

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

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lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 22

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Editorial

Welcome to lucerna – essentially the same newsletter so that we can keep the same run of numbers, but perhaps just a little bit different. Why lucerna? It means 'lamp', and the Committee hopes that the Newsletter will be able to develop into a useful research aid, a 'light' in the darkness.

There was a very disappointing response to the call for volunteers to write datasheets (two to be precise), but remember – we know where you live(!), so you may not escape so easily. As an attempt to lead by example, I have put in this issue an interim statement of my recent research for a datasheet on nail-cleaners – a surprisingly fruitful field.

The key to rapid progress in finds research has to be the 'instant bibliography', and for this reason, Jon Cotton's work on sets of gaming counters (p 12-13) is, we hope, not a one-off but the first of many. If you have compiled a similar bibliography for a particular type or group of objects, please send along a copy for printing in lucerna.

Three good starting points when compiling a bibliography are 1) The catalogue of small finds from South Shields Roman fort (Allason-Jones & Miket 1984), 2) the on-line Instrumentum bibliography at www.instrumentum.net, and 3) the British and Irish Bibliography on www.britarch.ac.uk. Be warned, though, a search on BIAB for 'jet' will also get 'jettied buildings' and 'jettons', so add a space, ie 'jet ', to avoid unwanted records.

The Valletta Convention has now come into effect –dreaded by some as much as a cat among pigeons, though whether or not this fearsome reputation is deserved is yet to be seen. Andrew Selkirk here presents his concerns for the independent sector, while Christopher Young explains Valletta in detail.

Your new Meetings Co-ordinator is Ellen Swift, of the University of Kent in Canterbury (address p 18). The next RFG meeting will be in Exeter, the one after that at Segedunum. See also p 18 for a joint meeting with the FRG & the AMLab on X-rays – their creation, quality, use, interpretation, etc.

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Have you paid this year's subscription yet?

If not, better hurry up before a new year falls due.

Send it now to:

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Information for contributors

Post your contributions to Nina Crummy, 2 Hall Road, Copford, Colchester CO6 1BN, or email them to nina.crummy@ntlworld.com, Deadlines May 30th for inclusion in the July issue, and November 30th for the January issue.

Emailed text should be either a .txt, .rtf, or .doc file. Illustrations should preferably be simple line drawings or uncluttered photos. Emailed pictures should be .tif or .jpg files. Remember not to breach copyright law when sending illustrations.

Nail-cleaners: regionality at the clean edge of Empire

Nail-cleaners have long cried out for a dated typology, especially as the one established for Colchester in the early 1980s is not easily applied to other places, and is not even always easily applied there (CAR 2, 57-8; CAR 6, 153-4, 212).

The RFG's call for datasheets prompted me to offer to do one on toilet instruments as a whole, but, as the data piled up, it soon became apparent that the task was not going to be simple, as most of the nail-cleaner types emerging so far have a clearly regional distribution, not a national one. Given that many types of brooches and hairpins, for example, often clump together in regions, this shouldn't be surprising.

What follows here concentrates solely on southern Britain, and mainly on south-western Britain, simply because that is where the patterns are emerging, and that in turn is because nail-cleaners do not appear to be as common in the north as in the south.

That they are common in the south might be expected to be a sign of strong links with the continental mainland, but an unexpected aspect of the study has been the discovery that southern Britain may lead the Roman Empire in nail care. An admittedly quick trawl through some continental reports and catalogues produced no nail-cleaners apart from a possible (doubtful) fragment from Augst (Riha 1986, no 74). But if they are not in Augst, which has produced large quantities of other toilet instruments contemporary with those from Britain, where are they? After making enquiries of one of our members in France, Michel Feugère, it seems reasonably certain that the southern Romano-Britons had the cleanest nails in the north-west provinces, if not the Empire.

SITES & DATES

There is no lack of nail-cleaners from sites in southern Britain. Places such as Wilcote, Silchester, Fishbourne, Baldock, Colchester, and Gorhambury, have good examples from the 1st century, Gadebridge, Gorhambury, Baldock, Wilcote, and Ilchester cover the 2nd century, and Wilcote, Nettleton, Maiden Castle, and Winchester are good for late

Roman examples (see end of article for references).

Of course, any dated typology will have to weed out the residual items, and firming up the end-date to the types set out below will take time. The start-dates in the early period have to be based on reliable context dates, but it is not easy, and sometimes impossible, in some old excavation reports to find the context or its date at all, let alone distinguish between a secure context and one likely to contain residual material.

VOTIVE DEPOSITS?

