

Occupation began in the Flavian period and there was continuous occupation until the end of the Roman period with coins of the House of Theodosius. There have been three coin hoards found as well as a late sub-Roman buckle. The occupants seem to have been both moderately literate and wealthy with samian, amphorae and glassware. Was there a *mansio* or *mutatio* with tiled buildings, flue tiles and brick? In additon, there were several scattered cremation burials, two stone sarcophagi and a lead coffin lid with scallop shells. These burials may relate to further villas and it may be that there was a landscape of villas with a small town, a regional centre, leading from Ermine Street and serving a villa community.

<u>Jake Weekes</u>: *Relative dating of Roman cremation burials in Essex*

Jake has been researching cremations in East Kent, East Essex and London. He is looking at the archaeology of ritual and is keen to have RFG members mail him with information. His e-mail address is jrw@ukc.ac.uk.

As part of his research he is looking at the relative chronology of cremations; the role of the finds specialist in the interpretation process and practical ways that the archaeological community can change the excavation to publication process. He is also looking at the ritual style of cremations; the selection of materials; cremation types and whether goods used were defective and burial rites. The combination of all these factors have to be viewed in an anthropological way. In Roman Essex, inhumation replaced cremation as the

predominate rite but there is a discernible pattern of late-Roman cremations. For example, at Kelvedon, eighteen cremations date to the late 4th century, and 22 cremations at Colchester to the 4th century. There is, therefore, a growing body of evidence for cremations continuing throughout the Roman period.

Jake argued for an inclusive interpretation process with finds specialists brought in at the excavation stage. As to the publication, there should be joint editing of reports by all specialists involved. This could make it a more expensive process but Jake urged archaeological specialists to present a united front to increase communication rather than be ruled by the cheapest service.

Alison Taylor: *Grave goods from Cambridgeshire*
Alison described how an élite native tradition was carried on in Cambridgeshire. Cremation was already the pre-Roman tradition., confined to the éite and middling Romanised population. The native poor were inhumed.

At Bartlow Hills, six burial mounds were sited in two parallel lines. Excavations in the mid 19th century only looked at the centre of the mounds to find the central burials. Single cremations in square glass bottles and oak chests were found with rich grave goods. There was a folding chair - a symbol of rank and strigils - symbols of Romanisation. Each burial had a lamp with blackened wicks and food and drink. There were no weapons or personal objects, making sex identification difficult. One had a fine miniature enamelled cauldron.

The burial of food and symbols follows an Iron Age tradition. At Littlington in south Cambridgeshire, a cemetery associated with a rich villa was excavated in the 19th century. A long-lived walled family cemetery had over 200 cremations and 200 inhumations. The grave groups were recorded in paintings by the Vicar's wife.

Each cremation was buried with a standardised selection of objects - a storage vessel, a samian bowl and a wine flagon. All the large jars had cracks or chips on the rim, appearing to be deliberate 'ritual' killings. The occupants must have been the Romanised elite as crouched burials in field ditches without grave goods were the local native rite.

At the Girton cemetery outside Cambridge, 19th-century excavations found funerary monuments, glassware and rich grave goods. At a small villa in Godmanchester, 70 simple one-pot cremations were found.

A recent excavation at Milton revealed a large wooden box with a storage jar and two flagons, both with small holes drilled in the sides. Thios showed that the ritual killing aspect was more important than the drink to accompany the deceased.

At Guilden Morden cemetery, later cremations cut into earlier inhumations. The cemetery, associated with a villa, had a mix of burial rites including crouched burials. A most interesting discovery was made of a 2nd-century inhumation in a lead coffin at Arrington. The coffin contained the skeleton of a baby with hydrocephalus. It had been wrapped in a red/blue wool shawl and eight miniatures were placed, possibly in myrrh, around the face. There was a thorn-puller figurine, a Germanic-style mother goddess, figurines of both a baby and an older child, a bullock, two sheep and a nature god with a Phrygian hood. All the figurines originated from northern Gaul. The publicity from Arrington led to another find from Godmanchester. A young girl's cremation in a samian jar had pipe-clay northern Gaulish figurines of a horse and a bull.

