

LUCERNA

ISSUE 54 • JANUARY 2018



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP



LUCERNA: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP

ISSUE 54, JANUARY 2018

Editorial

As 2018 gets underway and the Roman Finds Group moves past its landmark 30th birthday, so comes the 54th edition of *Lucerna*. This edition, like the 53 before it, is packed with all the information that new and existing members need to know going forward in the 'News and Notices' section, which includes the complete schedule of the next RFG Spring Conference entitled 'Rediscovering Richborough' that will this time take place at Kent University in Canterbury on the 24th and 25th March 2018. The 'News and Notices' section also has all important details about how you can apply for the latest RFG Grants and how you can submit a datasheet or an article, or your mystery objects or ongoing research, to *Lucerna* if you wish to do so.

The rest of Issue 54 comprises an article by Gil Burleigh who expands upon his appearance at the RFG Spring Conference at Verulamium last year and discusses several finds from sacred places in the landscape around Romano-British Baldock. We also look back at the most recent Autumn Conference that celebrated 30 years of the Roman Finds Group which took place at Salisbury Museum this past September. And of course, be sure to take a look at all the recent publications, conferences and events listed nearer the back under each of the relevant sections.

Other than that, all of us here at the Roman Finds Group would just like to wish all of our members a belated happy New Year and thank you all for your continued support and contributions that keep the group going. We very much look forward to working closely with you all in the future to ensure that the next 30 years are just as good as the last.

See you all in Canterbury!

Matthew Fittock
Lucerna Editor

Emily Blanchard
Assistant Editor
e.j.blanchard@pgr.reading.ac.uk

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| RFG News and Notices | 2 |
| Finds from Sacred Places in the Landscape around Romano-British Baldock <i>Gil Burleigh</i> | 5 |
| The Roman Finds Group Autumn Conference, Salisbury | 13 |
| Mystery Objects <i>Piercebridge, County Durham</i> | 19 |
| Letters and Notices | 21 |
| Recent Publications | 21 |
| Conferences and Events | 22 |

The Roman Finds Group Committee

The Roman Finds Group Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 21st April 2017 at Verulamium Museum, St. Albans, where the existing Committee was re-elected for the following year. A list of the current Committee is provided below. Elections will take place again at the upcoming Spring Conference at Richborough on the 25th March 2018.

Chairman: Justine Bayley
mail@justine-bayley.co.uk

Treasurer: Jenny Hall
jenny.m.hall@hotmail.com

Minutes Secretary: Evan Chapman
Evan.Chapman@museumwales.ac.uk

Membership Secretary: Angela Wardle
awardle@waitrose.com

Communications Secretary (and Website Manager):
Nicola Hembrey
nichembrey@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings Co-ordinator: Stephen Greep
sjgreep@gmail.com

Lucerna Editor: Matthew Fittock
matthewfittock@googlemail.com

Datasheet Editor: Gill Dunn
gill.dunn@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Committee Members:

Jörn Schuster - j.schuster@smallfinds.org.uk
Sally Worrell - s.worrell@ucl.ac.uk
Barbara Birley - barbarabirley@vindolanda.com

Front cover image: Part of a Roman enamelled copper-alloy tiered stand from Clacketts Field, Middle Farm, Hinxworth, Herts. See pp. 5-12.

Subscriptions Now Due!

It's subscription time again. Just a quick reminder that the cost of RFG membership is £12 for a single subscription or £15 for two people at the same address. Thank you to the many members who have already paid for 2018, by Standing Order, by direct bank transfer or by cheque. Angela Wardle (awardle@waitrose.com) is happy to receive cheques at 1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2JB, and can supply bank details if you would like to pay by another method.

Membership Benefits

The objectives of the RFG are to promote the study, research, publication, teaching and conservation of the material culture of Roman Britain. Membership of the RFG will entitle individuals to:

- Two copies of our Newsletter, *Lucerna*, each year.
- Access to our Roman finds datasheets.
- Full access to the website (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk) and twitter feeds, including the members only section which includes access to recent copies of *Lucerna*. The website has been developed to include access to *Lucerna* and Datasheets and to include finds catalogues and other finds-related works which are currently out-of-print as pdfs.
- Reduced fees to our twice-yearly meetings, held in the spring (typically a two day meeting) and autumn of each year.
- Free/reduced entrance to major finds-related exhibitions, where this can be negotiated.
- Discounts on finds-related books, or pre-publication offers, where these can be negotiated.
- Access to small grants to help with small finds research. These grants are available to individual, fully paid-up, members and will be awarded for applications seeking to support our objectives e.g. publication drawings and maps or travel to museums for object research. Special consideration is given to articles offered to *Lucerna*. £1,000 is available each year (reviewable). Details on how to apply are on our website (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk).
- Access, through the website, to educational films promoting the importance of finds research. Specialists talk about identifying different materials and objects in a series of films that might ultimately be themed around the chapters of *Artefacts in Roman Britain* or Nina Crummy's object categories.
- Group payment for individual RFG members to *Instrumentum*, the European bi-annual magazine. Join through RFG to receive four years' worth of *Instrumentum* membership for three years payment. In addition the RFG will absorb the conversion fee in a bulk payment on your behalf. The cost for *Instrumentum* membership is currently 90 Euros for 4 years. Members will be notified by email, in *Lucerna* and on the website when the next renewal is due.
- Help us increase the Romano-British presence

amongst a wider European small finds community e.g. by the provision of extra entries and links to objects in the *Instrumentum/Artefacts* website.

Follow the Roman Finds Group Online

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/romanfindsgrp>)

Our Roman Finds Group Twitter feed continues to go from strength to strength. We regularly post photographs, news items and links that may interest people with a passion for Roman objects, as well as sharing up-to-date information on the group. We post live-tweets from our conferences under the hashtags #rfg2018 #rfg2017 #rfg2016 etc., so that people from across the world can attend 'virtually'. We recently welcomed our 2078th follower! Do join us! @RomanFindsGrp.

Website (www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk)

All of our tweets also appear in a scrolling feed on every page of our recently-revamped website www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk, which contains more information, as well as some beautiful images. Our new website is now fully operational and has been designed to work well on mobile phones, tablets and on desktop browsers. All Members of the Roman Finds Group may log into the new website and view extra resources that are exclusive to Members of RFG. These include the latest four editions of *Lucerna*, the collection of Roman Finds Group Datasheets, and a link to allow Members to download a facsimile of Manning's 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, a cornerstone of Roman small finds study, and now out of print. As Jenny Hall wrote in *Lucerna* 48, we have ambitions for this to become the central source for Roman finds; we are working to scan and host out-of-print finds catalogues, and to compile and maintain a detailed bibliography. Watch this space too for news on our forthcoming programme of short films on Roman finds!

Nicola Hembrey, RFG Communications Secretary

RFG Grants

A series of small grants are available from the Roman Finds Group to all fully paid-up members. The annual grant cycle will run from January 1st. Applications may be made at any time, but they will be reviewed and assessed on 1st April, 1st September and 1st December. The RFG has a target annual grant fund of £1,000, although this will be reviewed each year in light of available funds and demand.

Grants will be awarded against any area of the Group's objectives (to promote the study, research, publication, teaching and conservation of the material culture of Roman Britain) but applications must be very clear as to which of these objectives are being applied.

There is no specific application form, but the following details are essential:

- Name, address and institution (where applicable) including email address.

- Date of application – we will normally provide assessments and awards of applications within a six week period.

- Amount requested, other grants applied for and total amount of project. It will not be normal for RFG to fund an individual project to 100%.

- Details of the project and how it will meet the objectives of the Roman Finds Group.

- If it is a project leading to a publication, where is the intended publication? Priority will be given to contributions for *Lucerna*.

- Confirmation of RFG membership and year of joining (will be checked!).

- A short citation from at least one referee (who does not need to be a member of RFG).

All applications will be evaluated by a sub-group of three members of the RFG Committee. The committee reserves the right to seek further referee opinion and further information where it feels appropriate. The decision of the grant application 'subcommittee' (Stephen Greep, Nicola Hembrey and Sally Worrell) will be final.

Applications should be sent to the chairman of the grants sub-group, Stephen Greep (sjgreep@gmail.com).

Grants Awarded in 2017

During the course of 2017 two grants have been made – both for £250. One grant was awarded to Richard Henry towards illustration costs of a hoard of Roman vessels, an Irchester bowl and a decorated lead coffin. Richard (and colleagues) gave a pre-lecture on some of this material at the Salisbury Conference. The other grant was awarded to Tatiana Ivleva towards the cost of drawings for her glass bangle typology. Tatiana also spoke on this subject at the Salisbury Conference.

The next assessment date for grants is 1st April 2018 (after the AGM at Canterbury).

Stephen Greep, Chair RFG Grants committee

RFG Datasheets

A plea to all members to share their expertise and knowledge and contribute a datasheet (or two)! It could be on a particular find type, an industry or an update for ongoing research. They are a valuable resource to students, people just starting off in their finds careers and curators alike.

Gill Dunn is co-ordinating this so please contact her at the address below if you are interested in writing a datasheet.

Gill Dunn, Publications Co-ordinator
Grosvenor Museum
27 Grosvenor Street
Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2DD
gill.dunn@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Notes for Contributors

Contributions to *Lucerna* from members and non-members are always welcome. Whether you're an undergraduate or graduate student, seasoned academic or hobbyist, the Roman Finds Group is keen to publish new and continuing research on Roman material culture to help inform others of ongoing work and forge valuable links between fellow members with skills, knowledge and expertise in the same field. As well as fuller research articles, we would be particularly interested to hear about any old or new discoveries anyone is happy to share, as well as any mystery objects that need identifying. On the other hand, perhaps you're part way through your research and looking for a way to present some preliminary results or a short summary outlining your ongoing studies? Whatever the case, please don't hesitate - we would be delighted to hear from you!

If you wish to participate, all contributions should be sent as attachments via e-mail to Matthew Fittock (*Lucerna* Editor) at matthewfittock@googlemail.com. Submissions must be word-processed on Microsoft Word or an equivalent. The main article should include text only, with the paper title and author's name at the beginning and a full bibliography followed by contact details at the end, with no images but full reference to figures. The document should be single spaced with a full return in between each paragraph. All images should be provided as individual TIFF files at a minimum of 300 dpi, and all line-art as individual TIFF files at 1200 dpi, with captions in a separate document. Images in colour will appear in black and white in print and colour online. Tables must also be provided in a separate Microsoft Excel file with appropriate captions. There is no strict word limit but longer articles should be no more than 5000 words, excluding the bibliography. Submissions can be made at any time during the year: no later than the end of November for a January release and the end of June for the July edition, but please contact the editor in advance if you wish to discuss scheduling.

Matthew Fittock, Lucerna Editor

The Roman Finds Group Spring Conference 2018

Rediscovering Richborough
24th-25th March
Kent University, Canterbury

This coming spring the Roman Finds Group meeting will tie in with a large project on the small finds from the 1920-30s excavations at Richborough. It will be a two day conference from lunchtime on Saturday 24th March until late afternoon on Sunday 25th March and is to be held at Kent University. The meeting is being organised by Philip Smither and the curatorial team from English Heritage, based at Dover Castle.

There are five sessions, with 13 talks on various aspects of the Richborough collection, Roman Kent and beyond. There will also be a special session with objects from the site to discuss the various finds groups from the site.

Please note numbers will be restricted so you are advised to book early. The cost of the meeting is the same as past meetings: £40 for full paid up RFG members, £30



for students, £48 for non-members and a £25 day rate (students £20).

What's included?

Access to all conference sessions, finds and poster viewings.

Teas and coffees as in the programme.

The chance to view finds and archives from the Richborough collection

Drinks reception.

Poster displays/book sales: There will be space for a view posters and the sale of books if this is of interest to anyone. Please contact Philip Smither for poster submissions and book offers/sales.

Getting to Kent University (Canterbury Campus): There are two stations in Canterbury (East and West). There are bus stops close to both stations and can be found on the map. There are three buses to the campus from town: UNI 1, UNI 2 and No. 4. These all stop at the main bus station outside the conference venue. From here the short 2 minute walk to the venue will be signposted.