Wilcote is particularly interesting in that it has produced only a small assemblage of copper-alloy objects, but toilet instruments form a very large proportion of the total. Parts of the site, a roadside settlement, have been excavated by Dr Anthony Hands (1993, 1998), and the Cotswold Archaeological Trust have also recently done some work there in advance of a new water pipeline.

The table below shows the numbers of toilet instruments relative to other published copper-alloy objects from Dr Hands's 1993 and 1998 publications, and from an assessment of the material from the CAT excavations.

Sites	Brooches	Toilet insts	Other cu-alloy
H 1993	28 (38%)	16 (22%)	30 (40%)
H 1998	50 (36%)	21 (15%)	68 (49%)
CAT2000	7 (12%)	8 (14%)	44 (74%)

The much smaller percentage of brooches and the much larger percentage of 'other cu-alloy' from CAT 2000 simply reflects the fact that these numbers come from an assessment which inevitably includes bits and pieces that would not find their way into a published report. But the percentage of toilet instruments is as high for CAT 2000 as it is for Hands 1993-96, and so would rise to something approaching or even beyond the Hands 1990-92 figure in a published report.

Two possibilities present themselves when faced with a high number of toilet instruments in any group of finds. First, were they made there or close by? Second, is the site a temple or shrine and are they votive deposits? The assemblages from Hands 1993

and 1998 include a very high number of brooches, and there are also many hairpins, armlets, and finger-rings, all items that form votive deposits on temple sites. This is not the place to examine these issues, but the site(s) of manufacture and the use of small personal items like nail-cleaners as votive deposits, the link between these two factors, and how they may influence any distribution study of nail-cleaners must be faced in any more detailed study.

THE 1ST CENTURY

Toilet instruments did not first arrive in Britain with the Roman army. A few examples come from Iron Age contexts, and they have been interpreted as evidence of Romanization (Hill 1997). This does not square with the dearth of nail-cleaners from Augst, but suggests that their use developed in southern Britain during the Late Iron Age, and that the large number found after the conquest may show increased production by native metalworkers exploiting the large market of cash-spending Romans. A different twist to the tale. However, only further research will establish if this true or not.

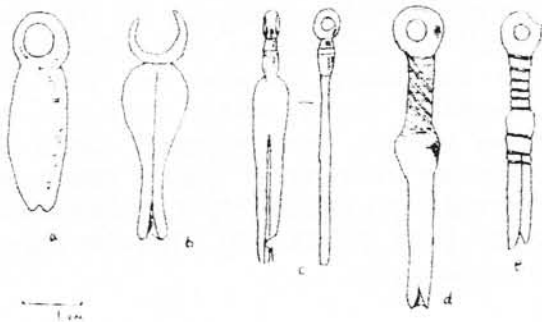


Fig 1. a: Welwyn Garden City; b-c: Silchester; d-e: Fishbourne.

Figure 1a shows the nail-cleaner from the rich grave of c 10 BC from Welwyn Garden City, Herts (Stead 1967, fig 15). Its simple large suspension-loop head, plain blade with convex sides and short points, is the template from which some of the later forms develop. Another cleaner from Deal Grave II, dated to the first half of the 1st century, is narrower and has a moulded collar below the suspension loop. It formed part of a *châtelaine*, together with a pair of tweezers and a scoop (Birchall 1965, fig 12, 101).

Immediately after the conquest, nail-cleaners start appearing with increasing frequency in the archaeological record. Figure 1b, from Silchester, is dated c AD 40-

50 but may be earlier, and in form is close to the Welwyn nail-cleaner. Figure 1c, also Silchester and also c AD 40-50, is more like that from Deal. A nail-cleaner from an early Roman context at Fison Way, Thetford, is reasonably similar (Gregory 1992, fig 116, 11), and a Colchester Type 2a (but not all of them) falls into this group (CAR 2, fig 62, 1872).

EARLY FISHBOURNE

A more tightly-knit group, both in style, date, and location, comes from Fishbourne, where five nail-cleaners, four dated to between AD 43 and 75 and one to c 75/80, are distinctively a group (Cunliffe 1971, fig 42, 67-71). One has a conventional leaf-shaped blade, the others have a marked swelling about half-way down the blade, effectively forming a long neck and short shouldered blade, and all have incised linear decoration on the 'neck' (see Fig 1d, e). They must have been made by the same hand, probably locally.

THE BALDOCK TYPE

Figure 2a shows a type that is common in the south-east, in the territory of the *Catuvellauni* and *Trinovantes*. It is very well represented at Baldock, so for now I have given it the site name.