In Cambridgeshire, the rich were not buried with grave goods and in the organised cemeteries, there may be evidence for Christian burials as all the burials were in some form of coffin to protect the body and wore shrouds. Glass phials, for dressing the bodies were usually left outside the coffin.

Nina Crummy: *Small objects, the Catuvellauni and the Dobunni*
Nina began with a plea for research on small finds beyond that required by commercially-driven reports. Much work is needed to produce data-sets in order to reach global conclusions. She suggested that RFG members look at particular types of material.

Pottery research is more advanced with a higher level of research and knowledge - they can identify the form and its function, the fabric (fineware/coarseware) and whether the vessel is an import or locally-produced. Known kiln sites far outnumber known centres of production for metal, stone, and bone artefacts. This kind of information enables pottery specialists to produce trade patterns for settlements, as

well as providing major input into feature and site dating.

Together with Hella Eckardt she has been looking at nail-cleaners for regional patterns and they have produced an interim report which has been submitted to *Archaeological Journal*. It examines the evidence fpresented by three types of nail-cleaner.

Double-pointed nail-cleaners, the usual form in Roman Britain, are not common on the Continent, where a single-pointed tool is used instead. The use of nail-cleaners was inherited from the La Tène period when toilet instruments were used only by the élite, but they became very more widely used in Roman Britain.

The Baldock type is a simple one-piece form with the suspension loop at right angles to the blade. Tweezers with similar decoration can be similarly dated by association. The 'bone disc' type has a copper-alloy shaft with a bone bead on the top, or, very rarely, a bone shaft with glass bead. The third type has a grooved collar.

The Baldock type is concentrated in Hertfordshire and Essex, the area of the Catuvellauni and the Trinovantes. In contrast the bone disc and grooved collar types are well-represented in the area of the Dobunni, especially around Cirencester. This strong east v west distribution pattern is evidence for regional manufacture and marketing. On Akeman Street, the road from Cirencester to Verulamium, a series of roadside temples marked the liminal territory between the Dobunni and the Catuvellauni, and nail-cleaners of both eastern and western forms types were deposited at these sites as votive offerings.

An examination of the social distribution of all types of nail-cleaners (of which there are many) shows that they are more 'British' than 'Roman'. Very few have been found along Hadrian's Wall or in Wales, and the overall pattern shows they come mainly from civilian areas, especially small settlements. Many are deposited as votive offerings at temple sites.

Several of Hilary Cool's hairpin groups show a regional distribution pattern, as do many brooch types, and also mortar and pestle cosmetic grinders. Some object types are wholly restricted to their regions; strainer bowls, for example, occur only in the east.

Similar work on other object types will begin to build up dated regional 'artefact suites', so that trade patterns for imported or local objects can be defined.

Hilary Major: *Roman querns from Essex*

Hilary has been researching Roman querns, their form, chronology and stone type.

Essex has no hard stone so stone has to be brought in. There is little evidence for pre-Roman rotary querns and Saxon lava querns. The bulk are Roman and over 400 are of a millstone grit that came from the Pennines.

Puddingstone querns are an Iron Age form that continued in use into the Roman period. Roman lava querns were lightweight by comparison and soon became popular. Over 800 have been found from Essex but they are difficult to date more closely. They originally came from quarries near Cologne and were common in the eastern part of Roman Britain.

Late-Saxon querns have a collar around the hopper while medieval querns tend to be larger than Roman examples, being flatter and thinner. This style remained in use from the 11th to 16th centuries. The pot quern, where the flat upper stone sits within the bottom stone, was introduced in the 13th century. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Cologne lava querns were introduced with small-scale versions used for grinding mustard.

