

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 37, March 2009

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group
Newsletter 37

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Notes for contributors

Contributions are always welcome – particularly on new finds –so please send them to us, and share them with the rest of the Roman Finds Group!

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Editorial

Welcome to the 37th edition of Lucerna and we enjoyed seeing so many of you at the Study Day back in October. We must apologise for the slightly late delivery of this addition, but we wanted to include details of the forthcoming RFG study day in Norwich which caused some delay.

Our first two articles discuss some unusual finds from Britain - 'ToT' rings from the region of the Corieltavi and a Harpocrates figurine from Colchester.

Subscriptions 2008/9

Thank you to everyone who has paid the subscription promptly this year and to those who have paid their outstanding debts. We still have a number of subscriptions outstanding for the current year, so if you are one of the culprits, please send me your cheque, made out to the Roman Finds Group. We do not want to lose anyone, but postal prices are increasing and if subscriptions remain unpaid, members will be removed from the mailing list.

The subscription remains at £8 for an individual and £11 for two people at the same address. If payment by standing order would be more convenient, I can send the form, which can also be downloaded from the RFG web site.

Angela Wardle
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Two new databases have recently come online which may be of interest to RFG members. One holds the results of the Gallo-Belgic pottery project and the other is the reserve collections of the British Museum. Details of both are included.

The recent English Heritage 'Nighthawking' survey highlights the importance of the archaeological community working alongside other organisations to promote improvements to the preservation and safety of our cultural heritage. Along these lines, RFG members have been asked to contribute their thoughts and opinions on how information about Roman finds can be made more readily accessible.

The last RFG study day in London was well attended and we have enclosed a brief summary of the presentations. A registration form for the next gathering is enclosed with this edition.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and please don't forget to get in touch with any interesting articles or information you'd like to share with other members.

Emma Durham & Lindsey Smith

Romano-British 'ToT' rings ~ some variations.

Introduction

Roman finger rings bearing the inscription 'ToT' are well known finds from Roman Britain. These rings date to the second and third centuries and are a group that display strong regionalism. Sixty-one 'ToT' rings are known to the author, the majority of which have been found in the region of the Corieltavi, especially in what is now Lincolnshire. The inscription 'ToT' is an abbreviation of the god name Totatis, who was one of the principal Celtic deities in Gaul.

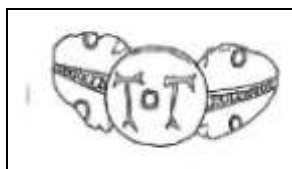


Figure 1. Fillingham, Lincolnshire (Treasure ref: 2003 T259)

The abbreviation 'ToT' is most commonly seen engraved onto the bezels of Henig type VIII or XI rings, most of which are silver but with a few examples known in copper alloy. So far all copper alloy examples are of Henig type XI. The standard inscription is 'ToT'; a few are seen as 'T.T', and a number of examples have recently come to light that display further variation. Two rings replace the central letter 'o' with a 'v', thus reading 'TVT' (PAS ref: CPAT-DB1042 Ancaster, Lincolnshire; DENO-F16131 Caunton, Nottinghamshire), which is more in keeping with the spelling 'Toutatis' seen on the stone inscriptions from the continent.



Figure 2. Ancaster, Lincolnshire (PAS ref: CPAT-DB1042)

Two further rings reduce the number of letters indicative of the deity. A silver ring of Henig type VIII from Osbournby, Lincolnshire (LIN-

B0B9D4) is inscribed 'TO', whereas another from Thonock, Lincolnshire (LIN-361AC0) simply reduces the abbreviation to a single letter 'T'. Although these two rings are somewhat smaller than the majority of type VIII rings, it appears the reduction in abbreviation was intentional and not limited by space. Finally, another unique ring found at Well, Lincolnshire (LIN-1901F7 & Tomlin 2008, p378, fig. 14), combines both symbols and letters; the first letter 'T' is rendered as two opposing crescents, the central letter 'o' as a cross, and the final letter as a capital 'T'.

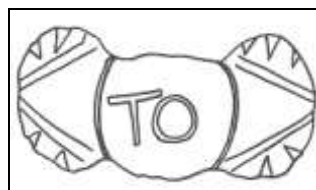


Figure 3. Osbournby, Lincolnshire (PAS ref: LIN-B0B9D4)

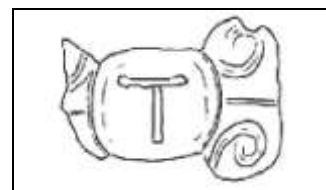


Figure 4. Thonock, Lincolnshire (PAS ref: LIN-361AC0)

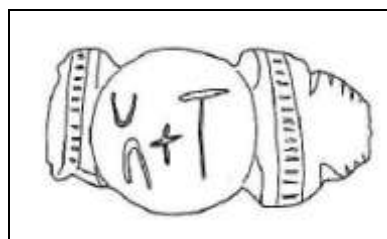


Figure 5. Well, Lincolnshire (PAS ref: LIN-1901F7)

A more extensive article discussing these rings is due to be published in the Proceedings of the Portable Antiquities Scheme Conference later this year (Daubney, *forthcoming*).

Adam Daubney
Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer, PAS.

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Evidence for an Isis cult in Colchester



Copper-alloy figurine of Harpocrates from Colchester. Height 88.5 mm.

Image © Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Excavations in 2007 on a site in Oxford Road, Colchester, turned up a well-preserved copper-alloy figurine of the child-god Harpocrates, an aspect of Horus, son of Isis and Osiris. Group representations of all three form a powerful family trinity.

Harpocrates figurines are not common in Roman Britain (Green 1976, 58, 213, 222), with most occurring in the highly Romanised south-east, of which the Colchester figurine is the seventh. There is one from near Brandon in Suffolk, four from London and one has been reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme from Verulamium (BH-F25093; Watters 2005; Worrell 2005, 460). A mount with a human head from Pocklington in the East Riding of Yorkshire may also be of Harpocrates (YORYM-EC06D2).