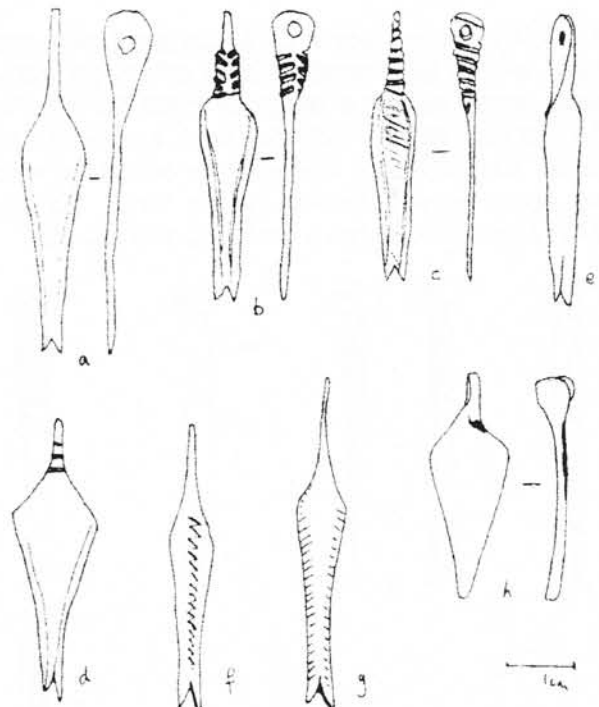


Fig 2. a-b: Baldock; c: Verulamium; d: Harlow temple; e: Baldock; f: Gorhambury; g: Harlow temple; h: Verulamium.

It is an easily recognised form, with the large head at right angles to the plane of the blade land perforated for suspension, not made as a loop. The blade has marginal grooves. It is found in 1st-century contexts (eg Neal & Butcher 1974, fig 62, 185-8), and is prolific in the 2nd century. When found in sets, the tweezers usually also have a marginal groove (Stead & Rigby 1986, fig 56, 263-5).

There are several variants to this form: 1) zigzag grooves on the lower part of the head, effectively forming a neck (Fig 2b); 2) a spiral groove around the neck continuing as lines on the blade (Fig 2c); 3) angular shoulders (Fig 2d); 4) no marginal grooves (Fig 2e); 5) no marginal grooves but a zigzag line down the blade (Fig 2f); 6) no marginal grooves, but the edges of the blade feathered (Fig 2g); 7) no marginal grooves, angular shoulders (Fig 2h).

The head of this last is not pierced, and could be an indication that Verulamium was the place of manufacture, in which case the type will have to be renamed. Figure 2c is dated c 50-70 and confirms the 1st-century origin of the form (Stead and Rigby 1986, fig 56, 277). It is worth noting here that at Baldock none of the many toilet instruments from the site came from a pre-conquest context.

EARLY SOUTH-WESTERN

A nail-cleaner from Cirencester from the base of the turf rampart also offers an early date, early within a range of c AD 50-70 (Fig 3a). It is a simple cylinder with a small knob head, below which the shaft is decorated with an open incised lattice (Viner 1982, fig 26, 22). The shaft flattens towards the points.

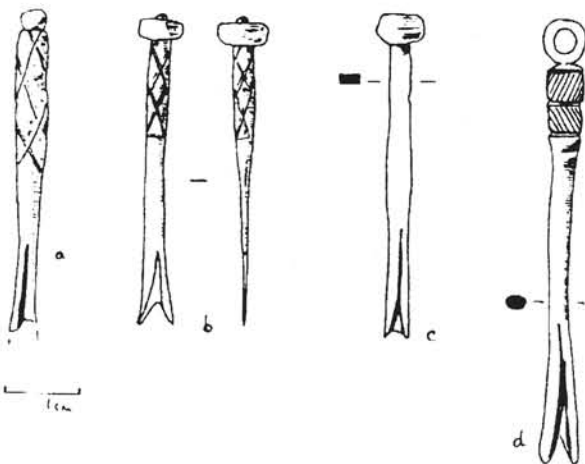


Fig 3. a: Cirencester; b: Wilcote; c: Alcester; d: Nettleton.

So far I have found only one other example, from Wilcote, in a context dated to the second half of the 2nd century. Together they form the first of several south-western types.

An important point to note is that this type, and the following one, could not form part of a linked set.

DISC BEAD TYPE

The second south-western type is clearly related to the early Cirencester nail-cleaner (Fig 3b).

It has a similar body with open lattice grooving on the upper part, but is distinguished by having a head formed from a bone bead. The form occurs at Wilcote, Kingsholm, Nettleton, and Alcester in contexts that suggest a start date in the middle or second half of the 2nd century, possibly continuing into the 4th century.