At the Iron Age and Romano-British site at Elms Farm, Heybridge, framents of 264 puddingstone querns were excavated. A high proportion remained in use for about 25 years and context evidence suggests puddingstone continued in use for the manufacture of querns into the 2nd century.

Val Rigby: *Gallo-Belgic Pottery Stamps*

Gallo-Belgic ware was an early import found on sites like the King Harry Lane cemetery, Verulamium, the Stanway cemetery outside Colchester and Piddington villa.

At King Harry Lane there was evidence of native pottery that were wheel-thrown, not kiln fired and made in earthy colours. The Gallo-Belgic range varied from white to scarlet and pink and grey to black. Some even had mica-dusted surface decoration. Gallo-Belgic ware consists of Terra Rubra and Terra Nigra. The cups were stamped centrally and platters multi-stamped radially. At King Harry Lane, there was a standardisation of size and style. The most common were carinated cups and platters in

Terra Nigra and pedastalled cups and beakers in Terra Rubra.

Hawkes and Hull's Camulodunum report (1947) designated the forms and fabric. These earliest forms and functions introduced a new Romanised view of food and drink. The main areas in which they are found are concentrated around Colchester, Canterbury and Chichester. The pottery was made around Rheims and copied Arretine ware. Some potters feature on both samian and Terra Rubra.

Terra Rubra began to be made c 10 BC and there are Colchester and Skeleton Green parallels with Haltern dies. Terra Rubra vessels are concentrated in the eastern region of Roman Britain and are based around tribal areas.

In the Tibero-Neronian period supply was spreading towards the Humber and are found mostly in burials. Breaks in supply came with the invasion and Boudican revolt and there is a change in distribution after AD 60. Colchester set up copies of Gallo-Belgic pottery at an early date. Its significance is in the standardisation of pot production, being kiln-fired and supplied in larger quantities than Arretine. The question still remains as to who used it and for what purpose.

Ralph Jackson: *The Stanway Healer's grave and artefacts of Roman medicine*

High-status graves in enclosures were excavated in the late 1980s and 1990s at Stanway, outside Colchester. Enclosure 5 included a doctor's burial containing the first complete set of medical implements in Roman Britain, pieces of Gallo-Belgic ware and a board game. Dating to c AD 50, the Stanway medical set is one of the earliest known, as most are from eruption levels at Pompeii, or later than that date.

The Stanway set, being largely iron, is in fairly poor condition so a replica set has been reconstructed (by RFG member Nodge Nolan). The composition of the set has both similarities and differences to other Roman sets. It is not a 'specialist' set.

There are over 20 big sets from the Empire and tombstones show medical sets stored in folding wooden boxes. Each basic surgical kit had from six to fifteen implements, including scalpels, forceps, sharp hooks, needles and probes. These all feature in the Stanway set which consists of two scalpels, a saw, knife, forceps, handled needles, and a scoop-probe. The use of iron is unusual; Roman implements are usually made of copper alloy. Apart from the scoop-probe, the Stanway implements also differ in style from Roman ones. The iron scalpels, for example, have leaf-shaped dissectors with curved blades. Pre-Roman graves from Germany and elsewhere in the empire have iron implements. Stanway is similar to the north-western European tradition and is the first British Iron Age set to be found.

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RFG Committee

Crossword
by Digger

Down

1. Illustrator found in a chest (6)
2. For example, reversing hair colour is hell (7)
3. Half-life of metal (4)
4. Rubbish discovered in outer parts of Germany, resembling mica-dusted pot? (8)
5. Washes French article in tins (5)
6. Bronze Age pot from the turbulent, bleak, R. Elbe (4,6)
7. Formerly sat out in the open (7)
8. Like a mortarium with teeth, about a pound (7)
13. Bush on fire devastated Roman palace (10)
16. The god of wine sounds like he'll support us (7)
17. A game played by strangely arch Sade (8)
19. Illegal type of trading in drink, we hear (7)
21. Force out former partner, initially tacky and uncultured (7)
22. Certificates, perhaps, given for the best parts of hospitals (6)
23. Thanks – temporarily given an old coin (6)
26. Account rendered for a tool (4)

Answers on p 27.

