

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 29, January 2005

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 29

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005

The subscription rate has remained the same for nearly 15 years, but to allow the RFG to keep the cost of meetings down and to meet the rising costs of printing and posting the Newsletter, the subscription has risen to £8 for an individual membership and £11 for a two-person: single-household membership.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005

RFG subscriptions for 2005 are now due

Please remember to send your 2004 subscription, £8 for one person, £11 for 2 people in 1 household, to
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Notes for contributors

Emailed text should be sent as either a .doc, .text, or .rtf file. Please use only sufficient formatting to make the hierarchy of any headings clear, and **do not** embed either illustrations or graphs in the text but send them as separate files. Emailed illustrations should preferably be simple line drawings or uncluttered b/w photos and sent as .tif or .jpg files. No textured backgrounds, please.

The address for emailed contributions is: rhobbs@thebritish.museum.ac.uk.

Contributions by post should be sent to: Richard Hobbs, Department of Prehistory & Europe, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Editorial

My apologies for the late arrival of this issue, which is my last. Richard Hobbs has taken over as Editor and all contributions from now on should be sent to him at the address on the left (in Notes for contributors). I wish him luck and many interesting future contributions.

More volunteers to write datasheets on their area of expertise are needed, please see p. 5 for details.

There will be a joint meeting of the RFG and the Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 at the University of Kent next October – see advance notice on p. 26.

This spring's meeting is on April 18th at Chester. Time to visit the amphitheatre and the Grosvenor Museum, both of which are well worth seeing, has been built into the programme.

On p. 20 we offer a way for UK residents to join *Instrumentum* without the hassle of paying in euros. This Europe-wide research-group into ancient crafts is well worth joining and the two Bulletins that come out each year always contain useful articles. Per head of population, the UK is lagging behind in its membership - now is the time to catch up!

Catalogue of Roman Purbeck mortars

I only joined RFG in the early summer of 2004, and I was flattered to find in *Lucerna* 28 a complimentary reference to my bibliography of the Roman Purbeck Stone industry following Justine Tracey's article (Tracey 2004). So here I am coming out of the woodwork to admit to being the author of the stuff at

<http://www.palmyra.uklinux.net/>

and saying that there is more than a mere bibliography to be found at that address.

I'm a computer programmer, retired, whose interest in Roman things goes back to a distant degree in classics. My work on the Purbeck industries started with a paper in 1996 for King Alfred's College, Winchester (as it was then) and since then I have been attempting to make a comprehensive catalogue of finds and evidence relating to the Roman-period exploitation of the stone of the Purbeck Limestone Formation. I decided early on to put my work-in-progress on the Internet and have been rewarded by a number of approaches from other people with similar interests, who have often contributed data or led me to explore new avenues. An interim report on the project appeared a couple of years ago (Palmer 2001).

Anyone working in this field must acknowledge two important reviews of the Purbeck Marble industry, Dunning (1949) and Beavis (1970). Of these two, John Beavis is alive and well, and living in Purbeck. Both their reviews dealt with Purbeck Marble, but I have taken the scope of my work to be the wider class Purbeck Limestone.

I did this because the non-Marble industry is interesting in itself, with roofing, padstones, and other interesting classes of products; but also because Purbeck Marble has quite often been confused with other sorts of stone, from the Purbeck Formation and also from other sources; for instance Allen and Fulford (2004) have just called attention to a probable misidentification at Silchester by Hope and Fox (1899). Purbeck Marble, properly so-called, is a micritic limestone containing shells of the freshwater gastropod *Viviparus cariniferus*, around 5 mm in diameter. It occurs close to the top of the

Purbeck Formation, but only in south-east Dorset; it is absent from all the other outcrops of the Purbeck Formation, whether in Wiltshire, Sussex, Oxfordshire or Buckinghamshire. There are also several kinds of stone that may be mistaken for Purbeck Marble, such as Sussex Marble (Gallois 1965; Lake *et al* 1987).

My main concern in this paper is with stone mortaria. I have assembled a catalogue of Roman-period stone mortars from the Purbeck Limestone beds, which can be read at <http://www.palmyra.uklinux.net/pur-mortar.html>

At the time of writing the catalogue contains 80 known Purbeck Limestone (including Marble) mortaria of Roman date. My objective is to make this list as complete as possible, and to review the whole series as to material, date and application. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these mortars in Britain; dark triangles are for Purbeck Marble, open triangles point-down for other Purbeck Limestone, and question-marks for incompletely documented mortars. It is the last group that I want to focus on here.

In the Dorset County Museum is kept a photograph of a map, headed "Purbeck Marble in Roman Britain", and evidently intended as an illustration for a book, article or lecture. The photograph is marked on the back:

MINISTRY OF WORKS

Photograph No. Y381/1

DATE TAKEN --7.52 (presumably July 1952)

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED (etc)

The map stands alone, and apart from its own legend or key, no text accompanies it. I have been unable to find any further information in the Museum about when and why the map was made or how the Museum came by it.

Beavis (1970) concluded that the map was drawn in connection with Dunning's work, but it does not appear in Dunning (1949). It identifies find-sites of three classes of Purbeck Marble artefacts, (1) mortars, (2) building materials, and (3) inscriptions. Classes 2 and 3 are of little interest because

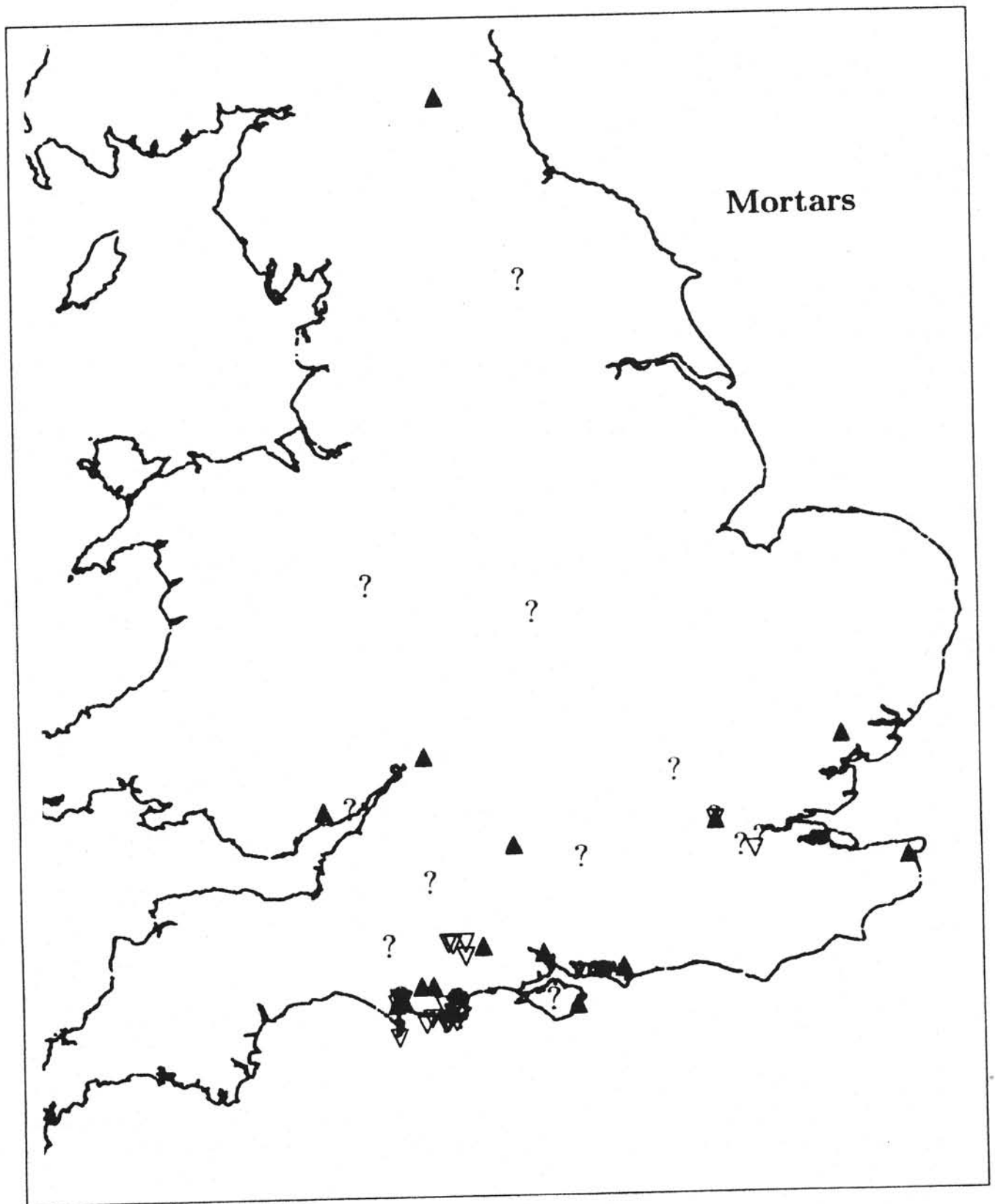


Figure 1. Distribution of Purbeck marble mortars.

the sites identified in each case are few, and all the inscriptions appear in Collingwood and Wright (1965).

As to the mortaria marked in the map, I have been able to find the published descriptions of many of them; in some cases the mortars are well-documented and of Purbeck Marble as the map asserts, and in a few cases it is clear that the mortars are Purbeck Limestone, but not Marble (for instance the Woodcuts mortar, Pitt-Rivers (1887). In several other cases, however, I have not yet succeeded in finding any description of the mortars in the literature.

Please can you help ?

So here is my request for help. Would people please get in touch with me if they have information about any Roman Purbeck mortarium, found before 1952 at any of these sites:

Arish Mell, Dorset
Langton Matravers, Dorset
Sherborne, Dorset
Worth Matravers, Dorset
Silchester, Hants
Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight
Westbury, Wilts
Darenth, Kent
Orpington, Kent *
Wroxeter, Salop
St Albans, Herts
Sketchley, Leics *
Caerleon, Gwent
Caerwent, Gwent
Aldborough, Yorks *

Either the present location of the article itself, or a reference to a document that mentions it, would be helpful.

For the sites marked * I would also be interested in information about mortars found in the period 1952-1987.

It may seem strange that I cannot find details for some of the Dorset mortars, but it is indeed the case. For instance, I have seen good descriptions of several mortars from Worth and Langton Matravers, and some of the artefacts themselves, but all seem to have been found too recently to be known in

1952. Beavis in 1970 could not find any account of the Sherborne or Westbury mortars and conjectured they might be in private collections. Any lead at all that might help me trace these or other Purbeck mortars would be welcome.

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Roman cemetery at Brougham

Excavations 1966-7

by H. E. M. Cool

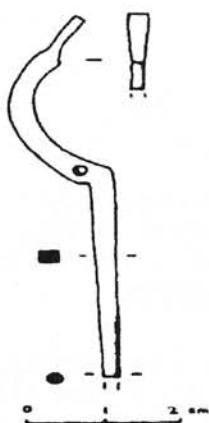
Britannia Monograph 21

£68, available from The Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

A Pincer-type brooch from Southwark

In 2002 Pre-Construct Archaeology excavated a Roman temple complex at Tabard Square, Southwark, which produced many exciting finds, most notably an important dedicatory inscription, and an ointment container complete with its contents. The latter object was featured in the recent RFG meeting at Harlow (see pp 15; and see www.pre-construct.com for further details).

Assessment of the small finds is now in progress, and amongst the copper-alloy objects was the pin from a pincer-type brooch. This is a continental brooch of the later 2nd to 3rd century, almost absent from Britain. Hull's corpus lists just one from Colchester (pl. 269, 656), which may still be the only other one from Britain. Perhaps coincidentally, the Colchester brooch also comes from the vicinity of a temple (N Crummy *pers comm*). Hattatt illustrates a few foreign examples of this type, commenting that the shape of the jaws is very variable (1987, 289). The Colchester brooch, which is complete, has much smaller jaws than the Southwark brooch, although its overall size is similar.



Pincer brooch from Tabard Square, context 1830 <265>.

The type occurs mainly north and south of the Alps, though there are outliers in Gaul, and the area of manufacture is probably northern Italy. Feugère gives it as his Type 32 (1985, 426-435), and lists two other

examples in British museums, both unprovenanced, and therefore not necessarily originally found in Britain. The scarcity of the brooch in this province suggests that it was not traded to the area, but that examples mostly likely arrived with their foreign owners. Foreign traders, in particular, must have been drawn to the major port of London, and the inscription mentioned above was set up by a trader of Gallic birth. Could the temple at Tabard Square have been particularly popular with foreigners? The sparse evidence is suggestive rather than compelling, but other finds from the site may, perhaps, reinforce this idea.

Hilary Major
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Even more Datasheets needed

Concentrating on a particular find type, an industry, or presenting ongoing research, datasheets would be a valuable resource for all our members, from students through to curators. Members, please share your expertise and contribute a datasheet or even two.

Gill Dunn is co-ordinating this RFG project so please contact her at the address below if you would like to write a datasheet. She is preparing a style sheet for potential authors.

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Late Roman spurs from Lankhills, Winchester

In her review of recent finds of Romano-British spurs (*Lucerna* 28, 20-22) Sally Worrell (to whom my apologies for some slightly inaccurate information) referred to a pair of spurs recently excavated by Oxford Archaeology at Lankhills. As a short postscript it is worth drawing attention to the unusual nature of these spurs.

They are similar, but not identical, rivet spurs. Both are quite small, maximum length 75 mm and 63 mm respectively. Each has three circular rivet plates with rivets (some missing) for attachment to the boot, rather than the more normal two, the third rivet plate extending on a short arm from the central part of the heel plate. One spur still has its prick, which was attached with an iron pin, as was the (missing) prick on the other. All the rivets were probably of iron and fragments of preserved leather were associated with one of the spurs. Both objects were positioned beside the right leg of the excavated skeleton, with one at the ankle and the other at the knee. This suggests that the riding boots, with spurs

attached, were placed end to end beside the deceased inside the coffin.

None of the British examples illustrated and discussed by Shortt (1959), nor those listed by Sally Worrell, have the third rivet plate, although this is an occasional feature of Jahn's Roman provincial type (*ibid*, 61-2) and continental examples are noted by Shortt from Murten in Switzerland (of iron) and from Neuwied on the Rhine (*ibid*, 72-3). Other explanations are possible, but it is tempting to suggest that the splendidly-equipped rider, with his silver belt buckle and strap end and gilded crossbow brooch, might have been one of Giles Clarke's 'foreigners' - or at least have acquired his riding boots on a tour of duty abroad.

Paul Booth
Oxford Archaeology

Reference

Shortt, H de S, 1959 A provincial Roman spur from Longstock, Hants., and other spurs from Roman Britain, *Antiqs J* 39, 61-76.

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Letter to the Editor

Most finds come the way of the specialist nowadays either from archaeological field units, in which case their detailed study is part of the process of publishing a detailed site report, or from Finds Liaison Officers. The generally welcome advent of the latter has come about in response to the (rather alarming) increase in the activity of metal detectors. The objects seldom have a totally secure context and the Liaison Officer is inevitably faced by an enormous array of material way beyond any likely expertise that s/he is likely to have acquired previously.

I find that an increasing proportion of inquiries amongst my emails come from liaison officers. Sometimes one can give a casual opinion; sometimes especially in particular subject areas, in my case Roman gemstones and figurines, it is possible to help more seriously, and I hope we are all happy to put our own knowledge acquired over years and decades into the pot.

However, I believe some sort of code of practice should be established in that experts prepared to give their time freely (and there is no provision for payment to outsiders) should have their work fully acknowledged at *EVERY* stage of the process including preliminary publications of *Treasure*. Not all of us are public servants, surprising as this might seem to some.

A first stage should be to establish a register of those with a particular expertise*, so that those responsible for finds might know who should be consulted in any particular case and at the earliest possible opportunity.

*Martin Henig,
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** Editor's note: surely such a register should first ask those it lists if they are willing to be included?*

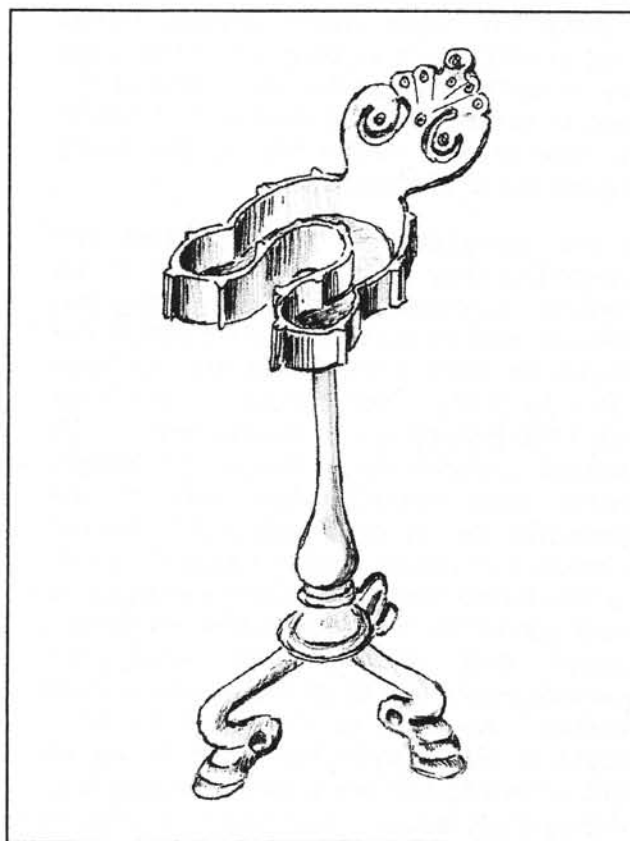
New Fenland website

www.unearthingthepast.net presents in popular format the results of recent excavations by the Cambridge University Unit, including the Roman site at Earith.

Well worth a look

An unusual lamp from Colchester

A very recent find made by Colchester Archaeological Trust from a cemetery close to the Roman circus located at the end of last year at Colchester is a copper-alloy lamp of idiosyncratic form. It is still undergoing conservation, but the conservator at Colchester Museum has kindly supplied a sketch. The excavations are being funded by Taylor Woodrow and the archaeological consultants are RPS Planning, Transport & Design.



Drawing by Emma Hogarth, Colchester Museum.

The lamp dates to the 2nd century and was placed alight in the grave. It clearly belongs to the category of rib-sided lamps but is instead of the usual round shape it is U-shaped, almost like a hoof-point, and the little tripod stand to which it was fixed has hoof-like terminals. Similar stands usually end in simple mouldings or paws. Could this be a special commission for a charioteer or a member of a charioteer's family? The human bone from the grave has yet to be examined.

*Nina Crummy
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The New Corinium Museum (2004 version)

Years of museum-crawling round Europe, and occasionally in Britain, have convinced me that children (a species of small animal I prefer to keep well away from in railway carriages and general festivities) belong in museums and, with the right direction, are at home there. In Italy, France, Belgium, the BM and the Ashmolean the floor on the way to the coin room has always been littered with small bodies, pencil in mouth, trying to get down on paper those strange things staring silently back at them from the glass cases. And that is exactly as it should be. Except of course that the museums in which they happily and rightly sprawl are being designed out of existence.

Did the designers go out and test the market? Did they take school parties to old fashioned museums and new, designed, museums, and gauge the different reactions? I doubt it; they knew what the children OUGHT to prefer. Yet the absorption over which I have stepped has always been in old fashioned museums, definitely 'other', possibly even 'liminal', half way to the Underworld for an eight-year-old. Whereas the modern museum, and the New Corinium is a moderate and controlled example, is almost school from school to the youngster. Displays and graphics are what the classroom would like to do if the money were available. Language is accessible to all – thought it might even be worth hiring an infant or two to see what their reaction is to be being coyly asked – 'Can you find another one of these in the next case along?' (example invented). The adult on the other hand needs strong nerves to block out the relentlessly cheery commentaries which come from video citizens (M and F) of Corinium telling us what their life was like.

So leaving aside the generalities, how is this new museum? It stretches from the Palaeolithic to the 20th century with more or less to display, going through the centuries faster or slower, as sites and material allow. Prehistory is in fairly short supply, more graphics than material, but it gives a good introduction to the area without too much detail. But take your air gun with you to

eliminate the birds who start tweeting aggressively every time you enter or re-enter the 'Environment'. Go through the gateway, inspired by Crickley Hill, into Bagendon. There is a reasonable amount of material on view but it is rather disjointed in separate cases and it is difficult to get to grips with the site. Caesar and Claudius share the same room as Bagendon, with recruiting material (helmet, cloak) for the army. Whether this is a neat subliminal piece of chronology I am not sure, but certainly people will come away with the idea that Bagendon is of the conquest phase.

After this you are allowed into the old (pre-1945) museum and here the old layout defines virtually everything. The deciding factors are the three mosaics – Hunting Dogs, Three Seasons (winter missing) and the Barton Farm Orpheus. But whereas the old museum had only one story there is now a partial upper floor giving much more exhibition space and an over-view of the Hunting Dogs and Orpheus. The Seasons have been ceiled in – that is, enclosed in walls with a low ceiling above. To add to their difficulties they are partly obliterated by furniture inhabited by terrible dummies (I think 1970s revamp) and the walls are painted with vague squiggles. This room is much better avoided. One of the very few black holes in an otherwise lively and happy display. Since all that money (£5 million plus) was spent the three pavements ought to have been lifted to allow any arrangement now, or for the future, to start from scratch.

The material on display, which includes most of the objects, pavements, painting, sculpture that you have ever seen mentioned in print is a selection so the brooch addict will learn as little about brooches as the numismaniac learns about coins. But teaching the expert was not the idea. The person of 8 or 80 who knew nothing about such things will go out set up with a basic knowledge if they have read the approachable texts and looked at the excellent diagrams and pictures.

Then, suddenly, you go through a small doorway to meet the Saxons, the Lechlade

Saxons to be exact. The display here changes totally to give an idea of what came from the Lechlade Saxon sites over years of excavation. The room is dark, the cases are lit, the whole thing is more cosy and possibly therefore more visitor friendly but at the expense of sustainability. The information comes from a site and we are told HOW it came from the site and how we find out about things. The site is (almost) all – the wider ramifications are left aside. Then we go on to the Medieval Abbey – again, site-led – and emerge from the dark rooms into post-medieval and modern light.

The contrast between the generalising Roman display and the site-specific Saxon and Medieval display is interesting. Roman Corinium is just that – Little Rome on the Churn (our river). Saxon Lechlade is Lechlade, with a bit of help from outside. Whereas it is uncertain whether the Roman part is the Cirencester Museum of the Roman Empire, or the Museum of Roman Cirencester, later displays are better focussed. I understand the reasons for using material from all over the empire, and of all dates, to illustrate and explain Corinium in the Roman period, but I strongly disapprove. It means that classical orthodoxy which I have spent all my working life questioning will be subliminally inserted in all visitors'

minds. We know Corinium was like this because all Roman towns were like this. So why bother to dig? Clearly this is a very individual, not to say eccentric point of view.

The other personal whinge is the stark division between Roman and post-Roman. I know this is a matter of logistics, buildings, load bearing walls and all the rest. But, again, all visitors are being forcibly told, subliminally, and so far more dangerously, that Roman is Roman and Saxon is Saxon and never the twain shall meet. There is absolutely no idea – I probably missed some small print somewhere – what happened at the junction of these two periods. This is avoided in AD 42-and-a-half through the museum co-habitation of Claudius with Bodvognatha, Queen of Bagendon. (All my own. Caesar: Gallic Wars, Belgic Bodvognathus fights, survives and runs away; BODVOG on 'Dobunnic' coins; equal opportunities).

But I enjoyed it, whingeing and all. And I shall definitely send my visitors to see it after lunch when I want to do the washing-up.

*Richard Reece
Cirencester*

Tubular Ferrules

During the 2004 season of the University of Reading's excavations at Silchester, two small objects were excavated which caused some speculation as to their function (Fig 1). SF 3271 appears to be complete, however there is some damage to one of the terminal ends. SF 3466 is identical to the grooved narrow mid-section of SF 3271. They are both carinated hollow tubes with a finely ribbed, waisted centre, and SF 3271 also has two bulbous terminal ends on which there is a narrow ridge going laterally around the centre. The material of the objects is at present in question. They are probably made of copper alloy, but the alloy used has produced an oddly coloured corrosion and may be high in lead.

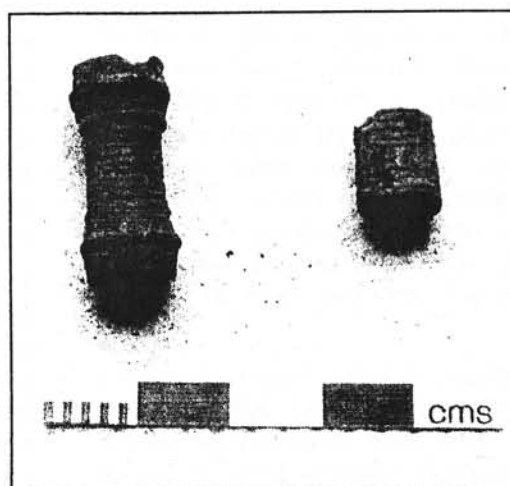


Fig 1. Ferrules from Silchester.

Several similar examples of these objects have been found on Roman sites around Britain, suggesting that they all served a very particular function, but quite what that was is still unclear. All of them were made from copper alloy. These other examples have been separated into three groups: (A) identical to the Silchester examples; (B) similar to the Silchester examples; and (C) simple tubes, some of which may be part of Group A or B tubes.

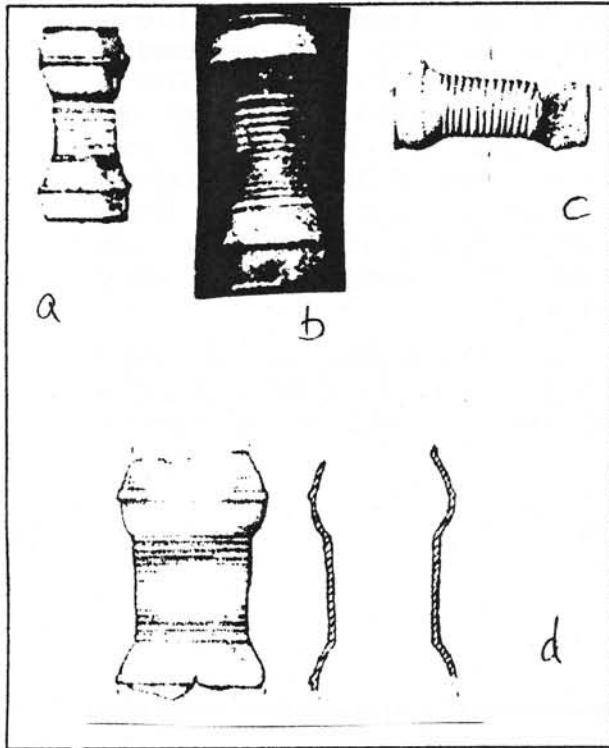


Fig 2. Group A ferrules. a..Lincoln (Webster 1949); b..Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox 1914); c..Colchester (Crummy 1992); d..York (Cool et al 1995). Scale 1:1.

In Group A, the examples were found at Colchester, Lincoln, Wroxeter and York, and are almost certainly of military origin. The example from York, although identical to the others, is almost twice the size, and the largest known example yet found. They are all very similar in style, having carinated, waisted centres, and bulbous terminals, with a lateral ridge around the centre of the terminal ends.

Examples of Group B have been found at Brough-on-Humber, York, and Wanborough (Fig 3); again they are probably military. These examples differ slightly from those of Group A in various ways. The one from Brough-on-Humber is very close in form to

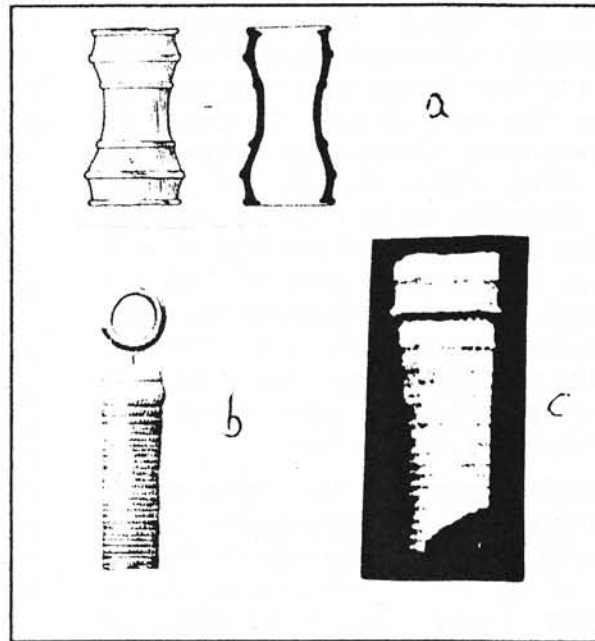


Fig 3. Group B ferrules. a..Brough on Humber (Wacher 1969); b..Wanborough (Anderson et al 2001); c..Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox 1914). Scale 1:1.

Group A but has no grooves and the waisted mid-section is plain with a narrow ridge at the top and bottom of the waist, as well as on the terminals. Wanborough, although broken at one end, is much longer and thinner than those of Group A, and has no ridge on the terminal end. The second example from Wroxeter is much more linear than the other examples, and its terminal end is much straighter than the others.

Group C were found at Colchester (including Sheepen), Corbridge and Usk (Fig 4). These examples are straight grooved ferrules and may therefore have been from something completely different, though the thinner examples may be fragments of either Group A or Group B examples. However, they are very similar in size and are all described in the various reports as 'ferrules'. The examples from Usk appear from the drawings to be wound, rather than cast, but they have not been seen at first hand.

There have been various suggestions as to the function of these objects, but all three groups are associated with a military presence, and it has been speculated that they may have been used as either a plume holder for a helmet or a plume holder for horse trappings. However, given the actual size of the object it is difficult to imagine an object this small holding many hairs, if horse

hair – as has been suggested by Cool, were kept in it. It may therefore have been just one of a number of ferrules used either on the helmet or in some way fixed to the top of the horses head. Similarly, it may have a completely different function altogether.

One explanation for this military association is based on the types of sites the artefacts were found. All the sites bar one had a strong military presence. York, Colchester,

presence at Silchester, but this is as yet still unproven.

During the research on these artefacts, a study was made of many of the pictures and illustrations of the Roman helmets that have been discovered over the years, to find some correlation between the plume holders on the helmets and our examples. The conclusion of this research is that the actual plume holders on the helmets were much larger than our ferrules. Therefore another use must be found for these enigmatic objects.

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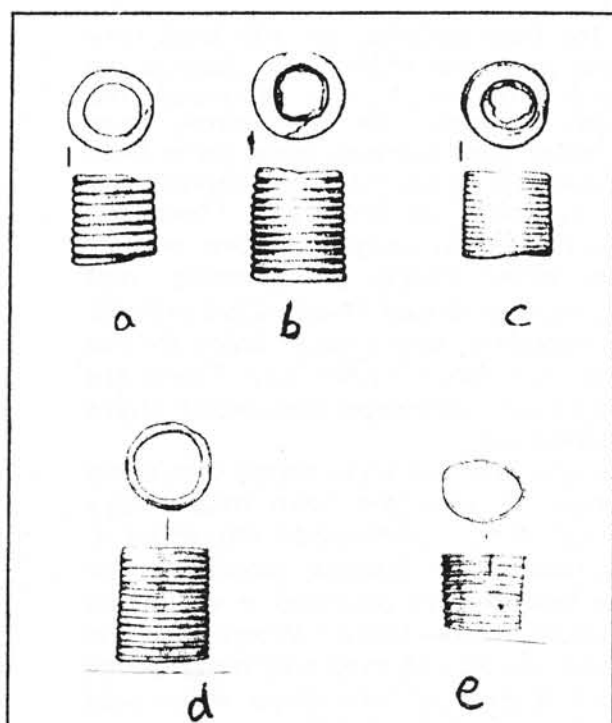


Fig 4. Group C ferrules. a-c..Usk (Manning 1995); d..Sheepen, Colchester (Niblett 1985); e..Corbridge (Bishop 1989). Scale 1:1.

Usk and Lincoln were all military fortresses, while the others had either a known military presence stationed there during their heyday, or suggestions of a military camp at some stage. A large quantity of military equipment has been found at Sheepen, which lies just outside the Colchester fortress and appears to have been used as an industrial area after the conquest.

The only site which cannot be defined as military in any way is Silchester. However, Silchester was a *civitas* capital and may very well have had a military or policing unit based there at the start of the Roman occupation of the site. However, there has always been a suspicion of a military

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Roman Finds Group meeting

The Museum of Harlow, Essex

Monday 8th November 2004

The November meeting was very well attended and many of the talks resulted in some lively and interesting debates. We would like to thank Chris Lydamore and the staff of Harlow Museum for organising and hosting it. There was a slight change to the programme because Dougie Killock of Pre-Construct Archaeology, who was due to talk about the excavations at Tabard Square, was unable to attend.

Nicholas Wickenden: *Finds from an Essex small town*

Nick's talk was concerned principally with the archaeological information and finds which we have from Roman Chelmsford (*Caesaromagus*). The town was originally a post-Boudiccan small fort, but the main excavated evidence has come in the form of a mansio and a Romano-Celtic temple.

Over the years three volumes of finds from 24 different sites in Chelmsford have been published. These include some marble, although the town has only ever produced small fragments, and no true coloured mosaics. Wall plaster too is very poorly recorded, even from the area of the mansio, although the latter has produced a number of box flue tile fragments with seven different decorative patterns.

As for pre-Roman evidence, metal-detected finds have helped to beef up the finds database. These include three hoards of Iron Age coins all found by one individual: a Gallo-Belgic hoard, one with staters of 'Westerham' (or British A) type, and, arguably the finest, a small hoard of Cunobelin *biga* type staters. As for Roman period material there is a late Roman gold *solidi* hoard of about 16 coins from Good Easter, which includes one coin of Constantine III, which at least demonstrates that there was some activity going on in the town at the beginning of the 5th century. Unfortunately this hoard was found at roughly the same time as Hoxne which with almost 600 gold *solidi* rather overshadowed Chelmsford's hoard!

The site has also produced 67 brooches, including about 30 Colchesters. There are also a number of military finds, from studs, nails, a scabbard finial and fragments of double-lobed pendants.

Despite the finds evidence, we still know very little about the layout of the town. Outside the wall circuit a temple site was discovered, the foundations of which have unfortunately been heavily robbed out. However some votive finds can be associated with it, including a carved bone plaque (published in *Britannia*). There are also other signs of religious/votive activity too from other places: for example, well deposits have produced small votive animals such as cockerels, which might argue for the presence of a shrine to Mercury. There are also some ironwork and jet finds which ought to be mentioned.

Nick's overview of the finds ended with some speculation on how the town might have functioned; Nick is particularly interested in the practicalities of traders, wondering for instance how traders operated – where did they conduct their trade? Where did the store their goods? Did they only make goods to order? Where did they sleep when they came into the town to trade?

Mark Hinman: *Late Iron Age to Roman farming/farmsteads – continuity or disruption*

Mark discussed two rural farmstead sites which he has dug in recent years, both of which can be described as being in the 'Ermine Street corridor'. Mark is interested in the effect which the presence of the *Legio IX Hispana* and the building of Ermine Street would have on small rural farmsteads and believes that these two sites can give us some insights.

Haddon: this site, south of Water Newton, was excavated as the result of the building of a new service station, during two seasons, 1989 and 1999. There is good evidence at the site for late IA occupation, in the form of roundhouses, secondary enclosures and drainage ditches. After the invasion, it seems that the farmstead was modified with the

inclusion of new enclosures and new driveways linked to Ermine Street. However, it seems that there is very little evidence in the post-conquest period for occupation until well into the 4th century – were the original occupants driven away?

Bob's Wood: this site, just outside Huntingdon, was excavated as the result of the building of a new housing estate. It is a large site directly overlooking Ermine Street and has evidence of occupation from the middle Iron Age onwards. However the Roman material largely obliterated earlier occupation evidence.

Although the site is hard to interpret, there are some interesting features. The most unusual is a pit which cuts right through the burial of an Iron Age woman, which itself was placed on top of a driveway. The pit included a lot of evidence of 'luxury' Roman material: the top of a Dressel 20 amphora (Roy questioned this in the discussion afterwards) and pieces of very unusual (at least for this area) South Gaulish green-glazed pottery. Mark suggested that this might indicate that the army in some way took over the site, or at least at some point occupied it long enough to throw this sort of rubbish away. (*I'm not personally convinced of that, but it is undoubtedly an interesting discovery, RH*).

Roy Friendship-Taylor: Finds from Piddington

Roy described the discoveries of 25 years of digging at Piddington Roman villa in Northamptonshire. Piddington is a good example of a villa in this area, most of which seem to start somewhat earlier than those in the Cotswolds. Piddington has produced evidence of Mesolithic and Iron Age material, but the main building phases date to AD 70/100, when the villa is established, to expansion in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and ending with a 'squatter' phase and building demolition in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Later Anglo-Saxon burials were placed on the site.

Roy presented us with a number of finds in a large variety of materials, some of which are described here. In the category of building materials, there is evidence for wall-plaster – some from the outer villa walls – including even some decorated pieces, including a face (possibly religious). Tiles were being

produced on site: a number have the maker's inscription 'TIBERIVS CLAVDIVS VERVS' or in some cases just 'TCV', which Roy speculates might be the original villa owner. A 'PRO' monogram is altogether more puzzling. One tile has the unusual animal stamp of a pheasant.

The site has produced lots of Hadham ware, black-burnished ware, and Samian with graffiti. Some larger thick-walled pottery vessels were cut into discs which Roy believes were used as the tops of other vessels.

About 120 brooches have been found at the site, from mid 1st-century BC types right through to the end of the Roman period; most however are Claudio-Neronian. The assemblage includes lots of Nauheim derivatives and a nice Polden Hill type.

Other items include:

- a late Roman key handle in the form of a panther;
- a huge range of pins and needles in both copper, iron and bone, including one nice iron pin with a glass bead on top;
- a nielloed belt-stiffener and other objects such as a strap union, which might be described as 'military';
- a number of medical instruments including a cataract needle;
- a silver spoon;
- some nice figurative pieces, including the head of a Mercury statue and a small dining figure from a vessel;
- a large selection of the usual range of ironwork (eg a section of a chain);
- bone pins, an ivory gaming piece and decorative bone box fittings;
- lots of marble, including some from central Turkey, Greece, and even some Egyptian porphyry;
- and last but not least, the folding gladiator knife-handle published in *Lucerna* 25 (January 2003).

Chris Lydamore: Military equipment from Harlow

Over the years a small selection of infantry and cavalry metalwork has been found on three main sites in the Harlow region. These sites are Stangrove Hill (excavated from 1927 onwards), Holbrooks (excavated intermittently between 1970 and 1982) and

Stafford House (excavated in the 1960s to 70s). All three sites have produced evidence for occupation in the pre-Roman period and on into at least the early 4th century AD.

Holbrooks has produced a stamped belt-plate with a copper-alloy rivet. The plate was pierced with a nail and then folded around that point – a ritual action?

Staingrove Hill has produced *lorica segmentata* hinges from different sets, a belt plate and a stud.

Other finds from the three sites include a tinned and nielloed strap mount, a harness stud with inlaid niello cross, some probable cavalry harness (not necessarily Roman?), a strap-mount split at the mid point (from Staingrove Hill temple), an assortment of flat- and boss-headed studs (Staingrove Hill temple and Holbrooks), and various possible catapult or javelin heads.

Chris moved on to discuss why this assemblage is so important. Harlow is at the mid point of three sites which have produced a wealth of military material: London, Camulodunum and Verulamium, and its strategic importance was limited – so why do we find military material there? Chris had a number of suggestions: perhaps it indicates a post-conquest increase in the military presence in the area, under the orders of Agricola; perhaps this was an area where soldiers were coming to deposit material as offerings; or perhaps the material should be associated with civil engineers instead of soldiers.

(I raised the concern that it is too easy to equate military metalwork with the definite presence of military personnel. Chris admitted that many of these finds were unstratified. I suggested that we need to know more about deposition processes before we can be sure of such connections. However Jude Plouviez pointed out that the background 'noise' recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme does show that military metalwork is very rare in the area, which shows that we should be looking more closely at those sites which have produced this sort of material when an obvious military context is not present).

Simon West: Rich graves in the Verulamium area

Simon described two sets of graves which were found on Turner's Hall Farm, Wheathampstead, north of Verulamium (the

two silver omega brooches from one of the graves have already been described in detail by J D Hill in *Lucerna* 25 (January 2003). The area has previously produced rich burials, including of course the famous ones from Welwyn Garden City and Folly Lane.

The site originally came to light through metal detecting which uncovered some copper alloy *patera* handles. Unfortunately the detectorists dug out the bulk of the material from one of the graves before Simon could get involved; the other grave, with a small assemblage, was excavated properly. Nevertheless both graves have produced rich grave goods, including skillets, *patera* and jug sets and some pottery and glass vessels. The second grave produced a distinctive openwork lamp with a crescent-shaped handle, only the seventh known from Britain. Both have strainers in them which Simon believes were for wine or possibly beer.

The two jugs appear to form a pair, and Simon believes that both come from Campania, because of excellent parallels with jugs from Pompeii. One has a panther head combined with a Medusa mask and Triton. The other has a handle in the shape of a bull.

Both graves date to the late 2nd century AD, because of the presence of stamped and datable Samian of c AD 140/150.

Both graves are cremation burials, but enough has survived of the bone to suggest that both were female graves. However one has distinctly 'masculine' objects present in it: this includes a bundle of ironwork which when x-rayed and conserved contained 35 arrow heads, some still with wood in their sockets. In addition there are knives thought to be used for killing and skinning felled animals. Also of interest are five wood-working planes, very unusual ironwork finds.

Francis Grew: The bronze foot and ointment flask from Tabard Square, London

Francis discussed three finds from this site. The first was the hugely important marble inscription which names London, previously published in *Lucerna* 25 (January 2003), and more recently by Roger Tomlin in *Britannia*. This and the other two finds both came from a waterlogged ditch, on a site of major importance on the approach route into London from the channel ports.

The large bronze foot – just bigger than lifesize – was found in early 4th-century destruction debris in the temple area. Such finds are not common. It shows a foot with a distinctive sandal with a rosette-shaped decoration on top of the intersection of the strap joins between the toes. Bronze statuary of this size is very uncommon, because it was so expensive to produce.

As for the sex of the statue, this has been difficult to ascertain. The break at the back of the foot originally implied the position of long drapery for a woman. However this position is actually more linked to the natural place for a casting join, so does not really help. In any case others statues suggest that both men and women wore these sandal types.

Conservation work has also revealed that there is no evidence that they have attempted to model toes. This is somewhat puzzling, but there are parallels with a small statue of the god Cabanus (the Getty collection), who is shown wearing similar type sandals with a leather under-legging or hose. So maybe the Tabard Square foot is the same. Francis speculated that the statue may have been of an imperial or high status person, or even perhaps Mars Camulos – ie linked to the inscription?

The final object Frances talked about was the important tin canister which has received a lot of media attention because it contained a cream type material in its original state. The canister is round, made of pure tin, stands about 75 mm (3 inches) tall, and was well sealed.

The results of the analysis of the cream were made available only the week before the Harlow meeting. It seems that it consisted of a combination of animal fat, starch and tin oxide. Experiments in replicating this cream have suggested that the cream forms a nice white paste, which if smeared on the skin would both moisturise and produce a nice whitish sheen. It therefore seems most likely that it was not made for medicinal use, nor as a white 'face paint' (eg for the theatre), but as a type of face cream. Perhaps in combination with red lips and dark hair and eyebrows, we can gain some impression of what was a fashionable look for a woman at the time.

(In the discussion afterwards it transpired that another canister, unfortunately not sealed and in two ill-fitting parts, had been found some years ago in Carlisle. This one contained a blue substance which may or may not have been analysed. Hilary Major also gave us some information taken from her assessment of the rest of the small finds assemblage from the site. She pointed out that there seemed to be an unusually large number of toilet implements from the site, which might help to explain the presence of the canister. She also drew attention to an unusual type of pincer brooch, perhaps only the second known from Britain, and bone spindles, also unusual finds.)

Richard Hobbs
Prehistory & Europe, British Museum

EH Centre for Archaeology Reports

3/2004: GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY AT RICHBOROUGH ROMAN TOWN, KENT

J.L. Heathcote & J. Moore

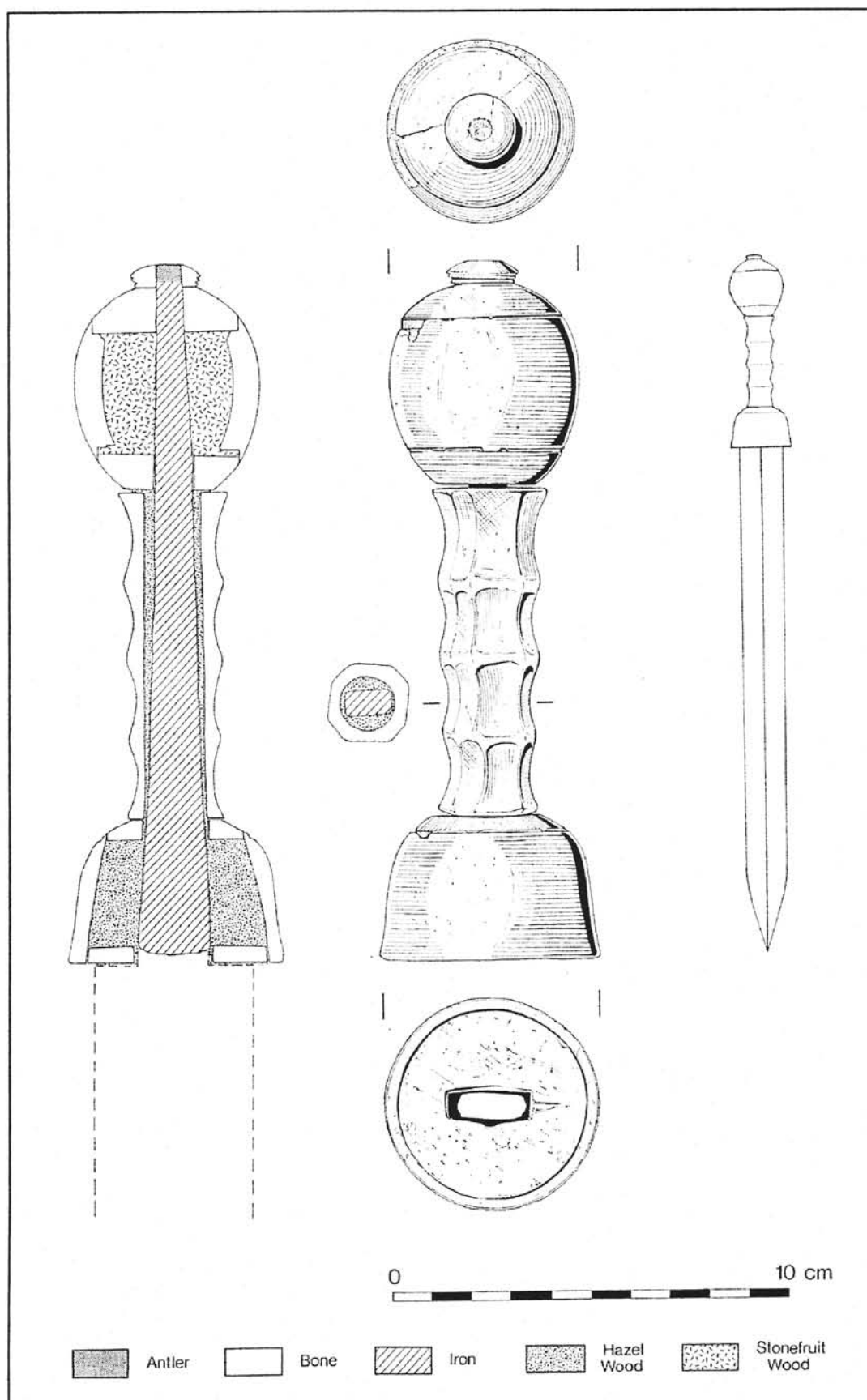
84 pp, 62 figs

This report deals with the geochemical analysis of soil samples taken from Ricborough, Kent.

A major aim of the survey was to test analytical and statistical techniques, in order to develop a methodology for future application. Although primarily a methodological exercise, it was also hoped

that geochemical anomalies would be detected and that some comparison could be made between the latter, the results of geophysical survey and the micro-artefact inclusions collected from the original soil samples.

All aspects of the project have been successfully developed and tested, from sampling in the field, through chemical and statistical analysis to visual presentation of the results, and this has put in place a methodology that can be used on further



The composite gladius handle from Dorchester (see p 17).

surveys, either at Richborough or on other sites. Although some areas of elemental enhancement and depletion were located and possible hypotheses for these put forward, further work is needed to delineate the anomalies better and to define more accurately a suite of elements that can be seen as indicators of human activity.

A number of recommendations are made for further work at the site and also for more widespread methodological development.

21/2004: ANALYSES OF COLOURLESS ROMAN GLASS FROM BINCHESTER, CO. DURHAM

S. Paynter

23 pp, 18 figs

Forty samples of Roman colourless glass tableware from Binchester were analysed using ICP spectroscopy. Parallels were sought amongst data gathered in similar studies of Roman glass from Colchester and Lincoln (Mortimer & Baxter 1996; Heyworth *et al* 1990). Some samples from the Colchester, Lincoln and Binchester groups were re-analysed using an energy dispersive spectrometer attached to a scanning electron microscope (SEM-EDS) and this established that the analytical variables within each set of ICP results differed slightly. The SEM-EDS data were used to compensate for these differences so that the ICP results could be compared.

The compositions of the glass samples from all three sites were broadly similar. Higher concentrations of lead were found in certain types of 1st to 2nd century wares from all three sites. In contrast, none of the mid 2nd to 3rd century wares contained in excess of 300 ppm of lead. Samples from the same types of ware were often found to have more closely comparable compositions and a number of samples, particularly within the wheel-cut vessel and facet-cut vessel groups, were found to have distinctive compositions. The glass from Binchester, Colchester and Lincoln was compositionally distinct from the colourless Roman glass common in the Mediterranean region in the mid to late 1st MILLENNIUM AD. However, there were chemical similarities between some of the samples with a green tinge, and the dark green HINT (high iron, manganese & titanium) glass seen from the 4th century

onwards, the origins of which are unknown (Freestone *et al* 2002).

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C Mortimer & M J Baxter 1996 *Analysis of Samples of Colourless Roman Vessel Glass from Lincoln, Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report* 44/1996

M P Heyworth, M J Baxter, & H E M Cool 1990 *Compositional Analysis of Roman Glass from Colchester Essex, Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report* 53/1990

I C Freestone, M Ponting & M J Hughes, 2002 'The origins of Byzantine glass from Maroni Petrera, Cyprus', *Archaeometry* 44(2), 257-72

22/2004: INVESTIGATIVE CONSERVATION OF TWO IRON AGE BURIALS AT BRISLEY FARM, ASHFORD, KENT (BRF01)

V. Fell

31 pp, 20 figs

Two Iron Age burials, each containing a sword in a wooden scabbard, a shield boss, a spearhead and other finds were investigated to determine the nature and construction of the artefacts. The acidic soil conditions had not been conducive to good preservation, nevertheless, analysis through X-radiography, optical and scanning electron microscopy, and X-ray fluorescence analysis has enabled certain reconstructions. The burials are dated from ceramic evidence to the first half of the 1st century AD.

28/2004: A COMPOSITE GLADIUS HILT FROM DORSET

J. Watson

6 pp, 4 figs

A report on the materials used in the construction of a Roman military sword handle. The hilt is an antiquarian find in Dorchester Museum. It is made of eight separate pieces of bone, with a plug of possible antler in the centre of the button on the pommel. Between the bone of the pommel and iron tang was wood, identified as *Prunus sp.* (cherry, plum, or apricot), and between the grip and the tang was *Corylus sp.* (hazel).

New East Anglian Archaeology Reports

Excavations at a large Romano-British settlement at Hacheston, Suffolk, 1973-74

by T Blagg, J Plouviez & A Tester, 2004

East Anglian Archaeology 106; 220 pp, 129 figs, 15 pls, 45 tables; £25

This volume presents the results of excavations during 1973 and 1974 on the line of the Wickham Market bypass in the parish of Hacheston, Suffolk. The new road crossed a large Roman settlement of the type usually referred to as 'small town'. The report also draws on earlier and more recent work on the site where it contributes usefully to the picture.

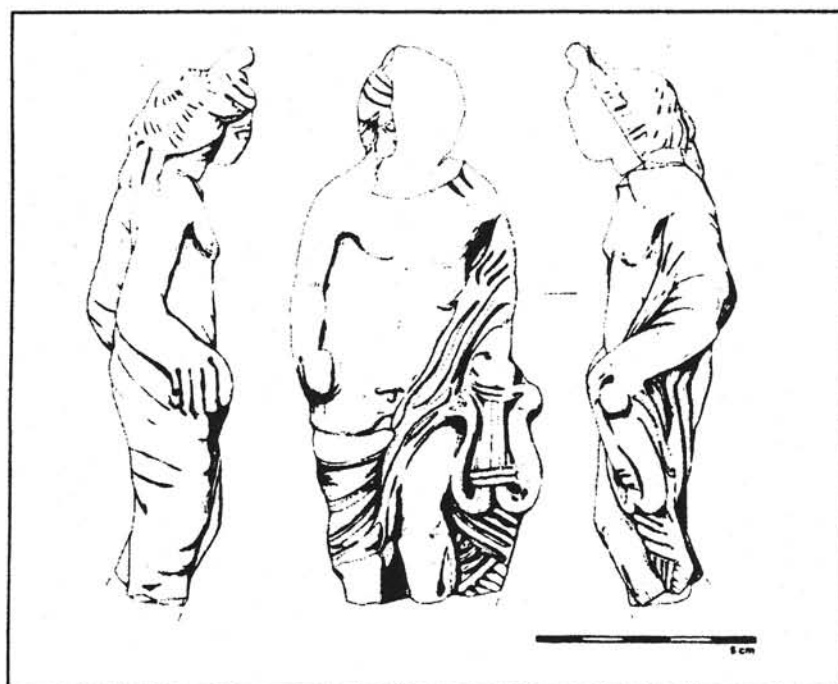
The core of the settlement was established in the first half of the 1st century, almost certainly before the conquest in AD 43, and seems to have consisted of circular buildings enclosed by ditches and a palisade. During the later 1st century a gravel road line was laid out and insubstantial rectangular buildings were erected alongside it. This basic layout continued throughout the Roman period with a driveway and partial field enclosures to the south.

Pottery was manufactured at Hacheston between the later 1st and mid 3rd centuries – substantial groups from kilns found in the 1960s and 1970s have been examined alongside the 1973 excavated material. The excavation also produced areas of iron smithing debris and related structures.

In the 4th century there was a marked drop in activity, particularly in the central area, and it was abandoned or at least extremely impoverished by AD 370. Early Anglo-Saxon structures were found in two areas, to the south and to the north-west of the Roman settlement.

The site was one of the first on which metal detecting was carried out, both during the 1974 excavation and afterwards during roadworks. The large assemblage of metal objects added significantly to the establishment of the chronology and the status of the settlement as a manufacturing centre and market.

The small finds report (by F Seeley with some specialist contributors) includes a substantial collection of brooches and other personalia; a number of toilet instruments, including cosmetic three mortars; iron tools and fittings; and some military equipment, both 1st century and later.



Hacheston: figurine of Apollo.

Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91, vol. 1

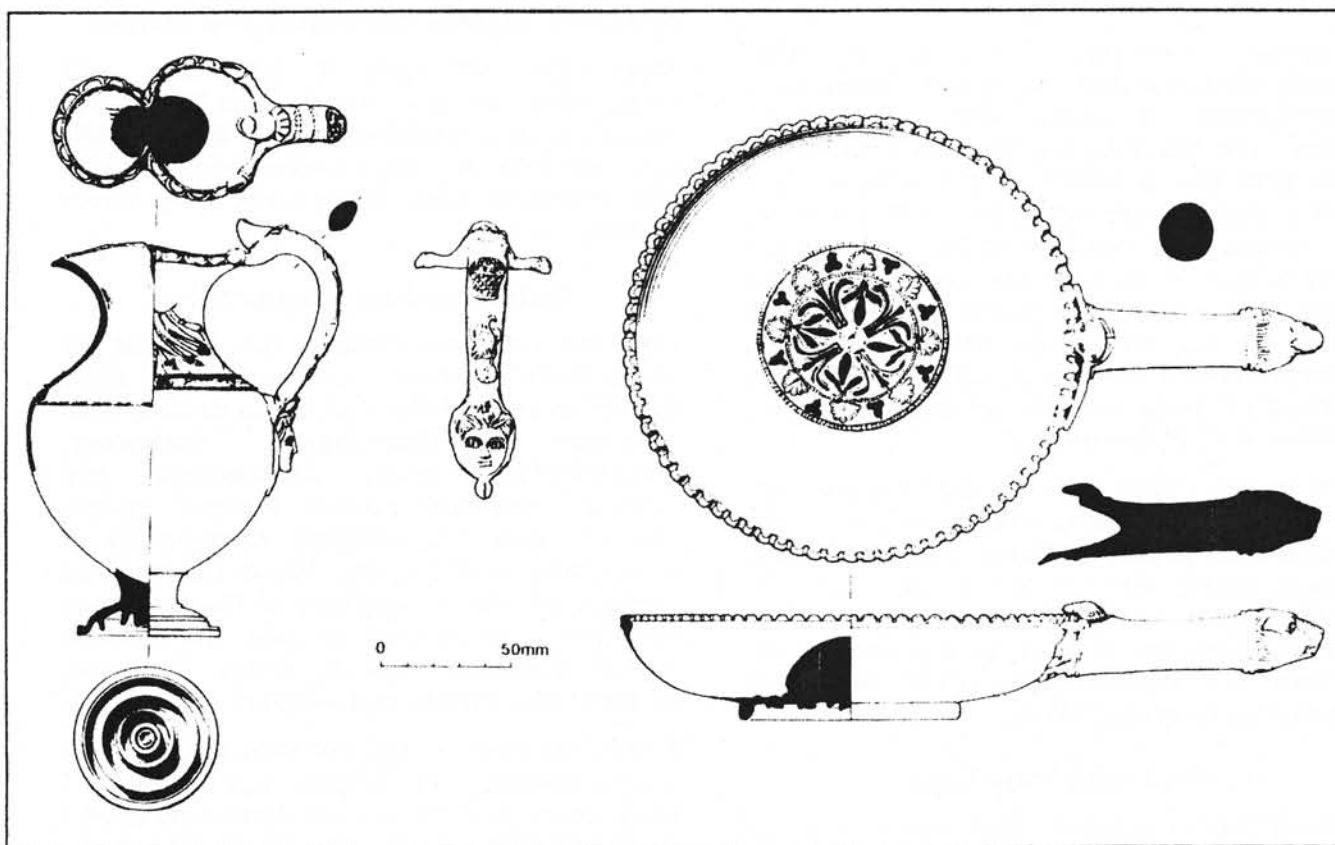
by R Havis & H Brooks, 2004
East Anglian Archaeology 107; 339 pp, 223 figs, 9 pls, 104 tables; £50
(vol. 2 deals with the Saxon and later elements of the site)

The Stansted project began in 1985 in response to the development of Stansted as London's third airport. Originally it was conceived as a landscape project focusing on three known medieval sites in the area, two of which were thought to be Domesday manors, supplemented by fieldwalking of the total development area. However, between 1985 and 1991 a major fieldwalking programme, combined with large-scale excavations and watching briefs, transformed the understanding of the settlement landscape of the boulder clay plateau of north-west Essex. Archaeological deposits dating from prehistoric to modern were recorded.

The earliest occupation was Neolithic, and the earliest structures Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Both enclosed and open Middle Iron Age settlements were excavated, and a complete defended Late Iron Age settlement dating to c 75-25 BC was recorded. This was composed of a sequence of roundhouses placed around a central square structure, interpreted as a shrine.

Evidence of Roman settlement came from a series of sites, with cobbled surfaces and enclosures dating from the 1st-4th centuries AD. A cremation cemetery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries comprised 'family' groups of burials. Two of the burials contained spectacular grave goods, including bronze, glass and pottery vessels, as well as many other items.

No Saxon settlements were located, but many buildings of medieval date were found, and analysis of standing post-medieval buildings (later moved from the site & rebuilt elsewhere) was undertaken.



Stansted: two of the metal vessels from Cremation 25.

Britain in Europe

Britannia in the Roman Empire

RFG and *Instrumentum*

Instrumentum is a European organisation that seeks to provide a forum for researchers into finds (mainly small finds) from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity. It has an on-line bibliography, divided by functional category and craft materials, which is updated twice a year, and also publishes a professionally-produced Bulletin twice a year which contains that batch of the bibliography as well as notes and news about new finds, exhibitions and conferences. There is also a series of *Instrumentum* Monographs (see p 000), many of which are relevant to researchers into Roman period finds in Britain.

In other words, *Instrumentum* is far more than the European equivalent of RFG, it is what RFG might one day become.

Long-term members of the Roman Finds Group will know that I have been advocating membership of *Instrumentum* for many years. The benefits are obvious – Britannia was just one province in the Empire, and many object types occur across the empire, or across the north-western, or western provinces. To concentrate only on British finds is to ignore the benefits of the research done by our colleagues abroad, and any interpretations we come up with may be seriously flawed because we are seeing only a small part of the picture.

One of the things that we are told prevents RFG members joining *Instrumentum* is the problem of paying in Euros (Gordon Brown, please note); another is the fact that it is multi-lingual – articles are usually in either French, German, English, or Italian, and the British are notorious for their bad (and declining) language skills.

Help with translation

Taking the language problem first – it is not a problem at all. The illustrations in the articles will let you know if you want to read them in detail. If you can't find someone to translate them for you, then contact a member of the Committee and we will try to

sort something out. Most of the committee can cope with French, Italian and German; the current UK Vice-president of *Instrumentum* (and RFG member) is Paola Pugsley, an Italian; and there are colleagues in *Instrumentum* to turn to as well.

Help with paying in Euros

The *Instrumentum* subscription is € 16 for one year, but if you pay for three years at once (€ 48) you get a fourth free, so the saving is quite substantial.

To avoid wrestling with payment in Euros, RFG members can choose to pay it in UKP direct to our Treasurer, Jenny Hall (address on p 6), and she will then arrange transfer of the amount from all RFG members combined, thereby minimising any charges.

(You could also pay it with your RFG subscription to our Membership Secretary, Angela Wardle (address p 6), but as RFG subs are annual and it makes sense to pay *Instrumentum* ones four-yearly, then direct to Jenny is best.)

Instrumentum Monographs

Enclosed with this issue is the Booklist for the publisher *éditions monique mergoil. emm* publishes several themed series dealing with European archaeology: Prehistory, Protohistory, Roman Archaeology and History, Medieval Europe Modern Period, *Instrumentum* Monographs, Archaeology of Plants and Animals, etc. While the booklist centres on the archaeology of France, other countries represented include the Central African Republic, Algeria, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Britain and Austria.

I have not seen all the volumes in the series *Instrumentum* Monographs, but of those I have seen, or own, all are extremely useful to the British researcher into Roman small finds. I would like to highlight those below in particular.

MI-1. *Die römischen Funde aus Bein im Landesmuseum Mainz* by H. Mikler, which is

a catalogue and discussion of the worked bone (& ivory) objects in Mainz Museum. There are many parallels with objects found in Britain and the references lead on to further parallels from elsewhere.

MI-10. *Die römischen Bronzegefäße in Noricum* by H. Sedlmayer concentrates on the bronze vessels from Noricum but also provides useful information on the distribution of comparable vessel forms, so the maps and discussion often cover Britain as well as the mainland provinces.

Both these volumes are very clearly set out, with the figures grouped at the back and the figure numbers prominently placed in the titles to the discussion sections, so it is easy to find the object you are interested in, then target the relevant section of text.

MI-13. *Le plomb en Gaule romaine: techniques de fabrication et produits* by A. Cochet covers the physical & chemical properties of lead, and the principal types and methods of manufacture of four groups of objects: lead wedges used to level stones in building construction, to pipework, cinerary urns and coffins.

MI-17. *Bibliographie Instrumentum* by M Feugère *et al* is a collection of bibliographic references relevant to small finds researchers. They are presented in groups depending on either the particular craft involved (eg wood-working, leather work) or the function of the objects (eg lamps and lighting, writing instruments).

MI-26. *Forges et forgerons dans les habitats laténiens de la Grande Limagne d'Auvergne* by L. Orengo. Though this volume covers iron-working in the Iron Age, it is still useful to Romanists as a comparative model of multiple assemblages over a whole landscape rather than a single site.

Of course, there are also *Regionality in dress accessories of the late Roman West*, by Ellen Swift, and *Illuminating Roman Britain*, by Hella Eckardt, both of which I can highly recommend and both of which should already be in most university and museum libraries.

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RFG SUBSCRIPTIONS



The subscription rate has remained the same for nearly 15 years, but to allow the RFG to keep the cost of meetings down and to meet the rising costs of printing and posting the Newsletter, the subscription has risen from October 2004 to £8 for individual membership and £11 for a two-person: single-household membership.

Please remember to pay your subscription at this year's rate not last year's.

Subscriptions should be sent to:

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Green, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2JB

Please also remember to inform Angela if your address has changed.

All change, All change

New RFG officers

Richard Hobbs has taken over from Nina Crummy as Editor of *Lucerna*. Please send contributions for future issues to him.

Nicola Hembrey has agreed to be the new Secretary in place of Richard, and Francis Grew has taken over responsibility for the RFG website. The website address has changed to www.romanfinds.org.uk, although the old one, www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk still works.

The contact details of all the officers are given on p 6.

Brooches and Moulds from Dymock

Excavations carried out at Dymock by the Archaeology Service of Gloucestershire County Council on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd in 1995 are currently being written up for publication. The site lies in the north-west of Gloucestershire and produced material of the 1st and 2nd centuries amongst which were fragments of moulds for a variety of metal items including a brooch. Most extraordinarily, amongst the finished brooches from the site there was one that fitted the mould. It would either have been made in that mould or in one made from the same former. This is, to my knowledge, the first time that it has been possible to link a mould and a finished brooch.

The brooch shows certain distinctive characteristics which open up the possibility that it may be possible to trace the distribution of the type. This note has been written in the hope that if any member knows of other examples with these features, they will contact me to let me know where they are.

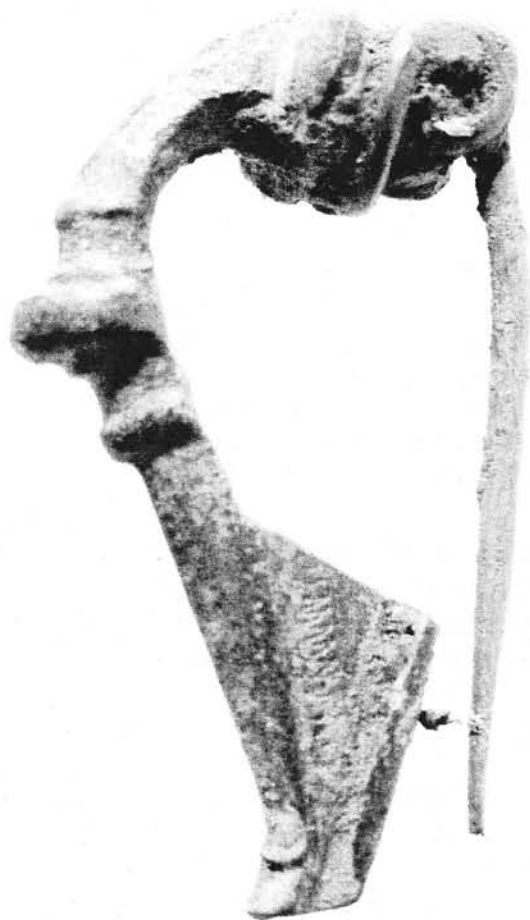
The brooch belongs to the Chester variant of the trumpet brooch family (Hull Type 154; Hattatt 1985, 109), the known distribution of which had already suggested that they might be being made in the Gloucestershire area. The distinctive features of both the brooch that fits the mould and another example of the same type from the site are that they are coated with white metal and there is a band of rocker arm ornament on both sides of the catch-plate at the junction with bow. Neither feature is, in my experience, normal on brooches of this type.

So if you have any Chester Trumpet brooches which are silvered and have rocker arm ornament, please contact me.

Hilary Cool
16 Lady Bay Rd,
West Bridgford,
NOTTINGHAM NG2 5BJ
hilary.cool@btinternet.com

Reference

Hattatt, R., 1985. *Iron Age and Roman Brooches*, (Oxford)



The Dymock brooch, enlarged to show the decoration on the catchplate.

RFG Spring meeting

The RFG Spring meeting will be held at

Chester Archaeology, Chester

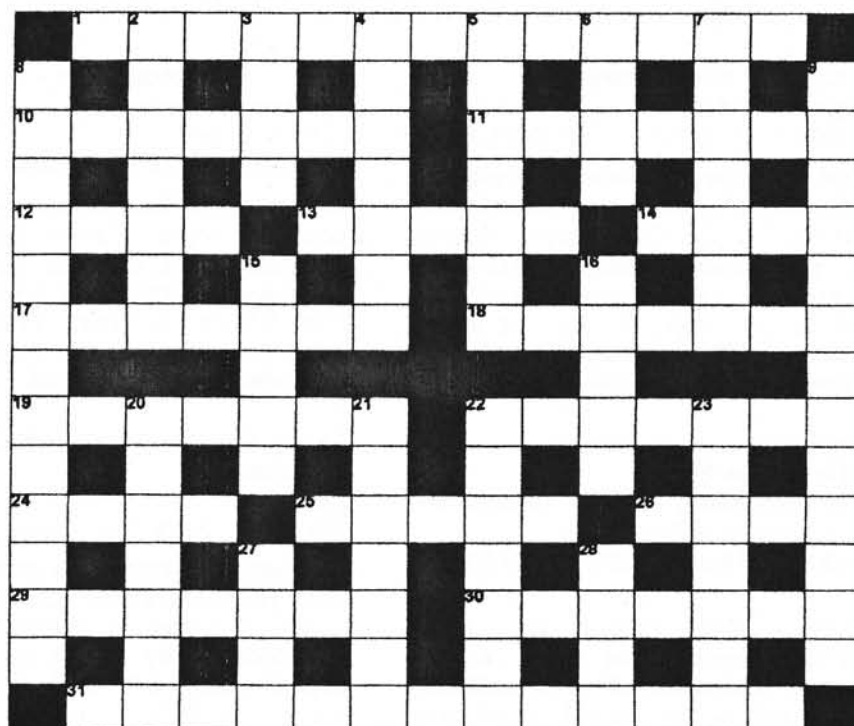
on

Monday 18th April 2005.

The main theme will be current work in the region: speakers include Mike Nevell (salt-making), & Nick Herepath (Portable Antiquities Scheme)

Further details are enclosed on the booking form

Crossword by 'Digger'



Across

1. Haphazardly plan crude pier in a Medieval style (13)
10. Take away freedom from Val, seen in a frenzy (7)
11. An artist's beard (7)
12. Some golden torcs are damaged - having this? (4)
13. The cathedral precinct is nearby (5)
14. Old bird had two parties (4)
17. Self confident, unusually rude, ass (7)
18. Bridge partner put down the cards, spread out (7)
19. Unhappy Caligula was very cold after losing you, we hear (7)
22. A period when people were wrapped up in music? (7)
24. Deeds in the Bible (4)
25. Tell tales, as Ken might do when upset (5)
26. Worry about a type of saw (4)
29. 'Arken to the graduate! He needs quiet, to scold somebody (7)
30. Mountaineer, cold but flexible (7)
31. Only 20% of a king? (5,3,5)

Down

2. Members of a Jewish sect coming from all directions except west (7)
3. Map of a site found in Lapland (4)
4. Irritated by textile equipment? (7)
5. Puts money into underwear, apparently (7)
6. Reportedly deserves burial vessels (4)
7. Some particular person? Nay, dismembered corpse (7)
8. Latin and Hittite, for example, suitable for insensitive orators? (4,9)
9. When Hadrian's Wall was built, back a hundred years (6,7)
15. Start growing with water, produce wheat, perhaps (5)
16. A woodworking tool essential for air travellers? (5)
20. Semitic goddess is a top performer, note (7)
21. Allow about a twelfth of a foot for a strip of unploughed land (7)
22. White French woman married to Louis VIII (7)
23. Boat and car are combined in a circus act (7)
27. Shirt material for the musical penitent? (4)
28. Operatic heroine with two notes, both the same (4)

books books books books books books books

Roman Finds: context and theory

edited by R Hingley & S Willis
Oxbow Books, 2005 (forthcoming). Hardback; £48

The proceedings of the conference held at Durham in 2002; editorial work was grant-aided by the Roman Finds Group. Contributors include Richard Hobbs, Ellen Swift, Hella Eckardt and Hilary Cool. Articles vary from factual to theoretical, and cover pottery as well as small finds. **See Order form included with this issue for details of special offer to RFG members.**

Der spätrömische Silberschatz von Kaiseraugst: die neuen Funde

edited by M A Guggisberg with A Kaufmann-Heinimann (Forschungen in Augst 24)
Römerstadt Augusta Raurica, 2003. Hardback; £82

Several late Roman silver hoards have been uncovered during excavations at Augst, Switzerland, mostly composed of large paltters, fish dishes, bowls and spoons, many beautifully decorated. As well as an illustrated catalogue, this volume is composed of a number of specialist and technological studies of items from the hoards. The assemblage is set in its cultural, political and social contexts, and comparisons made with other hoards from Europe.

The late Roman gold and silver coins from the Hoxne Treasure

by P Guest
British Museum Press, 2005 (forthcoming). Hardback; £60

The Hoxne treasure is perhaps the richest cache of gold and silver coins, jewellery and tableware from the entire Roman world. This volume catalogues the 15,000 late 4th and 5th century coins, and also discusses the questions of the silver content of the coins and the British phenomena of clipping and copying. There is also a chapter dealing with the social significance of precious metals in the late Roman Empire, particularly their rôle in the gift-exchange networks of imperial society.

I letti funerari in osso dalla necropoli di S. Lorenzo

by C Bianchi
Edizioni ET 2000. £34.50

An illustrated and descriptive catalogue of bone-decorated funerary beds from the cemetery of S. Lorenzo. Most date to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC and the bone ornament includes bacchic scenes, human and animal figures, and other ornate designs. Also includes a general discussion of the manufacture of the beds, the iconographic themes, and funerary furnishings and ritual.

Die Gesichtskrüge der römischen Nordwestprovinzen

by F Döwner
BAR S870, 2000. Paperback; £35

An analysis of the flagons decorated with human faces that were made throughout the north-west provinces from the 1st century onwards. The types are examined by area and include groups from Britain, northern France, the Rhine and Mosel, and the Danube. Many of the vessels are illustrated in the catalogue.

Römische Bronzefalsarien mit Reliefdekor

C Braun
BAR S917, 2001. Paperback; £35

An illustrated catalogue and discussion of about 100 relief-decorated bronze falsaria. The volume proposes a typology, and the manufacture and iconography of the vessels, their social and cultural rôles, and their archaeological contexts are also discussed.

Recherches sur les instruments aratoires et le travail du sol en Gaule Belgique

by A Marbach
Archaeopress BAR S1235, 2004. Paperback; £35

A study of ploughs and ploughing in the Roman period in Gaul and Upper Germania. The catalogue covers 119 metal pieces, most from Gallia Belgica.

Lumières antiques: les lampes à huile du musée romain de Nyon

by L Chrzanowski
Edizioni ET, 2000. Paperback; £17.50

A detailed study and catalogue of the Roman oil lamps in the Roman Museum at Nyon, most of which come from Italy or Gaul. The book includes a discussion of the production and use of lamps in antiquity.

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Roman Medicine

by Audrey Cruse

Tempus, 2004. £19.99

A look at medicine and health in the Roman Empire, with particular reference to Britain. The religious and magical aspects are also explored.

Druids

by Anne Ross

Tempus, 2004. £12.99

This book strips away modern myths about the Druids to examine the evidence from archaeology and from classical and Gaelic texts.

Roman Surrey

by D Bird

Tempus, 2004. £17.99

Historical, archaeological and topographical evidence are combined to produce a picture of Roman Surrey, strongly influenced by the proximity of London, and the life of the people who lived there.

Roman York

by P Ottaway

Tempus, 2004. £17.99

The *colonia* at York was one of the most important towns in Roman Britain, and became the capital of the north in the later Roman period. The results of recent excavations are here combined with the earlier version of this book to produce an up-to-date look at this important (1994).

Landscape History. Paperback. ISBN 0 907764 08 8. £15.75

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No 12. AG Marvell and H S Owen-John 1997, *Leucarum: Excavations at the Roman Auxiliary Fort at Loughor, West Glamorgan, 1982-4 and 1987-8*. Paperback. ISBN 0 907764 21 5. £45

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No 8. G B Dannell and J P Wild 1987, *Longthorpe II: the Military Works Depot: an Episode in*

RAC/TRAC VI

31.3.05-3.4.05, Birmingham

The sixth Roman Archaeology Conference will be held at the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham, Birmingham.

For further details see www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/rac or email Dr Simon Esmonde-Cleary at a.s.esmonde_cleary@bham.ac.uk

news conferences news conferences

Galen and the World of Knowledge

18.7.05-21.7.05, Exeter

A conference at the University of Exeter which will focus on the kinds of knowledge that formed part of Galen's project of combining medicine and philosophy and will also consider his rôle in the mapping of the world of knowledge in the 2nd century AD. International experts will give papers on Galen's relationship to Greek philosophy and Hippocratic medicine, and his social, political and intellectual context. Further details from C J Gill, Dept of Classics & Ancient History, University of Exeter, EX4 4QH; or email C.J.Gill@exeter.ac.uk

National Archaeology Week

Due to the success of the National Archaeology Days in 2004, the CBA are running a National Archaeology Week from Saturday 16th July to Sunday 24th July.

Further details are available from:

Jan Cox, Marketing & Events Officer

Council for British Archaeology

St Mary's House

66 Bootham

York YO30 7BZ

tel: 01904 671417

email: naw@britarch.ac.uk

Triennial Classics Conference 2005

25.7.05-29.7.05, Cambridge

The 20th Triennial Meeting of the Greek and Roman Societies will be held at the University of Cambridge; lectures will be on the Sidgwick Site and accommodation nearby. For the full programme see www.classics.cam.ac.uk/triennial

Innovation and continuity in Romano-Celtic Religion

4.4.05-6.4.05, London

The 6th F.E.R.C.A.N. workshop will be held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London. The central focus of the conference will be on transitional places, *ie* pre-Roman cult sites that continued to be used and transformed during the Roman period. Speakers from Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Hungary. For further details email ralph.haussler@gmx.net

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SEE PAGE 21 FOR DETAILS

RFG Autumn Meeting

A joint meeting with the
Finds Research Group AD 700-1700

Building bridges: a comparative approach to Roman and medieval Artefacts

on the **28th-30th October 2005**

at the
University of Kent, Canterbury

Organised by Ellen Swift & Gabor Thomas: Further details will be sent closer to the time