(It is possible that nail-cleaners like Fig 3a may be Fig 3bs that have lost their bead, but if that were so, why carve the head into a knob if it is to be covered by a bead?)

A variant with plain shaft comes from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, fig 94, 9), and a 'material' variant comes from Cirencester, where the shaft is bone and the bead copper-alloy (Viner 1982, fig 30, 71). Another variant, from Alcester, has a thin rectangular shaft rather than a round one, and there is no lattice (Fig 3, c; Cracknell & Mahany 1994, fig 85, 90). This one may be late in the series.

FILED BEAD TYPE

The third south-western variety also has a similar shaft, but here it is longer, and it is topped by a suspension loop set in the same plane as the points, below which are two, or sometimes three, beads defined by transverse grooves. Each bead is covered with fine filed diagonal grooves, cut to lie in alternating directions (Fig 3, d).

This form occurs at Chew Valley Lake, Marshfield, Nettleton, Wilcote, and Alcester. Two from Wilcote again suggest a start date in the middle to second half of the 2nd century, with examples from Nettleton suggesting a continuation throughout the 3rd and possibly into the 4th century. Decoration like this may link to that on other toilet instruments or hairpins.

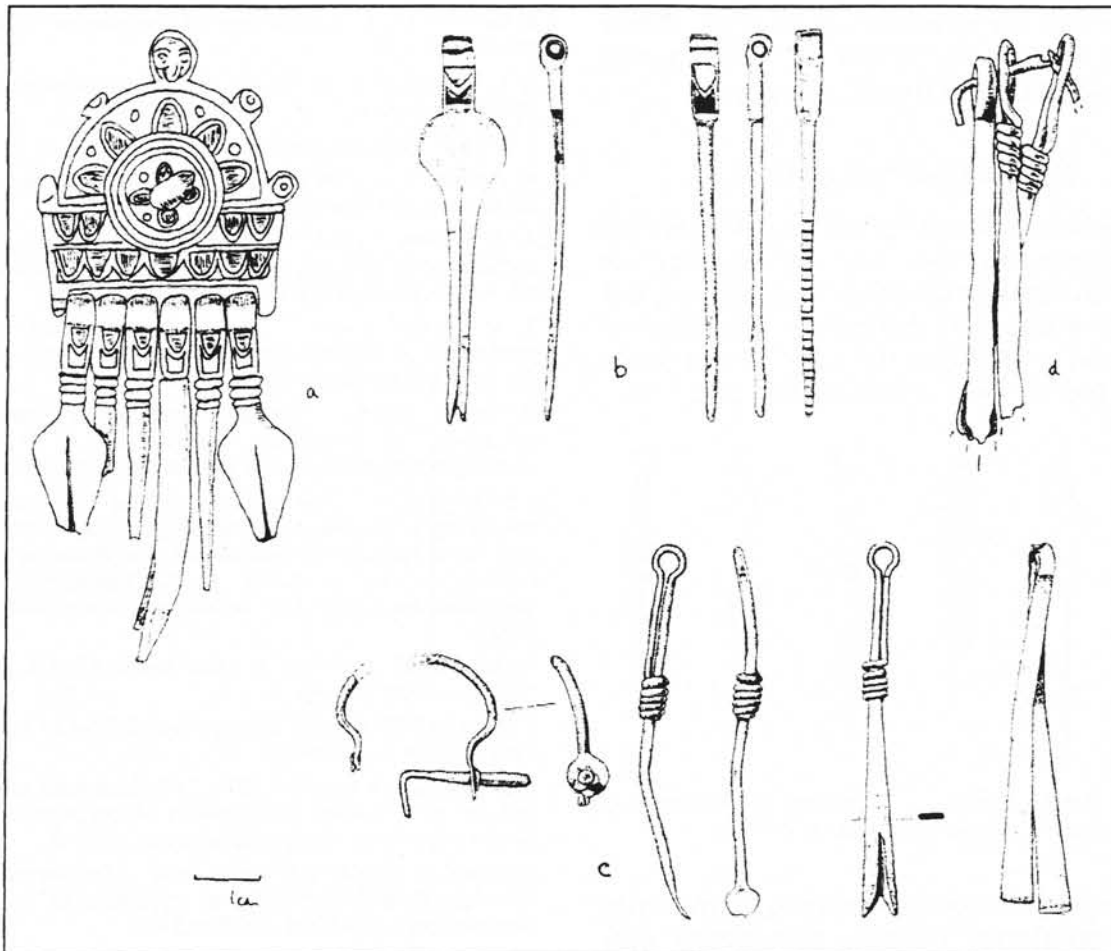


Fig 4. a: Canterbury; b-c: Colchester; d: Cirencester

BROOCHES, ENAMEL, & SETS

There are a number of British enamelled brooches in the form of *châtelaine* sets, dated to the 2nd century. The type is not common, but has a wide distribution across southern Britain from Charterhouse-in-Mendip in the west to Canterbury in the east. The furthest north I know of is from Kettering.

