

# LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 38, July 2009



# Lucerna

Roman Finds Group  
Newsletter 38

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## Notes for contributors

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

The address for e-mailed contributions is:

[lindseyr.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:lindseyr.smith@btinternet.com)  
[emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk)

Contributions by post should be sent to:  
**Emma Durham**, Institute of Archaeology  
36 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PG.

## Editorial

*Welcome to the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of Lucerna*

*Emma Durham & Lindsey Smith*

## Wirral Brooch; a regional variant of Roman bow brooch.

### Introduction

In 1999 Dr. Rob Philpott wrote a note highlighting a regional type of Roman brooch, which he named the Wirral brooch (*Britannia* 30:274-86). At the time he wrote this note only 31 such brooches were known, 11 of which came from excavations. Since then the number has risen to 102, with only 14 from excavations<sup>1</sup>. My Master's thesis is focussing on this brooch type, looking at the typology and development as well as its origin - both geographically and stylistically. This article discusses what is known about the type so far and also highlights the research being done.

### Background

The type first came to light when local metal detectorists brought the brooches they had found to Dr. Philpott for recording at National Museums Liverpool. Others had been reporting finds to museums, to local HERs and to the Williamson Museum and Art Gallery on the Wirral, and they appeared to belong to the same group. As the name suggests, the majority of them are found on the Wirral, a peninsula between the Rivers Mersey and Dee. They are very distinctive in style and easily recognisable, (see Figures 1 and 2 for examples).

Key characteristics of the type are-

- A head-loop
- A stepped head - often decorated or enamelled
- A rectangular panel with 3 strips infilled with enamel in alternate colours on the upper bow
- A stud/boss at the waist of the brooch
- Quite a steep profile to the bow

<sup>1</sup> The majority of the brooches have been found as stray finds and reported by metal detectorists through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).



Fig. 1. An example of an almost complete brooch showing the main features (PAS no. LVPL535).



Fig.2. This example shows the arrangement of the enamel in alternating colours (PAS no. LVPL-F3CA77).

Before 1999 so few of these brooches had been found during excavation that they had not been classified; indeed, initially they were grouped with the Wroxeter type due to their resemblance to some brooches within the Wroxeter group. Some examples on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database have been discovered under this title. Margaret Snape included an example found at Corbridge in her 'Severn' group, which she described as having a North Midlands distribution (1993:14).

The development of this type is not really known, Philpott suggests it came from the trumpet and dolphin types (1999:274-5). However, the style of the Wirral brooch does have similarities with the Wroxeter type and so further study of the detailed style is needed. Dating is difficult to assign as, along with the

typological issues, very few examples have been found during excavations and those which have, are not from secure contexts. It is to be expected that they could be 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD because of the dates of the other developed bow brooches, such as trumpet and headstud types. Part of the work to be done on this brooch will attempt to create a typology for the brooch group in order to try to understand its origin. This will involve looking at the variant types, two examples of which are shown below in Figures 3 and 4.

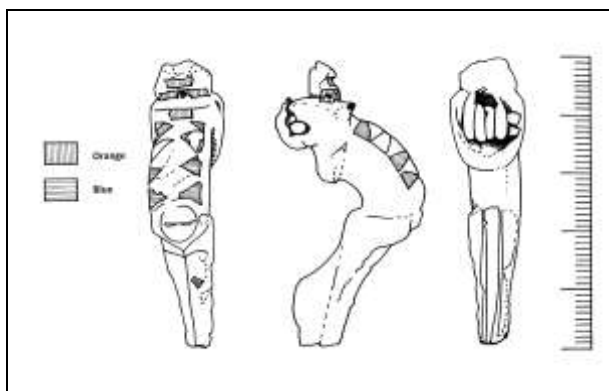


Fig. 3. Illustration of a variant of the type (PAS no. LVPL-059BC2). Drawn by John Piprani



Fig. 4. Another variant of the type, with no enamel on the bow but otherwise fitting into the group (PAS no. LANCUM-FE8642).

As no moulds or half finished brooches have been found to indicate a manufacturing site, other methods must be employed to try to establish their geographical origin, one of which will be to look more closely at their distribution. The majority have been found on the Wirral, in North Wales and Cheshire, forming quite a tight group. Only 14 of the brooches on the current

database have been found outside this area and these mainly belong to two other distinct groups; one in Scotland (Traprain Law, Edinburgh, Peebles, Pusk) and the other from the northern Roman fort sites (Corbridge, Ribchester, Vindolanda, Brough, Ravenglass). This tight distribution supports the theory of an origin on or around the Wirral. Figure 5 below shows the distribution of brooches in the core area.

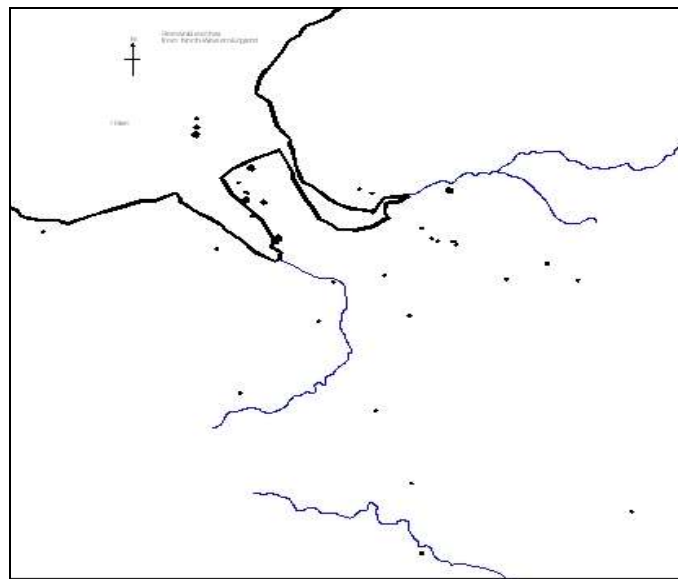


Figure 5. Distribution map of Wirral brooches in and around the Wirral.