Across

1. While excavating, Diana takes notes about alcoholic drink (7)
5. Aussie mate was a shoemaker, but no learner (6)
9. Goddess played harp, then had to die tragically (9)
10. Collar feature, put round by the Spanish (5)
11. Bird resident in the later Neolithic (4)
12. Rock graduates in font, for perhaps (5,5)
14. Mind about old politician of a certain quality (7)
15. Name of composer on radio – Snathe? (6)
18. Get off – it's on fire! 6)
20. Lew, here, regrettably, was a famous archaeologist (7)
24. Roman pottery is made from water, Oscar! (6,4)
25. Point to a Greek portico (4)
27. This ground is where archaeological remains are often found (5)
28. A 'colour-by-number' type of Greek pottery? (3-6)
29. Groups of monks taken in pubs by bar staff? (6)
30. Important or prominent angle on a line of defence (7)

REVIEWS

Aspects of Industry in Roman Yorkshire and the North, edited by P Wilson & J Price. Oxbow Books, 2002. Paperback, 160 pp, 69 figs. ISBN 1 84217 078 3. £25.

The ten papers in this book (inspired by a day-school on crafts and material in Yorkshire) are grouped into three sections: crafts and industries of York and two Yorkshire rural areas; high-temperature industries - pottery, glass, and metal - and low-temperature industries - leather, black minerals, and stone.

To take the last first, the paper on stone (by Gaunt & Buckland) is very site-specific. It concentrates on the building materials found in Roman York, their point of origin, and the likely method of their transport, road or water. The local stones are discussed in geological stratigraphic order, with a short section at the end on non-local stone, making it a useful work of reference. Allason-Jones's paper on 'The jet industry and allied trades' has a wider relevance, with a large section on the various types of black minerals, their sources, characteristics and the method of working. Where possible, examples are taken from Yorkshire or the north. The paper on the leather trade (van Driel-Murray) is written along similar lines, discussing the raw material, tanneries, and military supply before turning to a specific discussion of the footwear of northern Britain and a look at the evidence from rural settlements.

Two papers deal with the pottery industry, one taking a broad view, the other concentrating on a particular manufactory. Halkon looks at the pottery industry of Holme-on-Spalding in its landscape, examining raw materials, kiln sites, and communications, before describing the pottery recovered during a programme of field-walking in the parish and attempting to establish a chronology for the various kiln sites. Swan's paper on 'The Roman pottery of Yorkshire in its wider historical context' is a thorough examination of manufacture and supply from the Flavian period through to the 4th century. Topics covered range from the recognition of probably military *figlinae*, the origins of the potters themselves (*ie* some probably came from Verulamium, others from the Lower Rhineland), and institutional and personal imports, to early

military workshops, garrison changes and pottery chronology in Trajanic to Hadrianic York, the expansion of rural pottery production in the 3rd century, and so on. This is clearly a very valuable and detailed study which will no doubt stand as a major work of reference for many decades.

Price's examination of the evidence for glass production in Yorkshire and the North starts with a look at primary production (glass-making) and secondary production (glass-working) in the Empire, using evidence from beyond the study area to establish both the method of manufacture and the material and structural remains to be found in the archaeological record. She then provides a summary of current knowledge of both primary and secondary production in Britain, before describing in greater detail the evidence from Yorkshire and the North and providing an interpretation of that evidence.