Harpocrates is usually shown as a naked young boy, with his finger on his mouth. In Egypt this gesture represents the hieroglyph for his name,

but the Greeks and Romans misinterpreted the symbolism and made him their god of silence and secrecy. He has a crescent moon on top of his head, which is the sign of Isis, and is sometimes also horned. On the Colchester figure his childishness is emphasised by very chubby cheeks. He has one horn sprouting from the centre of the crescent and he is also winged, thereby taking on some of the characteristics of Cupid/Eros, as was the case at Delphi, where Harpocrates was linked to both Eros and Apollo. He holds a bird by the back of the neck and his finger lies midway between his mouth and the bird's beak, as if he is swearing it to secrecy. The back of the figure is quite roughly formed, and an upright rectangular protuberance between the shoulders may represent a point of attachment to a larger object.

One of the Harpocrates figurines from London, made of silvered bronze, is also winged, and is fitted with a gold body chain. He is shown with a dog, tortoise and a hawk; images of watchfulness and secrecy. There is a clear photo of the figure on the British Museum website:

(www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_image.aspx?image=ps127145.jpg&retpage=21229).

A goose, a hare and a hawk accompany a winged figurine of the god from Bavay in northern France, and a fine marble figure in the Borghese Gallery in Rome shows him with a duck (*The Gentleman's Magazine* 22 (1844), 636; Moreno *et al.* 2001, 106). The bird on the Colchester figurine has some of the characteristics of a hawk (such as a blunt-ended tail) and some of those of a domestic fowl (small head, narrow neck and pointed, rather than curved, beak).

The site at Oxford Road is not far from a temple-mausoleum found at Colchester Royal Grammar School in 2005, where the bones of a falcon had been deposited in a burial (see *The Colchester Archaeologist* 19). At the time the possibility was considered that the bird might have been a votive offering associated with the cult of Isis. The new figurine from Colchester,

found so near to the falcon bones at CRGS, strengthens this idea and suggests that there was a cult practising Isis worship in the area.

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Gallo-Belgic Pottery Database

We are pleased to announce that the Gallo-Belgic pottery website is now up and running. This new website presents the digital results of the Gallo-Belgic pottery project recently undertaken by Val Rigby and Jane Timby. The research was funded by a Leverhulme Research grant administered through the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University.

One of the principal aims of the project has been to compile a corpus of Gallo-Belgic pottery (terra nigra and terra rubra) found in Britain. An essential part of the work has been to create a digital record of all known potter name stamps and marks along with a quantified record of all examples in Britain. The data presented in this website represents the first stage of dissemination. A monograph outlining the background to the industry, its forms and fabrics, chronology, distribution and an interpretation of the results is currently in preparation.

The authors welcome any feedback including corrections, comments, additions or information about new finds through the whiteboard facility available on the website.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your assistance in collecting the data.

The website can be found at:
http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research_projects/pottery

Jane Timby and Val Rigby.

'The Nighthawking Survey' Society of Antiquities – 16th February 2009

English Heritage launched the Nighthawking Report at the Society of Antiquaries in London on the 16th February. The event was attended by a diverse audience of academics, professional archaeologists, police and metal detectorists. Speeches were given by the Chairman of English Heritage Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Director of the Council for British Archaeology Mike Heyworth, landowner John Browning and Chief Inspector Mark Harrison of the Kent Police.

Two points in particular were stressed by all of the speakers – that Nighthawking is an illegal activity and that more training, especially for metal detectorists, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, is necessary in order to tackle the problem.

Barry Cunliffe opened his speech with a definition of Nighthawking as the illegal use of metal detectors at night, without the consent of the landowner and for personal gain. He also advocated the use of the term heritage theft, a term which was favoured by all the following speakers as well.

According to the report the east of England, particularly Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, are the worst areas for

Nighthawking. Out of 240 cases reported since 1995, one third took place on Scheduled Ancient Monuments. However, since only 14% of the landowners interviewed for the survey had actually reported incidents, the true number of cases must be much higher. Furthermore, the fact that only 26 of these cases were subject to formal legal action and that only minimal fines were levelled indicates that the judicial bodies (whether police, Crown Prosecution Service or judges) do not take this crime seriously.

In common with all of the following speakers Professor Cunliffe was keen to emphasise that there are many responsible metal detectorists. In recent years, particularly since the initiation of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, relations between archaeologists and metal detectorists have improved and there is now an exchange of knowledge between the two which is greatly benefiting archaeology in Britain. He advocated the full and continued support of the PAS in order to strengthen its role in education and fostering links between the two communities.

Mike Heyworth stressed the fact that many metal detectorists are ignorant of the law and need more education, again emphasising the role of the PAS in this regard. He suggested the compilation of regional reports with a more intense focus to better our knowledge of Nighthawking throughout the country. He also suggested that the market for antiquities should be more regulated since the motive for Nighthawking would diminish if there was no financial profit to be gained. In particular, sites such as eBay should have to provide documentary evidence such as treasure checks or export licences before allowing auctions to proceed.

John Browning, a landowner from Icklingham, Kent, pointed out that there were no representatives of the National Farmers Union or Country Landowners Association at the meeting, which was indicative of a general lack of engagement with this issue by landowners. In particular he supported legal action against Nighthawkers which would include a specific fine for the offence and provide a database of reported crimes.

Finally Chief Inspector Mark Harrison of the Kent Police represented a county which has taken steps to prevent these crimes. He noted that one of the best ways to get bodies such as the police to understand the nature of the crime was to assess the overall risk to sites including not just Nighthawking but vehicle crime, offroading, poaching etc. To this end a Wildlife and Environmental Crime Unit was established with officers who were trained to understand what heritage crime is and how it impacts on rural life. In order to make the best of the wildlife and environmental laws already in place, training is essential for the police and the judiciary. The police also need to work with landowners to get them to report and prevent the crime.

The full Nighthawking Report can be found at www.helm.org.uk/nighthawking

Emma Durham

British Museum Collections Now Just One Click Away!

Some RFG members will already be aware that to celebrate the 250th anniversary of opening its doors to the general public, the British Museum is in the process of making all its reserve collections freely available on the Internet. The process is being done by department, as that is how the collections are divided. Of most relevance to RFG members will be the Iron Age and Roman Britain collections (which come under the department of 'Prehistory & Europe') and those of the department of Greece and Rome. Both of these department's collections are now available to view. Coins and Medals is not yet available, as they have over 600,000 objects, but the museum hopes to make their collections available as well in late 2009. In total, there are now over 1 million BM objects accessible on the database.