Evening Reception, 5:10pm: At the end of the first day there will be a small reception downstairs from the conference room including nibbles, wine and soft drinks. There is no charge for the event, but you must indicate on your application form that you are going to attend so we can cater for everyone.

Saturday evening conference meal, 7pm: We have arranged a meal at Wildwood (Italian) which is close to the main bus station in town. We have reserved seats and there should be room for everyone. You will have to pre-order (via RFG) but pay on the night. The cost is £25 which includes a three-course meal, some wine, soft drinks and a small gratuity. You will be required to pre-order, but there will be a good selection of meals.

Accommodation: There is unfortunately no accommodation at the time of the conference on campus. However, there is a Premier Inn and a Travelodge a short walk from the bus station in town. There are also a number of hotels close to Canterbury West station and in the centre of town.

This information, as well as the booking form for the event, is available on the Roman Finds Group website.

Day One - Saturday 24th March 2018

12.20 Registration (with tea and coffee)

12.50 Welcome - Philip Smither

Session One - Richborough: accessus Britannia

13.00 Richborough finds - Introducing the collection – Jo Gray (Curator, English Heritage)

13.30 Richborough Past and Present - What do we know so far? – Philip Smither (PhD Student, English Heritage and University of Kent)

14.00 Recent work at Richborough - Tony Wilmott (Senior Archaeologist, Historic England)

14.30 Tea, coffee, and biscuits

Session Two - Finds from Richborough

15.00 Session Welcome

15.10 The Brooches from Richborough – Justine Bayley (Chairman, Roman Finds Group)

15.40 The Richborough worked bone and antler assemblage and its place in the study of similar finds from Roman Britain – Stephen Greep (Roman Finds Group)

16.10 Keynote Presentation - From Lindenschmit to Fischer: the Long March of Roman Military Equipment – Mike Bishop (Writer, Publisher and Archaeologist)

17.10 RFG Conference Reception at the K-Bar (UKC Campus)

20.00 Conference evening meal - Wildwood Restaurant, 2-3 St Peters Street, Canterbury CT1 2AT (<https://wildwoodrestaurants.co.uk/>).

Day Two - Sunday 25th March 2018

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome

Session Three - Richborough Finds Viewing

10.10 The Mystery of Pit 20: A votive deposition? – Philip Smither (PhD Student, English Heritage / University of Kent) and Roly Cobbett (Collections Volunteer, English Heritage)

10.30 Richborough finds viewing tables An open session to view and discuss the different groups of objects from the collection

11.15 Tea, coffee and biscuits and RFG AGM

Session Four - The Landscape of Roman Kent

11:45 Session Welcome

11:55 Memory and Landscape in Roman East Kent – Lacey Wallace (Senior Lecturer, University of Lincoln)

12.05 Milling and Grain Processing in Roman Kent – Ruth Shaffrey (Post-Excavation Specialist, Oxford Archaeology) and Elizabeth Blanning

12:25 PAS and Roman Kent Kent – Caroline Farquhar

12:45 Lunch

Session Five : Cross Channel Connections

14.00 Session Welcome

14.10 Cross Chanel Connections: Finds from the shore fort at Roman Oudenburg – Sofie Vanhoutte (PhD Student, University of Kent)

14.25 Displaying Identity: Object display in British and Continental museums – Karl Goodwin (PhD Student, University of Kent)

14:45 Exploring the Post-Roman to Early Anglo-Saxon Transition in SE Britain: New Perspectives from Quoit Brooch Style Metalwork – Ellen Swift (Senior Lecturer, University of Kent)

15.00 Summary Talk - The Way Forward for the Richborough Collection - Philip Smither (PhD Student, English Heritage / University of Kent)

15:20 Closing remarks : Justine Bayley, Chairman RFG

Finds from Sacred Places in the Landscape around Romano-British Baldock

Gil Burleigh

Introduction

The theme of this article was presented to the Roman Finds Group conference in Verulamium Museum on 21st April 2017. Its subject is a further development of papers published, or to be published, from presentations to *Fontes Epigraphici Religionum Celticarum Antiquarum* (FERCAN), Roman Archaeology (RAC) and Welwyn Archaeological Society conferences in 2006, 2010, 2012 and 2014 (Burleigh 2008, 2015, forthcoming a and b). In these papers I have proposed that a civitas territory may be defined around the Iron Age and Romano-British town of Baldock by the positions of sacred places, both at its limits and within it, including temples, shrines, multiple dykes, elite burials, landscape features (particularly springs, rivers and dry valleys), and the deposition of coin and metalwork hoards, creating a social and religious space.

The temples, shrines, coin hoards and Senuna's treasure hoard at Ashwell and Hinxworth help to mark the northern limit of this territory. Likewise, the Barkway Roman temple (its possible location identified here for the first time) and treasure hoard, enclosed by its temenos, visible on aerial photographs (Jackson & Burleigh in press), helps to mark the eastern boundary; and the Pegsdon Iron Age mirror burial and Roman gold

coin hoard the western boundary (Curteis & Burleigh 2002, 65-74; Burleigh & Megaw 2007, 109-40; Burleigh & Megaw 2011, 57). This article will concentrate on a few pertinent finds recorded from a selection of sacred sites within this proposed civitas. The importance of landscapes is highlighted by the illustration here of an aerial photograph of the Chilterns escarpment at Pegsdon on the Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire border (Fig. 1).

A sacred landscape may be defined around Baldock by the presence not only of temples, shrines, elite burials, hoards, and boundary dykes, but also of natural features, such as springs, rivers and dry valleys, some of which appear to be associated with cultic activities. This article defines the area being examined, outlines what we know about some of these monuments and natural features, and shows examples of a range of finds that have come from them. Notable aspects of these sacred places and the rituals associated with them seems to be continuity from earlier periods, the veneration of prehistoric monuments and artefacts, perhaps connected with ancestor worship.

Nature was important to Prehistoric and Romano-British peoples – animal, vegetable and mineral; natural phenomena: sun, moon, stars, water, earth,



Fig. 1. View looking SW along the Chiltern Hills escarpment. The Pegsdon settlement is in the fields centre right. Knocking Knoll long barrow can be seen centre left and the prominent natural feature Knocking Hoe in between, overlooking the mouth of a dry valley. Photo: Gil Burleigh copyright.



wind, fire, weather. This is evidenced by sacred places – springs, streams, valleys, hills; sacred animals, trees and plants; stones, metals, etc. As seen in the locations of temples, shrines, burials, and boundaries; votive finds, ritual feasting, and a range of deities worshipped by the cults. European Iron Age peoples were animists. They believed that the natural world, animals and landscape features were divine and possessed spirits. It is probable that these beliefs were prevalent throughout prehistory and continued into the Romano-British period and beyond. Not only were animal representations used as votive offerings because of their symbolism, but also because, simultaneously, the votaries were worshipping the animals themselves and their spirits (Green 1992, 1995).

Pegsdon, Shillington, Bedfordshire

A site with religious and burial evidence of major significance is at Pegsdon Common Farm, in the parish of Shillington, Bedfordshire. The site is situated approximately 11.5km west of Baldock. It may mark the westernmost edge of Baldock's territory. It is most likely a religious sanctuary settlement around two streams, on the spring-line at the foot of the Chiltern Hills escarpment and at the mouth of a dry valley, overlooked by a Neolithic long barrow and a Bronze Age round barrow, covering an area of about one square kilometre. This site is discussed in detail elsewhere (Burleigh 2007, 2008, 2015 and forthcoming b).

Here, I illustrate a couple of objects from amongst hundreds, mostly Roman coins, found by metal detectorists at the site. These two objects, along with many others, are possible votive offerings and certainly have religious connotations. The first is an unusual copper-alloy lyre-shaped strap-mount, probably a harness fitting, with three possible sun or moon disks standing proud on the frame. Each has three concentric grooves, probably originally filled with enamel, coral, glass or other coloured material. On the reverse there are two rectangular loops to pass a strap through, one at each end, both with two lateral grooves for decoration, and three prongs forming a triangle, presumably to enable the mount to stand proud of its strap. It probably dates from the 1st century BC or 1st century AD (North Hertfordshire Museums (NHM) Enquiry No. 1887 (1999); Fig. 2). It may be compared with two similar lyre-

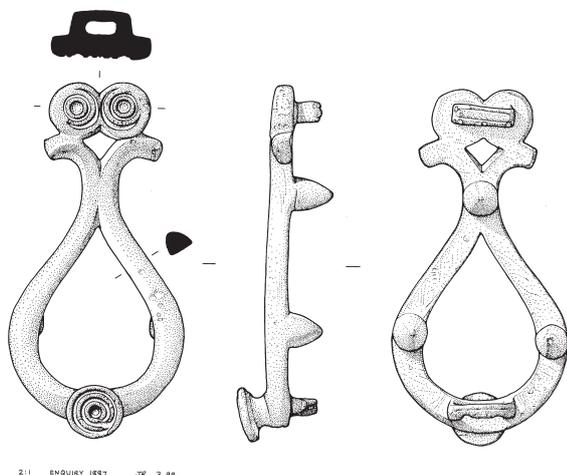


Fig. 2. Copper-alloy lyre-shaped strap-mount from Pegsdon, Beds. 1st century BC/1st century AD. Scale: 2:1. Drawing: Jane Read. Copyright: North Hertfordshire Museum.

shaped strap-mounts, one from Rainsborough Iron Age hillfort, Northants. (Fox 1958, 87-8, 121, pl. 66c & fig. 53); the other from Dragonby Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, Lincs. (May 1996, vol. 1, 278-9, fig. 11.26, no. 83).

The second object from Pegsdon is an unusual enamelled copper-alloy plate-brooch, perhaps 2nd century AD in date, decorated with red and blue enamel infill on the plate. The head of the brooch holding the hinge is decorated with three double concentric rings, maybe stylised suns or moons. The foot is in a form which looks remarkably like a feathered owl bearing a curious crest. The owl's large, circular, deeply incised eyes no doubt would have been infilled with enamel or other coloured material, now missing. I believe no British or European owl naturally has such a crest. An owl was a companion of Minerva, denoting her wisdom, and maybe on this brooch the owl's crest represents the crest often seen on the goddess's helmet (NHM Enq. No. 2308 (1999); Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Enamelled copper-alloy plate-brooch with owl at foot-end from Pegsdon. 2nd century AD.

A comparable brooch with matching crested owls (identified merely as 'zoomorphic' by the excavators) at the head and foot was found in the excavations at Harlow Roman temple (France & Gobel 1985, 74, fig. 41, no. 80). Another comparable 2nd century AD equal-ended plate-brooch with matching crested owls (identified in the report simply as bird's heads without mentioning the crests) was found during excavations in 1850 at Farley Heath Roman temple, Albury, Surrey (Bird in Poulton 2007, 42 & 45, fig. 15, no. 42). Yet another comes from Colchester, in this case displaying a single crested bird (?owl), as on the Pegsdon example (Crummy 1983, 15, fig. 12, no. 71). There are other examples known, although not previously identified as bearing crested owls. An unprovenanced example is a well-preserved equal-ended brooch which clearly shows two crested owls, but which are referred to only as 'zoomorphic' (Mills 2000, 32, pl. M65). In most

examples, the owl lugs are too worn or broken for them to have been identified as owls without having first seen a well-preserved example, like that from Pegsdon.

Wellbury, Offley, Hertfordshire

A probable shrine at a springhead in the mouth of a dry valley on the Chiltern Hills escarpment, 10.5km south-west of Baldock and 2.5km south-east of Pegsdon. Finds by metal detectorists include some Iron Age coins, notably a silver uninscribed stater, the obverse of which depicts a man's head wearing a helmet with a large beaked raven for a crest; many Roman coins; and Roman personal dress items, especially brooches. Here, I illustrate only another plate-brooch with a crested owl lug at the foot, similar to that from the Pegsdon site, although more worn (NHM Enq. No. 1316 (1996); Fig.4). It may originally have been equal-ended with a matching crested owl at the head also. There are earlier Prehistoric artefacts from the site too, including a Mesolithic axe-head.