Two papers deal with non-ferrous metal-working. Dungworth's short paper provides a brief overview of the production of copper-alloys in the Roman world, before turning to specific assemblages from Yorkshire. He discusses the analyses of the alloys used for Dragonesque brooches and compares the results to the typology put forward by Bulmer and Feachem. A similar section discusses fantail brooches, which were made in a distinctive low-tin alloy. A 'social distribution' approach is then used to examine the percentage of the various alloys present on different types of sites. These appear to be broadly similar on most categories of site, varying only for 'small rural', 'hoard', 'burial', 'cave' and 'hillfort'. The first has more brass objects than the general run, the four latter all have fewer. While the very nature of hoard, burial and cave finds might be expected to produce a variation of some type regardless of what aspect is examined, deliberate object selection leading inevitably if unconsciously to alloy selection, I cannot help but wonder if the 'small rural' result has been affected by the low number of objects analysed, only 25 compared to 68 for 'town', 161 for 'large rural', and 415 for 'military'.

Bayley then describes the evidence for non-ferrous metal-working in Yorkshire, providing an overview of the processes involved, *ie* mining, smelting and the various secondary stages leading to production of finished objects. Examples from Yorkshire are slotted into this summary and then a gazetteer of metal-working sites is provided.

These material-specific papers are preceded by two case studies: Cool's 'Craft and industry in Roman York', and Wilson's 'Craft and industry on the North York Moors in the Roman period'. Only in these papers does one of the most important industries in the ancient world, iron-working, make its appearance, as well as bone-, wood-, and stone-working. Wilson also introduces the 'invisible crafts', particularly fuel production and the domestic crafts. Both authors provide summaries of the evidence for the various industries in their area and end with overviews, relating manufacturing to the military and civilian populations where possible.

Overall, this is a very valuable regional study which on some instances provides important information for Roman Britain as a whole. It is, however, disappointing that there is no wider study of iron production and working. Perhaps a second day-school can be arranged to deal with this and the 'invisible' crafts.

Nina Crummy

Excavation of Roman sites at Cramond, Edinburgh, by N Holmes, edited by M Collard & J A Lawson. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph 23, 2003. Paperback, 170 pp, 141 figs. ISBN 0 903903 23 7. £20.00.

This report presents the results of the excavations of 1975 to 1981 at the Roman fort at Cramond, on the Firth of Forth at the mouth of the river Almond. In addition, some of the finds included in the specialist reports came from rescue work in the early 1970s. Previous work suggested that there were two military occupations of the fort between *c* AD 142 and 162, and a third during the Severan campaign of the early 3rd century. In addition, an Agricolan phase has been postulated based on a few 1st-century finds from the area, though with no structural evidence to support the idea.

The excavations examined the fort defences, the bath-house to the north of the fort, and an industrial complex to the south-east. The latter produced evidence for carpentry, leather- and iron-working, and shoe making.

There are detailed studies of the pottery, the small assemblage of glass, and the coins. The latter examines not just the coins from the excavations dealt with in the report, but also earlier 'casual' discoveries from the 18th century onwards, and those from other excavations from the 1950s to 1970s. The data available from this list provides little evidence in support of the theory that there was an Agricolan occupation of Cramond, and also takes issue with details of the dating of the Antonine occupation, suggesting that the abandonment of the fort was later than AD 162. Commodan coins may also be evidence for a occupation in the AD 180s, and the Severan issues suggest occupation before *c* AD 200, rather than after AD 208, the latter supported by comparison with the coins from Carpow.

Apart from a section on military equipment mof both iron and copper alloy, the small finds are presented by material. They include medieval and later objects as well as Roman. The ironwork from a well in the industrial complex is of particular interest; it includes a shovel blade, an axe-hammer, possible files or rasps, and a punch.

The site produced three high-quality cornelian intaglios, at least two of which predate the first military occupation of the site, and the stonework includes a sandstone bench-end from the bath-house site. The wooden objects include part of a window-frame, slotted to receive panes of glass, and a turned leg from a piece of beech-wood furniture. An analysis of the timberwork from the same Roman well in the industrial complex that produced the iron tools suggests that there is evidence for a well-managed timber workshop with carpenters working for a specialised market other than a purely functional military one. The tile, environmental evidence and medieval pottery are presented as brief summaries, and there is a more detailed analysis of some post-Roman inhumations, possibly plague victims, as well as reports on the small assemblages of clay tobacco pipes and post-medieval coins.