As well as looking at the stylistic and geographical range of the brooches, their chemical composition is also being investigated, as this may help identify if they came from a single workshop. Atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) is being carried out on the brooches in order to determine their alloy composition. This work is being done by Dr. Matthew Ponting of the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology of Liverpool University. So far 19 brooches have been analysed, with some encouraging results, as Figure 6 below shows. 18 of the brooches were of leaded bronze, whilst one is of a completely different alloy. The outlier in composition was LVPL-059BC2, which is illustrated above in Figure 3. This is very interesting as the other 18 are all what may be termed normal or type Wirral brooches and they all have a broadly similar chemical composition.

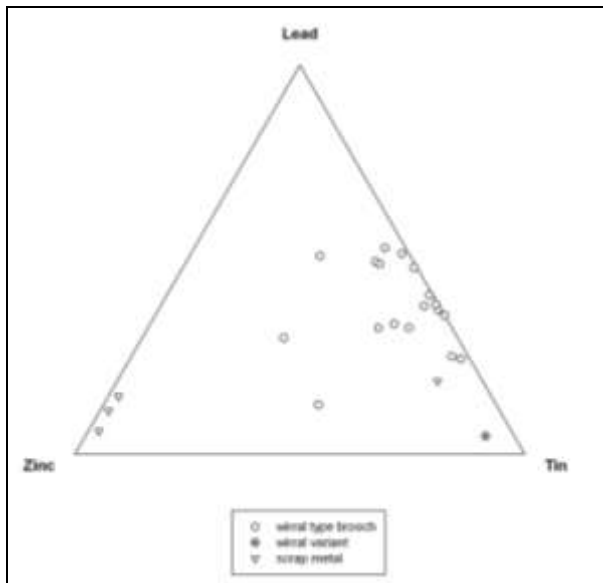


Fig. 6. A ternary diagram created by Dr. Matthew Ponting showing the first results of analysing 19 brooches.

Historic Scotland have recently agreed to pay for the testing of the five brooches from Scotland and it is hoped that looking at some brooches from outside of the core distribution will give us further insights into the type. If the Scottish examples have the same alloy composition then it may be an indication they came from the same place as those found on the Wirral and Cheshire.

This study is still in its early stages, and more analysis needs to be done on the brooches, as well as more work on the stylistic variations of the type. It is hoped more brooches will come to light through further searching which will enhance the study also. If anyone thinks they have seen a Wirral brooch then I would be extremely grateful if they could get in touch as I am sure there are more out there which have not yet been identified or recorded.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Dr. Rob Philpott, without whom this brooch would not have been noticed, and Dr. Matthew Ponting whose help has been invaluable in carrying out the AAS testing.

### Bibliography

Snape, M. 1993. *Roman Brooches from North Britain: A classification and a Catalogue of Brooches from Sites on the Stanegate*. BAR British Series. 235. Oxford.

Philpott, P. 1999. A Romano British brooch type from North Western and Northern England, *Britannia* 30, 274-86.

Frances McIntosh. Finds Liaison Officer for Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire.

[Frances.mcintosh@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Frances.mcintosh@ncl.ac.uk)

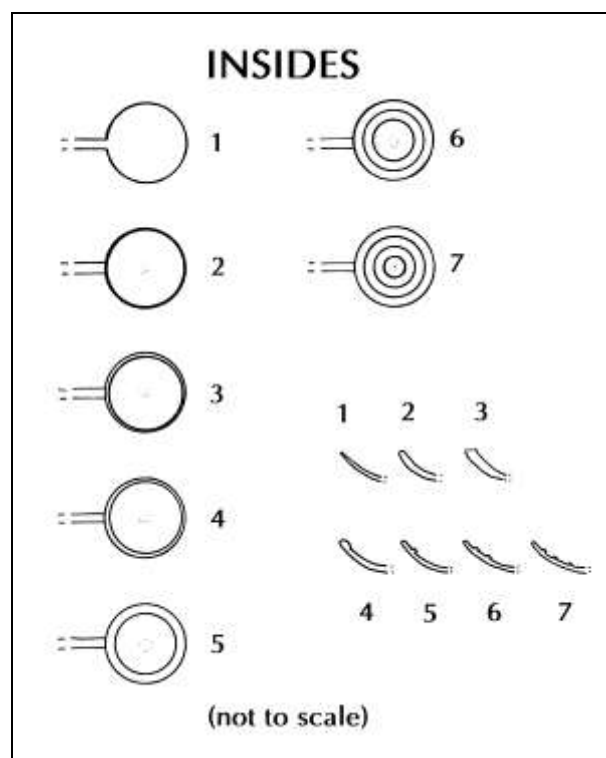
### Towards a typology of Romano-British spoons

In one sense there are two kinds of Roman spoons – the very large ones, generally of silver, 4<sup>th</sup>-century or later, often with inscriptions on their handles, designs in their bowls and monogrammes on the join, and generally East Mediterranean, but also found at Sutton Hoo and now Prittlewell. They can measure up to about 11 inches long. They are rather beautiful objects, but not very practical.