Therefore, if you're conducting any research on the BM collections, you should find this facility very useful. The database is accessible via the BM homepage (www.britishmuseum.org): just

click on 'Search the collection.' (This is a different part of the site to the 'Explore' section, which is a relatively small selection of 'Highlight' objects). You can then search on a general description (e.g. 'Roman brooch') or find spot (e.g. 'Hod Hill'), and set date parameters, although you might find it easier to use the advanced search which allows you to use the British Museum registration number (e.g. '1946,1007.1', the Mildenhall Great Dish) if you know it.

Members should also be aware that digital images of BM objects are available for non-commercial use free of charge. This will apply to the vast majority of uses which RFG members will want to use BM objects for, e.g. newsletters, Powerpoint presentations and scholarly publications. Fees need only be paid for publications which have a print run of more than 4,000, which will obviously not apply to most publications which RFG members contribute to (no offence intended!). The only proviso for using images in this manner is to register on the system. To do this, click on 'use digital image', and at the bottom left of the screen you will see 'Free non-commercial image use'. Please refer to 'Terms and conditions' and then go through the straightforward registration process.

Finally, if you do spot any errors with any of our records you can provide us with corrections or any additional information where it says 'Noticed a mistake?'. Obviously with so many records, there are bound to be some errors, but feedback is always welcome, so let us know if you find anything!

Richard Hobbs
The British Museum

Study Day Review

ROMAN FINDS GROUP

13th October 2008 - The British Museum

The meeting of the Roman Finds Group in October was well attended by members. They had the opportunity to visit the Hadrian Exhibition as well as hearing six papers based loosely on Roman London and the surrounding area. Thanks to Dr Richard Hobbs, for hosting the event and for organising the exhibition tickets.

Lindsey Smith. "The British Museum collection of Romano-British Pewter".

Lindsey has just completed her first year of a three year collaborative PhD at the University of Reading and The British Museum. She introduced her on-going research into a small collection of Romano-British pewter vessels and this is the first time they have been fully researched or published.

A number of vessels in the British Museum display marks that may be associated with use during the objects' lifetime (visibly different from depositional corrosion or scratches). A key area of her work will be to determine the use and function of pewter. She showed a bowl from Appleshaw with knife marks that were perhaps caused when something was speared or cut. A large platter from Icklingham displayed a series of knife marks and puncture or 'stab' wounds possibly caused when a joint of meat was carved and served.

Inscriptions and graffiti are also found on a number of vessels conceivably referring to personal ownership. A small pedestal bowl from Icklingham is signed 'Licinius' and two plates from Southwark are marked 'Martinus', which may indicate these items 'belonged' to someone. The MARTINUS appears in what seems to be two different handwritings: the MAR is distinctive, being clear and boldly

incised whereas the 'itinus' is lighter and not so neat.

It's not always names that are inscribed onto the British Museum vessels. As with the fluted silver bowl from Mildenhall with the interlocking triangle in the central roundel, two interlocking triangles have been scratched on the underside of a flanged bowl from Lakenheath. The motif would be hidden from normal view so the meaning of the symbol is unclear. These provide Lindsey with the opportunity to discuss the connection of pewter with literacy and early iconographic and epigraphic evidence found on individual vessels.

A further significant aspect of tableware use is the appearance of several pewter plates that appear to have been 'ritually pierced' or 'deliberately holed'. Two plates from Lakenheath display puncture wounds and stab marks that would render the vessels useless in terms of their perceived function. Lindsey speculated that these may be deliberate actions associated with a ritual act.

The main objectives of the project are to help the British Museum understand the significance of this important collection. The construction of a detailed catalogue recording shape and form, wear marks and inscriptions will allow pewter data to be juxtaposed against other ranges of artefacts (ceramics, glass and metals) across regional and continental parallels.

The catalogue will help to address wider social, economic and art-historical influences; for example the relationship of pewter vessel form to contemporary ceramics and silver vessels. Ultimately her work will put more pewter data into circulation in the hope that it will provide a stimulus for wider debates concerning how we can study value-laden artefacts.

Lindsey can be contacted on: lindseyr.smith@btinternet.com or for more information go to http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/pewter_hoards.aspx.

James Gerrard (PreConstruct Archaeology): "The Late Roman hoard of copper-alloy vessels from Draper's Gardens. The City of London."

There has been much interest in the recent excavations under the demolished Royal Bank of Scotland building in the City of London undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology. The project was funded by Canary Wharf Developments and Exemplar Developments LLP on land owned by the Drapers Company. The Roman site was in the upper reaches of the Walbrook valley, 100m south of the City Walls, in an area where four streams of the river which divided the City were predicted to converge.

The surviving archaeology proved to be spectacular with waterlogged and anaerobic material providing an unbroken sequence dating to between 1st and 3rd centuries. Timber trackways and buildings, infant burials and a domestic wooden door were uncovered. Preserved doors are an extremely rare find anywhere in the empire, and this is possibly only the third and most complete example found in Britain. Over 1100 well preserved metal and registered finds were retrieved during the course of the excavations. In particular, the nature of the deposits resulted in the exceptional preservation of a hoard of nineteen metal vessels recovered from a late 4th century timber-lined well, which were on temporary display in the Museum of London until 27th January 2008 (also see British Archaeology 2008, January February).

The metal vessels are what might be termed 'household items' from Roman Britain. They comprise of a copper-alloy bucket, a wine bucket, a set of three nested bead-rim dishes and two other similar dishes, the remains of a four-looped zoomorphic hanging bowl, several cauldrons (one of which is a Vestland cauldron, typical of continental design) and bowls, an iron trivet, two shallow one-handled bowls used as dippers, a lead-alloy small dish and flagon and an iron ladle. Beneath the vessels were two coins, confidently dated to after AD 375, therefore providing a terminus post quem for the deposition

The Drapers Gardens excavation is one of the most important to have been undertaken in the City of London and comparisons of the metal vessels will provide further insights to the social status and economic relationships taking place within Roman London during the later period of Imperial rule.