Fig. 4. Enamelled copper-alloy equal-ended plate-brooch with owl at foot end from Wellbury, Offley, Herts. 2nd century AD.

Mill Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire

The site lies in a field on the east side of a stream on a west facing hill-slope, between the 55m and 70m OD contours, sandwiched between the Hambridge Way and Icknield Way path, both branches of the ancient Icknield Belt routeway, and the connecting Mill Way (TL161313), 8.5 kms west of Baldock. The site comprises a number of rectangular ditched enclosures (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) 10047). In 1992, 1995, 1998, 1999 and 2000 three metal detectorists reported finding at least 233 Roman and 3 Iron Age coins from the site for recording by North Hertfordshire Museums (Enquiry nos. 1240, 1241, 1248, 1302, 1308, 1309, 1312, 1873, 1874, 2082 and 2302). They included an uninscribed gold stater (45-40 BC), a copper-alloy coin of Taciovanus (15-10BC), a copper



Fig. 5. Copper-alloy Roman votive model axe from Mill Way, Pirton, Herts.

alloy coin of Dias (AD 1-10), 1 of Vespasian (AD 69-79), 29 2nd century, 117 3rd century and 64 4th century coins, the latest issues of the House of Valentinian (AD 364-78), and a silver siliqua of Honorius (AD 393-5). Other finds included two Early Bronze Age flint barbed-and-tanged arrowheads; two copper-alloy Roman votive miniature axes (Fig. 5); two copper-alloy 2nd century AD brooches, one an enamelled running hare plate-brooch (Fig. 6), hares being associated with speed and hunting deities (Green 1992); one 4th century AD Roman brooch; a 3rd century AD Roman copper-alloy finger-ring; one silver and one copper-alloy hair pin; a silver dress fitting decorated with a Roman military helmet and batons; a Roman copper-alloy seal-box lid; an Iron Age or Roman pierced annular translucent blue glass bead; and Roman pottery. A similar enamelled running hare brooch, although not in such good condition, was found in Baileys Field, Bluegates Farm, Ashwell End in 2005 (see below). The finds suggest a probable religious settlement, perhaps a rural shrine or temple.



Fig. 6. Enamelled copper-alloy running hare plate-brooch from Mill Way, Pirton. 2nd century AD.

Oughton Head, Hitchin, Hertfordshire

About 1.5kms south-west of Mill Way, Pirton, 3km south-east of the Pegsdon sanctuary settlement and 8.5km west of Baldock, on the parish boundary with Pirton, lies the source of the river Oughton, whose waters eventually flow into the Bedfordshire Ouse to the north via the rivers Hiz and Ivel. At the spring-head and from an area of many hectares to its south, a large number, certainly hundreds, possibly thousands, of Roman coins have been found by metal detecting treasure hunters over the last forty years, although most have not been archaeologically recorded. According to responsible metal detectorists who have reported their finds, the coins are predominantly small denomination 3rd or 4th century AD types, although there are earlier examples, including some from the 1st century AD. In addition to some metal personal dress items, such as brooches, and a fragment of a copper-alloy finger ring, the bezel of which displays a double-pelta or double-axehead motif infilled with decayed enamel (NHM Enq. No. 1882 (1999); Fig.7), not dissimilar to the two found at the Ashwell End cult site, there have been few other Roman artefacts found apart from a complete copper-alloy spoon from near the springhead, and a general scatter of abraded potsherds.



Fig. 7. Copper-alloy Roman finger-ring with enamelled double-pelta motif on bezel from Oughton Head, Hitchin, Herts.

In 1991, a detectorist uncovered two small copper-alloy figurines from the bank at the spring source. One is a worn mount in the form of a bust of Minerva wearing a crested helmet (Fig.8), which side-on looks possibly zoomorphic; the other is a mount in the form of a male head —possibly a Satyr or a character from Roman Comedy — similar to the pipe-clay example found at the Ashwell End site (see below). The finds suggest that there was a shrine or temple here in the Roman period. Close by, a handful of Iron Age coins, including a silver uninscribed unit of Addedomaros, and a tightly twisted copper-alloy torc, indicate that it may have had a pre-Roman antecedent. Many flint artefacts of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages have been collected from around the springhead, as well as a Late Bronze Age (LBA) socketed axe-head and LBA socketed gouge. Early and Middle Saxon brooches and coins have been found also near the springhead and along the south bank of the river.

A Hertfordshire County Council aerial photograph taken in May 1973 reveals the faint outline of a sub-



Fig. 8. Roman copper-alloy Minerva bust mount from Oughton Head, Hitchin. Photo: David Stuckey copyright.

circular post-hole structure, c. 30–40m in diameter, on the south bank of the springhead which may be a later Prehistoric or Romano-British open-air shrine. Interestingly, to the west it is not far from a multiple-ditched dyke that approaches Punch's Cross, Pirton, from the south-west and bisects the line of the Icknield Way, here running on the north side of the river. The dyke may define the boundary of the Late Iron Age Baldock oppidum (Bryant 1995, 23, fig.3; Bryant & Burleigh 1995, 93; Burleigh 1995, 103-12), at least in one phase.

In 2016, a dog-walker found a Roman miniature votive iron hammer beside what is probably an ancient lane running east from the springhead, about a kilometre away. It is thought that the settlement, as attested by the distribution of finds, extends over an area of about a square kilometre on the south side of the springhead and river, its limits defined perhaps by the Late Iron Age and Romano-British cemetery at Foxholes on the south-west side of Hitchin, and by the Five Berry Hills, five prehistoric burial mounds at Pirton Cross, west of Hitchin, which have secondary inhumations of unknown date around them. The nature of the evidence to date from this settlement suggests that it may have been a cult sanctuary.

Lammas Field, Weston, Hertfordshire

Three kilometres south of Baldock, at Weston, lies a probable temple site. It lies on the route of a known Roman road heading from Baldock in the direction of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Braughing (Partridge 1981, 25-31), close by a spring-line. Metal detected finds include many Roman and some Iron Age coins, including a gold stater of Cunobelin, several Roman brooches, a 4th century gold finger-ring (Fig.9), and a fragment of a gold bangle. The material provides a date range from the 1st century BC to the 4th century AD. An archaeological field survey in 1990



Fig. 9. Gold finger-ring with missing setting from Lammas field, Weston, Herts. 4th century AD.

plotted large quantities of Romano-British pottery, tesserae, roof and floor tiles. When planned, the resulting distributions and concentrations indicated the location of a major range of buildings. The types of finds, including probable votive objects, may suggest the site of a rural temple (Burleigh & Stevenson 2000, 19).

Hinxworth, Hertfordshire

Two probable temples, by a confluence of streams at the foot of the Chiltern Hills escarpment, may be related to the Ashwell End sanctuary complex (below). They are 1km south-west of Ashwell End and 5.5 km north of Baldock. This site is discussed in detail elsewhere (Burleigh 2007, 2008, 2015 and forthcoming b; Jackson & Burleigh 2009, 63-7; Jackson & Burleigh in press). Here I simply illustrate an enamelled segment of

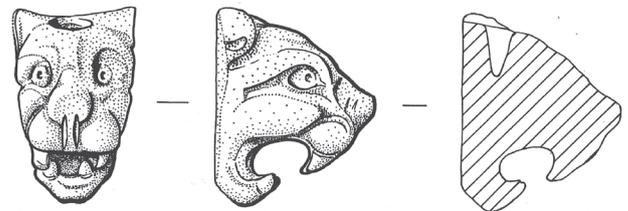


Fig. 10. Part of a Roman enamelled copper-alloy tiered stand from Clacketts Field, Middle Farm, Hinxworth, Herts.

a tiered miniature stand, a type sometimes thought to be model Roman altars (NHM Enq. No. 1694 (1998); Fig. 10), from amongst hundreds of objects, mostly Roman coins, found by metal detectorists at the site. The stand was found in Clacketts Field, Middle Farm.

Ashwell End

This site lies 6kms north of Baldock. It seems to be a religious sanctuary settlement and had a temple treasure hoard, on display in the British Museum, buried at a ritual feasting place near probable temples, located between three streams. The settlement is about 1km north-south and a maximum of about 250m wide. Where the river Rhee from Ashwell Springs merges with the stream from Hinxworth at the north end of the settlement, a late 2nd century AD Roman coin hoard and many probable votive objects have been found. This site is discussed in detail elsewhere (Jackson 2003; Burleigh 2007, 2008, 2015 and forthcoming b; Jackson & Burleigh in press). Here, I illustrate two objects from amongst thousands, mostly coins, discovered by metal detectorists at the site. The first is the head of a snarling panther (NHM Enq. No. 2335 (2000); Fig. 11); the



ENR. 2335

Fig. 11. Roman copper-alloy panther head mount from Bluegates Paddock, Ashwell End, Herts. Scale: 1.5: 1.

Drawing: Garth Denning. Copyright: North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society.

second, a duck brooch (Verulamium Museum Enq. No. 05-3/72 (2005); Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) No. BH-12BA82; Fig.12). Panthers may have been associated with aggression, courage, ferocity, hunting, power, stamina and strength; ducks with linking the elements of air and water, thus having a spirituality, perhaps representing the souls of the dead and the ancestral spirits (Green 1992).

The copper-alloy panther head, found in Bluegates Paddock, is very well moulded and cast with features such as the eyes, nose, ears, teeth and muscles of the open jaw very convincingly modelled. A hole in the top of the head shows traces of white corrosion, indicating that the head is filled with lead or lead-alloy. This fact is confirmed by the object's weight, 63.41 grams. The back of the head is flat, as if it was mounted against another material or part for display. The style and quality of this panther head compares well with the silver tigress vessel handle from the Hoxne treasure hoard, although it is not as fine an object (Johns 2010).

The blue enamelled and silver-wire decorated plate brooch in the shape of a swimming duck, found in Great Buttway Field, near the Senuna treasure find-spot and ritual feasting site, is well-described by Julian Watters on the PAS site under the above reference number. Here I'll just add that the ring at the end of

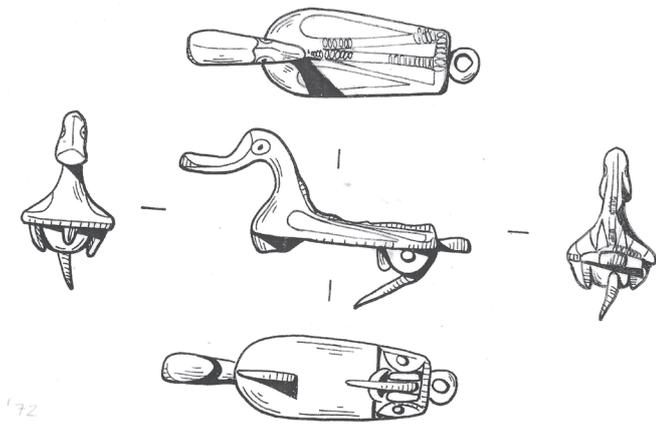


Fig. 12. Enamelled copper-alloy swimming duck plate-brooch from Great Buttway Field, Ashwell End. 2nd century AD. Scale: 2:1. Drawing: David Thorold. Copyright: Verulamium Museum.

the tail, probably serving as a point of attachment for a chain, may indicate that the brooch was originally one of a linked pair. There is a very similar example with blue enamel cells decorating the wings and silvering/tinning on the body, again with an exaggeratedly wide and curved spoon-like bill, and with a ring for a linking chain, from the Pegsdon votive site mentioned above (NHM Enq. No. 2525 (2002)). Perhaps these two brooches were made by the same craftsman and, although unlikely, once formed a linked pair.

Barkway

A Roman temple treasure hoard was discovered in 1743/4 in a small-scale chalk quarry in Rokey Wood, Periwinkle Hill, Barkway (TL 374358; Historic England (HE) Pastscape Monument/Findspot No. 368078). It is the probable site of a temple, although previously authorities have simply concluded that a temple may be somewhere in the vicinity. The site lies at 140m above Ordnance Datum (OD), south of and below a prominent chalk ridge which rises to 151m OD on the Champion Hills, an eastward extension of the Chiltern Hills escarpment, overlooking the Cambridgeshire plain to the north and the dip-slope to the south. An east-west valley bearing a west-flowing stream runs between Periwinkle Hill and the higher chalk ridge to the north, arising from a spring near the medieval parish church of Barkway, about 1 km to the south-east. The site is located about 1.6km east of the north-south Roman Ermine Street and 12.5km east of Baldock, a position that could mark the eastern limit of its civitas territory.

The hoard consisted of decorated and inscribed silver votive plaques, a bronze figurine of Mars and the bronze handle from either a priest's rattle or a libation dish. The leaf-shaped votive plaques bear inscribed dedications to and images of Mars-Toutatis (a Celtic deity with similar powers and attributes to Mars), Mars Alator (the Avenger, another Celtic deity), and the smith-god, Vulcan. This hoard, on display in the British Museum, is described and discussed in detail for the first time by Ralph Jackson in a forthcoming British Museum Research Report (Jackson & Burleigh in press).

Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record has this site noted as a motte and bailey castle following 19th

century county historians, the Ordnance Survey and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) classification (RCHME 1910, 47). This seems an unlikely classification since there appears to be no historical record of there being a castle here and the location is not, at first sight, a good defensive one, it being overlooked by the 10m higher ridge 500m to the north, although there is a small stream valley in between.

If the interpretation of the remains on Periwinkle Hill as a motte and bailey castle is correct, it seems on the small size for such a monument, the bailey measuring about 80m x 70m, and the motte itself may be unfinished, as apparently is the example at Therfield, 4 km to the west (Biddle 1964, 53-91). The grass-marks discussed below do not have the appearance of a motte and bailey castle. If it is a small medieval motte and bailey castle, it may be that it was constructed inside an earlier Romano-British banked and ditched enclosure, in this case perhaps a temple *temenos*, as happened at Great (Much) Wymondley, near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, although there we do not know the purpose of the Romano-British enclosure and the medieval motte was inserted into one corner of it rather than centrally as at Barkway (Seeböhm 1896, 431-3).

Rather, the finding of the Roman temple treasure hoard within the enclosed area suggests the still visible earthworks may be those of a Romano-British temple of unorthodox type and its *temenos* bank and ditch. The surviving earthworks in the grass field to the north of Rokey Wood, known as Periwinkle Hill, now comprise a platform standing about 0.5m high, about 12m across, interpreted as a motte by previous surveyors, the banks of the bailey having apparently been ploughed flat in recent decades, and a 0.5 – 1.0m high east-west bank to the north, perhaps the *temenos* boundary.

Grass-marks visible from the air suggest that the earthworks may be of a possible (non-classical style) temple and its *temenos* ditch. These are best viewed on an aerial photograph of the north side of Rokey Wood, the boundaries of which align with the proposed west and east *temenos* ditches (GoogleEarth 2012, taken 7/1/2009; Fig. 13). I am grateful to Gerry Doherty for bringing this image to my attention. The grass-marks



Fig. 13. Aerial photograph of grass-marks visible on Periwinkle Hill at the north end of Rokey Wood, Barkway. Herts. Copyright: GoogleEarth.

reveal, on the west, a C-shaped ditch with two sides of a square ditched structure linking with it at its south end; a rectangular ditched structure aligned with the square a few metres to the east; and one, maybe two, further square ditched structures to the east again, all enclosed by the possible *temenos* ditch and bank.

The ancient woodland is thought to have been planted in the 17th century; the proposed *temenos* ditch and bank were still visible as upstanding earthworks at that date, as they still are around the wood today, and helped limit the extent of tree planting. My site visit on 18th December 2017 indicated that the existing woodland bank and ditch on the west, south and east sides, if not the north, possibly are the degraded remains of a Roman temple precinct boundary. In places the partially silted ditches are up to 0.5m deep and the banks up to 1.0m high, most noticeably along the south side of the wood, where stretches of the bank are flat-topped rather than rounded, as elsewhere. All these remains require further fieldwork, including surveying and test pitting or trial trenching in order to establish whether they are in fact Romano-British or Medieval. I am preparing a field project to investigate.

Interestingly, the place-name 'Rokey', *Rokeye* in 1287, means 'rook-frequented enclosure', the 'enclosure' perhaps being the area within the *temenos* boundary (Gover *et al* 1938, 173). The name 'Periwinkle Hill' may refer to the finding of numerous periwinkle shells, perhaps the debris from ritual feasting during the Roman period, just as thousands of oyster shells were deposited after Romano-British ritual cult feasts at the Ashwell End site and are visible still on the field surface today (Walters 1921; Toynbee 1964; Burleigh 2008, 189-219; Burleigh 2015, 109-10; Jackson & Burleigh in press).

It is my intention to publish all the above sites, and others related, and their numerous finds in greater detail elsewhere, this article merely serving as a very brief interim.

Meanwhile, readers might like to know that the British Museum Research Report, *Dea Senuna: Treasure, Cult and Ritual at Ashwell, Hertfordshire*, by Ralph Jackson and Gilbert Burleigh, now in press, may be ordered at a discount price in advance of publication from Amazon or Oxbow Bookshops on-line.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the assistance of the following: Garth Denning, Jane Read and David Thorold for their drawings; Jess Laker, Historic England (Listings); Julian Watters, former Finds Liaison Officer for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire; Stephen Dew, Simon Leete and Shane Pyper for reporting their finds from Mill Way, Pirton and from Pegsdon; Terry Favell for reporting his finds from Middle Farm, Hinxworth; Fred Hibberd for reporting his finds from Oughton Head, Hitchin; Alan Meek for reporting his finds from Lammas Field, Weston; Ceara Rea for reporting her find from near Oughton Head; David Stuckey for reporting his finds from Oughton Head, for sending me his photographs of them and allowing me to use them; and the members of North Herts Charity Detector Group, including Harvey Cross, Philip Kirk, Andrew Phillips and Karl Skelton for reporting their finds from Wellbury, Offley and Bluegates Farm, Ashwell End.

Hon. Field Officer
North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society

Bibliography

- Abdy, R.A., Leins, I. & Williams, J. 2002. *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain Volume XI*, Royal Numismatic Society, London.
- Biddle, M. 1964. The excavation of a motte and bailey castle at Therfield, Herts, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 27, 53-91.
- Bird, J. 2007. *Catalogue of Iron Age and Roman artefacts discovered before 1995*, in Poulton, R., 34-68.
- Bryant, S. R. 1995. *The late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age of the north Chilterns*, in Holgate (ed.), 17-27.
- Bryant, S.R. & Burleigh, G.R. 1995. *Late prehistoric dykes of the eastern Chilterns*, in Holgate (ed.), 92-5.
- Burleigh, G.R. 1995. *A late Iron Age oppidum at Baldock, Hertfordshire*, in Holgate (ed.), 103-12.
- Burleigh, G. R. 2007. *Part 2: the Senuna shrine*, in Jackson & Burleigh, 49-54.
- Burleigh, G.R. 2008. Temples, shrines and deities in Iron Age and Romano-British Baldock and its territorium, Hertfordshire, GB, in J. d'Encarnação (ed) *Divindades indígenas em análise — divinities pré-romaines, bilan et perspectives d'une recherche: actas do VII workshop FERCAN, Cascais, 25-27.05.2006*, 189-219, Coimbra.
- Burleigh, G.R. 2015. *Burials, ditches and deities: defining the boundaries of Iron Age and Romano-British Baldock*, in Lockyear (ed.), 89-116.
- Burleigh, G.R. forthcoming a. Cults in and around an Iron Age and Romano-British small town in Hertfordshire – the Baldock and Ashwell area, in R. Häussler & A.C. King (eds.) *The dynamics of religious individualisation in the Roman empire (2nd c. B.C. – 3rd c. A.D.)*, Roman Archaeology Conference, Oxford 2010.
- Burleigh, G. R. forthcoming b. Temples, treasures, heroic burials and deities: a sacred landscape bounding Iron Age and Romano-British Baldock, Hertfordshire, U.K., in R. Häussler & A.C. King (eds.) *Fontes Epigraphici Religionum Celticarum Antiquarum* (FERCAN), Sacred Landscapes Conference, Lampeter.
- Burleigh, G.R. & Jackson, R. 2009. An unusual Minerva-Fortuna figurine from Hinxworth, Hertfordshire, *Antiquaries Journal* 89, 63-7.
- Burleigh, G.R. & Megaw, V. 2007. The Iron Age Mirror Burial at Pegsdon, Shillington, Bedfordshire: An Interim Account, *Antiquaries Journal* 87, 109-40.
- Burleigh, G. & Megaw, V. 2011. An Iron Age Mirror from Ruxox, Maulden, Bedfordshire, *Antiquaries Journal* 91, 51-8.
- Burleigh, G. R. & Stevenson, M. D. 2000. A Decade of Archaeological Fieldwork in North Hertfordshire 1989-99, *NHDC Archaeological Report* 34, Letchworth Garden City
- Crummy, N. 1983. *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2, Colchester.
- Curteis, M. & Burleigh, G.R. 2002. 'Shillington A & B, Bedfordshire: 127 aurei to AD 78, 18 denarii to AD 128', in Abdy *et al.*, 65-74.
- Fox, C. 1958. *Pattern and Purpose: A survey of Early*



- Celtic Art in Britain*, Cardiff.
- France, N.E. & Gobel, B.M. 1985. *The Romano-British Temple at Harlow*, Gloucester.
- Gover, J. E. B., Mawer, A., & Stenton, F. M. 1938. *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*, Cambridge.
- Green, M.J. 1992. *Animals in Celtic Life and Myth*, London.
- Green, M.J. (ed.) 1995. *The Celtic World*, London and New York.
- Holgate, R. (ed.) 1995. *Chiltern Archaeology: Recent Work. A Handbook for the Next Decade*, Dunstable.
- Jackson, R. 2003. A new treasure and a new goddess for Roman Britain, *Lucerna* 26, 2–4.
- Jackson, R. & Burleigh, G. 2007. The Senuna treasure and shrine at Ashwell (Herts), in R. Häussler & A.C. King (eds.) *Continuity and Innovation in Religion in the Roman West: Vol. 1*, Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 67, 37–54, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, New York.
- Jackson, R. & Burleigh, G. in press. *Dea Senuna: Treasure, Cult and Ritual at Ashwell, Hertfordshire*, London.
- Johns, C. 2010. *The Hoxne Late Roman Treasure: Gold Jewellery and Silver Plate*, London.
- Lockyear, K. (ed.) 2015. *Archaeology in Hertfordshire: Recent Research. A Festschrift for Tony Rook*, Hatfield.
- May, J. 1996. *Dragonby: Report on Excavations at an Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement in North Lincolnshire*, 1, Oxford.
- Mills, N. 2000. *Celtic and Roman Artefacts*, Witham.
- Poulton, R. 2007. Farley Heath Roman Temple, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 92, 1-147.
- Seebohm, F. 1896. *The English Village Community*, London, New York and Bombay.
- Toynbee, J.M.C. 1964. *Art in Britain under the Romans*, Oxford.
- Walters, H.B. 1921. *Catalogue of the Silver Plate (Greek, Etruscan and Roman) in the British Museum*, London.

Roman Finds Group Autumn Conference: New Research on Finds from South and South-Western Britain

Salisbury Museum, Friday 20th - Saturday 21st October 2017

Introduction

The 2017 Autumn Conference (the RFG 30th Anniversary Conference) took place at the Salisbury Museum between 20th-21st October. A successful event, there was a total of 83 delegates, including 17 speakers (with five sessions of papers, chaired by RFG committee members), that included 62 members, 15 non-members (of whom 2 were Salisbury Museum volunteers and 7 were speakers), and 6 Students (of whom 4 were members). There was a pre-conference tour of Salisbury Cathedral with 12 attendees. The museum was kept open for an additional hour for delegates to have access to the Wessex Galleries and Terry Pratchett Exhibition. 27 delegates took up the organised accommodation on offer at Sarum College, close to the Museum.

Sixty-one delegates attended the reception at Sarum College, where the Chairman gave a brief talk on RFG past and present. A 30th Anniversary Cake and cupcakes were well received! 43 delegates attended the conference meal on the Friday evening.

Stephen Greep

Session 1

Finds from three Local Sites in the Pitt Rivers Collection at Salisbury Museum

Alyson Tanner

The first paper of the day took a close look at the Pitt Rivers Wessex collection that the famous archaeologist acquired during the last twenty years of his life that is now held by Salisbury Museum. This collection consists of roughly 15,000 objects from the excavations Pitt Rivers carried out at Rushmore and Cranborne Chase from 1880-1900, including a range of finds from the Roman period, from agricultural tools and spindle whorls to items of personal adornment - like La Tène I brooches and later P-shape brooches - furniture fittings, ceramics, coins and skeletal remains, as well as several prehistoric lithics. These are supplemented by a valuable copy of his private excavation reports that, together with the finds, clearly evidence Pitt River's reputation as the father of modern scientific archaeology, specifically in the way that finds were excavated and recorded.

Yet Alyson has now taken the additional step of exploring Pitt River's background and his ideologies to try and get a more insightful understanding of the collection and the factors that influenced the man who compiled it. She pointed out, for example, that Pitt River's early military career fuelled a fascination in musketry and consequently ancient arms and weapons, like the ballista bolts (c. AD 43-44) he recovered from the farmstead at Rotherley that possibly evidence only a limited resistance to Roman incursion in this area.

He was also heavily influenced by Darwinism and was a supporter of the evolutionary concept of 'gradualism' (i.e. tiny but significant evolutionary steps) and believed that museums were an excellent way to demonstrate this by displaying progressively developing collections of objects. Pitt Rivers also held a firm grasp of geological stratigraphy and the concept of historical societies which ensured that his excavations and interpretations were archaeologically astute for his time.

The collection is of course a biased one that reflects the interests of a single man and it is hard to determine what the individual objects actually tell us about the sites they come from. However, by re-evaluating the collection as a whole we can get a bit closer to the mindset of one of the greatest British collectors to have lived.

What a Relief:

**An Assessment of the Romano-British Relief
Fragment found in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire**
Sophie Hawke

In this paper, Sophie presented an interesting fragment from a relief that was discovered in 2005 during renovations of a local restaurant in the town of Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire and recounted her efforts to identify it and its history. Measuring c. 30cm in height and 40cm in width, the fragment was discovered upon surveying a garden wall. It has a considerable amount of damage but has been identified and described by Dr Martin Henig as a depiction of a mater (mother-goddess cradling infants, much like the Dea Nutrix depictions seen in pipeclay form) with a hooded figure by her that is probably a *Genii Cuculatti* – deities that are generally considered to have been local to the north of Britain. The full composition would have depicted the mother-goddess with three *genii* and broadly dates from the 2nd to the 3rd century. Few parallels are known from Britain but a couple of more complete examples are known from the Cotswolds region, leading Sophie to suggest that the relief does indeed reflect a local cult involving this mother-goddess and the *Genii Cuculatti*.

The relief has never been published and has now been kindly donated to the Bradford-on-Avon Museum. Since its discovery, Sophie has also spent a great deal of time trying to contextualise the religious significance of the relief and identify any contemporary parallels. Relatively little Roman activity is known in the area but she has discovered some Roman burials found nearby were chronicled many years ago in the local paper, as was a hoard with several accompanying burials on the 27th April 1956. Another small stone coffin, probably that of a child, was also found nearby, while other evidence for Roman activity in the area includes a mosaic found in 2002, a nearby villa site, and, in 2005, before which nothing was known south of the River Avon, the heads of some Roman sculptures discovered at a local address.



Artefacts at Work: The Tools from Roman London

Owen Humphries

Owen's paper presented the results of his recently completed PhD at the University of Reading which analysed the collection of Roman tools that the Museum of London has. This large group of artefacts - one of the largest in Europe - has amassed not just because of keen antiquarian collectors, but also because of the preservation offered by the Walbrook stream that runs through the heart of the city and the extensive amount of modern excavation that has been, and still is, undertaken there year on year. Owen has recorded a total of 856 tools - many of which have never been published, and offered a timely re-examination of many of them, specifically in terms of what they can tell us about the people who made them and what they reflect about the professions of woodworkers, agriculturalists and metalworkers of *Londinium*. All of this adds to what we know about the working culture and economy of the settlement during the Roman period.

For example, although seemingly mundane objects, Owen explained that there is much more to old wooden planks than meets the eye, in that they were vital building blocks that 'made things (e.g. construction) possible'. He also pointed out that planks were made using specialised tools, such as axes and saws, that are often evidenced in the settlement as well. Plank production was thus a specialised profession and distinguishable, through the tools people used, from other wood-based professions like joinery. Owen additionally pointed out that some of the axe types found in London (Fig. 14) that are also found in Austria and Hungary suggests that plank-makers in London seemingly adopted new woodworking practices from these regions in the 3rd century that were more efficient and economical.

After further case studies relating to agriculture (focussing on the diversity of hoes) and metalworking (considering the extent that metalwork and metalworking tools were



Fig. 14. A compilation of axes from London.
Courtesy of Museum of London

recycled across the city), this talk clearly showed how studying tools and the practices they are associated with can provide a unique and fascinating insight into the working and social lives of Roman Londoners.

Matthew Fittock

Session 2

Papers Based on Brooch Research in the South-West: A Tribute to Sarnia Butcher

Justine Bayley opened the session with a tribute to the life and career of the late Sarnia Butcher. Sarnia's long career spanned a range of posts from the first female Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, to her longstanding interest and expertise in brooches and enamelling, which formed the background to the rest of the session.

Romano-British Brooches – Of Cornish Origin?

Anna Tyacke

The second paper, also read by Justine Bayley, filling in for Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO), looked at an intriguing group of brooches from Cornwall. Fourteen distinctive decorated fantail brooches were discussed, almost all of which come from the South-Western tip of Cornwall and the Scilly Isles (three exceptions coming from Somerset and Southern Gloucestershire). The metal composition was typical of brooches from the South West, providing evidence of a localised brooch manufacturing tradition in the 1st century. All but three of these brooches are PAS finds, demonstrating the value of this tool for finds research.

Mapping Polden Hill Brooches: New Evidence from the PAS Brooches Recorded in the South-West

Sally Worrell

The PAS also provided data for Sally Worrell and Angie Bolton's paper, looking at the Polden Hill brooch. This type, defined by the method of pin attachment, comes in a large number of subtypes. 2,650 examples are recorded on the PAS, making up 8.5% of all Roman brooches recorded. This brooch type is currently being used as a test case for PAS data enrichment, and 1,350 examples have recently been reviewed. Improving finds data in this way may help improve PAS-finder relations, by demonstrating the value of recording 'another bloody brooch'. For example, the distribution of this type can now be accurately plotted, with the PAS finds (mostly from rural sites) complementing the excavated data (mostly from forts and towns). The Polden Hill distribution is focussed on the West Midlands; a pattern which is not typical of PAS data, indicating that they were made there. It is also possible to plot the finds on a more local scale, looking at how brooch types were disseminated around the South West.

The Brooches from Nor'Nour

Justine Bayley

In the final brooch paper of this session, Justine Bayley returned once again, this time discussing the enamelled brooches from the Scilly Isles site of Nornour (Fig. 15). Three-hundred 1st to 3rd century brooches from the site were recently published by Sarnia Butcher, in

Cornish Archaeology 53 (2014). The site has produced an exceptional collection of brooches, including highly decorated examples featuring enamel and millefiori. The group is diverse, with typology, alloy composition, and the use of coloured enamel all representing traditions typical of a range of UK and Continental sites. The brooches are therefore unlikely to represent local manufacture, and are instead interpreted as votive offerings left by visiting sailors.

Louise Tunnard (Salisbury Museum) closed this session with a talk on how the museum raised funds and executed its recent rebranding and redevelopment of the Wessex Galleries before the audience was invited to explore them in a private viewing supported by the museum's knowledgeable staff.

Owen Humphries



Fig. 15. A plate brooch/wheel brooch from Nor'Nour. The annular field contains two alternating patterns of millefiori though the blocks were too narrow so the inner edge of the field is filled in with red enamel. The eight outer lugs originally had a spot of a second colour set in the now-decayed enamel while the raised central boss contains a single colour of enamel. Photographer: Eleanor Blakelock.

Session Three

Penannular Brooches in Post-Roman Wessex Dr Bruce Eagles

This paper began by defining the region of Wessex with a series of key maps outlining the distribution of 5th century sites across the region. Highlighting the earliest date range of objects found at the sites it was argued that it is possible to divide 5th century Wessex into a series of phases and that there is a distinct difference between sites with Anglo-Saxon objects or origins, and those without which appear to be concentrated in the western or more 'British' parts of Wessex. It was shown that the earliest Saxon brooches in Wessex occur on Roman sites and, moving through the 5th century, whilst Anglo-Saxon material becomes ever more prevalent in the east, in the west it arrives at a much slower pace and never really becomes fully established, even by the late 6th century. That the continued use of Roman artefacts, such as clipped silver coins, was widespread in 5th century Wessex was also highlighted. This, in turn, may imply the continuation of Roman economic/market activity in this region and it was argued that within Wessex, an essentially Roman way of life was maintained until the Saxon revolt of 441 AD.

Bruce's paper then moved on to focus on penannular brooches in Wessex. Typically of c.40mm in diameter, these brooches are believed to have developed very late in the Roman period, around 400 AD. In the 5th century some male Britons in eastern Wessex are identifiable through their large zoomorphic penannular brooches, which were worn singly, and apparently as a mark of rank to fasten the cloak, in the Roman military tradition. Bruce also presented evidence from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Blacknall Field, Pewsey, however, to suggest that these brooches were not exclusively reserved for male Britons, nor were they always worn singly in the tradition style of the Roman military, highlighting evidence from Grave 102 (475-550 AD) which contained the well-furnished burial of an adult female. Accompanying the body was a zoomorphic penannular brooch placed at the right shoulder, and matched on the left by a non-zoomorphic brooch in the normal Saxon fashion. This grave presents an intriguing example of a brooch of Romano-British inheritance being brought into the Saxon context of dress.

Eleven brooches of this type have been recovered from locations in Wessex, six of which are complete. Four of the known examples were recovered from Roman sites, including one from Silchester, and also an enamelled example from the sacred spring at Bath – this deposition of this brooch has been dated by radiocarbon dating to no later than 430 AD, at the end of the Roman period offerings. The brooches themselves demonstrate a range of inequality between them; the best, such as the examples from Bath and the Roman settlement at Abingdon, are enamelled and of high quality. For the most part, however, these items are of copper alloy, or more infrequently, of iron, and interestingly, it would seem that the enamel form served as the precursor for the plain types. It may or may not be significant that none of these brooches is yet recorded from either the civitas Durotrigum or the civitas Durotrigum Lendeniensium, but in the 6th century, the Type G penannular brooch appears to have originated in north Somerset and may then have served to identify the local elite in that area.

Finds from the Roman Cemeteries at Amesbury Down Rachael Seager-Smith

Since the late 1980's, Amesbury Down has been the subject of extensive archaeological investigations as a result of the large-scale residential development that has occurred in the area. The investigations have revealed an archaeologically-rich multi-period landscape that is best known for its exceptional Early Bronze Age discoveries of the Amesbury Archer and the Boscombe Bowmen. An extensive, though less well-known Roman settlement has also been found in the area, however, along with at least ten associated cemeteries, eight of which have been investigated by Wessex Archaeology. It is these cemeteries and their finds which formed the subject of Rachael's paper.

The results of these investigations indicate the nature of the cemeteries was variable. Approximately 300 burials were discovered in total, and from these, around 20% were found to contain grave goods. The largest group was found at Cemetery 1, a multi-rite cemetery of 16 cremations and 150 inhumations of all ages and genders. One burial from this cemetery, placed within a coffin made of Chilmark stone was found to be of particular interest. The covering slab appears to have been made in two pieces. However, their placement in the grave



indicates they were put in the wrong way round. Such information provides interesting insights into funeral practices, suggesting the mourners were no longer at the graveside when the stones were finally put in place over the coffin. Although the bones were not well preserved, the occupants of the grave are believed to have been an adult female and possibly male child of around 4 to 5 years old. Amongst the grave goods accompanying the deceased was an intact imported beaker from central Gaul or Trier dated to at least the 3rd century AD - the only imported vessel from the cemetery; a jet necklace placed under both skulls suggesting it was not worn at burial, and a child's shoe, which after reconstruction, is of a style previously unknown. A silver copper-alloy anklet with an alder twig stuck in it like a tourniquet which was dated to 340/540 cal AD was also recovered from the burial; whether the alder twig was decorative or perhaps therapeutic is unknown. Yet similar examples are known from Castle Hill, Salisbury where they are all found to accompany adult females in the grave.

Throughout the paper other notable and interesting finds from the cemeteries were presented, including a beaker for which no parallel is currently known, made all the more interesting as its foot doesn't seem to belong to its top; a Trumpet head brooch that was 150 years old at least at the time of burial and appears to have been curated; and a rare goblet from the New Forest. Typologically, most of the grave goods and settlement finds indicate a late 3rd – 4th century AD date, although problematic results from radiocarbon dates on some bone combs from Cemetery 3 highlighted the problem of the accuracy of the calibration curve for the Roman period in obtaining secure dates.

In her paper, Rachael also highlighted how the differences in the nature of the burials across the cemeteries, alongside the health and stature of the individuals as well as the range and quantity of grave offerings both within and between the cemetery groups suggests that they represent different strata of society. At Cemetery 5, for example, the burial of individuals inside the enclosure boundary seems to have denoted a higher social group, where those from lower down were placed in the ditch. This was contrasted with evidence from Cemetery 2, which showed fewer signs of organisation. Furthermore, comparisons between the grave assemblages from broadly contemporary sites such as Poundbury and Lankhills, often considered 'typical' of Late Roman cemeteries in central southern England, highlight notable contrasts between these major urban centres and the more rural groups found at Amesbury Down.

More Regionality? Weapon Terminal 'Spoons' from Frocester Court, Gloucestershire and Needle Cases from Lankhills, Winchester, Hampshire

Dr Stephen Greep

In the final paper of the session, Stephen presented two interesting object types, both with distinct geographical distributions. The first is a small group of flat bowled 'spoon shaped' objects, their terminals decorated with weaponry. They are a 4th century type with, at present, only 10 or 11 definite examples are known. At Frocester court, 4 'spoon-shaped objects' were found in a jar in a kitchen context (Fig. 16); 3 of these items were decorated with axe, sword and spear terminals and were believed to be unique items until a literature search uncovered 2 with spear terminals from Minchin hole, Gower. For the

group as a whole, spear terminals have been identified on at least 6 examples, 3 are known with axes and only 1, the example from Frocester, is known to be finished with a sword. These objects appear to represent a small regional group, with a tight distribution from Frocester Court, Gloucestershire to Wroxeter and south-east Wales. Although there is no direct evidence for their exact function, they are often found in kitchen or hearth contexts and thus a domestic use can be proposed.

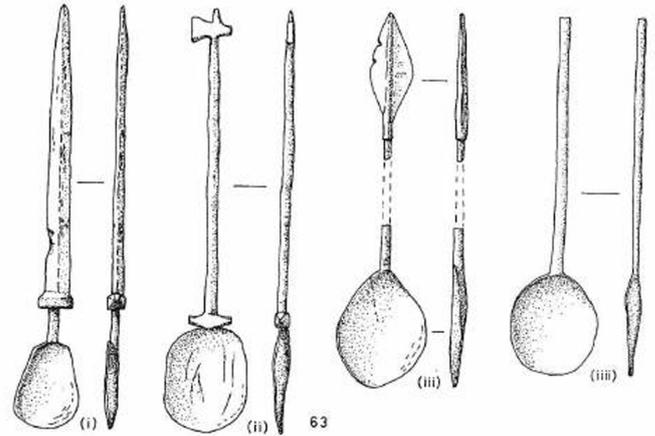


Fig. 16. The Frocester Court set of weapon terminal spatula. Reproduced with permission from Arthur Price 3D scanning artefacts.

The second group of objects presented in this paper, needle cases made from sheep metapodia, forms an even more interesting group of objects. The objects are often decorated with a ring-and-dot style decoration, although plain examples are also known. Initially these objects were thought to be handles. However, after X-ray analysis of examples from Moyencourt in northern France, it was shown that they were in fact needlecases.

Subsequent X-ray examination of the examples from Lankhills, Winchester indicated that two iron needles were retained inside. Chronology for the group suggests a date of the late 4th to 5th century with the distribution of the British examples concentrated on south-western Britain, although examples are known from Carlisle, Wroxeter, London and Richborough. At the end of the paper, Stephen also highlighted the potential of bone and antler objects in regional distribution studies as they are often well preserved. It was, however, pointed out that the predominantly western distribution of the group was all the more striking as soil conditions often mean that the majority of objects in bone and antler occur in the eastern part of the province.

Emily Blanchard

Session 4

The Roman Villa in the Deverills

Dr David Roberts

David gave us an interesting overview about the initial results of work on a villa site discovered in the Deverill Valley in South-west Wiltshire in 2015 when a local landowner happened across a guilloche mat mosaic while digging a cable trench for power supply to an outhouse. A subsequent geophysical survey revealed the groundplan of a substantial villa with possibly two

courtyards on a scale comparable to sites like Chedworth. A small evaluation showed that even the latest layers of the building are preserved, with a later 4th/ possibly early 5th-century midden found just about 10cm below surface level. Apart from a varied assemblage including food waste this midden also contained evidence for on-site production of tesserae during the latter half of the 4th century.

The small finds assemblage suffers from a considerable level of residuality and a limited range of material categories; nearly two thirds of it are fixtures and fittings, i.e. mostly nails. However, this picture is likely to change when future investigations reach deeper levels of the villa. In contrast, the diverse assemblage of worked stone comprising 13 rock types originates from as far afield as South Wales and the Forest of Dean and demonstrates the importance of the road network for the supply of building stone, a picture which is typical for villas in central-southern England. Future work at this site and its environs will no doubt yield many exciting results, especially when considering that no villa had been known from the wider area prior to this discovery.

The Pewsey Hoard of Late Roman Vessels: Wrapping, Contents and Time of Deposition - Its Discovery, Archaeology, Macro-Remains and Pollen Evidence

Richard Henry, Dr Ruth Pelling and Dr Michael Grant

The discovery of this hoard is a fine example of what can be achieved when a responsible metal detectorist indicates the discovery of an important find to the relevant FLO. In this case, a hoard of copper-alloy vessels was discovered in October 2014. It comprises a cauldron with iron band, a bowl, a vessel with 3 lead-filled copper-alloy feet, four scale pans and an Irchester bowl, intricately stacked inside the cauldron.

After apprising us of the circumstances of the discovery, Richard placed the hoard in its wider historical and regional background before Ruth and Michael expanded upon the fascinating results of their investigation of the botanical macro remains and the pollen. Plant material was preserved inside the vessels by desiccation due to the presence of the copper corrosion products. Protected by the void created by the vessels and in conjunction with gentle silting, numerous morphologically intact flower heads of *Centaurea* species as well as 532 bracken heads were retrieved (Fig. 17). Vetches, cowslip and clovers indicate a meadow environment, and spelt was part of the agricultural background.

Apart from its likely use as material for packing, bedding, stabling and wrapping for food stuffs like potatoes (obviously not in Roman times), fish and fruit, Ruth also hinted at ritual uses of Bracken, e.g. to make it rain or to make one invisible by gathering its seed at midsummer (which no one will ever have achieved as bracken has spores, hence the belief that its seeds – which are invisible – would help in that endeavour).

Michael's forensic palynological analysis revealed that the material was packed in a grassland environment associated with some arable and small woodland near a river. Together, the environmental results suggest that the hoard was packed in late summer and had been buried by October. Radiocarbon determination returned a 91.9% likelihood that this happened before AD 410, dashing earlier hopes that this hoard might



Fig. 17. *Centaurea* sp. Flowers from the Pewsey Vessel Hoard. Copyright Historic England

have been deposited in the sub-Roman period. This interdisciplinary cooperation is a nice example of how palaeoenvironmental work helps to enrich the story of an archaeological find, while at the same time benefiting palynology, in this case by providing a findspot in a calcareous landscape where pollen is usually rarely preserved.

Jörn Schuster

Session 5

Lance, Javelin, and Spear: Untangling the Weaponry of Roman Auxiliary Cavalry

Mike Bishop

Spear (Latin *hasta*) was both a generic term and used specifically for a thrusting weapon, not normally thrown. Lance (*contus*) was a two handed weapon. Confusingly the Latin *lanca* was used for javelins. Depictions of multiple shafted weapons on tombstones and other monuments suggested use as thrown weapons. Previous attempts at classification were considered unsatisfactory. Defining the shape of the head had always been paramount with much less consideration of the socket. For example, Manning, in his British Museum ironwork catalogue, defined four groups in terms of form and size of blade, in particular their length to width ratio. It was suggested that the socket diameter was in fact key to understanding function as shaft diameter was the key to distinguishing between spears and javelins. Bladed heads and ferrules with sockets similar in size to catapult bolts suggested a javelin, as neither of these are suitable components of catapult bolts. Smaller diameter shafts made for easier bundling together and carrying. Why then such a diversity of head shapes?

Recent Research on Coin Hoards from the South-West

Eleanor Ghey

The evidence for coin hoards from Iron Age and Roman Britain had recently been reassessed by an AHRC-funded project at the British Museum and Leicester



University, studying them in their archaeological context. A dataset of over 3200 hoards allowed a picture of their spatial and chronological patterning to be built up and previous assumptions about hoarding practice to be reconsidered. The paper focused on aspects of the coin hoard evidence from the south-west region, which has produced some of the largest hoards from Roman Britain (e.g. Cunetio, Frome and Seaton Down). It was suggested that examination of the archaeological context and content of the hoards could provide some insight into the possible reasons for their burial and a wider understanding of the South West in the Roman period.

Iron Age coin hoards seemed to occur in batches, a pattern not seen with Roman hoards. It was clear that mixed hoards of Iron Age and Roman coin were more common than previously thought. Interestingly, Iron Age hillforts appeared more likely to be foci of Roman hoards rather than Iron Age coin hoards. The high level of hoarding in the second half of the 3rd century, compares well with the national picture, the south-west having some of the largest hoards of that period. The 4th century hoards may attest to the remaining wealth in the south-west.

The 'Face' of Roman Britain: Establishing Identity and Context for Romano-British Portrait Sculpture

Miles Russell

The apparent absence of portrait sculpture in Britain stands in marked contrast to other western Roman provinces such as Gaul or Spain. The paper reported on recent work on damaged Roman sculpture, misidentified, misunderstood or simply forgotten, buried deep in the stores of many a British museum, which is revealing that there was in fact a large number of marble and bronze portraits in the province, most of which depicted emperors.

The project was to 3D laser scan as many pieces as possible, however fragmentary. Some of the heads that had been scanned were discussed. Those from Saxmundham, Hinckley and Fishbourne were all identified as portraits of Nero, all with deliberate facial damage. The Bosham and Hawkshaw heads were identified as Trajan, the latter probably re-carved out off a portrait of Domitian. It was also suggested that the head of Constantine from York was probably a re-carving of an earlier sculpture, probably one of Hadrian.

Glass Adornments Event Horizon? In Search for the Origins of Roman-Period Glass Bangles in Southern Britain

Tatiana Ivleva

The paper revisited the emergence of glass bangles (Fig. 18) in southern Britain and suggested that their genesis should be seen as a part of changing attitudes towards the body in the Late Iron Age Britain rather than, as usually assumed, a one-off event starting after the Claudian invasion. The start of the production of the seamless glass bangles in Britain corresponded with the decrease in the circulation of these glass adornments on the Continent. In the late 1st century BC, the Continental glass bracelets gradually stopped being produced, yet the craft re-appeared in Britain, which had no history of glass bracelet production prior to the mid-1st century AD.

The talk attempted to answer the question as to where the inspiration and skills for the British glass bracelets came from. Earlier research into their distribution and typology suggested that British examples stood out in their decorative and production technique compared to bracelets made on the Continent. Close inspection of the British glass bracelet fragments, however, revealed that some types of British bangles, widespread in the south were developed directly from the Continental La Tène ones. It was also noted that glass working in Iron Age Britain included the production of complex beads. The production of glass bangles could not be seen in isolation from other developments in pre AD 43 southern Britain. Production could have started either side of the Claudian invasion, which side cannot yet be proved.

Evan Chapman



Fig. 18. 3D reconstruction of a monochrome Romano-British glass bangle, by Julian and Claire Baum from Take27. Copyright Tatiana Ivleva.

Mystery Objects

Piercebridge, County Durham

All of the following objects were found in the river Tees at Piercebridge, County Durham as part of a large assemblage of Roman material, currently being catalogued and presumed to be Roman in date. If anyone knows what they are then please get in touch with me at philippa.walton@reading.ac.uk. Thank you.

BM-BBBA45 (Fig. 19)

A lead object with moulded decoration, possibly votive or ritual in nature. The object comprises a flat rectangular strip of lead which has been folded in half. Where the two ends meet, there is a small semi-circular lug which has been folded over to secure the strip. The surface of the strip is decorated with a series of moulded rectangular panels. On one surface, there are three rectangular panels, one of which is obscured by the lug. Each panel is divided into four triangular cells with diagonal ribs. Each triangular cell is decorated with three dots. On the other side the decoration varies. There is a rectangular panel which has been partially divided by two parallel ribs with curling terminals. Three dots extend from one of the curling terminals, perhaps representing grapes on the vine. There is then

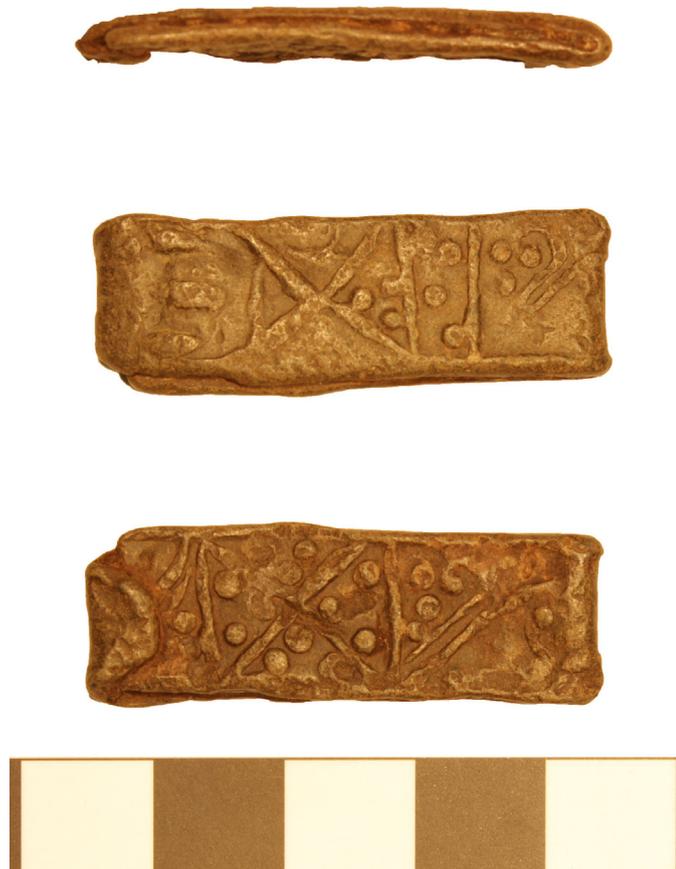


Fig. 19. BM-BBBA45

a further shorter rectangular panel containing four dots and then a larger rectangular panel, again separated into triangular cells, by two diagonal ribs. Only one triangular cell contains three dots. It appears two of the opposing triangular cells may contain crescental mouldings although these are very worn. Beyond this the strip terminates in three vertical mouldings reminiscent of an animal paw or claw. It measures 39mm in length, 13mm in width and 2mm in thickness. It weighs 9.97g.

BM-905A66 (Fig. 20)

A unidentified lead-alloy object of uncertain date. The object comprises a tongue-shaped plate which is broken at one end. At the other tapered end, there is a rectangular-section lug which is bent back on itself. The upper surface of the plate possesses marginal ribs and possesses moulded decoration. This comprises a panel of stylised vine scroll decoration, extending to a triangle filled with six dots. From the apex of the triangle, there extends a further rib, which separates the remainder



Fig. 20. BM-905A66

of the plate into two panels. In each panel is a further dot. The underside of the object is plain but obscured by corrosion products. The object measures 41mm in length, 16mm in width, 2mm in thickness and weighs 6.2g.

BM-11B3ED (Fig. 21)

A fragment of an unidentified copper-alloy object, with elaborate ribbed and enamelled decoration, probably dating to the Roman period. The object comprises a strip of copper-alloy, which is approximately 'n' shaped in section. At one end, the strip terminates in an end plate. The other end is distorted and broken. The straight 'back' of the object is undecorated, whereas the curved surface possesses numerous horizontal cells for enamel, created with grooves and reserve metal ribs. The cells are filled with enamel. Although the enamel is degraded and in places missing, it is clear that originally red and blue enamel appeared side by side in the same cell, alternating in panels of six cells. The underside of the object is hollow and is filled in places with lead solder. In the area where the object is broken and



Fig. 21. BM-11B3ED

distorted, there is a small rectangular lug or extension. It is not clear what the function of this extension might have been. The object measures 82mm in length, 9mm in width and 7mm in thickness. It weighs 20.8g.

Letters and Notices

A Note

Martin Henig

Not so much a request for information but rather a note pointing out to readers of *Lucerna* a fascinating category of material which was brought to my attention by Jerry Slocum, a visitor to Oxford, who had long been studying an ingenious series of late Iron Age and Roman miniature puzzle padlocks designed to secure valuables, much as seal boxes and signet rings were designed to do. I became fascinated by them, and introduced him to Dr David Davison of Archaeopress who published the work by Jerry Slocum and Dic Sonneveld, *Romano-Celtic Mask Puzzle Padlocks. A Study of their Origin, Design, Technology and Security* (2017). Most of them were found in central Europe and north Italy and only two or three are known to date from Britain, but it is very possible that more will be found or are lurking in museum stores or amongst material from unpublished excavations.

I found the book fascinating and was glad to write a short preface, for it is not often that one encounters a whole category of objects unknown to one before. At £45 it might not be a stocking filler but this is a book of which anyone interested in Roman technology or simply small bronzes should be made aware.

Female Symbolism

Martin Dearne

Nina Crummy (*Lucerna* 53, 16) is quite right to point out the evidence for the representation of the female pudendum on horse harness. My tentative questioning of whether the mount I authored a note on in *Lucerna* 52, 9 raised doubts about such interpretations was directed solely at this one very specific group of mounts and moreover to pose the question, not assert an answer to it. Aberrant items (which may arise from experimentation with, or the misunderstanding of, forms by individual makers) always raise such questions which must be resolved by reference to a survey of the data – thus my appeal for information on similar objects not conforming to the expected single grooved form. There was certainly no patriarchal intention, just that of rigorously examining the evidence as it accumulates for every class and sub-class of object.

m.j.dearne@open.ac.uk

AHRC- Funded Research Project. Roman and Late Antique Artefacts from Egypt: Understanding Society and Culture

A new 2 year AHRC-funded research project, “Roman and Late Antique Artefacts from Egypt: Understanding society and culture”, began in June 2017 led by Ellen Swift (Principal Investigator; University of Kent), with April Pudsey (Co-Investigator; Manchester Metropolitan University) and Jo Stoner (Research Associate; University of Kent). The project is the first in-depth study of Roman and Late Antique Egypt that uses everyday artefacts as



Fig. 22. 3D scanning artefacts.

its principal source of evidence; it aims to enhance our understanding of social experience, social relations, and cultural interactions, among the population of Egypt in this period. UK museums hold significant collections of artefacts from Roman and Late Antique Egypt as a result of late nineteenth and early twentieth century archaeological excavations, yet most of these objects have never been studied systematically, from a social perspective. The project will study artefacts from the collection of UCL’s Petrie Museum in Bloomsbury, London, one of the largest and best-documented in the UK.

The research will bring together specialists in the interpretation of ancient Egyptian texts on papyrus, and archaeological artefacts, drawing on new methodologies and interpretative approaches including the 3D scanning (Fig. 22) and the experimental recreation of objects.

Our exhibition at UCL’s Petrie Museum towards the end of the project, open to the general public, will present our research on the Petrie collection of Roman musical instruments in particular, displaying the originals, and prototypes & replicas made via 3D scanning/printing technology. Visitors will be able to experience the sounds of the artefacts, handle and play the replica items, and learn how the artefacts would have been used to create particular experiences, for instance in religious and ritual activities.

Please see the project blog at the following address:
<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/egypt-artefacts/blog/>

Recent Publications

Material Approaches to Roman Magic: Occult Objects and Supernatural Substances (Fig. 23)
Adam Parker & Stuart McKie (eds.). Oxbow Books 2018.
184p. ISBN: 9781785708817. £30

This second volume in the new TRAC Themes in



Roman Archaeology series seeks to push the research agendas of materiality and lived experience further into the study of Roman magic, a field that has, until recently, lacked object-focused analysis. Building on the pioneering studies in Boschung and Bremmer's (2015) *Materiality of Magic*, the editors of the present volume have collected contributions that showcase the value of richly-detailed, context-specific explorations of the magical practices of the Roman world. By concentrating primarily on the Imperial period and the western provinces, the various contributions demonstrate very clearly the exceptional range of influences and possibilities open to individuals who sought to use magical rituals to affect their lives in these specific contexts – something that would have been largely impossible in earlier periods of antiquity. Contributions are presented from a range of museum professionals, commercial archaeologists, university academics and postgraduate students, making a compelling case for strengthening lines of communication between these related areas of expertise.

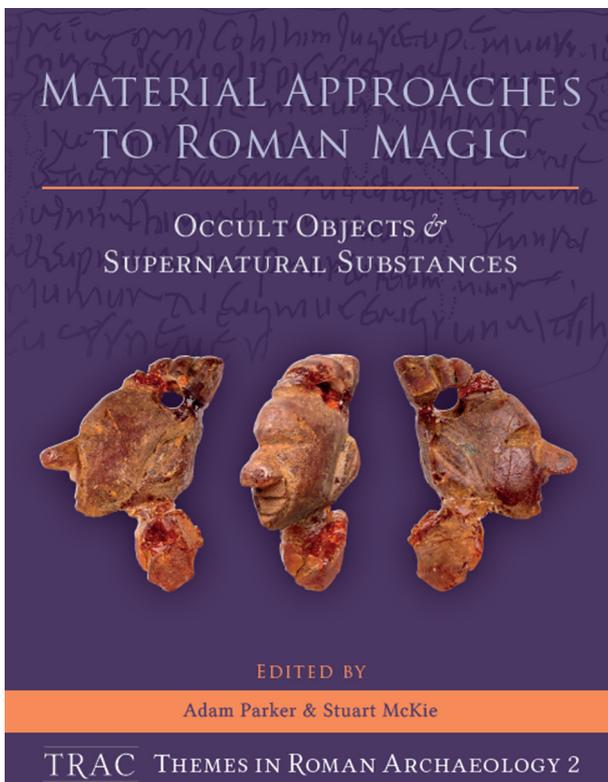


Fig. 23. Front cover of *Material Approaches to Roman Magic: Occult Objects and Supernatural Substances*

The Roman Amphitheatre of Chester Volume 1: The Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology.

Tony Wilmott & Dan Garner. Oxbow Books, 2017. 496p, H297 x W210 (mm) b/w and colour. ISBN: 9781785707445

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Historic England are pleased to announce the publication of *The Roman Amphitheatre of Chester Volume 1: The Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology*.

This is the first of two volumes dealing with the major research excavations on Chester's amphitheatre which took place between 2004 and 2006, funded by English Heritage and Chester City Council. We know that the first amphitheatre was built in the 70s AD. It had a stone outer wall with external stairs and timber-framed seating but more fascinating is the fact that the second

amphitheatre was built around the first. The second amphitheatre, probably built in the later 2nd century, was the largest and most impressive amphitheatre in Britain, featuring elaborate entrances, internal stairs and decorative pilasters on the outer wall. Beneath the seating banks evidence for prehistoric settlement was recovered – the first substantial prehistoric archaeology to be found anywhere in Chester.

We are now working on Volume 2, which will deal with the robbing and reuse of the amphitheatre after the Romans, and the development of the medieval and post-medieval urban landscape of the site.

Volume 1 can be ordered from Oxbow Books for £30.

Writing and Power in the Roman World.

Literacies and Material Culture

Hella Eckardt. Cambridge University Press 2017. 282p, 69 b/w illus. 13 colour illus. ISBN: 9781108418058. £75

In this book, Hella Eckardt offers new insights into literacy in the Roman world by examining the tools that enabled writing, such as inkwells, styli and tablets. Literacy was an important skill in the ancient world and power could be and often was, exercised through texts. Eckardt explores how writing equipment shaped practices such as posture and handwriting and her careful analysis of burial data shows considerable numbers of women and children interred with writing equipment, notably inkwells, in an effort to display status as well as age and gender. The volume offers a comprehensive review of recent approaches to literacy during Roman antiquity and adds a distinctive material turn to our understanding of this crucial skill and the embodied practices of its use. At the heart of this study lies the nature of the relationship between the material culture of writing and socio-cultural identities in the Roman period.

Conferences and Events

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society 2018 Conference

1st March 2018

The Weston Theatre, Museum of London

Paper titles include the Chairman's Opening Remarks and Presentation of the 2017 Ralph Merrifield Award (Harvey Sheldon), Prehistoric activity and a large Roman building in Walthamstow village by Shane Maher (PCA), Saxons in Bow Street, Lundenwic by James Aaronson (Compass Archaeology), The lost ferry crossing at Putney Bridge by Dave Saxby (MOLA), Archaeological works at Chambers Wharf and King Edward Memorial Park foreshore by Stella Bickelmann & Jessica Bryan (MOLA), A sarcophagus and a Roman road in Southwark: Excavation at 25-29 Harper Road by Ireneo Grosso (PCA), On the Walbrook banks: new evidence from the centre of Londinium by Sadie Watson (MOLA), Where there's Walbrook muck, there's Roman brass. The early Roman artefacts from Bloomberg by Michael Marshall (MOLA), The Bloomberg writing-tablets: Roman London's First Voices (TBC), London's Roman temple of Mithras, 1952-2017: a reconstruction by Mike Tetreau (MOLA), and Londinium in a new light: the making of London Mithraeum/Bloomberg SPACE by Louise Fowler (MOLA).

There will be displays of work and publications, including the Crossrail Archaeology Series.

Cost (inclusive of afternoon tea) will be: Early Bird discount - £15, Full price - £17.50. To qualify for the Early Bird discount, ticket payments must be received by 1st March 2018.

Postal ticket applications, display and general enquiries should be addressed to Jon Cotton, c/o Curatorial Department, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (joncotton1956@gmail.com)

Regional Heritage Centre's Annual Archaeology Forum

3rd March 2018, 9.55am to 4.30pm
Biology Lecture Theatre, Lancaster University

Now in its 45th year, the Regional Heritage Centre's Annual Archaeology Forum has become the premier regular meeting of archaeologists, both professional and amateur, in the North West. Each year sees a range of presentations on current and recent work, from rescue archaeology and large-scale projects to community endeavours. Alongside other presentations focusing on early Medieval and Industrial archaeology, this year's Roman section will include presentations on recent developments at Vindolanda and Chester. Please visit <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/events/index.htm> for more details.

TRAC 28 and RAC 13

12th–14th April 2018
University of Edinburgh

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh is pleased to host the 2018 the combined Roman Archaeology Conference (RAC) and Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC); the premier international event devoted to Roman archaeology. The two conferences are held together every two years and attract a broad international audience. A plenary lecture will take place on the evening of the 12th and the conference will be followed by an excursion to the Antonine Wall on the 15th. To register or for further details, including full programme details, please visit <https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/rac-trac-2018>. The standard registration price is £90 (£60 for student or unwaged) for the whole event, while day tickets can be purchased for £50 (£35 unwaged).

Berkshire Archaeological Society's Conference

14th April 2018, 10am to 4pm
St. Nicolas Hall, Newbury, RG14 5HG

The Conference will present talks from the Mesolithic through the Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods. The Roman talks will focus on the recently discovered Romano-Celtic temple at Silchester, Nero's Brickworks at Little London, and the Boxford villa with its mosaic and Roman tools found in London. Other highlights include presentations on Mesolithic artefacts from the Kennet Valley, a Neolithic settlement at Datchet, Berkshire, and an Iron Age settlement in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

All are welcome; bring a packed lunch or eat in one of

the nearby cafes. The entrance fee is £10. For further information contact: tacoomb1@gmail.com.

The Lived Experience of Women in Roman Cumbria and Beyond

Saturday 28th April 2018, 10am to 5pm
Senhouse Roman Museum

This day conference is one of several Museum events inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which enabled all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time in the UK. The conference will present and discuss the lives of women at the north-western Roman Empire.

Speakers and papers include an Opening by Claire Hensman (Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria), Dr. Elizabeth M. Greene (Associate Professor of Roman Archaeology, University of Western Ontario) on 'Women's lives in the north-west provinces: Vindolanda and its frontier setting', Professor Maureen Carroll (Professor of Roman Archaeology, University of Sheffield) on 'Experiencing motherhood in the Roman world', Dr. Tatiana Ivleva (Newcastle University) on 'Strictly worn by women? Multivocality of Romano-British glass bangles', Alex Croom (Keeper of Archaeology, Tyne and Wear Museums) on 'Life in the Roman home', Dr. Ursula Rothe (Lecturer in Classical Studies, Open University) on 'Women and Roman dress in the northern frontiers', Professor David Breeze (Senhouse Roman Museum) on 'Did the women follow the men? The hazards of life in the northern frontier', and a final discussion to close the day. The conference will be chaired by Professor Maureen Fordham (University College London, Institute for Risk and Disaster Recovery).

Conference fee: £20 (includes tea and coffee). Lunch can be prebooked for £10. Tickets can be booked by contacting the museum on 01900 816168. Payment by debit and credit card accepted. Contact the museum for a list of accommodation within walking distance of the museum, and for travel suggestions.

Ancient to Modern:

The Changing Landscape of Sussex

Saturday 28th April 2018, 9.30am to 5pm
King's Church, Brooks Road, Lewes, BN7 2BY

The aim of this day is to give a broad overview of the changing relationship between the Sussex landscape and the people who lived here from the earliest times through to the 20th century. Where possible, speakers will choose key themes for which there is still some evidence in our landscape. The emphasis will be on how new ideas resulted in significant changes in the use of our landscape.

Roman and Saxon governance, settlement and land use were very different from each other, but it was not until the medieval period that the rural landscape of Sussex took on an appearance we would recognise today, with the development of larger farms enabling their owners or tenants to play a significant role in the life of parishes. The dissolution of the monasteries and the rise of large country estates and market towns during the 16th & 17th centuries had a significant impact on the landscape, while the wars and revolutions of the late 18th & early 19th centuries kept people from travelling abroad and so encouraged the development of our coastal resorts.



The late 19th century saw increased movement from towns into the countryside, aided by trains, cars, buses and bikes, and this had a great impact on rural society.

Members and non-members welcome but early booking is strongly recommended as our conferences usually sell out. The conference fee is £50 per person (students £25) to include a conference booklet, refreshments and lunch.

The full schedule of speakers and information on how to book to attend this event is available at:

https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/landscape?utm_source=Salon+Subscribers&utm_campaign=f8bb8633f6-EMAIL-CAMPAIGN_2017_12_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c0cb6b55f1-f8bb8633f6-83422401

**Roman Imperial Estate:
The Settlement and its Material Culture Workshop**
1st June 2018, 2pm to 6pm
University of Sheffield, Jessop West G03

Since 2012, excavations by the University of Sheffield have been conducted at Vagnari, the site of a Roman village (vicus) in south-east Italy that was the core administrative and distributive centre of a rural estate acquired in the early 1st century A.D. by the emperor. The workshop aims to present the archaeological research at Vagnari in its wider context and to discuss the impact of Roman expansion in south-east Italy on the culture and economy of the region. Speakers include Alastair Small who, together with Carola Small, discovered the site of Vagnari and conducted the first phase of fieldwork at the site from 2000, and Maureen Carroll, the director of excavations at Vagnari since 2012. A key and important part of the workshop is the presentation by the relevant project specialists of the artefacts and assemblages recovered in the Sheffield excavations (pottery, window glass, animal bone, metal). The workshop brings together these specialists to foster discussion of the artefacts themselves and their significance, and to engage participants at the event in this discussion. There will be coffee/tea in the afternoon break and light refreshments at the end of the workshop. Participation in the workshop is subject to a fee of £15; Roman Society members pay a discounted fee of £10. For more information, and to register, visit the workshop website: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/vagnari_workshop_june2018

Roman Road Research & Excavations
Easter – August 2018
North East Hants Historical and
Archaeological Society Field Archaeology Branch

Excavations on the new Winchester - Chichester Roman Road will occur on Bank Holiday weekends from Easter - August 2018. Three sites have been established where substantial remains have been found. In addition, evidence has been found at each excavation of a Roman settlement, and work will be undertaken on these. In the current site, where one of the Roman Road lanes enters the LIDAR grid of what we think is the Roman settlement of Clausentum, a large amount of pottery and tiles have been found.

Annual membership is £10 and persons participating in the training exercise will be charged an additional £70 and must purchase and read the training manual at £6. To complete the exercises, you are likely to need to book for at least 5 days in total between March & August - though you can carry this on to next year. Those helping with a site set-up will have a discount on the training fee. For further information, please email: Dr Richard Whaley richard@whaley.me.uk, or visit: <http://www.nehhas.org.uk/>.

Vindolanda Illustration Workshops

Vindolanda and Mark Hoyle are working together to provide illustration courses for all levels from complete beginners who would like to know the basics to competent illustrators who would like to improve on a particular area of their technique. This will be an opportunity to not only learn new skills or improve those you already have but to get up close and personal with some of the real artefacts found at Vindolanda and to study them in more detail.

Mark Hoyle has worked in the field of archaeology and archaeological illustration for 25 years, and is currently a full member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - Graphics Archaeology Group (CifA).

Vindolanda Pottery Workshops

These workshops are aimed at adults of all abilities, no experience necessary. They take place on site at Vindolanda Roman Fort, a wonderful setting to learn about the historical techniques used to make different types of pottery. The workshops will be run by Graham Taylor of Potted History. Graham Taylor is a potter, experimental archaeologist and ancient pottery technology specialist, based in Rothbury, Northumberland. In March 2017 Graham and a team of volunteers built a replica Roman pottery kiln at Vindolanda.

Other events happening at Vindolanda this year that may be of interest to RFG members are:

1st/2nd April – Historical chef John Crouch will be showing what sort of foods the Romans ate as well as giving us a taste of the past.

14th/15th July – Visit from the Ermine Street Guard who will be performing at Vindolanda and running their Roman Army school at the Roman Army Museum.

29th July – 4th August – Archery Week at the Roman Army Museum where you will be able to learn about archery through time and have a go yourself.

The workshops are all available online now and the events will shortly be going on to our website and will be advertised through social media. We will also run an Enamel Workshop with Justine Bayley in early October the dates for this have not been confirmed yet but will be available on the website in due course.

<http://www.vindolanda.com/courses>