The other kind are generally of bronze or poor-quality copper alloy, small (as small as 2 ½” long), often flimsy and very common. The same designs occur all over Britain and the western Roman provinces. The smallest ones have circular bowls (Group I); then come those with bowls which we usually call purse-shaped (Group II) and then the various forms of oval bowls (Group III). But some are of silver, inscribed and decorated, eg the Mildenhall and Thetford treasure spoons.

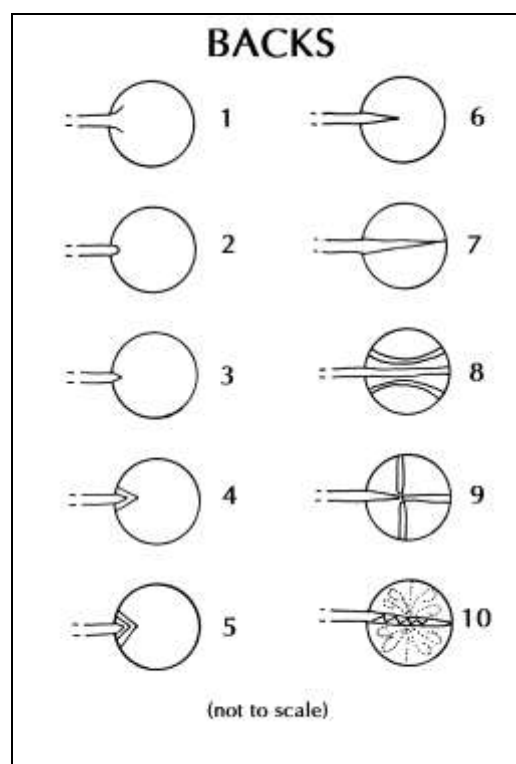
I am studying this second kind of Roman spoon. As a result of many years visiting museums in Britain and elsewhere and scrutinising archaeological publications, I now have a collection of about eight hundred drawings or photocopies of Roman spoons (Group I – 170,

II – 180, III – 430). Using those that have some sort of date – either intrinsic, or contextual, I want to see if all of these spoons can be arranged in some sort of typology.



I have already ‘cherry-picked’ some of the more interesting spoons and published articles on certain groups, e.g. folding spoons, fixed knife-spoons, combination eating implements (Roman ‘Swiss army knives’), pairs of spoons with inscriptions, and pewter spoons with fish decorations to name a few out of a total of nearly twenty articles. I have one more group I want to publish – spoons with decorated handles. Otherwise, I am left now largely with the dross to study – spoons which have little intrinsic interest and those which are fragmentary. But it seems a waste not to try to order the information I have amassed, if only to know that it can’t be done. I am aware of two other people who have briefly attempted a typology – Donald Strong in his *Greek and Roman Gold and Silver Plate* (1966) and Nina Crummy in *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations at Colchester* (1983). Others have quoted these publications in their small finds reports in excavation reports, sometimes being able to use stratigraphy for dating.

Leaving aside the question of how, when and where Roman spoons were invented, I think the most diagnostic part of a Roman spoon is firstly the shape of its bowl, then the handle and then the join between the bowl and handle, so this is the way I have begun to classify them.

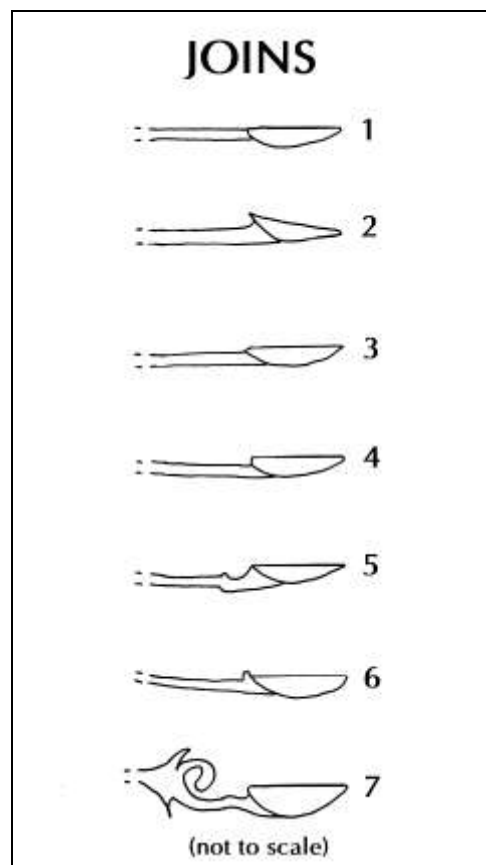


Small spoons with circular bowls (**Group I**) are found in sets at Pompeii but apparently not much earlier. They are generally photographed looking into the bowl, so one cannot see the back or how the handle is attached which requires a side view (and I haven’t been to Pompeii or Naples for about 30 years!). Exactly this type of spoon is then found in 1<sup>st</sup>-century A.D. contexts all over the western empire. The bowl develops two main variants – a convex rim around the edge of the bowl and a raised circle inside. On the back there may be a rat tail extending from the handle across all or part of the bowl, and other decoration. Graffiti (but not inscriptions) may be found on the front or back.

Handles of circular bowled spoons are generally round in cross-section, straight and taper to a point. There is no join to raise the level, except with the large and late circular spoons.

The next group (**Group II**) are spoons with purse-shaped bowls (sometimes called ‘fiddle-shaped’). In this group the same interior rim can be found; also a rat tail underneath. The bowl interiors may be decorated. The handles are also mainly pointed rods, but there can be flat sections which allow for inscriptions; and in the join with the bowl there are the beginnings of the designs which are so elaborate in the third group of oval bowls.