For information see: <http://www.pre-construct.com/Sites/Highlights/Drapers.htm>

Catherine Johns: "The New insights into the Hoxne Treasures".

The Hoxne hoard was discovered by the farmer and a controlled excavation was undertaken by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit in 1992. The hoard consists of over 15,000 gold and silver coins, gold jewellery and numerous small items of silver tableware, including pepper pots, ladles and spoons. Also found were the remains of a large wooden chest and smaller caskets with tiny silver padlocks, into which the treasure had been carefully secreted. Catherine Johns has taken the opportunity to re-evaluate the Hoxne Treasure while preparing the final publication.

One of the most interesting/important finds in the group is a gold body chain with a decorative element on the front and back – a gold solidus of Gratian on one side and a setting with central amethyst, four garnets and probably four pearls on the other. The small size of the chain suggests it would have fit an adolescent girl or small adult and may have been worn or given at a wedding.

Another key find is the statuette of a prancing tigress that was originally thought to be one of a pair of handles for a large silver amphora or vase (as found in the Sevso Treasure). Tigers and other large feline species were associated with Bacchus, and the amphora to which this tigress belonged would no doubt have had Bacchic decoration. The figure is a solid casting with stripes inlaid in niello to create a black contrast with the silver background. However, Catherine is considering alternatives to the 'Tigress' which she will write up shortly.

Catherine also discussed the 'Empress' pepper pot, one of four recovered in the hoard. Pepper was first imported into the Roman world from India in the first century AD, but piperatoria, the special containers for expensive spices, are rare finds. The Hoxne pot is a hollow silver bust of an Imperial lady of the late-Roman period. Bronze steelyard-weights of similar appearance are well known in the late-Antique period and though many attempts have been made to see in them a portrait of a specific empress, it is more likely that they simply represent a generic Imperial image.

Details of the Empress's jewellery and rich clothing are gilded, and she holds a scroll in her left hand. The pot has a disc in the base which could be turned to three positions, one closed, one with large openings to enable the pot to be filled with ground pepper, and a third which revealed groups of small holes for sprinkling. A re-examination of the design of the hair will form a new focus in the forthcoming book.

Finally, Catherine is also re-examining the many gold bracelets found in the hoard. One in particular is 'Juliana' Bracelet. This is a finely worked pierced gold bracelet that incorporates the phrase UTERE FELIX DOMINA IULIANE. The lettering, spacing and spelling are idiosyncratic, but the sense is clear, wishing good fortune to 'Lady Juliana', the owner of the object. Good-luck wishes, especially utere felix ('use [this] happily') were quite often inscribed on valuable personal possessions such as jewellery in the late-Roman period. All of Catherine's updates will be available in the forthcoming publication.

Emma Durham: "Bronze Figurines in Roman Britain".

Emma is currently a PhD student at the University of Reading and is conducting research on metal figurines in Roman Britain. She is currently collecting material from publications and the Portable Antiquities Scheme prior to making museum visits.

While the majority of figurines are of copper alloy, there are also small numbers in other metals such as iron, lead, silver and gold. The focus of the research is stand-alone figurines and objects such as steelyard weights, knife handles and furniture attachments are not being included.

The depictions include a wide variety of gods from the Graeco-Roman pantheon, birds and animals. From a preliminary dataset of some 800 figurines Mercury and Hercules are the most common finds in Britain, with other popular deities including Mars, Cupid, Venus and Minerva. There do appear to be some differences between rural and urban sites, with slightly higher numbers of Mars, lares and genii on rural sites. Urban sites, as one might expect, have a wider range of deities.

One important question to ask is whether any figurines were produced in Britain. The only direct evidence for production is a mould for a Bacchus figurine from Gestingthorpe, Essex. However, idiosyncratic pieces such as the group of five Mercury's depicted in a pose usually reserved for Cupid, the naïve style of figurines in the West Country seen in the figurines from Southbroom, Wiltshire and the horse and rider figurines from the eastern side of Britain suggest that there was a considerable production of distinct British products.

Ralph Jackson: "Inside the Head of Hadrian".

The head of Hadrian was recovered from the River Thames in London at the site of Old London Bridge. In addition to the head, a group of copper alloy figurines, a silver Harpocrates and a castration clamp decorated with busts of Cybele and Attis have been found in the area which suggests that they may have been deposited as a group.

The head itself was carefully modelled at the front, but is more schematic and idiosyncratic at the back. At the time of manufacture, there were two casting flaws on the neck which were patched, and a later fracture under the chin was also repaired. Finally, the head was severed from the rest of the statue before deposition in

the Thames. Given the nature of the depiction, one question that must be asked is whether the statue could have been produced in Britain. And if made here, was it by a local or immigrant artist.

Other fragments of statues have been found in London, including a right hand from Lower Thames Street, and it is possible that this hand is from the same statue. The head and the right hand are both important parts of an Imperial statue, the hand being used in the gesture of *ad locutio* when addressing the troops. The find spots of both fragments not far from the Forum suggests that the statue of Hadrian could have stood in there, perhaps in a niche given the lack of attention to the rear of the head.

Ultimately the most important aspect of the statue would be that the general populace would recognise it as the Emperor. What is less important is that the head actually looks like Hadrian.

Angela Wardle: "The glass workers of Roman London. The evidence from Basinghall Street".

The site at 35 Basinghall Street lies on the western edge of the Walbrook Valley, on the fringes of a marginal area, away from the main focus of residential settlement in Londinium. There was also evidence for leather and bone-working and for a 2nd century glass furnace on the edge of a canalised Walbrook tributary, suggesting that this part of the town was occupied by small workshops.

Glass working is well known from Roman London with 21 glass working sites being identified within eight districts. As no evidence for furnaces have been confirmed, these manufacturing sites have been identified from the recovery of cullet and production waste such as moiles, bungs or plugs. In 2005 over 70kg of mid 2nd century glass cullet and waste was recovered from Basinghall Street, 1500 of which are moils (small cylinders of glass left on the blowing iron when a vessel was removed). Each moil represents a blown vessel and thus it is possible to work out how many complete

vessels there may have been. The differences in the moil size and shape may indicate different craftsmen techniques or variations of vessel type.