The final chapter discusses the evidence from this report, especially in the light of previous work on the site by Alan and Viola Rae. It is divided into sections on the perimeter features of the fort (defences, gates, roads), its internal layout, the bath-house and industrial complex, and includes an overview of the dating evidence form the material remains. Finally, Cramond is set in its wider context as a part of the military occupation of southern Scotland in the 2nd and 3rd century.

Nina Crummy

Books

Roman Lincoln: conquest, colony and capital
by M J Jones
Tempus 2002. ISBN 0 7524 1455 0. 160 pp, 113 pls. £16.99.
A study of Roman Lincoln spanning its establishment as a Roman military base, its growth, development and life as a *colonia*, and its effect on the surrounding countryside. Public buildings, culture, religion, and final decline and abandonment are all examined.

Roman cavalry equipment
by I P Stephenson & K Dixon
Tempus 2003. ISBN 0 7524 1421 6. 144 pp, 122 pls. £17.99.
The full range of cavalry equipment of the Western Empire is described: the armour, arms, clothing, *etc* of the riders, and the tack and armour of their mounts, as well as the horses themselves, the use of cavalry in battle and cavalry displays.

Roman Britain and the Roman Navy
D J P Mason
Tempus 2003. ISBN 0 7524 2541 2. 232 pp, 120 figs. £17.99.
A study of the archaeological evidence for the Roman navy in Britain, the role it played in the conquest and the subsequent defence of the province.

Christianity in Roman Britain
by D Petts
Tempus 2003. ISBN 0 7524 2540 4. 192 pp, 76 figs. £17.99.
An examination of the archaeological evidence for Christianity - cemeteries, churches and their fittings, baptisteries, mosaics, wall-paintings, and general artefacts bearing Christian symbols. The distinctive character of Romano-British Christianity is described and regional variations are defined.

An excavation in the western cemetery of Roman London: Atlantic House, City of London
by S Watson
MoLAS Archaeology Studies 7, 2003. ISBN 1901992268. 75 pp, 86 figs. £8.95.
A report on the excavation of a small area of the Western Cemetery which produced 48 burials, both cremations and inhumations. Wet ground conditions allowed two well-preserved timber coffins to be lifted for conservation and display, and a stake-lined pit may have been a ritual water feature.

Excavations at Hunt's House, Guy's Hospital
by R Taylor-Wilson
Pre-Construct Archaeology Monograph 1, 2003. ISBN 0 9542938 0 0. 68 pp. £10.00.
Report on the excavation of part of Roman Southwark which produced evidence of leather-working, lead-working, and butchery. Structures include a small shrine and a building for the storage of amphorae.

L'outre et le tonneau dans l'Occident romain
by É Marlière
éditions monique mergoil, Monographies Instrumentum 22, 2002. ISBN 2 907303 69 4. 205 pp, 223 figs.
A study of the leatherbags and barrels used in the transportation of liquid food products in Western Roman Empire. The data available for barrels allows a typology to be established and centres of production identified.

Weapons of the Romans
by M Feugère
Tempus 2002. ISBN 0 7524 2506 4. 224 pp, 278 figs. £19.99.
A comprehensive study of Roman arms and armour from the Republic to the Late Empire, showing the development of weapons and armour to suit time and place and the adoption of the weapons of the conquered. Also covers topics such as ownership.

Illuminating Roman Britain
by H Eckardt
éditions monique mergoil, Monographies Instrumentum 23, 2002. ISBN 2 907303 60 0. 420 pp, 134 figs, 303 tables. £38.00.
An examination of the social context of lighting equipment from Roman Britain, as well as a typology of lamps and other items. This will be a standard work of reference for many years.

