

ROMAN FINDS GROUP

NEWSLETTER XX

July 2000

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EDITORIAL

Y2K appears to be the year in which organizations are taking stock of what they do and how they do it, and, in many cases, relaunching themselves and having membership drives. The RFG committee, too, has noticed some gaps in its membership, particularly in museums and university departments, and is soon to have a membership drive in an attempt to fill them. Over the last month alone I have come across two recognised authorities in branches of 'finds' studies who had not even heard of the group. The committee has produced a leaflet outlining what RFG offers, and this will shortly be sent out to units, appropriate museums, and university archaeology departments. In addition, we will soon have a web site up and running, www.romanfindsgroup.org.uk, which will give links to other related sites. Try looking for it in August.

A very useful related site is that of Instrumentum, the European working group on ancient crafts and manufactured products, founded in 1995. As both a new member of this group, and suddenly also the British vice-president (more like a correspondent), I have already found it to be of tremendous benefit, as well as very good value at about £10.00 a year (p17). One of its great strengths is a continuously evolving bibliography, available on line, as a CD, and in its biannual *Bulletin*.

If you haven't yet seen Ridley Scott's *Gladiator*, a bleak picture of the dreadful games of war, politics, and survival, I thoroughly recommend it — the gore is nicely counterbalanced by the earrings. It is apparently purely coincidental that the British Museum is offering a temporary exhibition, opening in October, on *Gladiators and Caesars: The Power of Spectacle in Ancient Rome*. Like the film, the exhibition is a 'must see', and the tantalising hints of an accompanying film programme looks like visitors will be able to catch a good old Hollywood blockbuster at the same time (p16).

A temporary exhibition that deserves to be permanent is the Museum of London's *High St, Londinium*, which opens in July (p15-16). It has obviously involved not only an enormous amount of hard work but also a lot of hard cash, investments which will evaporate like so much mist when it comes to dismantlement time. Let's hope the museum can find a new location for it and turn temporary to permanent.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is November 7th. Any material is gratefully received, but please let me know in advance if you wish to contribute an article longer than about 1,000 words. To make sure I can access any text sent by email, it should be in a fairly basic format, preferably as a .txt or .rtf file. Illustrations should be line drawings (a good photocopy will do) or black-and-white photographs, or could be scanned and sent as .bmp files.

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Antler combs, big hair and the mafia in late Roman Britain

An e-mail correspondence

For me, Nick Cooke, this all began with a slightly cryptic e-mail from Richard Reece. Nina Crummy had e-mailed him the text of an article she had written on late Roman antler combs, 'Personalised plates - the marketing and meaning of late Roman double-sided antler combs'. He wondered if I might have a few thoughts on their occurrences in burials, having completed a PhD on late Roman burial practices in the Western Empire: "*Nina Crummy has been writing on antler combs, like the Lankhills ones, and sent me a copy to have a look at. They suddenly appear in Britain sort of 370's, both in rubbish and in burials, so it is not something common suddenly becoming visible. And they seem to have been made here as well. Where have they come from??? Any hints in your burials a) an epicentre b) before 370's?*"

Richard didn't send me the article itself, and I only read it some way through the exchange of letters. At first Nina & I corresponded through Richard, and he only passed some of my comments on to her, which confused things thoroughly. I hope that this initial confusion is not apparent here.

As my ideas impinge on Hilary Cool's article 'Hairstyles and Lifestyles' in Newsletter XIX, Nina thought it would be a good idea to convert some of the correspondence into an article along the lines of the Guardian's Yes/No letters. This is the result.

Nick: My first impressions are that these combs are usually late and, in Britain at least, associated with slightly unusual burial practices. Although combs of this type are found in burials throughout the Western Empire, they occur more frequently in British graves than elsewhere. In Britain, the majority of combs are placed by the head of the deceased, who are usually female, whilst the continental sites do not show this coherence of placement. The majority of bone combs placed in the graves appear to be the double-sided rather than the triangular variety.

In his publication of the Lankhills excavations, Giles Clarke classed the antler combs found in graves as 'equipment'. I would suggest that these are probably worn personal articles, being used to hold together elaborate Late Roman hair-do's in the grave. This would support a group of fashion-conscious British ladies being buried in their finery, having got their hairdressers in for one last time. Interestingly, they occur in the 'main' (i.e. 'Christian') cemetery at Poundbury, where, along

with coins, they are more or less the only coherent grave goods. Jackie McKinley (cremations, dead Saxons and dead people generally) has said that she believes there is evidence from Saxon cremation burials for the triangular type combs being worn in the hair of people on the pyre - something about the way the combs are fire damaged. She suggests the triangular combs are worn in the hair as 'modern' combs are, with the decorated triangle upwards.

I feel there is a danger of circularity on the dating. You think they definitely don't appear till the last third of the 4th century, but I feel that we do not have enough British examples from graves containing dated artefacts to say anything more positive than 'second half of the 4th'. True, twelve of the thirteen Lankhills combs occur in graves of 365 or later, but none of the Poundbury combs occurs with closely-dated material - although mausolea, sarcophagi, plaster burials and lead coffins all *suggest* a second half of the 4th century date. There are no bone combs from the latest cemetery phase. Only one of your Butt Road combs occurs with a late coin. It seems as though there you have dated the graves to the last third *because* they contained combs.

My final thoughts are tending towards a British adoption of combs as part of elaborate coiffures late in the C4, with their burial in graves being a very British tradition. Is there any particular pattern to the type of site on which they appear, and is there any difference in distribution between the double-sided and the single-sided? I can think of no reason for them not occurring in burials on the continent if they were being used in a similar fashion - if the use of a bone comb in the hair can pass the grave good censorship practiced at Poundbury, then it ought to make it through anywhere the fashion exists. One unusual example of combs in a burial is at Kunzig an der Donau, where a grave contained 4 double sided bone combs, one placed by the head, and two placed by one shoulder.

Nina: *I think you are wrong about most of the combs in graves being worn in hairdos - it doesn't seem practicable, and where I have been able to go back to original site photos or plans the evidence is equivocal at best. Skulls have a habit of breaking up and falling apart. I would treat all records of combs 'beneath the head' as suspicious. We have lots of evidence for pins*

being worn in the hair, but only Joan Liversidge's reference to the burial at Les Martres-de-Veyre for a comb really in the (real) hair. I think Giles Clarke is right to call them 'equipment'. They are sometimes with piles of jewellery, and it could be argued that the jewellery would have been worn in life so the comb must have been, but the combing of the hair is an essential part of the toilette. It has to precede the dressing/ crimping/pinning etc of the hair, which is then followed by the necklaces and the jangly bangles on the arms. Just ask a teenage female the order in which she gets all dolled up. The brush and comb are vital to her preparations. My daughter will not even walk the dog without brushing her hair and tying it back. Combs were valued and necessary things and are in graves for that reason.

(Triangular combs are a different matter. One was found in the eastern cemetery at London under a woman's skull, which certainly suggests that it was worn. However, they are 'Germanic' rather than Roman objects, and I don't really want to go off at a tangent on them now.)

I also have my doubts over there being more combs deposited in Britain than elsewhere. Is this really true? Because they are only present in a minuscule percentage of late British graves. Is this still more than in Hungary, for example?

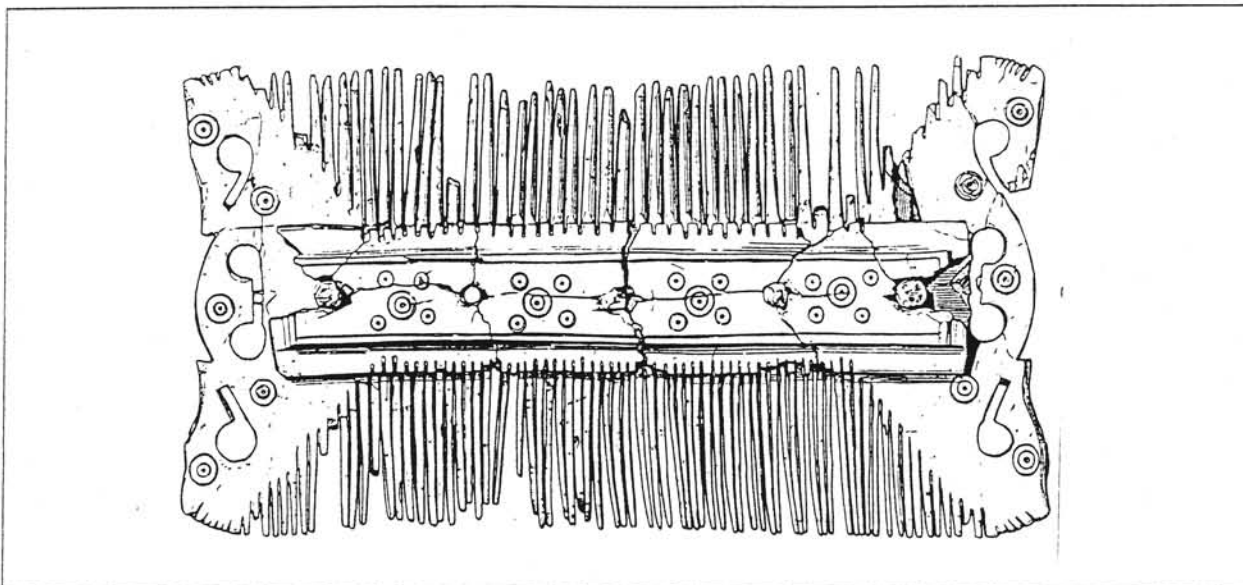
Double-sided antler combs start to appear over here in the very late Roman period, and though they are inspired by continental technology there is no reason to suppose that most of those found here are anything other than made here. They continue into the Saxon period, with some R-B

style combs found in Anglo-Saxon cremations. The form of the end-plate is one way to distinguish Romano-British combs from others. The end-plates fall into three stages of development, simple, slightly elaborated, and zoomorphic, with the zoomorphs used limited to horse, dolphin, and owl. The slightly elaborated ones clearly prefigure the forms of the zoomorphs, and I believe that they were only developed into animal form at the request of the purchaser at the point of sale, with an additional payment. One particularly elaborate horse comb was found at Winchester in a bone-veneered wooden box, and it is so remarkable, and is in such good condition, that it may even have been made specially for deposition.

The decoration is clearly linked to Hawkes and Dunning's late Roman horse/dolphin buckles, but the meaning of the choice of zoomorphs is not really clear. Horses and dolphins have strong symbolic links to the after-life, and the owl was the bird of Minerva, but it doesn't appear very often as an image.

Touché over the dating. But I stick to my guns. When these combs occur in non-cemetery stratified/well-dated contexts they are always very, very, late Roman, definitely last third of the 4th, into the fifth. The group from the fill of a drain in London is a classic example, as are those from Wellington Row in York.

It did occur to me that your interesting chap with several combs round his head might have been a comb-maker, going off with his wares to the after-life? At a completely different date I have dealt with a decorated floor tile deliberately deposited in



Horse comb, Hyde Street, Winchester (sf HYS 17). Drawing © Winchester Museums Service.

a late medieval grave in the cemetery of a hospital/church that had floors made of the same tiles. Was he the tiler, or perhaps the paviour?

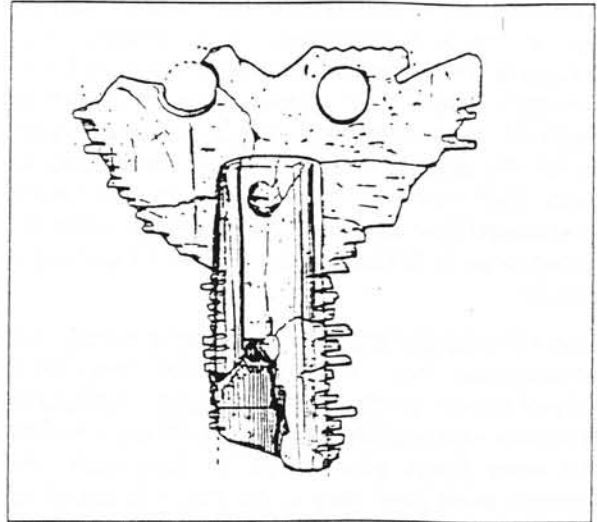
Nick: I am pleased. I would have been very disappointed had you agreed with my hairpieces. I don't appear to have any knowledge of Les Matres-de-Veyre at all - how embarrassing - the only supporting evidence for my pack of cards, and I've never come across it. Yes, the positioning of the combs close to the head could indicate the desire for these objects to be close at hand when needed. The area around the head of the coffin and around the feet are obviously the two areas of unfilled 'space' in which to place these items of immediate need. But it is interesting that on the continent they are only rarely placed near the head. (And yes, they are more frequent in Britain than Hungary.)

However, I believe that the close proximity of these combs to the skull in Britain indicates that they are placed here for a specific purpose. If we add to this the idea that they occur in apparently 'Christian' cemeteries, at one of which there appears to be an obsession with ensuring no grave goods occur, then it is possible that these were not thought of as grave goods. I could suggest that they were integral to fashionable hair-dos for posh Roman ladies and so were not viewed as grave goods. It is worth noting that very few of the 'grave goods' in the main cemetery at Poundbury would actually be visible if you looked in the coffin - coins in mouth or in hand and combs behind the head or in the hair. So they would go undetected by the Christian mafia who regulate grave furnishing in Poundbury?

I particularly liked the walking the dog analogy. Presumably, as a young lady, you never know whether you might meet an eligible young man walking a dog in the opposite direction, so it is best to be prepared. That leaves you free to discuss your common interest in pets, and later each other, without having to worry about looking your best. My point would be that the journey into the afterlife is similar in that you never know who you might meet, and whether they are good or bad, you are always at an advantage when looking your best.

I also like the ideas that much of the comb decoration is dependent on the client, that the decoration has symbolic importance and that they may occasionally have been bought specifically for burial. I agree that as late imports these might be unusual as site finds, but given their late appearance in cemeteries, ought they not occur more frequently? The majority of the examples of combs you cite from non-cemetery deposits

appear to be from towns and/or military sites. Are there any examples from villas, farms, small towns, hovels etc? or are these a barren hinterland for the comb seller/craftsman? I would be very interested in knowing more about stylistic variation and links between combs/styles. I am intrigued that the British end-plate form differs from elsewhere. Is this because the British ones are more ornate, or just different? I ask because, in my world of hair-do's, then these are the pieces most likely to be visible and therefore presumably the most ornate/decorated - your work seems to support this.



Owl comb, Victoria Road, Winchester (sf VR 1). Drawing © Winchester Museums Service.

There is something odd about the whole idea of combs as grave goods - even if they do bear symbols of life and death and rebirth. They commonly occur on their own or with bracelets and very little else. I find it difficult to imagine the thought processes that lead to the logical conclusion that 'the only thing we are going to bury with Aunty Justina is her favourite comb, and we are going to place it right next to her head, just like we did with Grandma Helena'. Obviously we can't necessarily hope to ever get there, but there really must be some attached significance to the comb thing, even if it is worn in the hair. Hilary Cool, in her recent article on hairstyles, identified a decline in the proportion of hairpins:bracelets from sites later in the C4. Could we be seeing the introduction of the comb as a hair accessory coinciding with the decline in the use of fussy hairpins, which are forever falling out and getting lost, and are nowhere near as practical or fashionable as those nice antler combs?

I like the comb-maker idea - the alternative would be that the dead man had extraordinarily long hair, requiring serious support. One final point - if

the comb is a good continental thing, why is burying them with the dead so common in Britain, and not elsewhere. Are we using them differently, or burying differently?.

Nina: While not wishing to distract you from the idea of combs in hair, and I do like the idea of the visible end-plates, it might be wise both to remember the decorated connecting-plates and to view these antler combs as part of a long tradition of double-sided combs with thin teeth on one side and thicker on the other: in one-piece boxwood and ivory for most of the Roman period (Pompeii & Herculaneum, for example, and there are several boxwood combs from wet sites in Britain), then a major technological step forward with composite antler, much stronger, in the late C4th, a tradition which then passes through Saxon to medieval, then becoming one-piece again, until we hit the plastic nit comb. They were used to comb the hair. Does it have to be more complicated than that? No one suggests that a pot placed close to the head was worn in an elaborate coiffure!

Maybe the reason they are in graves is simply that technological leap. They were new, they were state-of-the-art for the afterlife, though - thinking of nit combs - an unpleasant thought occurs - maybe you were given your comb to take with you because even then they knew that nits could be passed by sharing combs!

Yes, the old big towns/military sites thing is interesting, but I think it would disappear with more work gathering comb data. There are some other sites that I mention - such as Beadlam villa, while Kelco Cave might qualify as a hovel. However, since I like the idea of the peripatetic craftsman going from market to market, a mainly town-centred distribution suits me fine. I suspect, though, that it is really just a 'who has dug and published' thing, plus the only publications I used for the paper had to be in a library I could get to at

the time. I wrote it out of working hours when I was commuting to London, so it was restricted to what I could find in my own library and in the library in MoL.

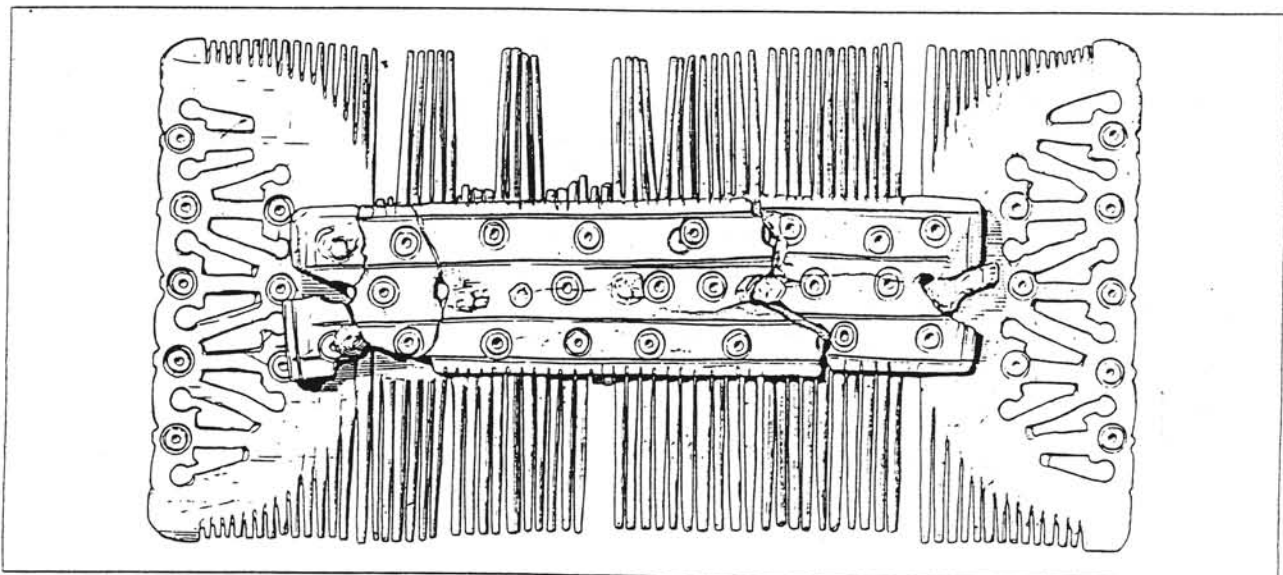
Of course I have, since writing that paper, come across some other combs - all of which suit my end-plate theory. There are a couple on display in Saffron Walden Museum, and trawling through county journals has turned up some others. So chasing through museums & scanning every county journal would be the next step, and that should provide info for a stylistic thing, for which there are hints. There is a funny quasi-dolphin group appearing along the length of the east coast which could mean that they are imported, but, as I said to Richard when first I sent the paper to him, I have enough to do finding the hours for earning a living without taking on a full-scale study.

I have thrown the ball - someone else can run with it. You??

Nick: In conclusion, we mainly agree, but we also beg to differ. Yes, double-sided combs are an indicator of a late 4th century date (but how early is that lateness?). They could be in graves just because you do your hair with them, and any symbolism restricted to the choice of the end-plate design, or the whole thing — comb, design, position in grave, presence in cemetery — could be riddled with symbolism. Could they have been worn in the hair? Now there we definitely part company, but I do have to agree that the stratigraphic evidence isn't very solid.

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*Horse-head comb, St Martin's Close, Winnall, Winchester.
Drawing © Winchester Museums Service.*



Site	End-plate form	Features	Reference
Stage 1			
Lankhills, Winchester	stage 1, with guidelines	3 small holes, 1 at centre, 2 beyond 'ears'	Galloway 1979, fig 31, 471
Victoria Rd, Winchester	stage 1		Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming, VR SF 776/941
Springhead	stage 1		Penn 1957, fig 18, 1
Stage 2			
Poundbury	stage 2	1 medium hole, beneath 'ear'	Greep 1993, fig 78, 1
Poundbury	stage 2	-	Greep 1993, fig 78, 4
Silchester	stage 2	1 small hole, beyond point	Boon, 1974, fig 16, 11
South Shields	stage 2	1 small hole, beneath point	Allason-Jones & Miket 1984, 2.44
Lankhills, Winchester	decayed, stage 2?	1 central medium hole	Galloway 1979, fig 31, 610
Victoria Rd, Winchester	decayed, stage 2?	1 medium hole beneath 'ear'	Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming, SF 495
Wellington Row, York	debased stage 2	1 small hole to one side of connecting-plate	Ottaway 1993, fig 71 centre top; 1988 24 [7643] SF 8577
Owls			
Lankhills, Winchester	owl head	2 large eye holes	Galloway 1979, fig 31, 323
Alchester	owl head	2 large eye holes, beak hole	Iliffe 1932, pl XVII, 2
Lankhills, Winchester	owl head	2 large eye holes	Galloway 1979, fig 31, 479
Wellington Row, York	owl head	eye holes	1988 24 [7687] SF 8837
Wellington Row, York	owl head	small eye holes	Ottaway 1993, fig 71 right; 1988 24 [71265] SF 12199
Cirencester	owl head	eye holes, feather tufts	McWhirr <i>et al</i> , 1982, fig 80, 175
Keil Cave, Strathclyde	owl head	keyhole-shaped cut-out, eye holes	Ritchie 1967, fig 2, 4
Victoria Rd, Winchester	owl head	eye holes, feather tufts,	Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming, VR SF 1
Pudding Lane, London	owl head (?in flight)	eye & beak holes	PDN81 [1428] <346/1>
Victoria Rd, Winchester	owl head	double ring-&-dot eyes	Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming, VR SF 705
Chichester	owl head	double ring-and-dot eyes	Down & Magilton 1993, fig 28.6, 2
Lankhills, Winchester	owl in flight	eye holes	Galloway 1979, 316
Lankhills, Winchester	owl in flight	eye holes, beak hole	Galloway 1979, 521
Horse-heads			
Hyde St, Winchester	horse heads	double ring-&-dot eyes, comma-shaped cut-outs	Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming, SF HYS 17
St Martin's Close, Winchester	abstract horse heads	double ring-&-dot eyes, saw-shaped cut-outs	Crummy forthcoming, SMCW SF 331
Askrigg	horse heads/owl head	key-hole shaped cut-outs, eye & beak holes	Manby 1966, fig 2, 7
Beadlam	horse heads	ring-&-dot eyes, comma-shaped cut-outs	Stead 1971, fig 5, 4
Dolphins			
Butt Rd, Colchester	dolphin heads	ring-&-dot eyes	Crummy 1983, fig 59, 1857
Lankhills, Winchester	dolphin full-length	1 small eye hole	Galloway 1979, fig 31, 473
Langton	dolphins/horse heads	ring-&-dot eyes	Corder & Kirk 1932
Wellington Row, York	dolphins/owl head	double ring-&-dot eyes	1988 24 [3112] SF 154 + [3118] SF 170

Table grouping selection of combs by manufacturing stages/zoomorphs (compiled from Crummy forthcoming).

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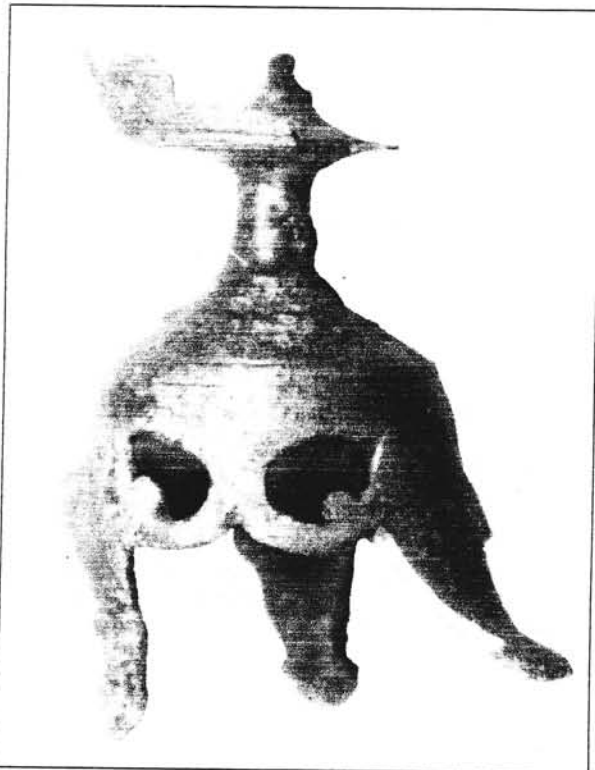
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An imported candlestick from Silchester

For the last three years the University of Reading Archaeology Department has been steadily excavating Insula IX in Roman Silchester, under the direction of Mike Fulford and Amanda Clarke (*Britannia* 1998, 426-7; *Britannia* 1999, 369).

One of the most interesting finds of the 1998 season is a rare copper-alloy candlestick (SF 583), height 58 mm. The candlestick originally had three legs but one has broken off completely and another is bent and damaged. The third leg survives in its entirety and clearly shows that the legs originally curved outwards and ended in a sub-triangular foot, probably a stylised lion's paw. The lower body is decorated with pairs of peltate-shaped openings and two parallel grooves. A much corroded plain stem leads up to a cup-shaped drip-collector with a central iron spike. The drip-collector is damaged but was originally decorated with one groove. Traces of the original white-metal coating survive on parts of the body.



The Silchester candlestick. Photo by Colchester Museums.

The Silchester candlestick is unique in Roman Britain but a very close parallel comes from a Roman settlement site at Niederweis, near Trier, where it was found associated with pottery dated

to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Goethert 1997, 192, fig 125). A further close parallel is known from a rich burial of the second half of the 2nd century AD in Herstal, Belgium (Amand & Mariën 1976, B11, No 10).

Related types which vary from our example in the design of the legs and lower body are also known. One comes from another rich 2nd-century burial in Vorsen, Belgium (Mariën 1980, 261, fig. 175), where it was associated with another candlestick, and five lamps, four ceramic and one bronze. The British Museum has a further comparable example in its collection, unfortunately without a known provenance (Bailey 1996, 115, Q3949, pl 153).

Given its close similarity to the examples from Niederweis, Herstal and Vorsen, it seems likely that the Silchester candlestick was imported from Belgic Gaul during the later 2nd or 3rd century AD.

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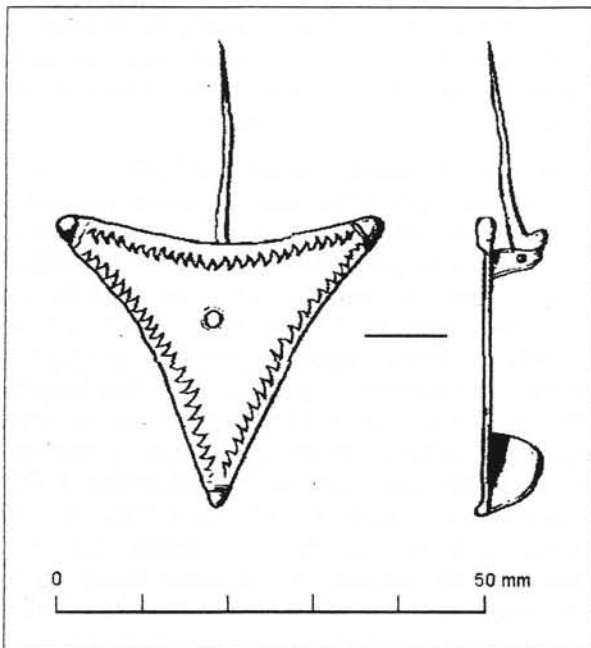
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An unusual brooch from Heybridge

Between 1993 and 1995 the Field Archaeology Unit of Essex County Council undertook one of the largest British area excavations at Elms Farm, Heybridge, near the Essex coast, on the site of a settlement that spanned about 500 years, from around 100 BC, through to the end of the Roman period (c AD 410), with some traces of occupation

in the Early Saxon period as well (Atkinson and Preston 1998).

Among the enormous quantities of finds that were recovered from the site were about 250 brooches. Most belong to the 1st-century AD, and fall into the types, both imported and of native manufacture, common in Britain in the pre- and immediately post-conquest periods, such as Langton Downs, Rosettes, Nauheim Derivatives, Aucissa, Hod Hills, Colchesters and Colchester Derivatives. The plate brooches include examples of the large Gallo-Rhenish series imported into Britain from the conquest and distinguished by a concentric circular motif, often beaded around the outside, and with an iron rivet, a spot or cup of red enamel, or other similar ornament at the centre (Feugère 1985, 337-44, Type 24).



SF 7410 from Elms Farm. Drawing © Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit.

The most unusual brooch in the Elms Farm assemblage is a hinged plate brooch, 30 mm long (HYEF94, SF 7410). It is flat and triangular with incurving sides, the edges marked by rocker-arm (incised zigzag) decoration. There is no trace of tinning on the surface. The pin is held between two slightly tapering rectangular lugs by a small rivet. The catchplate is more or less semicircular and has not been bent over to hold the pin, nor is there any scar where a section may have broken off. No close parallel has been found for this brooch, and the unbent catchplate suggests that it is an unfinished product. It is almost certainly of Claudian date and may have been made at the

Elms Farm site, where there was evidence of copper-alloy working from the Late Iron Age onwards.

However, a continental link might be provided by a pair of more elaborate triangular hinged brooches with incurved sides from Bingen, with a third cited from Hungary (Behrens 1920, 162, Abb 77, 9). These have recessed wavy lines along the sides, for which rocker-arm decoration might be seen as a cheap substitute, but are otherwise very different. They are described as being made similarly to Rosette brooches with applied plates, and the illustrated example is flat at the back but convex in front (rising from all sides), with linear decoration or cut-outs running up to a central inset blue glass roundel.

The incurved sides of SF 7410 also suggest links with Feugère's Type 24, some subtypes of which are similarly formed, and with a small number of early brooches usually ornamented with punch marks, but occasionally with marginal rocker-arm decoration (Mackreth 1981, fig 72, 59; Hattatt 1987, 160, fig 53, 1012-1015). Few in number, this type is found only in the north-western provinces, from Britain across to Switzerland.

Marginal rocker-arm decoration is not particularly common on Roman brooches, but does occur on some early zoomorphic brooches (Hattatt 1989, fig 78, 1634, 1637), on some Colchester B derivatives from the Elms Farm site, and on a strip-bow brooch from Maiden Castle in a Romano-Belgic context dated c 25-70 (Wheeler 1943, fig 84, 25).

If anyone knows of a similar brooch, please could (s)he let me know.

Nina Crummy

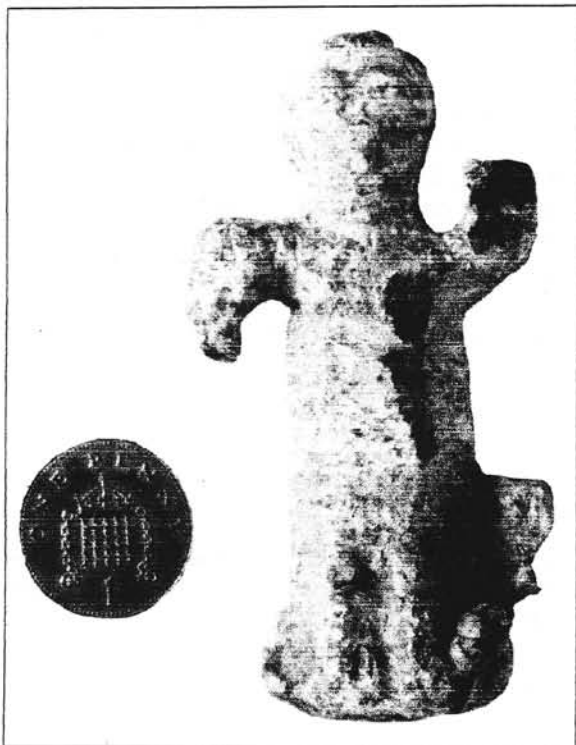
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A lead model from St Albans

This interesting lead figurine of native style was found recently in the vicinity of St Albans by a metal detectorist. Inevitably the precise findspot is unknown.

The standing figure is flat-backed, 72 mm high by 40 mm wide. The head has round protruding eyes, a downward curving moustache and pointed beard. The torso exhibits a muscular chest and the loins are covered by a lightly indicated skirt. The straight legs have prominent knee caps. The left arm points upwards, whilst the right points downwards and may carry a club. The figure may be wearing a cloak. Because of the crudeness of the artefact it is difficult to be confident in identifying many of the features, however, it is possible to interpret the head as wearing a lion skin mask with the forepaws crossed underneath the chin and lying upon the chest. The figure seems to be standing upon a beast lying on its back - the Nemean lion perhaps - and both these elements, together with the possible presence of the club, would suggest the figure can be identified as the demi-god Hercules.



The St Albans ?Hercules. Photo by R Hoare.

I understand that a similar lead figurine has been found in the Colchester area, but it has not been possible to locate it for comparison.

My grateful thanks must go to Robert Hoare for being in the right place at the right time with a film in his camera.

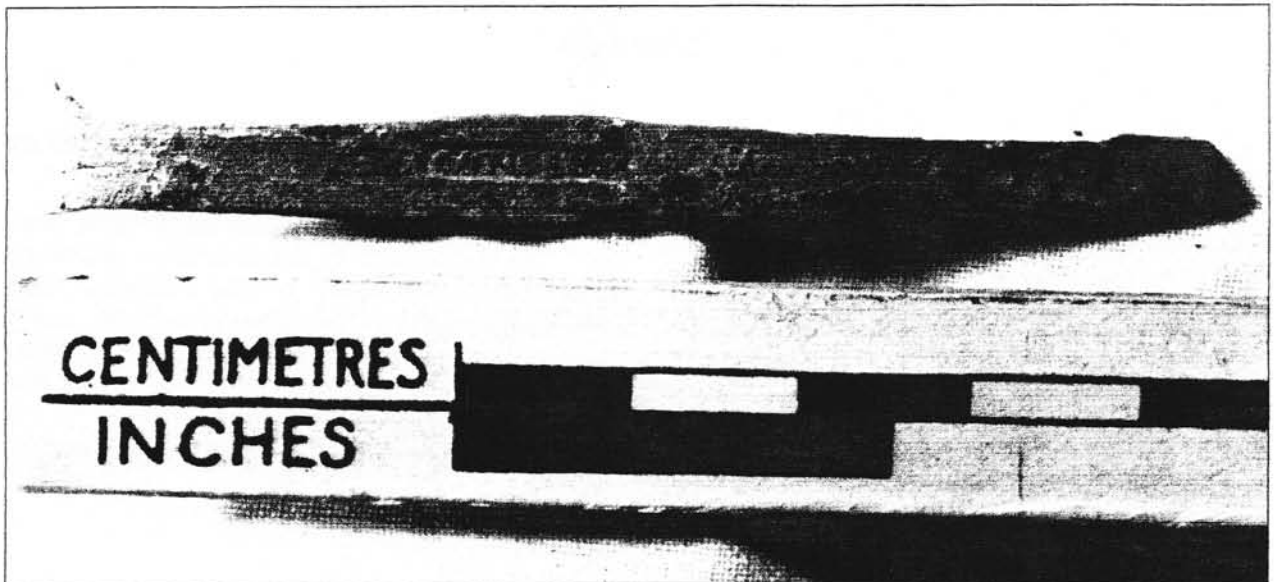
*Barry Carter,
Bwlch,
Beguildy,
Radnorshire LD7 1UG*

Agathangelus stamp

Excavations by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust at Sandridge, Hertford, UK, in advance of a new gas pipeline produced a small assemblage of material dated from about the time of the conquest of Britain to c AD 200. The majority of the items are of the types usually to be expected from domestic occupation sites, such as dress accessories, toilet instruments, needles and spindlewhorls, and hand-querns.

The most remarkable object (HAT 309, SF 60) is a stamped L-shaped bar of metal worked to differing shapes at each end. It is irregular-sided, 72 mm in length, of thin (2 mm) rectangular section, with a maximum width of 6.5 mm. One end has been bent over at a right-angle and beaten out to an irregular zigzag section as if to fit a moulded surface, width 10.5 mm. The length of this part is 15 mm, but the end is missing, and a separate small fragment (20 by 8 mm), also bent to fit a moulded surface, indicates that it must have been at least 40 mm long originally. The other end of the bar is beaten out to a semicircular section, in the same plane as the central part, though its sides are broken and may have developed into a larger segment of a circle, or even a full circle. The outer face of the bar is stamped AGATHANGELVS with well-formed letters in relief, and THAN multi-ligatured. The second G may be C, both letters being interchangeable. The sides have bulged slightly from the pressure of applying the stamp.

The products of the bronzeworker Agathangelus have been studied for some years (Künzl 1982, 32 & note 91; 1984, 62-4; Gostenčnik 1997a; 1997b; 1998), with about 20 items known so far. In Britain they have been researched by Ralph Jackson, who has kindly made the fruits of his labours available to all other interested parties. Agathangelus appears mostly to have made long-armed tweezers, some perhaps used as surgical forceps, spatulae that may have been used by



The Sandridge brush-holder, stamped *Agathangelus*. Photo © Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust.

bronzeworkers to prepare clay or wax matrices (eg Chapman 1980, fig 52, 466), and unusual objects identified as brush handles (Gostenčnik 1998, fig 1).

The Sandridge object appears to be the grip of another of these 'brush-holders', and there are others, unstamped, from Verulamium, Dorchester, Kingsholm, Carlisle, and London. The only other positive example of an *Agathangelus* stamp in Britain is on a reused tweezers fragment from London in the collections of the British Museum, but a 19th-century find from London, now missing but supposedly stamped ANNLVSI, might have been misread for *Agathangelus* (Gostenčnik 1997b, 154, no 17).

Kordula Gostenčnik, on the basis of finds from a burnt-down warehouse at Magdalensberg, has been able to put the start date of the *Agathangelus* workshop to no later than the last years of the reign of Tiberius. The end date is suggested by the presence of *Agathangelus* stamps on implements from Pompeii, though these are ancient finds and none is from a recorded context. This is a long period for one workshop to be in operation. Of course, the Pompeii finds, and those from Britain, may simply be long-lived survivals, but there are now rather too many of them to make this argument ring true.

There is yet to be convincing evidence of occupation in Roman London before AD 50 and the Hertfordshire fragment comes from the late 1st to 2nd century backfill of a sunken room, so an end date for the *Agathangelus* workshop in the

50s or 60s can comfortably be accepted, and the much later date suggested by the Pompeii and Sandridge finds is looking more and more probable.

Kordula is currently completing an article on British *Agathangelus* products, and similar objects, both stamped by other bronzeworkers and unstamped. If you know of any but have not been in contact with her, please let me know and I will pass on her address.

Nina Crummy

This note could not have been compiled without the help of Michel Feugère, Ralph Jackson, and Kordula Gostenčnik.

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- 1984, 'Einige Bemerkungen zu den Herstellern der römischen medizinischen Instrumente' in *Alba Regia* 21, 59-65

Some unusual brooches from Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields

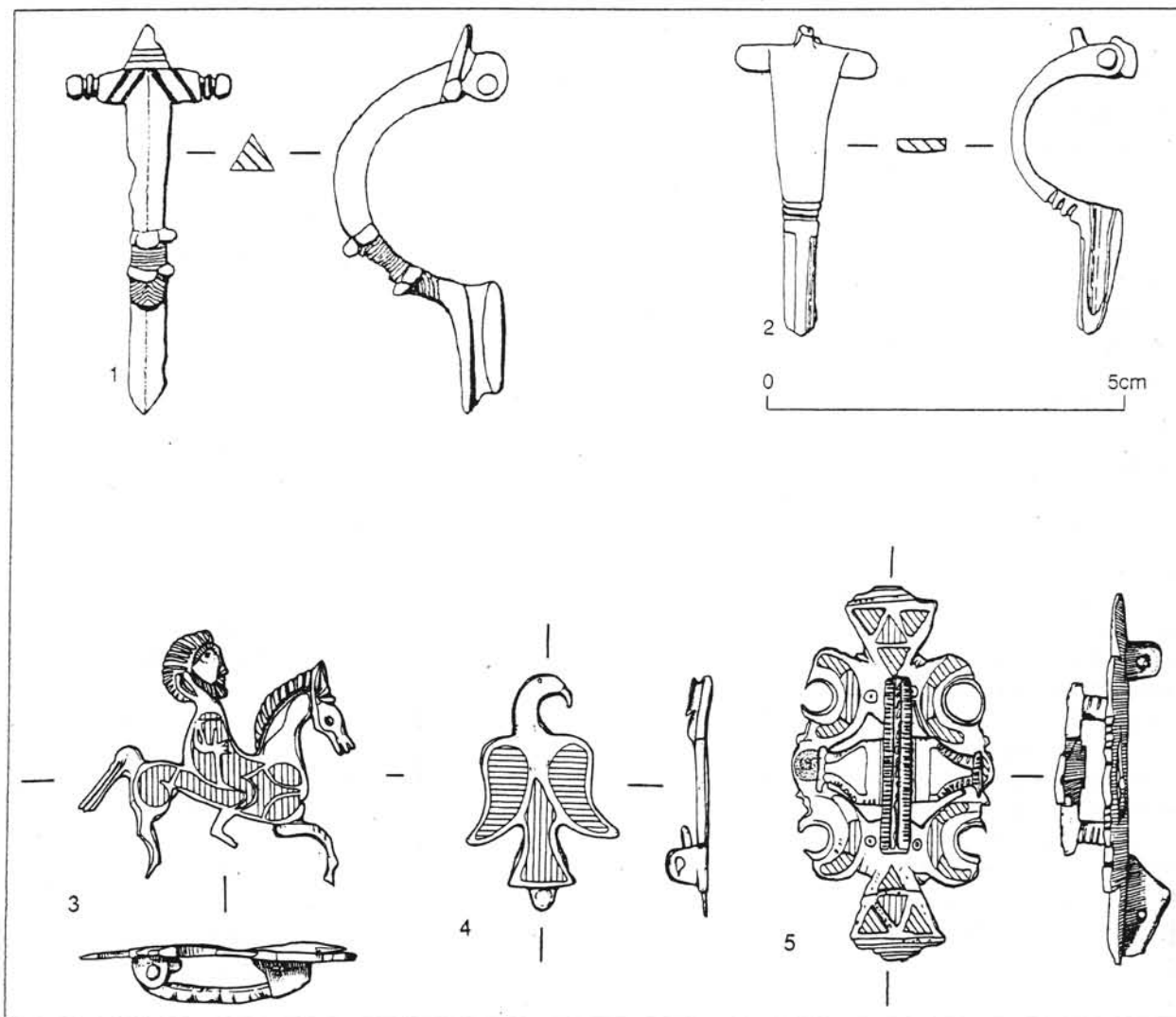
Two brooches in the Museum collection at Arbeia (nos 1-2) are variants of types usually found in Roman Dacia (Snape, *Arbeia Journal*, forthcoming). Did they arrive through a port at South Shields, or was a local craftsman producing variants of Dacian originals?

Recent excavations have produced other curiosities. The horse-and-rider brooch (no 3), on which the rider is shown carrying a 'baton', is the most northerly example of this unusual type. I have yet to find any close parallels for two eagle brooches; one (no 4) faces right, the other faces

left and is similar to the right-facing bird but not an exact mirror image.

Finally, brooch number 5 must surely be a 'one-off'! The combination of the enamelled openwork core, the strange raised central decoration, and the projecting triangular plates, is distinctly odd. I should be very grateful if anyone can suggest parallels or offer any comments on this or the other brooches mentioned above.

Margaret Snape,
Tyne & Wear Museums,
Buddle Street,
Wallsend NE28 6HR



Brooches from Arbeia Roman fort, South Shields. (No 1 drawn by R Oram, no 2 by R McBride, nos 3-5 by G Hodgson, Tyne and Wear Museums. Scale 1:1.

Notes from Hadrian's Wall

Roman Finds Group Meeting, Birdoswald

Fortuna's statue - found in the 19th century in the *praetorium* baths at Birdoswald - may now reside in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, but the goddess was smiling auspiciously on the 40 researchers who assembled one fine March morning at this most beautiful of Hadrian's Wall forts. The site no doubt of many early-morning gatherings: of the Hunters of Banna, perhaps, who dedicated an altar here, and of the *Cohors I Aelia Dacorum milliaria*, the regiment stationed at Birdoswald in the 3rd century and beyond. By that time, how many squaddies would have appreciated the irony that their unit bore the name of a Roman emperor, Hadrian, yet used as its emblem the fearsome scimitar, the *falx*, with which the Dacians had resisted Rome? How many would have visited Dacia and so might have recognised a distant echo of Szarmizegetusa in the craggy, promontory location of their garrison post?

It is not only thanks to the beauty of the setting and the hospitality of the visitor centre that Birdoswald today is the perfect centre for studying finds from the northern frontier. As **Tony Wilmott** pointed out in his introduction, it was here that Haverfield and Simpson in the 1920s first made much use of stratified finds for building a chronology; and it was as a result of epigraphic finds here in 1930 that Birley first devised his four-period scheme to encompass the whole history of Hadrian's Wall - a conceptual framework that was to overshadow Romano-British studies for the remainder of the 20th century. Today we tend to eschew grand narratives and to focus more closely on the particular. Were the two gemstones found recently in key stratigraphic positions both foundation deposits? One, depicting the Eagle and Standards, came from beneath the Turf Wall; the other, bearing the image of Geta or Caracalla, was associated with an early 3rd-century reconstruction of the west gate.

Building inscriptions seem to turn up rarely these days, but other categories of find can sometimes make useful substitutes. The discovery of a distinctively patterned belt-plate, with close parallels at Caerleon, from beneath the Hadrianic fort suggests that *Legio II Augusta* may have had a hand in building Birdoswald. At Caerleon the military metalwork is being studied by **Evan Chapman**, who presented a reassessment of the well-known Prysg Field weapon assemblage, excavated by Nash-Williams in the 1920s. The

finds came from a row of rampart buildings in the *retentura*, and it seems that in their second phase (from about 200 onwards) the buildings were used as an armoury. The rooms had specialised functions: one for arrows, another for *pila*, and another for caltrops.

At Wallsend and South Shields, on the other hand, it is proving far more difficult to infer function from finds - as **Nick Hodgson** and **Alex Croom** explained in a fascinating contribution. The South Shields *praetorium* yielded few luxury finds to match the Mediterranean style of the architecture, while in the Wallsend *retentura* the planform of the barracks suggests that this part of the fort was occupied by four cavalry *turmae*: horses in the front *contubernia*, men in the back. Yet there was no particular concentration of harness fittings here; toggles and button-and-loop fasteners were found in supposedly infantry blocks too.

A horse-and-rider brooch in a naturalistic style that contrasts markedly with what is normal for such brooches in Britain, was just one of several unusual brooch types from South Shields that were discussed by **Margaret Snape**. Tantalisingly, a particular type of P-shaped brooch seems to find its closest analogues at the Saalburg and in Dacia (see *opposite*). The value of studying artefacts on the widest geographical and temporal scale emerged also from **Lindsay Allason-Jones's** paper on the jet and shale industry. To an untrained eye the different materials may appear similar but to Roman craftworkers the properties of each were fully understood and exploited. Table-tops were made in shale, pins in jet, finger-rings and beads often in cannel coal. Some products, including faceted-headed pins, have a widespread distribution, others a local one: elaborately carved armllets are found only at Cologne. These Rhineland workshops used local materials but the types and styles tell a complex story of contact and exchange with their British counterparts.

During the past two decades, north British forts have produced quantities of organic artefacts that match - and, in many ways, surpass - those from the Netherlands. The figures quoted by **Robin Birley** in his survey of recent finds from Vindolanda were staggering: 16,000 leather objects, 1,600 writing tablets and further 1,600 other wooden objects. And what treasures there are! A sliding box lid in Spanish sweet chestnut,

embellished with a carved peacock; an 'Egyptian lock' with tumblers of bone and ivory; and a complete oak wagon axle, showing that the Romans used a wheel gauge of about 5 feet. Hardly less impressive is the woodwork from Carlisle - as **Mike McCarthy** showed in his description of the finds from an area which, at about 100 acres in total, represented the largest 'urban' conglomeration in the Roman north-west. Wooden combs, a baker's peel and the tops of benches are among the relics of everyday domestic and working life, but perhaps the most extraordinary discoveries are a wooden sword and a wooden dummy four feet tall on a pole. Was this a Roman quintain for use by soldiers on the training ground?

Roman Carlisle, it appears, was not always a safe place in which to live. In the mid 3rd century a man was bludgeoned to death and thrown down a well amidst a jumble of shoes, writing tablets, tent panels and a cattle skull that had been used for target practice. Did the murder have a ritual significance? Ritual deposition was discussed by **Rick Jones** in the context of Newstead. Here, recent fieldwork has shown that the artefact-rich pits and wells excavated by James Curle a hundred years ago did not always exist in isolation but had often been dug in close proximity to buildings that have left only the faintest of traces. The pit and well fills were carefully structured with complete objects - especially iron tools - near the bottom. These, it is suggested, are the manifestation of a particular domestic ritual that was enacted on every occasion a pit or well was officially 'closed'.

And what of the end of Roman Birdoswald? 'Housesteads ware' - pottery with supposedly 'Frisian' attributes - has turned up outside the south gate, but debate continues as to whether it was used by 'Frisian' soldiers during the Roman period or by a truly post-Roman population. At Vindolanda a stone slate has been discovered that bears a circle and cross - a characteristic form of the chi-rho monogram in the 5th century. Yet, by and large, we seem to understand the Dark Ages in the north no better than we did a generation ago. Perhaps this is partly because we still have a very poor understanding of how, during the Roman period itself, Roman material culture was used and interpreted in the countryside outside the walls of the forts. To what extent was the north ever brought within a single 'Roman' economic or social system? Does the absence of 'Roman' material merely signify a lack of financial resource, or does it signify participation in a different 'culture'? At Birdoswald, indeed, was it as a result of neglect or of changing values that during the 3rd century the *praetorium* had become 'covered with earth and [had] fallen into ruin' - as the famous inscription records?

*Francis Grew, Curator (Archaeology),
Early London Dept,
Museum of London,
London EC2Y 5HN*



NEXT MEETING - WROXETER



The next RFG meeting will be held at Shrewsbury, then Atcham, and then, finally, Wroxeter, on Monday 9th October 2000.

We will meet at Rowley's House Museum in the morning for five presentations, four on finds from Wroxeter, and one from Paola Pugsley on wooden combs from Britain. After a pub lunch, we will move on to Atcham for a visit to the museum stores, where Sarah Lunt of English Heritage will show us around. This will also be an opportunity to discuss how best large finds assemblages can be curated, published, and disseminated. The

subject of electronic publishing will no doubt arise!

We will finally move on to the site of Wroxeter itself, where Roger White will lead us on a guided tour. We will aim to be back in Shrewsbury for about 4 pm. Book early, as space is very limited for this trip. Details and a booking form are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Please note that this trip involves driving to Atcham & Wroxeter, so please make sure you let Peter know if you need, or can offer, space in a car.

High Street, Londinium

For the first time in London a temporary exhibition will house full-scale reconstructions of Roman timber-framed buildings. The evidence from the site at No1 Poultry and from earlier sites has provided us with the opportunity to test out theories of how such buildings may have been constructed. The exhibition will recreate three buildings, two as they may have looked in AD 100 and one as it was in AD 60 before it was destroyed in the Boudican fire.

Visitors will be able to wander up and down the corridors, peer out into back yards and along narrow alleys that divide the buildings. The complex system of drains that served the houses and took excess water away from the road will be visible and will need to be stepped across to avoid getting one's feet wet. With the use of back projection, the visitors will be able to see beyond the boundaries of the site and see other parts of the town. Smells, noise, light and movement will help to create a vision of what life was like in Roman London. Rooms will be open and visitors will be free to touch replica furniture, tableware and textiles.

The three buildings will be portrayed at different points of the day. The first building will be a small-scale baker's and hot food shop during a busy early morning. There will be a work-room with a hand-mill, sieves and mixing bowls. Sacks of flour are stored above and a pulley and hook is used to hoist them up and down. A ladder leads up to this partially-boarded store. Across the building's central corridor is the tavern where the hot food was served. In the back yard, an oven or hearth is built into the back wall of the building. The yard is littered with rubbish and waste food dumps.

In the next building the carpenter has left his partly-eaten lunch in the back-room workshop to go and serve a customer in the shop at the front of the house. His workbench shows evidence of his trade. The corridor leads to the backyard where a bee-hive and an out-house for pigs and chickens are visible through the half-open door and the windows of the workshop. The middle room houses the living quarters and has a hearth and hotplate in the centre of the room.

In the last building, visitors will be going back 40 years in time to see a shop that was destroyed in the Boudican fire. It is early evening and the shop-keeper is cashing up for the day. Visitors will be able to walk into the shop and see the wide

range of produce from around the Empire. They will be able to see the main road beyond the shop's shutters and the hustle and bustle of the busy street. The middle room is a stock room where crates, amphorae and a barrel are stored. The final room is still being built – the plasterer has just finished plastering the last of the walls but his trestles and tools have not yet been put away. The furniture is stacked against one wall. On leaving this room, the visitor will see that the outside of the building is still being finished with the last of the roof tiles yet to be installed.

The exhibition will be a challenge to archaeologists and archaeological methods - how to translate ground plans into the reality of the original buildings. The practical aspect of the project is one step further on from the reconstructions that already prove to be so popular in the Roman Gallery. Those rooms were designed to give a flavour of what life might have been like, but now we are attempting to recreate a small section of the town, warts and all.

*Jenny Hall
Early London Dept,
Museum of London,
London EC2Y 5HN*

Useful Web sites

acad.depauw.edu/romarch a useful start point for general information

www.britarch.ac.uk Council for British Archaeology

www.britac.uk British Academy, leads on to eg British School at Rome excavations

www.instrumentum.net (includes an excellent Bibliography)

www.uni-heidelberg.de/institute/sonst/adw/edh/search/html (to consult CIL on the net using the Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg - but not complete)

www.museum.ncl.ac.uk (Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle; includes Armentarium, a guide to Military equipment)

www.journalofromanarch.com search for relevant JRA articles

www.ecole-francaise.it (The French School in Rome, includes details of their excavations)

Exhibitions

British Museum, London. *Gladiators and Caesars: The Power of Spectacle in Ancient Rome.* 21st October 2000 - 21st January 2001. Looks at all aspects of the Roman entertainment industry and includes surprising modern parallels. Objects lent by European museums and from the museum's own collections. Sections include gladiators and fighting styles, sports, chariot racing, the theatre, and how public entertainments were used to manipulate the crowd for political ends. Accompanied by a major film programme. Check the British Museum web site, www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk for further details.

Museum of London, London. *High Street, Londinium.* 21st July 2000 - January 2001. Three full-scale reconstructions of Roman timber-framed buildings, using evidence from excavations. Two buildings will be set in AD 100, and one in AD 60. Smells, noise, light and movement will help to create set the scene in Roman London. For further details see p15, and the MoL web site www.museumoflondon.org.uk.

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. *Arthur Evans and the Knossos frescoes.* 20th September - 5th November 2000. Marking the centenary of the start of Evans' excavations at Knossos, this exhibition will focus on the frescoes of the Bronze Age palace. Further details can be found on www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk.

Work wanted

Finds work wanted

I have recently completed my PhD on regionality in Roman dress accessories from the Institute of Archaeology, London, and am looking for Roman finds work, particularly with small finds. Please contact me if you think I can be of help. Ellen Swift, 129 Winns Avenue, London E17 5HB. Tel: 0181 925 1462

Warning

Staining on bone veneer

The Time Team's dig at Birdoswald came up with a cremation burial in a pot with lots of bone inlays/veneers from something that had been put on the pyre. While this is not unusual for 3rd-century cremations in the north, when Jennifer Jones at Durham started to clean them up (they

were remarkably messy) she noted that there were traces of blue, red and black colouring on them. Pinkish red has been seen on inlays before, and black in the grooves on some similar pieces. I suspect people know to look out for deliberate staining of bone hairpins, but what about other bone things like this? Finds supervisors should warn anyone involved in cleaning bone objects (if things like that still are cleaned up in the pot shed) to look very carefully before they scrub.

*Hilary Cool,
16 Lady Bay Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5BJ*

Subscriptions

Thank you very much to all those who have not only paid their subscriptions for this year following the appeal in the last issue, but have also paid them for preceding years!

There are still a few backsliders, so for those who have yet to put pen to cheque book, another year is rapidly passing. Subs please to: *Angela Wardle, 1 Stebbing Farm, Fishers Green, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2JB*

RFG Committee

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notes and conferences

Instrumentum

Formed in 1995, Instrumentum is a European working group on ancient crafts and manufactured products of antiquity, covering the periods from the 8th century BC to the 5th century AD. Its aim is to collect for its members the available information on current research in Europe and the Mediterranean area on the crafts of the Iron Ages as well as the Greek and Roman worlds.

The group publishes a Bulletin twice a year, prints a newsletter, organises thematic round tables, and also issues a series of monographs. Membership costs 100 FF (about £10) per year, with a fourth year free if a subscription is taken out for three.

For further details contact Nina Crummy, 2 Hall Road, Copford, CO6 1BN, Tel: 01206 210255, e-mail: nina@crummy.ndo.co.uk or Michel Feugère, 38 rue Lafayette, F34530 Montagnac, France, Tel: 00334 67240247, e-mail: michel.feugere@wanadoo.fr

Conferences

Ancient DNA 5 (12.7.00-14.7.00)
Venue - Manchester. Details from Terry Brown, Dept of Biomolecular Sciences, UMIST, PO Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD
e-mail: adna5@bu.umist.ac.uk

The Age of Conversion in northern Europe (17.7.00-22.7.00)
A major international conference on the art, architecture, and archaeology of the first millennium of Christianity in northern Europe. Details from Dr S Trafford, York 2000, Dept of Archaeology, The King's Manor, York YO1 7EP. Tel: 01904 433994

TICCIH 2000 (30.8.00-7.9.00)
The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage's Millennium Congress will be held in London in advance of the Association for Industrial Archaeology annual conference. Details from TICCIH 2000, 42 Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BL. Tel: 01223 323437

Association of Archaeological Illustrators & Surveyors (1.9.00-3.9.00)

The AAI&S millennium conference will be held at Ramsay Hall, University College London. Details from AAI&S conference, 14 Phoenix Lodge, Brook Green, London W6 7BG. Tel: 020 7323 8474

Finds Research Group AD 700-1700

Forthcoming seminar

The 14th century

Monday 23rd October 2000
at
The Society of Antiquaries London

This seminar will examine the material culture of the 14th century. The programme so far includes: History & Economy (Chris Dyer), Art/ Precious Metals (Marian Campbell), Base Metalwork (Geoff Egan), Pottery (Maureen Mellor), Glass (Rachel Tyson), Treen (Carole Morris), Numismatics (Nicholas Mayhew), Leather (John Cherry), & Technology (Justine Bayley).

For further information contact Geoff Egan, MoLSS, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED Tel 020 7490 8447 e-mail: gegan@museumoflondon.org.uk

Info on the FRG can be obtained from Katey Banks, The Potteries Museum, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW. Tel: 01782 202173

Limes XVIII (2.9.00-11.9.00)

The 18th International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies will be held in Amman, Jordan. Details from Limes XVIII, Dept of Archaeology, SACOS, William Hartley Building, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX. E-mail: pfreeman@liv.ac.uk

Iron Age research seminar (23.9.00-24.9.00)

Informal biennial seminar held at the University of Bournemouth. Postgraduate researchers are especially welcome. Details from

Roger Doonan, Archaeology Group, School of Conservation Sciences, University of Bournemouth, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB

Society of Museum Archaeologists (9.11.00-11.11.00)

Annual conference to be held in Reading. Subjects will include: lottery funding and new directions in museum displays. Details from David Allen, Andover Museum, 6 Church Close, Andover SP10 1DP

TAG 2000 (18.12.00-20.12.00)

Annual meeting of TAG to be held at St Catherine's College, Oxford. Details from Chris Gosden, Pitt Rivers Museum, 64 Banbury Road, Oxford O1 6PN

International Council for Archaeozoology

ICAZ is dedicated to increasing communication within the broad international community of archaeozoologists through hosting conferences, sponsoring active working groups, and producing a newsletter.

As the most inclusive umbrella organization for this community of researchers, ICAZ has recently become a membership-driven professional organization. The new ICAZ hopes to meet its founding goals even better than before by posting a new website (www.nmnh.si.edu/icaz), publishing the newsletter twice a year, and by creating a dues-paying membership ultimately responsible for steering the organization.

The 9th International Conference of the International Council for Archaeozoology will be held in Britain in 2002. The venue will be announced later this year.

For further information contact Melinda A Zeder, Department of Anthropology, MRC 112, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C. 20560, USA e-mail: zeder.melinda@nmnh.si.edu

The UK board member for ICAZ is Juliette Clutton-Brock, e-mail: juliet.cb@btinternet.com

new books

Regionality in dress accessories in the late Roman west

E Swift. 2000 (Instrumentum Monograph 11).

The end of the western Roman empire

E Swift. 2000 (Tempus).

'Regionality...' is Swift's PhD, a careful study of some of the variants of some late Roman dress accessories, which enables some centres of production to be suggested. The second is a personalised version of the first.

Inst Mono 11, ISBN 2-907303-34-1, 312 pp, 272 figs, price 260 FF + p&p
Tempus Publishing Ltd, ISBN 0 7524 1478 X, 158 pp, 71 figs, price £14.99

Roman clothing & fashion

A Croom. 2000.

All aspects of dress considered from the 1st to 6th centuries AD. Includes section on provincial fashion.

Tempus Publishing Ltd, ISBN 0 7524 1469 0, 160 pp, many illus, price £18.99

The eastern cemetery of Roman London, excavations 1983-1990

B Barber & D Bowsher. 2000.

Describes & analyses the results of 12 excavations in an area to the east of the Roman town. Small finds are few in number but good in quality, and include a set of chip-carved belt-fittings.

MoLAS monograph 4, ISBN 1 901992 09 8, 448 pp, many illus, price £30.00 from Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN

Roman Castleford excavations 1974-85 III: The pottery

P Rush, B Dickinson, B Hartley, & K F Hartley. 2000.

The final monograph in the Roman Castleford series, this describes the Roman pottery assemblages from the excavations of the fort and vicus areas. In three main parts:

Samian, Coarse wares, and Mortaria. The latter two sections include type series. Includes a concordance of small finds, environmental remains and pottery by site, phase, and context.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, ISBN 1 870453 23 9, 278 pp, 98 figs, price £26, from WYAS, 14 St John's North, Wakefield WF1 3QA Tel: 01924 306792

Also still available: Volume I, the small finds (£24), Volume II, the structural and environmental evidence (£26)

Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85

R P Symonds & S Wade (eds P Bidwell & A Croom). 1999.

A major study of the Roman pottery from the first capital of Britannia. Includes a revised type series for the town.

Colchester Archaeological Report 10, ISBN 1 897719 97 8, 526pp + CD Rom, many figs, price £29.00 from Colchester Archaeological Trust, 12 Lexden Road, Colchester CO3 3NF Tel: 01206 541051

All other volumes in the series still available.

Excavations of an Iron Age and Roman religious complex at Ivy Chimneys, Witham, Essex 1978-83

R. Turner. 1999

Site of a Romano-Celtic temple built in the 3rd-century, plus a large pond with a sophisticated water regulation system. A new temple was built in the early 4th century, and there is evidence for a mid 4th-century Christian phase. In the late 4th and 5th century the site was again a pagan shrine, shown by numerous votive offerings of coins and jewellery.

East Anglian Archaeology 88, 283 pp, 158 figs, 27 pls, microfiche supp, price £24.00 from P McMichael, ECC Archaeology Section, Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex

Lincolnshire Salterns, Excavations at Helpringham, Holbeach St Johns & Bicker Haven

A Bell, D Gurney, & H Healey. 1999

Comprises reports on four sites spanning 1,500 years: Iron Age salterns at Helpringham, Romano-British at Holbeach St Johns (2 reports), and medieval at Bicker Haven.

East Anglian Archaeology 89, 108 pp, 66 figs, 36 pls, price £13.00 from P McMichael, ECC Archaeology Section, address above

La production du sel à l'Age du Fer

G Prilaux. 2000.

Several Iron Age salt production workshops were found during motorway construction in northern France. This volume examines the organisation of the salterns and their varying techniques of production, and proposes typologies for the ovens and items. Also provides a general study on the prehistory and economy of salt extraction and its use in antiquity.

Collection Protohistoire Européenne 5, 109 pp, 61 illus, 95 FF + p&p from Librairie Archéologique, 12 rue des Moulins, F34530 Montagnac, France

L'équipement militaire et l'armement de la République (I^{er} siècle avant J-C)

Edited by M Feugère. 2000.

Proceedings of the 10th International Roman Military Equipment Conference at Montpellier, France, 1996.

Contributions deal with material from Spain, Israel, France, Slovenia, and Greece.

Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies 8, ISBN 1842170066, 328 pp, many illus, price 440 FF + p&p from Librairie Archéologique, address above

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East Anglian Archaeology - www.eaareports.demon.co.uk

Librairie Archéologique - www.librarch.com

Oxbow Books - www.oxbowbooks.com

Castle Bookshop - www.archaeologybooks.co.uk

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