There is no evidence from London that glass was ever made from the raw materials. Instead, it was either imported from the Mediterranean in large blocks, or alternatively broken vessel and window glass, known as cullet, was collected for recycling. Angela's work is important for understanding the production process and to gain further insights into Roman glass-working in London by establishing whether the cullet and production waste was imported from the Mediterranean or matched any of the 400 or so, 2nd century individual vessels glass. London glass comprises mainly of table wares rather than drinking vessels and will help to improve our knowledge of whether an itinerant trade in glass working was taking place within Roman London.

Angela has been working closely with Mark Taylor and David Hill, Roman glass makers near Andover to recreate free-blown and mould blown glass replicas. Archaeological evidence for Roman glassblowing workshops themselves is not common, but they have been able to reproduce circular, wood-fired furnaces with fire boxes below ground level. From reproduction kilns and with the employment of traditional tools and equipment Mark and David replicate the production process that allows Angela to compare her Basinghall Street production waste such as fused vessel fragments, burnt vessels and moils with the modern replicas.

In addition to vessel glass, one piece of window glass was recovered from Basinghall Street with mortar still attached to it. This suggests that the glass was being used in a building, and was to be melted down with the rest of the cullet. Window glass was a luxury in Roman Britain and only used in the more substantial buildings and bath houses - in the early days of the city at least the windows of most private houses would have been shuttered and rather dark.

Angela's Roman Glass Research Project is on-going and you can read more about her research at

<http://mymuseumoflondon.org.uk/blogs/romanglass/>.

Mark and David run regular glass-making workshops and further details can be found online at

<http://www.romanglassmakers.co.uk/contact.htm>.

Jenny Hall: "'Living in Roman London' goes worldwide".

Jenny introduced the pilot for the new website and online catalogue at the Museum of London which will provide public access to a 'virtual' collection at the Museum.

The first phase of the grant 'Living in Roman London' is almost complete with a pilot version of the website being reviewed by a focus group. The website will be designed around 400 years of life in Roman Britain through *Londinium Lite* which has been written as a commemorative edition of an online newssheet with in-depth analysis of current affairs, top local stories, hints and tips for the home as well as access to objects in the Museum's catalogue. The website has been designed as a 'fun' introduction to the Romans for the adult browser which takes as its lead the Roman army followed by household materials. The browser can access a series of essays on life in Roman London, articles to 'What to see of Roman London today', the online catalogue of all objects in the museum, information on the Roman Gallery and materials for teachers planning visits and projects for secondary school students.

Web viewers are invited to click on one of the stories to expand into a ten thousand word essay of the topic written by a specialist at the museum or to visit the 'VOX POP' community browser laid out as a discussion board where members of the Roman community have posted items for discussion. There is also a classified section where Roman goods and services are on offer together with notices about the latest tableware's to arrive from Gaul and further a field.

These follow the theme that current web browsers can research and understand more about the way of life in Roman Britain as told through fictional characters of that time. Topics for discussion include whether soldiers should be allowed to marry and how did 'Londoners' feel about the continued disruption caused to the city by the major building works around the forum and basilica.

The website is laid out so that users have access to a range of subtopics under headings such as 'Military Dispatches' that covers events affecting Roman London to 'Around the Home – London's Home-style Features' which provides access to tips such as how roman heating systems worked and how they were energy efficient.

A feature of the catalogue is to provide the user with a 'fun' link to the objects in the museum. For example, the Dining and Tableware section is divided into subgroups allowing the browser to examine vessels classified by functional type: bowls, platter, spoons etc. An object record can be brought up which includes a photo, its fabric, date, dimensions and acquisition details along with a description of the context and object itself.

The website is designed to be a fun guide for introducing the objects in the Museum whilst providing access to more in-depth analysis and discussion of life in Roman London. It is hoped that the website will go 'live' shortly and that (subject to funding) phase two (including an online catalogue of Roman sculpture (funded by the British Academy), introduction to 'Roman Londoners' and their 'Workplaces' (the lives and material culture of individuals) and how Roman London was provisioned) can commence.

For further information see
<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/>

The next study day will be held on Monday 27th April at the Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery (see enclosed flyer).

Testing the water!

Problem

As part of my research into figurines in Britain I have been scanning monographs and journals for published pieces. In the course of this I have noticed what I believe to be a decline in the level of publication of finds in general. Many finds reports are reduced to a simple synthesis, with minimal illustration of finds and perhaps a catalogue containing only basic information. In some cases there is essentially no finds report at all, and as the index of many monographs is poor or non-existent, any information can only be found by reading the whole of the site narrative. Some publications now include a CD on which finds catalogues are placed, but while there may be lots of useful information in these catalogues it is once again relegating finds to the backwaters of publication. Not to mention the fact that in some libraries the CD is kept separate from the book, which is already leading to them disappearing and thus making all the information contained there inaccessible.

Emma Durham

Solution?

Although institutions expect researchers to have the terrier instinct to seek out material rather than having it offered on a plate, we understand how frustrating this lack of listing might be, although we would always encourage researchers to see the real thing rather than relying on the publications – but they are the starting point! Because of such problems of availability, the RFG Committee have been considering ways of making information about Roman finds more accessible to members. The first step will be to make the website more user-friendly and updated and to get past issues of *Lucerna* onto the website as downloadable files.

Where should we go next? We would like to draw up a list of useful websites and online databases that members might have used and would recommend (eg the PAS website) so that we can publish the links. The Museum of London's Roman website, for example, (as

demonstrated at the RFG's meeting at the British Museum last autumn) when it goes live will contain an online database of objects of a military and domestic nature from both the museum's reserve collections and archaeological archive with the hope of putting more online as work progresses.

Would members be interested in having access to downloadable finds reports, either those unpublished in archives, scanned from publications (no longer in print) or currently available only as microfiche? This is not something that can be done overnight as we would need to seek permission to do this from the authors and publishers as well as thinking about means of implementation or is it a case of linking to the ADS? In the case of London, for instance, it might be that we can assist the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive & Research Centre) with preparing scans and they will act as the host, having the scans as part of their online site archive

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/

If members think that this might be something they would want to use or have particular problems with access to certain publications, we would be happy to dig deeper to find ways of achieving this (and any suggestions from those of you with knowledge of such things would be welcome!). Similarly if any members have any unpublished finds reports from important Roman sites, where just a synthesis was published, that they would like to share online, please contact jhall@museumoflondon.org.uk.

Emma Durham, Angela Wardle & Jenny Hall

Mystery Object – Identified!



You may remember seeing this oddly-shaped copper alloy object in the March 2008 edition of *Lucerna* with a plea for help with identification. It had been found in a mid first century layer adjacent to the proto-villa at Piddington, Northamptonshire, along with Claudian samian ware, late Iron Age coarse and fine wares and Iron Age coins and Roman military objects.

Michele Feugère contacted Roy Friendship-Taylor and wrote:

"This object is quite an easy object for a continental archaeologist to identify, but no doubt a very rare artefact in Britain: it is the bottom part of a handle of a bronze strainer, of late Etruscan type, mostly produced during the first third or first half of the 1st century BC.

For these objects see:

Guillaumet 1977: J-P. Guillaumet, Les passoires de la Tène en Gaule et dans le monde. *Gallia*, 35, 1977, 239-248.

Guillaumet 1991: J.-P. Guillaumet, Les passoires. In: M. Feugère, C. Rolley (dir.), *La vaisselle tardo-républicaine en bronze*, Dijon 1991, 89-96."

Such strainers were used to remove the herbs, spices and various things that the Romans liked to put into their wine at the end of the Republic.

They were massively exported to the western market on boats loaded with wine amphorae of mainly Dressel 1 type (indeed a neck and shoulder sherd of a Dressel 1B amphora was found in a similarly dated Claudian layer at Piddington). A late Republican shipwreck was found with amphorae with neat writing inscribed; "G. Ciampoltrini, La "nave dei colini">>: un contributo per l'instrumentum in bronze tardorepublicano. *Arch. Classica* 46, 1994, 370-377.)

So, this may be one of the very few Republican strainer fragments found in Britain, with only one other known from Hengistbury Head, Hampshire (upper part of the handle). The late context probably reflects an object brought from the Continent via the Roman army at the time of the Claudian Conquest. There is considerable evidence of a Claudian military presence at Piddington, with a fort suspected in the adjacent field.

Reference:

Cunliffe, B. 1987. Other items of bronze in Hengistbury Head, Dorset. Vol. 1: The prehistoric and Roman settlement, 3500 BC- AD 500. Oxford: Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph 13, 153 fig. 111 no. 48.

Roy Friendship-Taylor

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NEXT RFG MEETING RFG Study Day

The next RFG meeting will take place on **27th April 2009** at the Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery. A registration flyer is enclosed with this edition of Lucerna. Please complete and return to Dr Richard Hobbs at the British Museum.

Membership

There are still a few members who have not paid for their 2008/9 subscription and we remind people to please do so as soon as possible. Membership is still only £8 (for individuals) and £11 for two people at the same address. Standing order is also available, please ask Angela for a form or print one from the website.

In order to reduce costs and keep members better informed, we would be grateful if members could provide an email address. This will only be used to relay up and coming information on events such as the study days and the newsletter will continue to be printed.

It has been suggested that in order to facilitate communication between members, the RFG could produce a database of all members. This would include contact details (such as a postal address and/or email and areas of interest or specialist interest. The list would be circulated to members only and you have the option to opt out if you do not wish to be included.

If you are happy to have your details circulated, please contact Angela with your name, specialist interest and contact details (postal or email address).

Books books books books books books books books books books

Styling the body in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain. A contextual approach to toilet instruments.

Vient de Paraitre – MI 36.

By Hella Eckardt & Nina Crummy

Monographies *Instrumentum*, 36, 2008.

ISBN 978-2-35518-009-5

201 p., 117 fig. Price : €39 + p&p. from Editions Monique Mergoïl, 12 rue des Moulins, F 34530 Montagnac, France.

www.editions-monique-mergoil.com

Using a large dataset drawn from published excavations, this study presents a typological analysis of small toilet instruments and addresses the issues of social context implicit in their distribution, date, zones of manufacture and use in burials. The picture that emerges from this data is set in the wider context of grooming practices in the Roman world and in pre-Roman Britain and by descriptions of other toilet implements from the province. A final chapter summarises the related post-Roman material. Detailed illustrated appendices present the material, and an electronic database is provided on the ADS website.

Despite their small size, toilet instruments relate to bodily presentation and social and cultural identity. In Britain small toilet implements linked as sets are rare before the early 1st century AD and their use was restricted both geographically and socially.

After the Roman conquest of Britain in AD 43, there was a surge in production accompanied by use across a wider segment of society.

Unusually, bifid nail-cleaners disappear on the continent after the Augustan period, while in Britain they were used up to the late 4th or early 5th century AD, representing an insular survival from the earlier La Tène tradition.

Daily Life in Roman Britain

By Lindsay Allason-Jones

ISBN-13: 978-1-84645-035-8 & ISBN-10: 1-84645-035-7 Hardback. Available from £19.95. 168p b/w illus (Greenwood 2008)

This book goes well beyond the usual "daily life in" style offerings to offer an analytical rather than simply descriptive picture of life in Roman Britain. Using mainly archaeological evidence, inscriptions, and chance survivals such as the Vindolanda tablets, Lindsay Allason-Jones is careful not to adopt a one-size fits all approach, emphasising that life in a far flung province was not the same as life in Rome, and that the Roman Empire impacted differently on different social classes. She also makes it clear that life in Roman Britain was not static, noting changes to the layout of villas, for example, or that Britain did not gain its own mint until the seemingly late date of 280s. Sections in the book include military life, town life, country life, domestic life and religious life, as well as one on the implications of the end of empire on daily life.

Atlas of Roman Pottery in Britain, Second Edition

By Paul A Tyers.

224p (Oxbow Books 2009) ISBN-13: 978-1-84217-230-8 : ISBN-10: 1-84217-230-1

Hardback. Not yet published - advance orders only. Price GB £25.00

This is the successor to Roman Pottery in Britain (1996) and updates and expands on Part 2 of the earlier work.

The Atlas will include details of the principal classes of pottery found or used in Roman Britain, both locally produced and imported. Each entry will describe the fabric, technology, forms, dating, source and distribution, and, where appropriate, the potters' stamps and

epigraphy and will be accompanied by a bibliography. An introductory chapter will outline the principal developments in Roman pottery studies over the last decade and discuss the future role of digital resources. The printed volume will be accompanied by a CD-ROM, which will include searchable and hyperlinked versions of the Atlas pages with colour maps and photographs, formatted for both screen display and printing. A database holding the details of the data used to produce the British distribution maps will be accessible on the disk using a standard web browser.

Roman Southwark - Settlement and Economy: Excavations in Southwark 1973-1991.

By Carrie Cowan, Fiona Seeley, Angela Wardle, Andrew Westman and Lucy Wheeler

280p, 162 b/w and col illus, 68 tabs, CD with 42 tabs (MoLAS Monograph 42, Museum of London Archaeology Service 2008). ISBN-13: 978-1-901992-78-6 :ISBN-10: 1-901992-78-0 Hardback. Not yet published - advance orders only. Price GB £27.95

This report presents an overview of Roman urban development in London south of the Thames. The establishment of the Roman bridge and the first approach roads and landing places, made Southwark an ideal location for the development of facilities for the trans-shipment of goods between land and river. The wide range of data from 41 previously unpublished north Southwark sites provides the means for 'mapping' Roman activity in Southwark: the nature of the early settlement, changing patterns of land use and broader processes of social and economic change.

Early land reclamation preceded the establishment of a thriving trade centre involved in the redistribution or marketing of locally processed and imported goods, with evidence of a concentration of buildings burnt in Boudican fire of AD 61 along the main road to the bridgehead. Increased land reclamation and

construction of more masonry buildings in the 2nd century AD indicate further growth. By the 3rd century large stone buildings at ten of the sites reported suggest an administrative area housing official residences. After the mid 4th century the settlement contracted to the area immediately around the bridgehead with a cemetery on previously occupied land to the south.

Britannia The Failed State: Tribal Conflicts and the End of Roman Britain.

By Stuart Laycock

256p, b/w figs, 25 col pls (Tempus 2008):ISBN-13: 978-0-7524-4614-1 ISBN-10: 0-7524-4614-2 Paperback. Price GB £18.95

This new study traces the historic of British tribes and British tribal rivalries from the pre-Roman period, through the Roman period and into the post-Roman period. It shows how tribal conflict was central to the arrival of Roman power in Britain and how tribal identities persisted through the Roman period and were a factor in the three great convulsions that struck Britain during the Roman centuries. It explores how tribal conflicts may have played a major role in the end of Roman Britain, creating a 'failed state' scenario, and brought about the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons.

news conferences study days news conferences study days news study

RAC 2009

3rd -5th April, 2009.

The 8th Roman Archaeology Conference will be hosted by The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The RAC program will comprise 18 half-day sessions spread over three days. Sessions will commence at 9 am on Friday, April 3 and all sessions will conclude by 4:30 pm on Sunday, April 5. Thus far the Organizing Committee has approved the following sessions for inclusion in the program. They are presented here in no particular order.

- The Late Republican period in “native” Southern Italy
- Kings, Clans and Conflict: Italic Warfare in the first millennium BC
- Rome and the Alps
- Current Approaches to the Archaeology of first millennium BC Italian Urbanism
- The Roman city as ‘written space’
- Between Canon and Kitsch: Eclecticism in Roman Homes
- Rethinking Britannia. New Approaches to a Grand Old Lady
- Irrelevant Wall or Untapped Resource? Challenging Preconceptions of Hadrian’s Wall
- Dura-Europos
- Roman Imperialism in Africa Proconsularis
- The Troubled Adolescence of Late Antique Studies: Archaeological approaches to ‘change’ in Late Antiquity
- Incorporating coin finds into the archaeological and historical narrative
- Roman villa landscapes in the Latin west: economy, culture and lifestyles
- Aelia Capitolina – The Establishment and Development of a Roman City in Palestine Comparative issues in the archaeology of the Roman rural

landscape, site classification between survey, excavation and historical categories

- Alteration, influence, transfer and exchange: architectural relations between Rome and the Greek East Archaeology-based approaches to the study of food and drink in the Western Roman Empire
- The Lives of Others: peoples of the peripheries

See <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/rac2009/home> for further information.

Roman army

4th -8th April 2009

Annual residential course, held St Aidan's College, Durham by the Hadrianic Society. Open to anyone with an interest in the Roman army. Non-residential places also available. Register by 31.1.09 with £30 deposit. Refreshments at £14 (or £182 course and meals) plus accommodation options. Speakers include: David Breeze, Mark Corby, Adrian Goldsworthy, Nick Hodgeson, Birgitta Hoffman, Matthew Symods, Ed Valerio, Jorit Wintjes and David Woolloscroft.

Topics include: Did Hadrian design Hadrian's Wall?; The making of a new World Heritage Site: the Antonine Wall; Pompey the Vulture; Provincial fleets and Caesar's Alexandrian campaign.

For more information contact B Dobson at 16 Swineside Drive, Belmont, Durham DH1 1AD, email annedobson1@uk2.net, www.hadrianicsociety.com. The cost is £59 course only plus food and accommodation.

Roman latrines and cesspit toilets in the North-Western provinces of the Roman Empire

1st – 2nd May 2009

Held in Nijmegen, Netherlands, in collaboration with the Radboud University Nijmegen and the city of Nijmegen. The public and private toilets in the Roman cities in the Mediterranean area have been the subject of archaeological research for many years. We know a great deal about the way these toilets were constructed and how they functioned. In addition all manner of related things have been researched, such as the social aspect of visiting a toilet and rituals connected to it, or practical aspects such as the use of urine in the tanning of leather. When looking to the North-Western provinces, it is clear that the research of these structures has been much less extensive.

Up to now, attention was mainly paid to some large toilets excavated in cities or military complexes. Practically nothing is known about private toilets. The main reason for this is, that most of these private toilets are cesspit-toilets, which - because of the bad preservation chances of the materials used - are difficult to recognise and are often mistaken for rubbish pits. Little attention has been given to this aspect of Roman daily life up to now and when found, such toilets were often supposed to have been indigenous.

This conference is the first in which Roman period toilets in the North-Western provinces will be the subject of the research. The private toilets as well as the public and semi-public military toilets will be looked into in separate sessions, with a forth session for multidisciplinary research round the toilets, such as research on bio-archaeological data and anthropological research on the use of toilets.

Focus will be paid to the construction and functioning of toilets, their location (inside /outside the house, specific use of rooms etc) with attention also given to the scientific

research of the contents, but excluding the finds (ceramics, etc), as this will divert from the main subject.

Register by 15.4.09. For more information contact organising committee , email Latrine2009@gmail.com. The cost is £15EUROS/day.

TAG 2009

1st – 3rd May 2009

The 2009 meeting of the international Theoretical Archaeology Group will be held at Stanford Archaeology Center, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, USA.

The intention of this TAG conference is to provide a forum for the diverse and interesting theoretical perspectives that exist in the United States, and to bring together both Classical and anthropological archaeology. TAG is centered around a plenary session in which a handful of scholars will comment on this year's theme, "The Future of Things". Deadline for session abstracts is 15.11.08 and for papers 15.2.09. For more information contact the organisational committee , email TAG2009@stanford.edu, web archaeology.stanford.edu/TAG2009. The cost is £tba.

Romans and the Romanesque in Lincoln and Lincolnshire

25th – 27th September 2009

This year's Society for Church Archaeology (SCA) conference offers a fascinating insight into the development of the church in Lincoln, looking at evidence for Roman Christianity in the city, and it's flourishing between the 7th and 13th centuries. The conference is privileged to welcome a number of established scholars who will be reviewing recent work and offers a series of guided tours to further illustrate the themes.

Dr Mick Jones will deliver an opening address on the Friday evening, presenting the evidence

for Christianity in the Roman city and discussing controversial excavations at St Paul in the Bail. On Saturday David Stocker and Paul Everson will report on recent unpublished work suggesting possible links between the 7th century and the Normans in the landscape-setting of the city. As part of the Saturday programme delegates will be able to visit the inaccessible upper western chambers of this intriguing building, and Prof. Philip Dixon and David Taylor will present results from recently-completed survey work, offering some preliminary interpretations in advance of publication.

On Sunday there will be an opportunity to tour several notable churches and monastic settings in the area including the well-preserved late 11th and early 12th century church at Marton; the 11th century Minster at Stow; the fine 12th century sculpture at Middle Rasen; recently discovered late 12th century monastic material at Scothern; and the little known monastic remains at South Kyme, which include a fine Romanesque doorway and Anglo-Saxon shrine fragments.

The conference will be held in the magnificent long-gallery of the newly re-furnished Edward King House, sitting amongst the medieval Bishop's Palace ruins, with the cathedral towering above to the north and with spectacular views across the city to the south.

Conference details are still being finalised, including costs. Places will be limited. For more information contact the Society at c/o CBA: churcharchaeology@googlemail.com, web www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol/. The cost is £tba.

Interpreting Finds from Glasshouse Excavations & AGM Saturday 7th November 2009.

Study Day to be held at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre

(LAARC) Mortimer Wheeler House, Hackney, London

This study day will provide an opportunity to examine and discuss finds from Roman and Post-medieval glasshouse sites in London.

If you would like to attend, please send your full contact details and a cheque for £25.00 (non members), £20 (AHG members), or £10.00 (students – proof required) payable to The Association for the History of Glass Ltd to: Colin Brain, 10. College St, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3AL. Receipt by email or with an SAE. Participants who normally live outside the UK may pay upon arrival at the venue in UK sterling). Members wishing to attend the AGM only may do so free of charge.

Don't forget to check out regular course and conference details on the Council For British Archaeology website:

NEW! - Field Studies Council

Three short courses are available within archaeology:

- The Archaeology of Dartmoor and the Tamar Valley 31.7.09–7.8.09. Held at the [Shapton Ley](#) Centre (South Devon) by Owen Thompson. Open to all. Cost £300 non-residential, £475 with single room and £405 shared room.
- Celts, Romans and Reivers: The Archaeology of Cumbria a Frontier County 17.8.09–21.8.09 Held at [Blencathra](#) (Lake District) by Andrew Hoaen. Level 2 course. Cost £225 non-residential, £325 with single room and £285 shared room
- Exploring the Historic Landscape of the Yorkshire Dales 24.8.09–28.8.09 Held at [Malham Tarn](#) (Yorkshire Dales) by David Johnson. Open to all. Cost £300 non-residential, £440 with single room and £400 shared room.

For further information, contact [Owen Thompson](#), Field Studies Council, Head Office, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1HW, tel 0845 3454071 or 01743 852100, fax 01743 852101, email enquiries@field-studies-council.org, web www.field-studies-council.org/2009/historyandarchaeology/archaeology.aspx.

NEW! – Exhibitions

Guildhall Art Gallery: Roman collection.

In December, The Museum of London Archaeology, with the City of London, launched London Roman Amphitheatre, the publication of excavations under Guildhall Yard in 1985. Of the many recent excavations in London, this is one of the more remarkable, both for the discovery and description of a key structure of the Roman city, and for the conservation and display of the remains, which seem to have risen from the depths to become part of the contemporary world. In 1885 the site became the [Guildhall Art Gallery](#), which was destroyed in the 1941 blitz, then replaced and reopened in 1999. During the new construction, the amphitheatre eastern entrance, arena palisade, seating bank and drains were uncovered; founded around AD74, the amphitheatre was rebuilt 50 years later in masonry but was largely demolished by the mid-fourth century. Now, alongside the collection of British painting and sculpture, excavated artefacts are on permanent display, including jewellery, ceramics and this bone hairpin decorated with the head of Minerva.

Roman exhibition at Northwich

A FASCINATING exhibition on the Romans will be on display at the Salt Museum in Northwich from January 16-March 29.

Visitors will be able to examine carved stones, figurines depicting Roman gods, coins, brooches and an array of other genuine artefacts. These images of ancient people are brought together for the very first time in a special exhibition supported by Renaissance, a national scheme to transform England's regional museums.

For more information call 01606 271640 or email cheshiremuseums@cheshire.gov.uk.