Crossword Answers
Across. 1. Digging 5. Copper 9. Aphrodite 10. Lapel 11. Erne 12. Stone basin 14. Calibre 15. Handle 18. Alight 20. Wheeler 24. Castor ware 25. Stoa 27. Under 28. Red-figure 29. Orders 30. Salient.
Down. 1. Drawer 2. Gehenna 3. Iron 4. Glittery 5. Cleans 6. Bell beaker 7. Exposed 8. Flanged 13. Fishbourne 16. Bacchus 17. Charades 19. Insider 21. Extrude 22. Awards 23. Talent 26. Bill.

Conferences

British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology conference 2003

Dept of Archaeology, University of Southampton, 5th-7th September 2003 Sessions on themed topics such as human evolutionary anthropology, the theoretical and social contexts of human remains, and mummies and mummification. Contact Dr Sonia Zakrzewski, email srz@soton.ac.uk

The archaeology of Yorkshire

Yorkshire Museum, York, 6th September 2003

A day meeting organised by CBA Yorkshire. Presentations and discussion will focus on the present and future research developments across the full spectrum of the region's archaeology. Further details from T G Manby, 43 Meadow Drive, Market Weighton, York, YO43 3QG, tel 01430 873147

International Association for the History of Glass (AIHV)

Imperial College, London, 7th-9th September 2003

The British Section of the AIHV will host the 16th congress. The AIHV promotes the study of all aspects of glass from Antiquity to the modern period and holds a Congress every three years. For further details contact The General Secretary AIHV, 16 Lady Bay Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5BJ. Web: www.historyofglass.org.uk or www.aihv.org

European Association of Archaeologists

St Petersburg, 10th-14th September 2003
The 9th annual meeting of the EAA is included in the programme of the city's tercentenary celebrations. Register early to avoid possible problems and delays in obtaining necessary visas. For further information contact the Meeting Co-ordinator, Dr Nicholas Petrov, Meeting Secretariat, EAA AM 2003, European University at St Petersburg, S Gagarinskaya st., St Peters Burg 191187 Russia, tel +7 812 2794408, fax +7 812 2794408/2755139, email info@eaa2003am.spb.ru

Archaeometallurgy in Europe

Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologica, "Leonardo da Vinci", Milan 24th-26th September 2003
The conference aims to gather and share information on all aspects of the history of metallurgy in European countries. The conference language is English. For further details contact Associazione Italiana di Metallurgia, Piazzale Rodolofo Morandi 2, I-20121 Milano, Italy, tel +39 0276 021132, fax +39 0276 020551, email aim@aimnet.it

Museums Association conference and exhibition 2003

Brighton Centre, Brighton, 6th-8th October 2003
Further details at www.museumsassociation.org

TAG 2003

Department of Archaeology, University of Wales, Lampeter, 17th-19th December 2003 Papers are currently invited for the following sessions - contact the session organisers for details: archaeology and the cultural politics of Wales (Andrew Fleming, andrew.fleming@ lamp.ac.uk or David Austin, austin@lamp. ac.uk); tag 25 celebrations, reflections and predictions (Andrew Fleming, andrew.fleming @lamp.ac.uk); is there life for theory below the PhD? (Liam Carr & Hywel Keen, PA011@lamp.ac.uk); consuming the other (Louise Steel, l.steel@lamp.ac.uk); island metaphors and island myths (Eleanor Breen & Paul Rainbird, eleanor.breen@tesco.net, rainbird@lamp.ac.uk); queer theory and beyond (Brian Boyd, b.boyd@lamp.ac.uk); ethnoarchaeology ii (Kathryn Fewster, k.fewster@lamp.ac.uk); archaeology of missionary landscapes (Zoe Crossland, zc107@cam.ac.uk); locality and local identity in Roman Britain (John Wiles, john.wiles@ rcahmw.org.uk or Barry Burnham, burnham@lamp.ac.uk); what's real, and what is not: reconciling conflicting ideas about the ancient past (Adam Stout, PW035@lamp.ac.uk). Paper abstracts (200 words) by 1.9.03. For more information contact TAG@lamp.ac.uk, Department of Archaeology, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED.