

# LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 30, September 2005

# lucerna

## Roman Finds Group Newsletter 30

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### Notes for contributors

E-mailed text should be sent as either a .doc, .txt or .rtf file. Please use sufficient formatting to make the hierarchy of any headings clear, and do not embed illustrations of graphs in the text but send them as separate files. E-mailed 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 e-mailed contributions is:

rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Contributions by post should be sent to:

Richard Hobbs, Prehistory & Europe, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

## 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 should be sent to:

Angela Wardle, 1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2JB

### Editorial

*Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of Lucerna. The newsletter has been drifting somewhat with regard to its scheduled release dates (January and July) and as the new editor I wanted to try to get it back on track – hence this September mailing. I will endeavour to get issues back on schedule in the New Year.*

*This issue contains features on a number of new finds, arguably the most spectacular of which is the Staffordshire-Moorlands pan (p. 10) I have also flagged up some important study days and conferences which are coming up in the next few months. First up is the joint meeting in Canterbury with the Finds Research Group (see p. 11), which will provide a good opportunity for members to make contact with researchers studying later material, and no doubt find out the extent of common ground which exists. The second is the 'Regionality' meeting next April at Oxford (p. 23), bringing together many leading scholars from the field of Roman studies. There are also study days on Roman food and quern-stones.*

*Finally, please see the note on p. 7 regarding gallery closures at the British Museum – something which will be occupying my time for much of the coming months!*

Richard Hobbs



## Late Iron Age shears from Hertfordshire

A well-preserved pair of Late Iron Age copper-alloy shears were found during excavations by Network Archaeology Ltd in advance of a new gas pipeline running from Matching Green, Hertfordshire, to Cambridge (CMG01, SF 1044, context 14227). The shears were found in a ditch that also contained sherds of grog tempered Late Iron Age pottery.

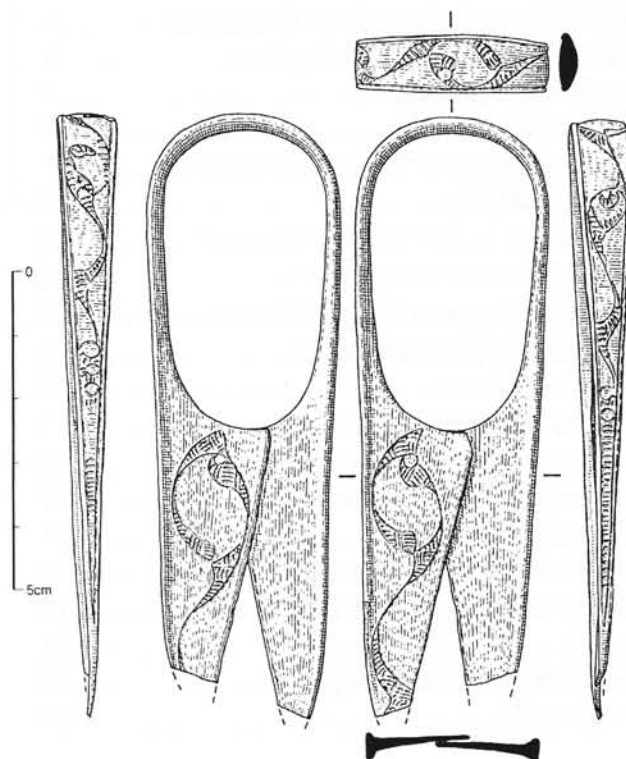
This pair of shears is a unique discovery. There are very few finds of any pairs of Pre-Roman Iron Age shears from Britain, and at the time of writing, no other pair of Iron Age or Early Roman shears has been found decorated with a La Tène or early 'Celtic' design. The shears have been broken, losing the ends of both blades. The surviving maximum length is 94 mm. Originally, the shears may have been, perhaps, 100-110 mm long.

The shears are made of copper alloy with an even fine green patina. They appear to have been cast as a single piece. The handles of the shears are straight sided and parallel to each other, joining in a well defined semicircular end. The size and diameter of the semicircular created by the end of the handles closely matches the semicircle made by the shaped rear ends of the blades, giving the empty space created by the handles and rear end of the blade an intended elegant symmetry.

The ends of both blades are missing and they appear to have been broken off at the same time, leaving a diagonal break across the blades. Under a binocular microscope this break is irregular, has rounded surfaces and a patina. This suggests the shears were broken in antiquity and not during their recent excavation.

The shears have considerable evidence that they had been used. There are areas of polish showing on both sides of the shears where the blades cross over and rub against each other in use. More marked on one side than the other, where this wear occurred the original colour of

the copper alloy is preserved and the even green patina of the rest of the shears has not taken hold. Along both cutting edges of the shears there are areas where the cutting edge has broken away or been nicked in use. There are also areas with linear or curved scratches on the inside surfaces on both blades near the cutting edges.



*Iron Age shears. Drawing by Stephen Crummy.*

The uppermost blade face on each side is decorated with a delicate curvilinear design of La Tène style that makes full use of the available space. The design incorporates panels grooved to imitate basketwork, and at the upper end two of these panels meet to form a well-defined pellet. The outer edge at the base of the blade, as well as the inner one, is very thin, but it broadens gently as it rises towards the loop and develops well-formed marginal mouldings. The field between the mouldings, passing from blade base to blade base over the loop, is also decorated. At the bottom on each side is fine cross-grooving, with the gaps between each line increasing slightly as it rises.

The design on the blades consists of a flowing 'S' curve. At the handle end, this terminates in a large broken backed curve around a large void composed of two opposing zones of thin trumpet voids, in-filled with basket weave. Running around the outside of the handle is a similar flowing design with an empty 'broken backed curve' on the centre of the back of the handle, with the design leading away around both sides of the handles ending in 2 or 3 small circles and then perpendicular hatching.

The design was probably originally marked out with a faint engraved line, which can be seen in at least two places on the blades where the subsequent thicker and deeper engraved line, which create the filled in cells, did not directly follow the original faint engraved line. The basket weave infill was created using a series of different punches. At least two different sized straight edged punches were used, with a smaller round punch employed where there was not room in the cell to use either straight edged punch. In several areas on the blades, the original outline of the filled in cells were re-engraved after the basket weave punch work was finished. The re-engraved line obscures the ends of some of the punch marks, which in other cases sometimes encroach over the engraved line outlining the filled in cell.

The basic style of the design in terms of the engraved design with curving trumpet forms, the use of 'basket weave' hatching to infill parts of the design, and small circles, are features shared on a large number of British Iron Age decorated objects. This style has been called the 'Mirror Style' or Style V in Ian Stead's typology of British La Tene Art. As the name suggests these styles of design are found on the British decorated copper-alloy mirrors, but are also found on a range of other objects including sword scabbards from Bugthorpe and Little Wittenham and the decorated spearhead from the river Thames. This style of La Tene Art was only made in Britain. The exact details of the designs on both the blades and around the handle of these shears are not closely paralleled on any other object. Style V designs and motifs

were made current from 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD.

Other shears from Pre-Roman Iron Age Britain, where closely dateable, date to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC and to 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD. Shears are rare finds from Pre-Roman Iron Age Britain, although they are more frequent finds in others parts of Middle and Late Iron Age temperate Europe. Other discoveries from Britain all come from southeast and south central England. Other finds include a pair of iron shears from the rich Welwyn type cremation burial at Hertford Heath (Hüssen 1983) that dates to the 40s to 20s BC. Unlike the straight and parallel handles on this pair, the handles on this pair are omega shaped. These shears are 252 mm long. Pairs of iron shears were found in two cremation burials at King Harry Lane, St Albans (Stead & Rigby 1989). Those found in grave 242 were straight handled and 99 mm long. The grave dates to phase 1 of the cemetery and contained a butt beaker and rosette brooch (late 1<sup>st</sup> BC/early 1<sup>st</sup> AD). Those found in grave 384 were omega handled and 203 mm long. This grave also belongs to phase 1 in the cemetery and contained Late Augustan/Tiberian/Claudian pottery. An early post conquest cremation burial at Alton, Hampshire (Millett 1986) contained a straight, parallel handled pair of shears 232 mm long. All these pairs of shears were made from iron.

A pair of copper alloy shears inside a wooden box was found at the western end of the Flag Fen timber causeway (Pryor 2001). These shears are assumed to be of Late Iron Age date, as there is a collection of Late Iron Age and Early Roman metal work from the Fen edge at this site. This pair of shears is 227 mm long with omega shaped handles. A final pair of copper alloy shears that could be considered here comes from Loch Erribol, Sutherland (Macgregor 1976). The pair is very different in shape and proportions to those considered here. They were found on a ledge in a souterrain in 1960 and have no secure dating.

Shears are known from other parts of Europe from the Middle Pre-Roman Iron Age (La Tène II). However, they are so far absent from the many Middle Pre-Roman Iron Age assemblages - some of which are very sizeable - from settlements excavated in Britain such as Danebury, Maiden Castle, South Cadbury, Maere and Glastonbury.

If present at all in Britain in the Middle Pre-Roman Iron Age, they must have been very rare and unusual objects that were not widely copied and used. Current evidence could suggest therefore that shears were only introduced to southern Britain in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. There is other evidence for a new concern with personal appearance and grooming by a small number of people in southern Britain at this time. This can be seen with the importance of copper alloy mirrors from some relatively well furnished graves at this time. These well known mirrors were decorated in a similar manner to these shears. From the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC there are also a small but increasing number of finds of toilet sets or personal grooming sets that show some people were using tweezers, nail cleaners, 'ear scoops' to clean their bodies or modify their appearance. Although there are a tiny number of probably earlier toilet instruments from graves in East Yorkshire, personal grooming tools become increasingly common finds from the late 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC and into the Early Roman period. Along with these objects, cosmetic sets consisting of a tiny pestle and mortar appear in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD. These objects show how a small number of people were increasing concerned with their physical appearance, perhaps as part of the development of an elite (or at least alternative) life style. The appearance of shears fits into these developments. A number of shears from Pre-Roman and Early Roman contexts in other parts of Europe come from burials that also contain other objects related to personal grooming (Jacobi 1974). One of the pairs from King Harry Lane, St Albans, also comes from a grave with a toilet set (burial 242). As such, it seems likely that the small number of pairs of shears from Pre-Roman Britain were used to cut human hair,

rather than to shear sheep, as has sometimes been suggested. The well executed decoration on this pair of shears sets them apart from the small number of other discoveries of shears so far made in Britain. Whether this decoration implies the shears had a special, ritual, use or were owned by a special person are subjects for further debate.

Without closer dating by pottery or radiocarbon dating of the ditch from which these shears were found, a broad dating to the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (i.e. 100 BC to AD 43) is most likely for this shears.

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- Hüssen, C-M. 1983, *A Rich Late La Tène Burial at Hertford Heath, Hertfordshire*, British Museum Occasional Paper 44.
- Millett, M. 1986, An early Roman cemetery at Alton, Hampshire, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club* 42, 43-87.
- Pryor, F. 2001, *The Flag Fen Basin: Archaeology and environment of a Fenland landscape*, English Heritage, London.
- Stead, IM. & Rigby, V. 1989, *Verulamium: The King Harry Lane site*, English Heritage Archaeological Report 12, London.

J D Hill  
The British Museum  
[jhill@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:jhill@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

Nina Crummy  
[nina.crummy@ntlworld.com](mailto:nina.crummy@ntlworld.com)

## A gilded bone hairpin from Colchester

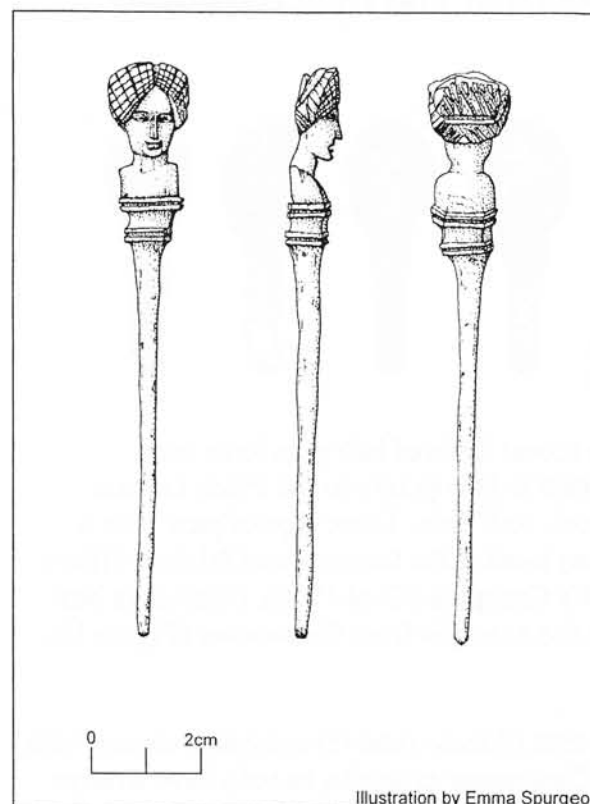
Recent excavations in Colchester located on the site of the old Garrison Cavalry Barracks uncovered not only Britain's first Roman circus but also a large Roman cemetery. Among many of the interesting objects excavated from this cemetery was a bone hairpin with traces of gold leaf on the surface.

The hairpin measures 103 mm in length; the tip is missing. The head, at 32 mm long, consists of a female bust with bare shoulders resting on a double pedestal base (which is twisted slightly in the middle). The features of the bust have been carved both on the front and the back. The eyes and mouth are realistically shown but are rather over-prominent, and she has a pointed nose and chin. The most interesting element is her elaborate hairstyle, with the waves and crimping shown by lattice-like grooves. It rises back from the face, and is fixed in a coil or bun at the back of the head. The style suggests a date for the pin in the late 1st or 2nd century (Croom 2000, fig. 46).

What is unusual about this particular bust is the occurrence of tiny flecks of gold leaf on the hair and one even tinier fleck found on the right shoulder. The latter fragment suggests that the whole bust was gilded.

A globular-headed bone hairpin from Colchester, some hairpins with small moulded heads from France, and some pieces of jet jewellery are known to have been finished with gold leaf on the head (Crummy 1983, fig. 23, 438; Bertrand 2003, 103; Allason-Jones 1999), but as far as I am aware this is the only hairpin with an anthropomorphic head with this surface treatment.

Excavations were funded by Taylor Woodrow and carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust; the consultants were RPS Planning, Transport and Design.



## References

- Allason-Jones, L., 1999 'Gilding the black lily', *RFG Newsletter XVIII*, 11-12  
 Bertrand, I., 2003 *Objets de parure et de soins du corps d'époque romaine dans l'Est picton (Deux-Sèvres, Vienne)*, Mémoire de l'Association des Publications Chauvinoises 23 (Chauvigny)  
 Croom, A.T., 2000 *Roman clothing and fashion* (Stroud)  
 Crummy, N., 1983 *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2 (Colchester)

Laura Pooley  
 Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 12 Lexden Road  
 Colchester CO3 3NF



## Roman hair pins from Hampshire



Two recent finds of hair pins have been reported in Hampshire to the Finds Liaison Officer, Jodi Puls. These type of pins with a human head at the terminal end fall into Hilary Cool's Group 18 (Cool 1990), comparing best with the example from Cirencester (Figure 10: 11).

The first of these (above) compares closest with the Cirencester example, as both have a rather 'celtic' style of face. It seems likely that the pin dates to the first to second centuries AD, although these objects are difficult to date and it could conceivably be later. This particular pin has an intact head with hair shown by a series of simple incised striations. Much of the shank is missing.

The second of the pins (see opposite) is somewhat different in character, and is perhaps not a hair pin at all, because it is unusual for pins to be broken so near to the terminal end. It therefore might just be better to classify it as a mount, as the surviving supposed part of the shank could instead be a fixing of some nature.

The head on this object is very distinctive, and instead of having a Celticised look to it, is far more north African in appearance. This would place the object amongst a number of representations of Roman date of individuals from a range of ethnic backgrounds, perhaps demonstrating the diversity of the peoples who populated the Roman world. The style of the hair is not dissimilar to two bound captive figurines in the BM collections (1874,3-28,42 & 1856,7-1,20).



Jodi's description of the pin runs as follows:

'Copper alloy pin head in the form of a male head. The hair forms a lateral line across the forehead which extends at the back of the head into two transverse grooves which meet, forming a point just above the neck. Within this outline the hair is defined by a series of transverse grooves. The face is recessed slightly from the hair and the features are crudely represented. The eyes are formed by sub-circular recesses with a raised central dot, the nose by a raised triangle, and the mouth by two lateral grooves separated by a ridge. The ears are represented by raised triangles with a central circular recess. Beneath the head the object is waisted to form the neck beneath which is a flat circular terminal from the centre of which a short rectangular sectioned shaft projects. The object is in very good condition and considerable white metal coating remains on all surfaces, except for the shaft, particularly at the front.'

### Acknowledgement

Thanks to Hilary Cool for her comments on these two artefacts.

### Reference

Cool, H. 1990. 'Roman metal hair pins from Southern Britain', *Archaeological Journal* 147 (1990), 148-182.

Jodi Puls  
Finds Liaison Officer, Hampshire  
[jpuls@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:jpuls@winchester.gov.uk)  
Richard Hobbs  
[rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

## Figurine of Harpocrates

An interesting figurine of the Roman deity Harpocrates has recently been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hertfordshire. The discovery was made about ten years ago in St Albans by metal detectorist Vic Seaborn. The original identification was made by Coventry museum and was recently confirmed by Don Bailey of the Greek and Roman Department at the British Museum.

The figure stands 69.3mm tall and is made of cast copper-alloy. The deity stands at a slight angle, as if leaning against something, and facing slightly to his right. The arms and feet are missing and the facial features are heavily corroded. Harpocrates is usually shown as naked, and the presence of a full length draped garment and head dress in this example point towards the object being of possible Egyptian origin. It probably dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Other information:

PAS find no. BH-F25093

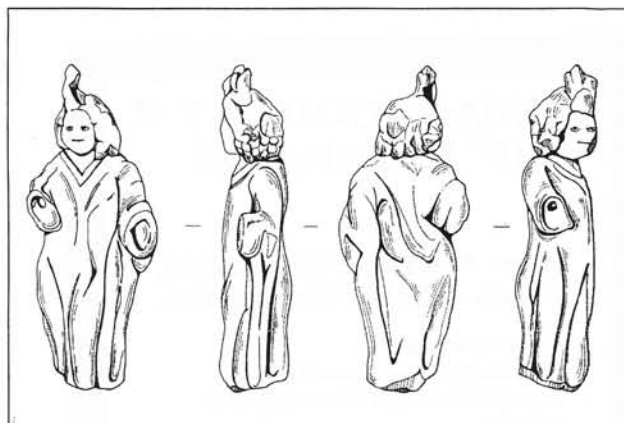
Julian Watters  
FLO, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire  
[j.watters@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:j.watters@stalbans.gov.uk)

## 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 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.

Gill Dunn  
[g.dunn@chestercc.gov.uk](mailto:g.dunn@chestercc.gov.uk)



*Figurine of Harpocrates. Drawing by Donna Watters*

## Gallery closures at the British Museum

I wanted to alert members to the fact that the Roman Britain Gallery (49), as well as the Iron Age gallery (50) at the British Museum will be closed to all public access from January 2006. The closure is expected to last for a year. This is in order to carry out essential maintenance work, which will include emergency lighting. It will also provide the opportunity to make some minor cosmetic changes to the gallery, for instance to re-varnish the floors.

Obviously this will cause some disruption to visitors, so one of our aims is to try to ensure that our 'stakeholders' are fully aware (hence this note). It should also be added that from March next year, a new gallery will open at the Museum, which will be on the ground floor between the Enlightenment Gallery and the Grenville Shop which is just to the right of the main entrance hall. This gallery will include a temporary display of some items from the Roman Britain gallery – as many 'iconic' pieces as possible – which will at least mean that some of the objects the Museum is best known for will still be accessible.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Richard Hobbs  
[rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)



## ROMAN FOOD DAY II

19<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
at

**A one-day symposium examining  
aspects of food in Roman Britain.**

Presentations include:

- Evidence for food in Roman London,
- A proposal for a lipid residue analysis on Mortaria
- An overview of samian from La Graufesenque,
- Metal Vs Ceramic: a comparative study of the use of metal and ceramic vessels in ancient cooking.
- Modern experiments with residues on pottery vessels

Although there is no charge for attending the study day places are strictly limited and are available on a first come first serve basis.

For additional information or to reserve a place please contact

**Chris Lydamore C/O The Museum of Harlow,  
Muskham Road, Harlow, Essex, C20 2LF.**

Tel 01279 454959

### Last chance to see 'Buried treasure'

The 'Buried treasure' exhibition, which has been touring the UK for the last two years, has now reached its final destination. It is now on display at Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery until 15th January 2006.

Norwich is a very appropriate location for the 'Buried treasure' exhibition, not least because a large proportion of the material showcased was found in East Anglia; the exhibition is something of a homecoming for the Mildenhall and Hoxne treasures in particular. In addition, the Amesbury Archer, which was originally on display during the British Museum leg of the 'Buried treasure' tour is back on display in Norwich, and demonstrates that contract archaeology – not just metal detectorists – will sometimes find items subject to the 1996 Treasure Act too.

### Unusual Roman 'test piece'



Pictured above is an unusual rectangular copper-alloy object, recently found in Essex and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It is made of leaded bronze, and has a number of engraved features. The engravings include the name 'SABATI', whilst the pictorial elements include a late Roman style, diademed bust facing to the left, and *dextrarum iunctio* (clasped right hands).

At first, we believed it might be linked to the production of late Roman coinage, perhaps the many *siliqua* imitations of the early fifth century – the bust is of similar style. Now it seems perhaps more likely that it's a jeweller's test piece, or - as has been suggested by the BM's research lab - may have allowed repoussé components of jewellery to be produced by rubbing small sheets of metal foil into the designs.

Any other thoughts on the function of this object would be gratefully received.

Richard Hobbs  
Ian Leins  
Sue la Niece  
The British Museum

## Two Bone Stoppers from Silchester

During the 2005 excavations at the Roman town of Silchester in Hampshire, two stoppers were excavated which are either of bone or ivory. There does not appear to be a parallel to these stoppers, and it would be interesting to find out if any RFG members have found or seen anything similar.

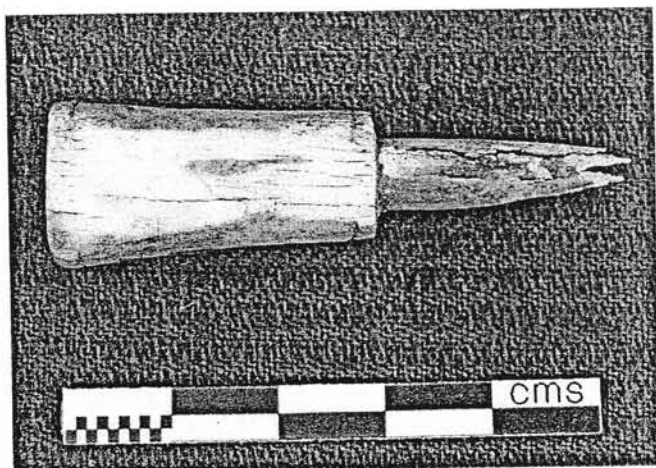
The first (SF3864) is almost complete. It is wide at the top end and narrows slightly towards the base of the top of the stopper, before narrowing again at the 'stopper' end. There are two incised lines running in grooves at the top and base of the top part of the stopper.

The second example (SF3876) is almost identical to the other stopper, but is broken. It

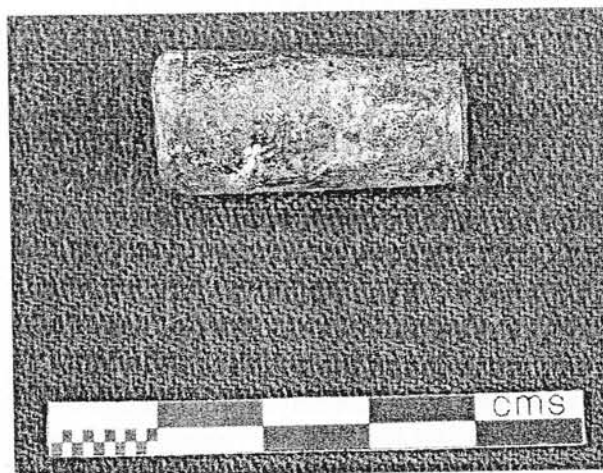
has a 'V' shaped groove on one side, possibly the muscle attachment groove of a bone. This example also has two incised grooves running around the top and bottom, but the much narrower 'stopper' has broken off, leaving just an indentation where it once was.

If anyone has seen a parallel to these items, I would be very grateful if they could contact me.

Sandie Williams  
 Finds Manager  
 Silchester Training Excavations  
 C/o The University of Reading  
 Dept of Archaeology  
[Sandie.williams2@btopenworld.com](mailto:Sandie.williams2@btopenworld.com)



*Bone stopper (sf3864) from Silchester.*



*Bone stopper (sf3876) from Silchester.*

Crossword Answers  
 Across 1. Camping 5. Shack 9. Tessera 10. Open air 11.  
 Patrician 12. Asker 13. Weeds 15. Tepidaria 17. Skara Brae 19.  
 Raced 22. Rocks 23. Woodhenge 25. Epitome 26. Airbags 27.  
 Theseus 28. Rose-red  
 Down 1. Catspaw 2. Musette 3. Iceni 4. Gladiator 5. Shorn 6.  
 Alexander 7. Knacker 8. Etruria 14. Soapstone 16. Pterosaur 18.  
 Ascribe 20. Centaur 21. Dressed 23. Whets 24. Horus

## An Enamelled bronze pan from Staffordshire Moorlands, England: a souvenir of Hadrian's Wall

Readers are probably aware of this object from numerous articles in the press. Now that it has been acquired, it seemed appropriate to provide some more detail prior to full publication.

The object in question is a copper-alloy pan (*trulla*), lacking its handle and base, with Celtic-style ornament inlaid with turquoise, blue, red and yellow enamel. Below the rim an enamel-inlaid inscription encircles the pan: MAISCOGGABATAVXELODVNVMCAMMOGLANNARIGOREVALIAELIDRACONIS

That is:

MAIS (Bowness-on-Solway) COGGABATA (Drumburgh) VXELODVNVM (Stanwix) CAMMOGLANNA (Castlesteads) RIGORE VALI AELI DRACONIS

The pan belongs to a series of colourful enamelled bronze *trullae* dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. Most are decorated with stylised vegetal designs but two stand out: the 'Rudge Cup', found at Rudge Coppice, Wiltshire in 1725, and the 'Amiens Patera', found at Amiens in 1949. Their enamelled decoration consists of a mural frieze surmounted by an encircling inscription naming forts in the western sector of Hadrian's Wall, and the frieze has been interpreted as a schematic representation of the Wall itself. The 'Staffordshire Moorlands' pan is distinctively different, but its inscription relates it securely to these Hadrian's Wall 'souvenir' pans, and it is the most spectacularly colourful example yet known. It also has a much longer inscription. Just four forts are listed, but COGGABATA – Drumburgh - is named for the first time. More difficult to interpret are the words – RIGORE VALI AELI DRACONIS. 'Rigore vali' seems to be a direct reference to Hadrian's Wall, for in Roman times it was known as 'the vallum'. 'Aeli' may also belong with that phrase, specifying 'the wall of Hadrian', for Aelius was Hadrian's family name.



*The Staffordshire-Moorlands pan.*

Alternatively, 'Aeli' could belong with the word 'Draco', forming the personal name Aelius Draco (or Dracon). He may have been a soldier or junior officer who had the pan made as a souvenir of his military service on the Wall, a unique type of frontier in the Roman Empire, as remarkable then as it is today.

The pan is a joint acquisition between the British Museum, the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (Stoke-on-Trent) and the Tullie House Museum and Gallery (Carlisle), purchased with the substantial and generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Museum Location: until December 2005, Room 49, case 9, BM; January – December 2006, the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent; January – December 2007, the Tullie House Museum and Gallery, Carlisle.

### Further Reading

M. Pitts and S. Worrell, 'Dish fit for the gods', *British Archaeology* 73, 2003, 22-27.  
R.S.O. Tomlin, 'Inscriptions', *Britannia* 35, 2004, 344-345.

### **STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

A study day for the pan will be held at The British Museum on Monday 5 December 2005. Tickets cost £20, £14 concessions, and can be obtained from the British Museum Box Office (020 7323 8181). Speakers include Lindsay Allason-Jones, Roger Tomlin, Martin Henig and Ralph Jackson.

Ralph Jackson  
Prehistory & Europe, The British Museum  
[rjackson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:rjackson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)



## RFG Committee

**President:** Roy Friendship-Taylor, Toad Hall, 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Northants. NN7 2AD. Tel: 01604 870312. e-mail: [roy@friendship-taylor.freemove.co.uk](mailto:roy@friendship-taylor.freemove.co.uk)

**Minutes and General Secretary:** Nicola Hembrey, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, PL4 9LD. Tel.: 023 9285 6700. e-mail: [Nicola.Hembrey@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.Hembrey@english-heritage.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Jenny Hall, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN. Tel.: 0207 814 5739. e-mail: [jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Angela Wardle, 1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2JB. Tel.: (work) 0207 566 9322. e-mail: [awardle@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:awardle@museumoflondon.org.uk)

**Meetings Co-ordinator:** Ellen Swift, School of European Culture and Languages, Cornwallis Building, University of Kent and Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NF. Tel.: 01227 827898. e-mail: [E.V.Swift@kent.ac.uk](mailto:E.V.Swift@kent.ac.uk)

**Publications Co-ordinators:** Gillian Dunn, Chester Archaeological Service, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD. e-mail: [g.dunn@chestercc.gov.uk](mailto:g.dunn@chestercc.gov.uk)

and

Hella Eckardt, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading RG6 6AH. e-mail: [h.eckardt@reading.ac.uk](mailto:h.eckardt@reading.ac.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Richard Hobbs, Prehistory & Europe, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG. Tel.: 020 7323 8294. e-mail: [rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

**Website manager:** Francis Grew, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN. e-mail: [fgrew@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:fgrew@museumoflondon.org.uk)

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## Next Meeting: 28 – 30 October 2005

### Building Bridges: A comparative approach to Roman and Medieval Artefacts

The next meeting of the Roman Finds Group is a joint meeting with the Finds Research Group AD700-1700. Speakers will include Mark Houliston discussing the excavations of Whitefriars, Canterbury, beginning on the Friday evening, whilst the weekend talks will be thematic. The first on the Saturday morning is concerned with 'dress', with Ellen Swift providing the Roman perspective and Gabor Thomas the late Anglo-Saxon. The afternoon session focuses on 'Medicine and Healing', with talks from Iain Ferris and Sally Crawford, and 'Writing and Literacy', with talks from Colin Andrews and Tim Pestell. On the Sunday, the focus of the meeting will shift to finds contexts, with Mark Houliston discussing late Roman find assemblages, David Petts votive deposition and Andrew Rogerson surface scatters of metalwork.

On the Sunday afternoon, there is an opportunity to visit sites in Canterbury.

For further information regarding accommodation and directions members are advised to visit:

[www.kent.ac.uk/secl/classics/finds.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/classics/finds.htm)

To book places, please send a cheque for £3 for members and £5 for non-members (made out to 'Unikent') to:

Quita Mould, Eastmoor Manor, Eastmoor, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9PZ.

**Roman Finds Group meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2005  
Chester Archaeological Service,  
Albion Street Chapel, Chester**

The Spring meeting was well attended, with about 20 delegates. The committee would like to thank Gill Dunn for organising an excellent line up of speakers and providing a suitable venue.

**Dr Mike Nevell (University of  
Manchester Archaeological Unit)  
'Roman salt making in Cheshire'**

Mike gave an excellent presentation on a fascinating topic. He outlined two methods of salt production, inland and coastal. The latter is known to have taken place around the Wash, whilst inland salt production took place on a number of sites in Cheshire, the main focus of Mike's talk.

During the Roman period, 'wet head' rock sources were exploited to produce salt. These are characterised by brine springs, into which wells could be sunk. The main parts of the process are brine extraction from the well; storage in tanks (more on which later); evaporation using large lead pans on a heated hearth; drying; and lastly, storing and shipping.

Cheshire brine comes out of the ground at a temperature of around 60-70%, with 12-16% salt saturation (for comparison, sea water around the British coast is usually 4-5%). 10-12 lead salt pans with Roman inscriptions have been recovered, and there are many more fragments, which are difficult to date because production took place between the Iron Age right up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some of these however must be Roman or pre-Roman salt evaporation vessels.

Evidence for the production of salt in Cheshire comes from two principal types of evidence: the lead salt pans (which differ from

the clay rectangular ones used in the Wash, e.g. around Peterborough), and briquetage, the various bits of pottery including pedestals and supports.

For the pre-Roman period, there is also evidence for salt production. This comes in the form of Iron Age pottery sherds known as 'VCP' (Very Coarse Pottery). A number of sites have produced these sherds, for instance Beeston Castle; but only Ridgeway Farm, excavated in 1993, revealed a rectangular hearth and VCP remains. So this seems to be the earliest site so far identified for salt production in Cheshire.

For the Roman period, there are two key sites:

1. Middlewich: this has been excavated since the 1960s. There was a Roman fort established at the site. There are rectangular hearths in which the pans sat, briquetage, pedestals and salt containers. In 2001/2, two sites were excavated which produced rectangular evaporation hearths and briquetage, at Harbutt's Field and Kinderton Hall. The pottery evidence dated these sites to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
2. Nantwich: positive evidence for salt production at Nantwich only emerged in 2002/3. Oak lined tanks were discovered with 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery (see Britannia 1988). But the real breakthrough came with the discovery of two large wooden tanks at the Kingsley Fields site. Dendrochronology dated these to AD 130/7 and after AD 114. At least 800 re-used timbers were employed to construct the tanks.

Also found at the site were wicker lined pits, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. These are associated with leather working; brine could be used to cure leather, as well as slough off the fat and hairs on the animal skins. Leatherworking and salt production often went hand in hand, so this is not a surprising discovery. The tanks produced an interesting assemblage of finds,

described later in the day by Hilary Cool (see below).

Mike concluded by saying that this research raises further questions. Are these the two key sites for salt production, or are there many more? For smaller sites, how might these be located? Perhaps only intensive fieldwalking would identify them. For the medieval period, there is good evidence both physical and documentary – to what extent are medieval sites continuations of those from the Roman period? How was the industry organised – was it under imperial control?

Contact: [mike.newell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mike.newell@manchester.ac.uk)

**Nick Herepath & Peter Canton**  
**‘Portable Antiquities in the North West; coins on rural sites’**

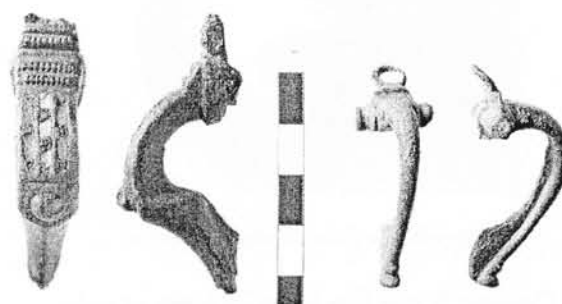
Nick began by discussing portable antiquities finds from the last eight years since he has been in post as the local Finds Liaison Officer. Although most finds come from the post-medieval period, Roman finds nonetheless form a significant part of the database. So far, the Roman finds break down as follows:

Cheshire: 533; Cumbria: 188; Greater Manchester: 46; Lancashire: 44; Merseyside: 19.



*Iron slide key from Tilstone Fearnall, Cheshire*

The evidence of the PA data suggests that there was a much greater settlement density in Cheshire than was previously assumed. This can be combined with the results of aerial photography, which is showing the location of rural farmsteads many of which are probably of Roman date. However, the two sets of evidence do not necessarily correlate, meaning that it is often difficult to know what high concentrations of Roman finds might signify. Nick suggested that they could indicate crossing points, market sites, or votive sites. For instance Hale is a crossing point on the Mersey, and has turned up a higher concentration of finds. Other productive sites include Weaverham, possibly linked to Roman Northwich; and Spurstow, which is in a remote location, but nevertheless has produced a large number of brooches. Perhaps its location in the middle of brine springs might be a clue.



*Wirral type brooch from Delamere, Cheshire (left), Thealby type brooch from Prestbury, Cheshire (right).*

The nature of the evidence from the ‘hotspots’ is also intriguing. Most evidence comes either in the form of brooches or coins, with very little in the way of domestic metalwork. The brooches in general are formed of a limited range of types: they are dominated by Polden Hill types (late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries), with no Colchester two-piece brooches at all. There are also some oddities: an early Rhineland eye brooch; a Pannonian type brooch; and a silver trumpet brooch in the hoard of 59 denarii from Church Minshall, with an attractive acanthus flower bow. There are also the so-called Wirral type brooches, with enamelling on the bow, for instance one from Delamere in Cheshire, and the Thealby type, including one



from Prestbury (both illustrated above). Other Cheshire finds include an iron slide key from Tilstone Fearnall and a military buckle from Tiverton (both also pictured).

Nick is increasingly encouraging archaeologists to involve detectorists in archaeological excavations, e.g. at Kingersley Fields, in order to improve the recovery of metalwork. He is also compiling a round-up of his findings for the *Journal of Chester Archaeology*.



*Military buckle from Tiverton, Cheshire.*

Peter Canton: Peter has been looking at coin finds reported under Portable Antiquities in the north-west, and comparing them with Nick's discoveries and information on the local Historic Environment Record. He has been able to plot the volumes of coin loss by period, with particular concentrations in the regions of Chester and Middlewich, and a peak during the Flavian period in those areas. No such peak can be seen when rural losses are considered. However, coin finds could suggest that the rural population was more integrated into the economic system than might have been expected.

## Rob Philpott

### 'Meols and recent work on brooches'

Meols in the Wirral was discovered in 1846. Over the centuries, between 5,000 and 10,000 objects have been recovered, eroded from the site on the North Wirral Coast. Many of these are in Warrington Museum, and although most are medieval, there are a large number of Roman objects in the assemblage as well.

Most finds come from Dove Point, an area where erosion removed a spur of land in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries leading to the exposure of large quantities of archaeological material. About 3,000 objects are currently being studied by a range of specialists, with the intention to produce a catalogue in the near future accompanied by a large number of images.

Most of the Roman material seems to have come from a forest bed which was submerged and then exposed by erosion, and must indicate the presence of a Roman occupation site. The assemblage also includes a small number of Iron Age pieces, which is another indication of the longevity of the site's occupation. This includes a ring pin dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC, as well as a La Tene I brooch. It also included a Syrian tetradrachm dated to 89-83 BC. Rob speculated that Meols, with its Iron Age material, might have been a port for the distribution of salt.

As for the Roman material, this is also very varied. There are a fair number of coins, over 120 found up until 1860, and many of these represent pre-Flavian losses. So there is good evidence for activity in the region long before the establishment of the fortress at Chester in AD 70. In any case, this was an area occupied by the Cornovii, and they were one of the tribes who seem to have readily capitulated to Claudius. It may be that this was the area used as a base for the attack by Paulinus on Anglesey in AD 60, and may have been the springboard for other Roman attacks too. Rob

theorises that its strategic importance diminished when Chester was established.

As for the other small finds, there are large numbers of ear-rings, an unusually large number in fact, twice as many as from London. There are also 70 brooches, a huge number for a single site in the north-west. The Wirral type is represented in the assemblage. Antiquarian records demonstrate that there was very little pottery found however, which is rather unusual; could it be that the pottery was simply washed away after it was exposed? Later material includes a buckle plate, Hawkes and Dunning Type IIIA, a rare find as only one other is known from this part of the country. Fifth and sixth century finds include an Alexandrian pilgrim flask, as well as a couple of Byzantine coins.

Merseyside Archaeological Service  
[rob.philpott@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:rob.philpott@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

## Nina Crummy 'The Colchester circus'

Nina provided an account of the finding of the Colchester circus by the Colchester Archaeological Trust. The first part was found near the town walls on a Taylor-Woodrow development. Part of a foundation, of greensand mixed with mortar, was found alongside a cobbled road.



*Excavations in progress at the circus.*

A few weeks later, something similar, parallel to the first discovery, was found. Ring ditches with cremations were discovered, including an infant burial with a jet bear, making a total of eight known (four of which have come from Colchester). The next stage was the discovery of some buttresses, which



*Robert Hurford with a chariot reconstruction.*

showed that the building – the function at the time was still unclear – had been faced with greensand blocks. The greensand had been imported, and chips of greensand had been mixed with mortar, demonstrating that they had made sure that they made full use of the stone. Another part of the buttress had been robbed out during the construction of the medieval town. A further area – known as area J – revealed a continuation of the wall and an inner wall, showing that the whole thing was obviously an enormous building.

The idea that the building was a circus only emerged during a conversation between Philip Crummy and the developer. The developer mentioned the Yorkshire chariot, at which point the penny dropped. Taylor-Woodrow were keen to keep publicity until the new year, but unfortunately it came out in advance.

Once it had been established that this was indeed a circus, further questions needed to be answered. It was clear that the whole

building was about 400 metres in length, but it was unclear which end was which. In particular, it was necessary to try and establish where the starting gates were. In the western Empire, the curve is usually at the east end, with the starting gates in the west; but initially, when trenches were placed at the west end, it seemed that there was a curve, suggesting that the circus was the other way around. But further geophysics work revealed no further traces of a curve in the west, so for the time being the mystery remained. In addition, the spina was under metalled roads, so it was not possible to pick up any traces of that. Time Team as well were unable to establish which end was which, and because no traces of the curve have been picked up at the west end, it is assumed that this was the position of the starting gates.

As for the seating arrangements, it has been postulated that there were four tiers of seats originally. This would allow for either four rows of spectators, or eight rows, if they sat with their feet behind the backs of those in front. This would result in a sizeable crowd: about 8,000 spectators in the former option, about 17,000 if people doubled up.

### **Hilary Cool** **'Recent finds from the Kingsley Fields excavation, Nantwich'**

Hilary gave an account of the small finds from the Kingsley Field excavations which were discussed previously by Mike Newell in his paper on the salt-making industry. A number of finds came out of the brine settling pits, an interesting assortment of objects. These included two adze hammers and a reaping hook, the latter still with remains of its wooden handle in the socket. There was also a patera, a trulla and a stylus, as well as a pack needle made out of antler. The finds also included an attractive oxhead bucket escutcheon, dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman period.

Another smaller pit produced a diamond pointed drill bit, a broken snaffle bit, and a very odd bladed tool, which is clearly for a

specialised use. It can be suggested that leather working might have been taking place at the site. The nature of the site is a bit of a puzzle; there is nothing to suggest 'official' usage (e.g. there is nothing distinctively military); perhaps the site should be considered as native or religious in nature.

### **Dr David Mason** **'Tombstones from Heronbridge'**

The site of Heronbridge consists of an earthwork overlying a Roman settlement. It seems that it started out as a timber building in the nature of a fortress, which was later replaced with stone. There were a series of strip type buildings, with a shop at the front and residential areas at the back.

The main purpose of the paper however was to focus on a number of architectural fragments which had been re-used in the foundations of later buildings dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of these seem likely to be tombstones: one has an inscription and a funerary banquet scene, one with very good parallels to many tombstones found at Chester.

There is evidence that the inlet where the site lies was modified to tie in with the quayside at the edge of the river Dee. In the late Roman period, the rock face was altered, and three rock cut graves were added, which were probably ransacked in the medieval period. Fragments of funerary sculpture were found in a second grave, thought to be of a child, again with a funerary banqueting scene. At the foot of the river, the cliff has revealed more fragments of relief sculpture including fragments of a stone table-like object with a cylindrical boss underneath – something of a mystery object.

Richard Hobbs  
Ellen Swift



## Instrumentum membership

Following the article about *Instrumentum* in Lucerna 29 and the offer to act on behalf of members, thereby saving them having to make payment in Euros, RFG members are invited to contact Jenny Hall, RFG Treasurer to profess an interest. If there is sufficient interest and when numbers are known, Jenny will then calculate the exchange rate and charge members accordingly, thus saving them the bother of having to convert pounds to Euros. This offer applies to the 4-year membership of Instrumentum only, which is extremely good value at 48 Euros.

Jenny Hall  
Museum of London  
[jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk)

## New Fenland website

[www.unearthingthepast.net](http://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**

## 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.

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## 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 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005**  
at the

University of Kent, Canterbury  
Organised by Ellen Swift and Gabor Thomas – further details have been posted separately

## New East Anglian Archaeology Reports

### **Archaeology and Environment of the Etton Landscape**

Charles French and Francis Pryor

**East Anglian Archaeology 109** 220pp, 29pls, 80figs; £22.00

A long-term, low-cost rescue project was undertaken in response to gravel quarrying at Maxey between 1983 and 1990. Throughout, the archaeological focus was the more or less concurrent excavation taking place at the Etton causewayed enclosure, a site which was effectively a central point within this part of the lower Welland valley.

The Etton Landscape consists of the relict river systems, former floodplain and lowermost parts of the Welland First Terrace gravels between the modern villages of Maxey, Etton and Northborough. Situated on the fringe of this seasonally wet landscape was a series of later Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments and more enigmatic areas of occupation. The principal monuments, other than the Etton causewayed enclosure, were three small henges which exhibited several phases of re-modelling, a C-shaped enclosure, the Etton Woodgate contour ditched 'enclosure' and associated settlement, and four barrows (out of many more that are in the vicinity). The occupation areas were relatively few and ephemeral, often only consisting of a 'spread' of occupation or midden material within the buried soil, a few post-holes and/or pits in no apparent pattern or structure. There is also evidence of field demarcation on the floodplain edge in the later Neolithic.

All of these sites straddled the period of later use of the causewayed enclosure, in the third millennium and early second millennium BC. There seems to have been at this time a mosaic of 'old' and 'new' environments, ranging from old woodland to pasture and small zones of

scrubby, fen-like carr, with the stream zones being affected by seasonal freshwater flooding and the minor deposition of silty clay alluvium.

By the middle part of the second millennium BC, field systems laid out at right angles to the contemporary streams were in use, with successive versions of the same general layout continuing on into the Roman period. Throughout the last two millennia BC there was a gradual opening up of the landscape, on the face of it largely pasture, but probably with some arable cultivation on the higher and better drained ground. By the later Roman period, it appears that the area was more and more affected by the seasonal deposition of alluvium and overbank flooding, which led to the establishment of a loose and scattered layout of farmsteads and associated field systems on the higher parts of the first terrace.

By medieval times, the higher parts of the terrace were completely given over to ridge and furrow cultivation, with villages established to the north and south, and the lowest zones occupied by infilled stream courses still remaining seasonally wet and possibly used as seasonal, unenclosed pasture. This more or less remained the case until 1953, when the enlargement of the Maxey Cut effectively drained the lowest parts of the terrace and permitted an expansion of arable agriculture onto the most thickly alluviated parts of the lower Welland valley between Maxey and the fen-edge.

### **A Roman Maltings at Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, Ellen Bales**

**EAA Occasional Paper 20**  
83pp, 6pls, 25figs; £10.00

Excavation of a 1.7ha area at Beck Row, Mildenhall, revealed activity spanning the Bronze Age to Roman periods. Early Bronze Age features were few, but indicate settlement

in the vicinity. During the Iron Age three circular buildings and a ditched enclosure system were established. By the 1st century AD domestic activity focussed on the south-west corner of the excavated area and clearly extended beyond this.

However, a Roman re-alignment and extension of the enclosure system included a large timber aisled building, which was fully rebuilt after burning down and was then abandoned after a second fire in the 3rd century. The building was used for agricultural rather than domestic purposes, possibly as a malt house. The site is viewed in the context of an intensely occupied area along the Fen edge in the Iron Age and Roman period.

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## REVIEW

### **Roman brooches in Britain, a technological and typological study based on the Richborough Collection**

J. Bayley & S. Butcher

Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 68, London, 2004

300 pp, 185 figs, 24 colour plates, 28 tables, CD

The excavations at Richborough from 1922 to 1938 produced over 440 brooches, only about half of which were published in the site reports (Bushe-Fox 1926, 1928, 1932, 1949; Cunliffe 1968). These brooches form the core of this study, but the technological information on the copper alloys used in their manufacture has been greatly enhanced by additional data from other brooches from British sites analysed. The volume does not attempt to produce a full typology for Britain, but it does make reference to M.R. Hull's volume of 10,000 brooches from Britain (Hull forthcoming), and thereby also provides a link to Hattatt's brooch volumes (1982, 1985, 1987, 1989). A concordance between the Richborough catalogue and Hull's types is provided in Chapter 1, and all Hull's types are listed in Appendix 2. This will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable resource for

researchers, as will Richborough's strong links with continental brooch assemblages that are liberally referred to in the text and are also touched upon in Appendix 3 (parallels).

Chapter 2 deals with metallurgy and the quantitative and qualitative methods used for the analyses and the properties of the various alloys are described. The results of the analyses are summarised here but are discussed in Chapter 5. The individual results form part of each entry in the catalogue and are repeated in tabular form in Appendix 1; the details of the analyses are provided on the CD that accompanies the volume. Chapter 3 covers methods of manufacture and decorative techniques, and has valuable tables listing both the British and continental evidence for brooch manufacture. This evidence is surprisingly scanty given the huge numbers of brooches in museum collections and archaeological archives (let alone private collections), and serves to point up how little impact the manufacture of small copper-alloy objects has upon its immediate surroundings.

Chapter 4 is the catalogue, divided broadly into bow, plate and penannular forms, and within those groups more or less by the chronology of the types present in the collection. The individual entries are brief but clear, the context details are provided, and all the brooches are illustrated. Chapter 5 is a chronologically ordered discussion of the typology and the metallurgy and it is here that we should begin to see the advantage of combining the two techniques and the identification of individual workshop products. Some progress in this respect is indeed made, particularly within the trumpet-headed and headstud series.

Throughout this chapter there are some intriguing results that raise questions that are left unanswered and that deserve greater attention and discussion than I am able to give them here. For example, why are there so many Colchester brooches at Richborough and why are so many of them made from a different alloy to most examples of that type? Hull's corpus



shows that though these pre-conquest British-made brooches have a wide distribution across Britain, the overwhelming majority come from the Trinovantian/Catuvellaunian heartlands and are also well-represented in Kent, no doubt due to the expansionist policies of Cunobelin. Do the Richborough brooches reflect an alloy-difference that was already established in Kent before the conquest, or were they made after the invasion by army smiths imitating native forms; in either case is there any concomitant typological difference? A further programme of analysis of all the Colchesters from Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire (as a minimum) is needed before this question can be answered, but this is one of the major achievements of the book. It provides direction for future work combining alloy analysis and typology, work that ought to provide useful answers, while typology matched to distribution alone can only lead to speculation, which for LPRIA brooches on Roman sites tends to be along the lines of diplomatic contact, collaboration, booty or enslavement.

While detailed comments upon individual types can be found in Chapter 5, Chapter 6 attempts to set the Richborough brooches and their analyses within the context of the history of the site and the geographical links provided by the collection. There is a very sensible caveat at the beginning of the chapter, which acknowledges the subjective and fragile nature of the evidence. Nevertheless, Richborough's role as an official and also liminal site, at the tip of Britain and in close contact with both insular and continent developments in brooch technology, is clearly demonstrated.

Chapter 7 presents an overall survey of the results laid out in more detail in the rest of the book, and returns again to such subjects as alloy use and types of decoration. The chapter ends with a plea that alloy analysis and typology will in future often be used together as tools for a common end, the identification of workshops.

The book is an impressive and ground-breaking achievement. It sets the stage for future detailed

research of individual types that may eventually, for British brooches at least, provide us with a precise understanding of where and when they were made, and which types were products of the same workshops.

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Nina Crummy  
[nina.crummy@ntlworld.com](mailto:nina.crummy@ntlworld.com)

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**Roman Iron production in Britain:  
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Irene Schröfer-Kolb

BAR 380, 2004. Paperback. £32.

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**Brine in Britannia  
Recent Archaeological Work on the Roman  
salt industry in Cheshire**

edited by Michael Nevell and Andrew P  
Fielding  
Archaeology North-West 7. £10.

An excellent overview of the brine making industries centred on Middlewich and Nantwich in Cheshire, set against the Iron Age background in comparison with the wider context of salt making in the Wash and modern experimental work.

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**BRITANNIA MONOGRAPHS**

**No. 20.** Heather James, 2004, *Excavations in Roman Carmarthen 1973-1993*

This is the first detailed publication on Roman Carmarthen, *Moridunum*, tribal capital of the Demetae of West Wales. The numerous illustrations include splendid reconstruction drawings by Neil Ludlow. The volume covers seven excavations carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust between 1978 and 1993. Small rescue excavations located the Roman auxiliary fort west of the later town. The largest site at Priory Street encompassed the intersection of two Roman streets, flanked by a sequence of buildings (early second to late fourth century) with evidence of smithing and baking. Important evidence was produced on the processes of laying out a Roman town. Other sites explored the town defences, whose entire circuit is known through watching briefs and topographical analysis. A substantial building, possibly a *mansio*, on the south side of the town was also sampled. The finds assemblages are valuable for comparison with other towns and especially in the context of the supposedly lightly romanised hinterland.

January 2004. 416 pp., 140 figs, 23 pls. Paperback. £60.

**No. 21.** H E M Cool, 2004. *The Roman Cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria: Excavations 1966-67*

The rescue excavations at Brougham uncovered the largest cemetery associated with a fort in the north yet dug. They revealed a third century cemetery where not only the soldiers, but also their wives and children were cremated and buried. The dead were provided with expensive pyre goods, such as elaborately decorated biers, jewellery, military equipment, household items and a wide range of animal offerings including horses. Their remains were generally deposited with pottery vessels including a large number in samian and Rhenish colour-coated wares. It has been possible to show that all parts of the funerary ritual was strongly structured by the age and sex of the deceased. There is good evidence that the unit was originally from the Danubian frontier. The volume includes detailed specialist reports on all aspects of the finds and funerary rituals. A database of the results is included on a CD to facilitate further analysis.

July 2004, 542 pp., incl. 349 illus. and CD-Rom. Paperback. £68.

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**Conferences and study days, arranged  
by date order**

**The Romans in the Eden Valley  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

Organised by the Appleby Archaeology Group. The Eden Valley is full of Roman sites and history and yet little has been done in recent years to bring together what is known about the Roman presence and the monuments they left behind. Appleby Archaeology has asked specialists in Roman history to present their knowledge at a one day



conference to be held at Appleby Grammar School. Topics include: The Romans in Cumbria, Roman Sites of the Eden Valley, The Roman Cemetery at Brougham, Roman Carlisle. Speakers: David Shotter, Tony Wilmot, Frank Giecco.

Details and a booking form from Harry Hawkins, 60 Holme Riggs Avenue, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8NL, tel 01768 864340 or email [101503.673@compuserve.com](mailto:101503.673@compuserve.com).

### **Quern Study Group Meeting Institute of Archaeology, Oxford 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005**

The meeting will include papers by the following speakers:

Emma Durham - 'Stone objects from Le Yaudet, Brittany'; Ruth Shaffrey - 'Some querns and millstones from recent Oxford Archaeology excavations across the south of England'; Fiona Roe - 'Querns coming together: some regional groupings in southern England'; John Cruse - 'Current and future activities of the Yorkshire Quern Project'; David Heslop - 'A corpus of beehive querns from northern Yorkshire and south Durham'

The cost for the day is £5 which will include tea/coffee and lunch.

To book a place please contact: Emma Durham, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG; [emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk)

### **Museums Association conference 2005 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

The largest museum and gallery event in the UK will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. For more information contact the Museums Association, 24 Calvin Street, London E1 6NW, tel 020 7426 6940, fax 020 7426 6961, [www.museumsassociation.org](http://www.museumsassociation.org)

### **Society of Museum Archaeologists' Annual Conference - Reaching Out Blaise Castle House Museum, Bristol 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

This year's SMA conference will focus on the theme of Reaching Out. Sessions will look at outreach work being undertaken by museums; how museum curators are working together and how museums might engage more fully with the archaeological process. Further details and booking forms can be obtained by contacting Elizabeth A. Walker, Hon. Secretary SMA, c/o Dept. Archaeology & Numismatics, National Museum & Gallery, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, tel 029 2057 3274, email [Elizabeth.Walker@nmgw.ac.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Walker@nmgw.ac.uk).

### **TRAC 2006, Cambridge 25<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

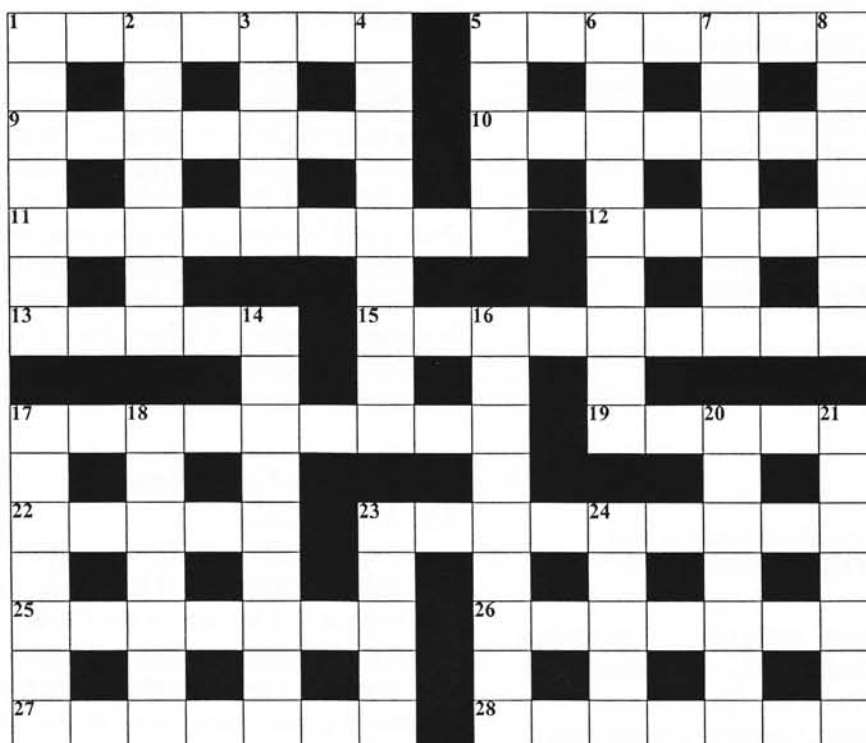
The sixteenth Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference will be held at the University of Cambridge, Faculty of Classics on 24th and 25th March 2006. The organisers are currently asking for session proposals (of no more than 400 words) which should be sent to the conference email address - [trac2006cambridge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trac2006cambridge@yahoo.co.uk). The closing date for proposing a session is 1st October 2005. For further details see the conference website: [www.arch.cam.ac.uk/trac06](http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/trac06). Ben Croxford and Roman Roth (TRAC 2006 organisers)

### **Regionality in Roman Britain Oxford University Continuing Education 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006**

This two day conference sets out to explore regionality in Roman Britain, and seeks to define groups of artefacts, settlement patterns and economic trends characteristic of specific regions. Speakers include Martin Millett, Chris Gosden, Hella Eckardt, Nina Crummy, Ralph Jackson, Peter Guest, Ellen Swift and Richard Reece.

Further information and an application form can be obtained from: Short Courses Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Tel.: 01865 270380 or e-mail: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk).

## Crossword by 'Digger'



### Across

- 1 Loitering within tent? (7)
5. Shed the French chain (7)
9. Part of a mosaic from the age of the d'Urbervilles? (7)
10. Start singing outside (4,3)
11. Short Irish saint joins Scotsman and Roman nobleman (9)
12. Someone who enquires about rakes (5)
13. Old clothes for small policeman (5)
15. Half-hearted song in Roman baths (9)
17. Sara Baker dug up Orkney site (5,4)
19. Ran through Thrace doggedly (5)
22. Tilts stones (5)
23. Forest bird returns, for example, to Neolithic monument (9)
25. Give stewed pie to Digger, a typical example (7)
26. Warm and dry trousers could be car safety features (7)
27. Crazy Sue's the hero (7)
28. Came up with revolutionary epithet for Petra (4-3)

### Down

1. Person used pet's foot (7)
2. See mutt capering in old dance (7)
3. Tribe in nice nighties (5)
4. Fighter, happy one on a high point (9)
5. Top of Saxon drinking vessel is cut off (5)
6. Great ruler joins Ferguson, perhaps, and the Queen (9)
7. Exhaust horse butcher (7)
8. Ancient country made famous by Wedgwood (7)
14. Soft rock – could it be the sound of 'Eastenders'? (9)
16. Use 'raptor' wrongly – it's really a flying reptile (9)
17. Knight said 'Shut up, snake' (7)
18. Attribute to an old writer (7)
20. Horseman (7)
21. Stone may be straightened (7)
23. Sharpens and dampens, say (5)
24. Egyptian God with his own religion initially (American) (5)