Roman spoons with oval bowls (**Group III**) include various shapes which publications have given names like egg, leaf, almond etc. and they gradually evolve into the latest types which are very large and tongue-shaped. Bowls and handles can include elements of the two earlier groups, and very elaborate engraved decoration in the bowls, sometimes parcel-gilt (Thetford); inscriptions in niello on the handles; and joins between bowls and handles which may be animal heads, or scrolls and eventually button-shaped discs. The handles can be elaborately moulded, including a group of dolphin handles which I hope to publish.



In addition to these three main groups there are odd groups of just a few spoons, some of which I have already mentioned in my publications. There are also spoons the handles of which end with hoof shapes, spoons with swan-necked handles, spoons with comma-shaped bowls and the new type from Hoxne with handles fixed to the long side of the bowls (presumably very difficult to use).

Besides silver and bronze there are spoons made of iron and pewter, or bronze tinned to make them look like silver. There are many Roman spoons of bone and some of ivory and even glass. These last three materials I am not including in my study, except to note that bone bowls can imitate the three main shapes, circular, purse and oval; and they can imitate features in metal such as the rat tail.

My conclusion to this paper is simply to ask for feed-back on my proposed methods of classification, and for information on any dated spoons from recent archaeological contexts which I may not have noted. I hope I can provide a revised and illustrated version of this paper at a future RSFG meeting.

[davidsherlock@onetel.com](mailto:davidsherlock@onetel.com)

#### References

- D E Strong, *Greek and Roman Gold and Silver Plate* London, 1966  
 Nina Crummy, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2, Colchester 1983

### A puzzling object from South Wales – any clues gratefully received!

A copper alloy object was reported to the National Roman Legion Museum in May 2008 (Figure 1). It had been discovered by a metal detectorist, in the vicinity of Shirenewton, Monmouthshire (ST 4793). A fourth century AD copper alloy *GLORIA ROMANORUM* coin depicting a soldier dragging a captive after him,



with standard in his left hand, was discovered at the same time in close proximity.

The object appears to be an unusual pair of tweezers. It is formed from two separate arms of cast bronze joined together with a small rivet at the head ends. The two arms are matching in design. The mid shaft of the arms is the narrowest part of the tweezers and is embellished with deeply incised parallel lines, creating effective finger grips. The jaws are wide, smooth and in-turned. The outside faces are decorated with incised lines running down their outer edges. The heads of the two arms are stirrup shaped. The object is 71mm in length with a maximum width of 10mm.

My initial thought was that this pair of tweezers had originated as a one-piece type, which at some point had been damaged and broken into two parts at the head end, the rivet being an attempt to repair them. However, close examination does not reveal any surface evidence that a break has occurred, indeed the decoration of the heads, with the continuous incised line, which is evenly spaced from the edge of the heads on all three sides, suggests that the termini as they survive now, are original and they were never joined other than by the rivet.

It is possible that a spacer, made from an organic material, which has not survived, kept the two arms apart on the rivet and created the necessary tension between them. Without a spacer, it is difficult to see how enough tension could be created for the tweezers to be functional.

To date I have not been able to discover any reasonable parallels, whether Roman or Medieval or later, and hence the appeal. If anyone has come across a similar object or can reveal the location of possible parallels, I would be grateful for any clues to help identify and date this intriguing find.

*Julie Reynolds*  
Curatorial Officer, National Roman Legion  
Museum

*Julie.Reynolds@museumwales.ac.uk*

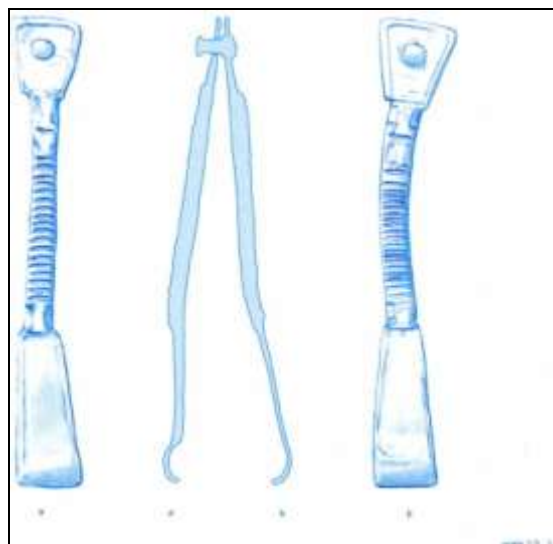


Figure 1: Cast copper alloy tweezers?  
Copyright: National Museum Wales

## The Little Horse from Chalk Pit Field, Sedgeford, Norfolk

Early on during the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project's 2008 season, a small cast copper alloy horse was discovered with a metal detector whilst trenches in Chalk Pit Field were being machined. It was discovered in subsoil but was not within an archaeological feature. The little horse has produced a lot of discussion and as yet we are still not one hundred per cent certain of its date and function.

It is small in size, just over 20mm from nose to tail and 6.5mm wide. The proportions are not true to life, the head and neck being on the large side and the legs being very short. The ears project upwards from the top of the head; they are over-large and are not individually defined. Three deeply scored lines on the back of the head represent the mane. The legs are barely individually defined; instead, there are two rather blocky sections, each defining a pair of legs, one at the front and the other at the back. It has been suggested that the underside of the legs could have been filed down to an unknown degree, but their appearance may simply reflect the finishing of the object. The tail projects outwards, then curves round to form a loop. The loop suggests that the horse was intended to

be suspended as a pendant, rather than being made as a tiny figurine. It is too light to be functional as a steelyard weight. The horse is decorated with a number of pecked dots and lines that represent features such as the eyes, and possibly some form of harness. The horse was finely made, and its beautiful rich and even mid-brownish-green patina suggests that it is of some age.

As Chalk Pit Field is the site of a Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement, this would be the most obvious date for the horse. But the horse would be an extremely unusual find if this were the case. Roman horse figurines are slightly more common. When they do appear, they often have an associated separately cast rider. The Chalk Pit horse does not have a hole for the lug that would have kept a rider in place, and there are no other signs of attachment (apart from the loop), so we know that it probably stood alone. The horse is quite stylised, and as Roman figurines are usually rather more naturalistic, a date in the later Iron Age might also be a reasonable proposal.

Because of the uncertainty about the dating, a variety of period specialists were shown the horse and asked for their opinions. Unfortunately, they agreed on very little except that they had seen nothing quite like our little horse before! It was even suggested by more than one expert that the horse was not British in origin. If this were the case, its presence on Chalk Pit Field might be explained in two ways. Firstly, it could have been brought from elsewhere in Europe, for example, another part of the Roman Empire at some point during the first to fourth centuries AD. Alternatively, the horse could be a fairly recent loss, perhaps a souvenir from an eighteenth or nineteenth century European grand tour. Although unusual, ethnographic or ancient foreign material does occasionally turn up in British fields. These recent losses could be accidental, they might reflect deliberate disposal of ‘rubbish’, or possibly, and rather more sinisterly, they could be planted in an attempt to confuse or test archaeologists.

Richard Hobbs and Jody Joy, British Museum curators of the Roman Britain and the British Iron Age respectively, have seen the horse and both are happy that it dates from the Roman period. However, like all the other experts, they have not seen anything similar, so the search goes on.

Naomi Payne

[naomicpayne@hotmail.com](mailto:naomicpayne@hotmail.com)



The figure is unusual on two points – the position of the loop on the rear and the decoration. Other animal pendants generally have the loop on the middle of the back, such as a probable dog from Hounslow (Franks 1865, 90) or an unprovenanced horse from the museum in Avignon (Rolland 1965, 123 no. 244). These pendants are fairly simple, stylised pieces without decoration. There is, however, a small horse from Kent (PAS database KENT-18D822) with ring and dot decoration.

Emma Durham

Franks, A.W. 1865 Additions made to the collection of British Antiquities at the British Museum during the year 1864. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* III (2<sup>nd</sup> ser), 83-94.

Rolland, H. 1965. *Bronzes Antiques de Haute Provence (Basses-Alpes, Vaucluse)*. Paris: Gallia Supplément 18.

## Brooch patterns?

Whilst looking through the collections at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery I noticed what appeared to be a lead trumpet brooch. As far as I know this is one of very few examples of what might be called 'brooch patterns' in Britain. Three are known from Poole's Cavern in Derbyshire and these are the only ones I can find reference to. If anyone knows of any other lead brooch patterns I would appreciate it if they would get in touch with me, as I would like to investigate this further.

Frances McIntosh

[Frances.mcintosh@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Frances.mcintosh@newcastle.ac.uk)

## Study Day Review

### ROMAN FINDS GROUP

27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 – Norwich Castle Museum

Unfortunately, due to a lack of interest, the RFG day scheduled for April was cancelled. Our thanks go to John Davies and his team at the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery for making initial arrangements to host the event and we hope that a new date can be set when interested parties can enjoy a visit to enjoy the exhibition.

## RFG Committee

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

**Minutes and General Secretary:** Richard Hobbs, Prehistory & Europe, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. e-mail: [rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:rhobbs@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

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

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

**Meetings Co-ordinator:** Chris Lydamore, Harlow Museum, Passmores House, Third Avenue, Harlow, CM18 6YL, Tel 01279 454959. e-mail: [chris.lydamore@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:chris.lydamore@harlow.gov.uk)

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

**Newsletter Editors:** Emma Durham, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PG. e-mail: [emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.durham@arch.ox.ac.uk)

&

Lindsey Smith, The Cupola, 3 Race Farm Court, Rectory Lane, Kingston Bagpuize, OX13 5DS. e-mail: [l.r.smith@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.r.smith@reading.ac.uk)

**Website Manager:** Nicola Hembry, English Heritage, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Eastney, Portsmouth, PO4 9LD. e-mail: [nicola.hembrey@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nicola.hembrey@english-heritage.org.uk)

**Committee member:** Ellen Swift, Lecturer in Archaeology, Cornwallis Building University of Kent, Canterbury

KENT, CT2 7NF. e-mail: [E.V.Swift@kent.ac.uk](mailto:E.V.Swift@kent.ac.uk)

### NEXT RFG MEETING RFG Study Day

The next RFG meeting will take place on **update** A registration flyer is enclosed with this edition of Lucerna. Please complete and return to Dr Richard Hobbs at the British Museum.

### Membership update?

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

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

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

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

## Books books books books books books books books books books books

### *The Glass-Blowers of Roman London*

by **John Shepherd and Angela Wardle**

ISBN-13: 978-1-901992-84-7: ISBN-10: 1-901992-84-5 64p, col illus (Museum of London Archaeology 2009). Paperback. Not yet published - advance orders taken. Price £6.95

New evidence for glass working in London came from 35 Basinghall Street in the City, with the discovery, in 2005, of over 70kg of broken vessel glass and production waste. This ranges from large blocks, which have cooled in a tank furnace, to minute threads swept from a workshop floor. Particularly impressive are thousands of moils - the small cylinder of glass left on the end of the blowing iron when a vessel has been detached, each representing the making of a single product.

Such glass was a valuable commodity which would normally have been remelted in a furnace and used to create new vessels. Its presence may mark the demise of a nearby glass workshop, located on the margins of the city. Detailed study of the waste is providing new insights into the glass industry of 2nd-century AD London, its products and the techniques of its craftsmen.

This colourful book reviews the current evidence for the history of glass working in Roman London. The various stages of glass vessel production are described, using both the evidence from Basinghall Street and striking images of the experimental work of modern glass-blowers using ancient techniques.

### *Becoming Roman, Being Gallic, Staying British: Research and Excavations at Ditches 'hillfort' and villa 1984-2006*

by **Stephen Trow, Simon James and Tom Moore**

ISBN-13: 978-1-84217-336-7: ISBN-10: 1-84217-336-7. 240p, 54 b/w illus (Oxbow Books 2008). Paperback. Price £35.00

Excavations carried out from 1984-1985 at Ditches in Gloucestershire identified a large, late Iron Age enclosure which contained a remarkably early Roman villa. This long awaited excavation report reinterprets this evidence in the light of more recent studies of the late Iron Age-Roman transition. It extends our understanding of the Ditches-Bagendon-Cirencester oppida complex, and corroborates the latest thinking on the nature of Romanisation. High status archaeological sites are central to these relations, including the so-called oppida, developed in southern Britain in the decades between Caesar's raids and the Claudian occupation. Ditches provides further corroborative evidence. Several phases of Romano-British building were uncovered, revealing an unusual sequence of development for a villa in the region and representing an exceptionally early villa beyond south-east England. Discoveries included a well-preserved cellar and a range of finds, including Gallo-Belgic wares, Iron Age coins, coin moulds, Venus figurines and brooches indicating high-status occupation. The form and date of the villa also provides evidence of connections between the late Iron Age elites and communities of southern England and Gaul. Further evidence suggests the villa was abandoned in the later second century AD, emphasising the unusual sequence of the site.

***Between Villa and Town:  
Excavations of a Roman Roadside  
Settlement and Shrine at Higham  
Ferrers, Northamptonshire***

**by Steve Lawrence and Alex Smith**

ISBN-13: 978-0-904220-44-5: ISBN-10: 0-904220-44-3. 361p (*Oxford Archaeology Monograph 7 2009*). Hardback. Price £19.99

Lying in the heart of the Nene Valley at Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire, was a substantial Roman roadside settlement, excavated in part by Oxford Archaeology during 2002-3. Established along the eastern side of a road in the early 2nd century AD with an array of circular stone buildings, it underwent a significant transformation around 100 years later. A series of plots containing rectangular stone buildings was laid out on one side of the road, whilst on the other side was a monumental shrine complex containing hundreds of votive offerings. Although the shrine fell into disuse in the later 3rd century, the settlement continued to expand along the road until it too was abandoned during the latter half of the 4th century. No doubt the shrine played an active role in the economic lives of the inhabitants, but the evidence indicates an overwhelming agricultural economy - a community of native farming families with horticultural plots, small paddocks, nearby arable fields, and hay meadows on the Nene floodplain.

This volume presents the results of archaeological investigations of this Roman settlement, along with other excavated prehistoric sites in the local area, including Mesolithic activity, a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age ring ditch and a middle Iron Age settlement.

***Roman Mosaics of Britain Volume III: South-east Britain***

**by David S Neal and Stephen R Cosh**

ISBN-13: 978-0-85431-289-4: ISBN-10: 0-85431-289-7: Hardback. Price £200.00

The third volume in this massive project to create the first complete corpus of the Roman mosaics of Britain covers the areas of Britain that were first to come under Roman control and where some of Britain's most impressive mosaics are to be found - in Colchester, Silchester, London and Verulamium, and in villas and palaces at Brading, Bignor, Fishbourne and Rockbourne.

***The Hoxne Late Roman Treasure: Gold Jewellery and Silver Plate***

**by Catherine Johns**

ISBN-13: 978-0-7141-1817-8: ISBN-10: 0-7141-1817-6 256p, 450 illus (*British Museum Press 2009*). Hardback. Not yet published - advance orders taken. Price GB £60.00

The Hoxne treasure, a spectacular collection of gold and silver coins, gold jewellery and silver artefacts, was buried early in the 5th century AD, and was rediscovered in November 1992. Although the major objects have been exhibited in museums and illustrated and discussed in both popular and scholarly publications over the last fifteen years, the results of detailed research on the entire find are published here in full for the first time.

This volume provides a complete, illustrated inventory of the items in the treasure other than the 15,000 coins, which have been separately published (in *The Late Roman Gold and Silver Coins from the Hoxne Treasure*, by P.S.W. Guest, British Museum Press, 2005). It catalogues the 29 superb pieces of gold jewellery, a dozen silver vessels, nearly a hundred silver spoons, and about 40 additional silver objects. The numerous objects made of organic materials (ivory, bone and wood), though individually small, are rare discoveries, and the iron nails and other fittings bear witness

to the chest that originally contained the treasure: all are described in detail, bringing the total to just over 400 entries.

Fifteen chapters of wide-ranging discussion include specialist contributions on the excavation, conservation and scientific study and analysis of the material, and the identification and interpretation of the inscriptions. Together they place this outstanding find both in its immediate environment of late Romano-British society and in the wider context of the art, iconography and luxury of the late Roman world.

***At the Great Crossroads:  
Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval  
Discoveries on the Isle of Thanet,  
1994-1995***

**by Paul Bennett, Peter Clark, Alison Hicks, Jonathan Rady and Ian Riddler**  
ISBN-13: 978-1-870545-14-3: ISBN-10: 1-870545-14-1. 366p, text figs (*Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Occasional Paper 4, 2008*). Paperback. Price £40.00

The widening of the road between the Monkton and Mount Pleasant roundabouts on the A253 led to the archaeological investigation of a 3km strip of land between July 94 and February 95.

Prehistoric discoveries included Neolithic inhumations and pits, well-preserved Beaker graves and ten ring-ditches of late Neolithic and Bronze Age date. An extensive and unusual Roman settlement of the late first to early second century AD was characterised by a large number of sunken-floored buildings. A small rectangular structure on the fringes of the settlement may have been a roadside shrine. A small Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located at the eastern end of the excavated area and at the western end a medieval farmstead with at least five buildings was investigated.

The information is presented in four parts covering the main periods of occupation of the site and each chapter includes specialist reports

on pottery, small finds, human and animal bones and the plant and insect remains.

***Prehistoric and Roman Essex*  
by James Kemble**

ISBN-13: 978-0-7524-1934-3: ISBN-10: 0-7524-1934-X 222p, 59 b/w figs, 32 col pls (Tempus 2001). Paperback. Price £16.99

A well written general introduction to the prehistoric and Roman periods in Essex and parts of Suffolk. Kemble writes for a non-specialist audience and successfully synthesises evidence from archaeological excavations, the Sites and Monuments Record, documentary and cartographic evidence, aerial photography and geophysical survey material. More than 150 sites from Essex and 80 from Suffolk are included as he traces the history of the county from 500,000BC, through the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age, to Roman occupation and the 4th century AD. Well illustrated throughout and with an extensive gazetteer of sites.

***Fortresses and Treasures of  
Roman Wales (Mysterious  
Counties Series)***

**by Sarah Symons**  
ISBN-10: 1859836992: ISBN-13: 978-1859836996. Hardback Price £14.99

"Fortresses and Treasures of Roman Wales" details all the fortresses built in Roman Wales during the first century, including all the excavations that have brought these once powerful structures back to life, giving us a wealth of information as to how they functioned and how the soldiers lived. Their foundations have shown us how large they were and where they were placed. We even know what colour some of their internal walls were. And through the discovery of various pottery, we know what utensils the soldiers used for cooking, eating and drinking. We also know how the soldiers spent their leisure hours and what games they played. The soldiers were provided with luxurious bathing facilities even in remote areas, and the remains of these once splendid



buildings can still be seen at Caerleon, and Wroxeter (now Shropshire). Two of the great amphitheatres where the soldiers were entertained and held ceremonial parades are also included and can be seen at Caerleon and Chester. The book also tells how little communities sprung up outside the fortresses' walls, with the soldiers trading with the local people and, in some cases, marrying and deciding to retire in the locality. Many of these communities like Neath and Carmarthen in South Wales, and Whitchurch, Wroxeter and Chester, now in England, have evolved into the thriving centres they are today. After the brutality of the Conquest, the Romans enabled areas to govern themselves and from this, the people began to adopt the Roman way of life and learned to read and write. Many of the Roman artefacts found at the excavations and the countless coin hoards have become treasures in their own right and are now displayed in museums across the country. This title offers a fascinating delve into Roman Wales providing a unique glimpse back into time. It features photographs and illustrations from excavations.

***The Empire Stops Here: A Journey Along the Frontiers of the Roman World***

**by Philip Parker**

ISBN-10: 0224077880: ISBN-13: 978-0224077880 Hardcover £25.00

The Roman Empire was the largest and most enduring of the ancient world. From its zenith under Augustus and Trajan in the first century AD to its decline and fall amidst the barbarian invasions of the fifth century, the Empire guarded and maintained a frontier that stretched for 5,000 kilometres, from Carlisle to Cologne, from Augsburg to Antioch, and from Aswan to the Atlantic. Far from being at the periphery of the Roman world, the frontier played a crucial role in making and breaking emperors, creating vibrant and astonishingly diverse societies along its course which pulsed with energy while the centre became enfeebled and sluggish. This remarkable new book traces the course of those

frontiers, visiting all its astonishing sites, from Hadrian's Wall in the north of Britain to the desert cities of Palmyra and Leptis Magna. It tells the fascinating stories of those who lived and fought along it, from Alaric the Goth, who descended from the Danube to sack Rome in 410, to Zenobia the desert queen, who almost snatched the entire eastern provinces from Rome in the third century. It is at their edges, in time and geographical extent, that societies reveal their true nature, constantly seeking to recreate and renew themselves. In this examination of the places that the mighty Roman Empire stopped expanding, Philip Parker reveals how and why the Empire endured for so long, as well as describing the rich and complex architectural and cultural legacy which it has bequeathed to us.

***Latrinae Et Foricae: Toilets in the Roman World***

**by Barry Hobson**

ISBN-10: 0715638505

ISBN-13: 978-0715638507 Paperback £14.99

The Romans are renowned for their aqueducts, baths and water systems, achievements equaled in the modern world only over the past few hundred years. Their toilets, both single ('latrinae') and multi-seater ('foricae') form part of the Roman sanitation system that continues to fascinate the modern visitor to ancient sites today. In this concise, well illustrated overview, Barry Hobson describes toilets in the Roman empire from what is now Turkey to Hadrian's Wall, with particular emphasis on Pompeii, and encompassing discussions of privacy, sewage, rubbish disposal, health issues and graffiti.

***The Romans on the Bay of Naples: An Archaeological Guide***

**by Lawrence Keppie**

ISBN-10: 0752448404: ISBN-13: 978-0752448404. Paperback £17.99

Roman towns and villas on the Bay of Naples are among the best known to the modern public, largely because some, including Pompeii and



Herculaneum, were buried under ash, pumice and mud, when nearby Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, preserving them for our benefit. Before modern development the Romans would have seen these places in a system of towns and countryside. Our knowledge of this area is continually being added by new discoveries, excavation and research. This book offers an up-to-date description of the remains, how they were used in Roman times and a guide to visiting them. It covers not only the better known sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, but also the other Roman remains in the area which were much more important, including Puteoli (modern Pozzuoli) and Naples itself. This book will appeal to enthusiasts, tourists and students alike.

## news conferences study days news conferences study days news study

### **Beyond Roman Pots : Evidence of Food Stuffs & Eating**

**8th September 2009**

Lecture by Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology,

7:30pm, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum  
The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EN

Admission: £3.50 for non-members, £2 for Museum members. Booking not required.

### **Guided Tours with a Difference: A Miner, a Murder and a Roman Bath House! at Arbeia Roman Fort**

**10<sup>th</sup> – 12th September 2009**

Heritage Open Days event.

Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum  
Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear,  
NE33 2BB A11am, 1pm & 3pm

Admission Free. Booking advisable on (0191) 456 1369. [www.twmuseums.org.uk/arbeia](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/arbeia)

### **Harborough Hoards and History Day**

**19th September 2009 11am-4pm**

FREE

To celebrate the reopening of Harborough Museum and its exciting new Treasure gallery, Harborough will host a 'Hoards and History Day' on the 19th September from 11am until 4pm.

There will be Victorian strollers, Roman and Civil War soldiers, a Medieval Market and the Birmingham Pals will be retracing the original Great War recruiters of 1914. Look out too for the historic fashion show. You'll even be able to have a go yourself – dress up as Roman, have your face painted like a Celtic warrior, make your own coins or explore the history of this

fascinating district through hands-on displays and by talking to our special, mystery guest.

Contact: A full program will be available – to get your copy first why not join our mailing list by contacting Harborough Museum on 01858 821085 or email:

[harboroughmuseum@leics.gov.uk](mailto:harboroughmuseum@leics.gov.uk)

### **Romans and the Romanesque in Lincoln and Lincolnshire**

**25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

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

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

On Sunday there will be an opportunity to tour several notable churches and monastic settings

in the area including the well-preserved late 11th and early 12th century church at Marton; the 11th century Minster at Stow; the fine 12th century sculpture at Middle Rasen; recently discovered late 12th century monastic material at Scothern; and the little known monastic remains at South Kyme, which include a fine Romanesque doorway and Anglo-Saxon shrine fragments.

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

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

## **Romans and Countrymen: Rome meets the Iron Age in the Northern Marches**

Third Annual Seminar  
Saturday 24th October 2009  
The Marches School, Morda Road, Oswestry  
Old Oswestry Landscape and Archaeology Project  
10.30am - 4.00pm  
Tickets - £8. 50 (to include morning and afternoon refreshments and a sandwich lunch)  
Contact: Heather Hidden  
[heather.hidden@btinternet.com](mailto:heather.hidden@btinternet.com)

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

Study Day to be held at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) Mortimer Wheeler House, Hackney, London

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

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

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

## **TAG UK 2009 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

The 31st annual Theoretical Archaeology Group (UK) conference will be held at Archaeology Department, Durham University DH1 3LE. Session proposals can now be submitted. Information about how to do this can be found at [www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call\\_papers.html](http://www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call_papers.html). The deadline for session proposals is 30.6.09. The call for papers will open in July. Information about this can be found at [www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call\\_papers.html](http://www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call_papers.html). For more information contact the organisers , email [tag.2009@durham.ac.uk](mailto:tag.2009@durham.ac.uk), web [www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/).

## **CALL FOR SESSIONS TRAC 2010**

The 20th **Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference** will be held, jointly with the 9th Roman Archaeology Conference, at the University of Oxford from Thursday 25 March

to Sunday 28 March 2010. The Organizing Committee would like to invite session proposals. These should take the form of an outline statement of the intellectual rationale of the session, no more than one page in length. Sessions are normally a half-day in length and consist of six slots each of 30- minutes (including time for questions) plus a break for tea and coffee. The six slots may be filled either by six papers or by five papers and an extended discussion session; in the latter case, the proposal should identify a named discussant.

A list of at least four proposed speakers and provisional titles should be supplied in addition to the name or names of an organiser or organisers with contact details. The conference organizers will fill the remaining slots with appropriate individually-submitted papers.

The deadline for TRAC session proposals is July 17 2009. Organisers will be notified as soon as possible thereafter, and a call for individual papers will follow.

Session proposals for TRAC should be sent to [trac2010@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:trac2010@classics.ox.ac.uk) and further information can be found at <http://rac2010.classics.ox.ac.uk>

Dragana Mladenovic & Ben Russell  
TRAC 2010 Oxford Organizing Committee

**NEW! - Field Studies Council**

**NEW! – Exhibitions**