The head takes the form of a disc brooch with (usually) an enamelled sunburst design, but the lower edge is straight, with a lug at each end that holds an axial bar from which the instruments are suspended. Few of the sets are complete, and the ends of the instruments may be missing even when the top is present.

One from Canterbury has six instruments. Two are nail-cleaners with stylised leaf-shaped blade, three have simple upper shafts and may represent a pick, a scoop and perhaps a file, and one appears to be curved tweezers. All have a simple enamel motif at the top (Fig 4a).

A nail-cleaner and file found together at Colchester may have come from one of these brooches (Fig 4b).

There is a more simple *châtelaine* from Burgh, Suffolk, with the instruments suspended on a bar-and-loop handle. The tops of the shafts of two of the tools have slightly different enamel motifs. A nail-cleaner was associated with this set but was not fixed to it and is not enamelled (Martin 1988, fig 12, 17).

A 4th-century set from Colchester, possibly disturbed grave goods, also had a bar-and-loop handle, but the instruments are of very simple form, with the upper part of the nail-cleaner and scoop drawn out into wire so that it could be bent over, down and round the shaft (Fig 4c). A nail-cleaner of the same form came from Burgh (Martin 1988, fig 13, 36), and there is a set, probably with a bar-and-loop handle and with similar if shorter wire heads from Cirencester (Fig 4d). This reasonably close parallel from one side of the country to the other on toilet instruments of such a simple design is unusual, and hints

that regional manufacture, or at least, solely regional marketing, might at least partly have disappeared in the 4th century.

THE LATE 4TH CENTURY

A type which belongs to the late 4th century is characterised by its individuality of decoration rather than by its consistency, but is none the less very distinctive. It is also the type that 'nail-cleaner-type' strap-ends parallel (eg Wheeler 1943, fig 96, 15).

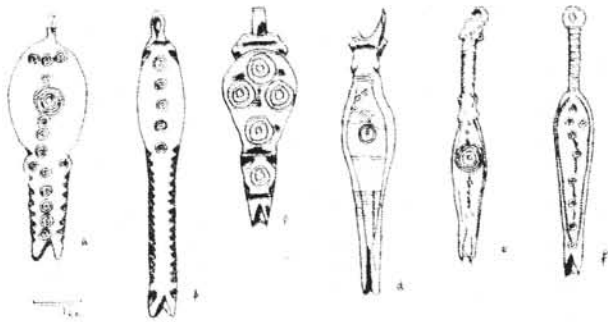


Fig 5. a: Maiden Castle; b: Lankhills; c: Ilchester; d: Gestingthorpe; e: Wavendon Gate; f: Exeter.

The form varies, sometimes long, sometimes short; sometimes narrow, sometimes very broad at the top; the loop may be in the same plane as the blade, or at right-angles. Several are illustrated to show the range of techniques used to decorate them (Fig 5). Ring-and-dots are common, and sometimes the edges of the blade are notched or 'feathered'.

Though good dating evidence is scarce, these nail-cleaners almost certainly form part of the band of objects that signal a very late Roman small finds assemblage.

Nina Crummy

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NEXT MEETING

EXETER

MONDAY OCTOBER 8TH

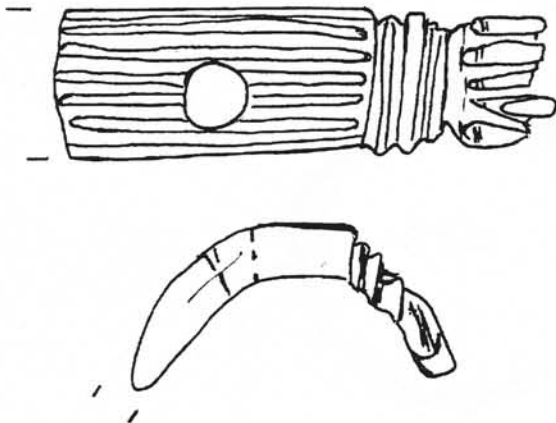
The next RFG meeting is to be held jointly with the Historical Metallurgy Society at the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter.

Full details are on the programme/booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Note from Angela
likely to be (1)

Mystery 'widgets'

Two unusual bone objects were found recently on different sites in London. Each is highly decorated and is curved, following the natural line of the cattle long bone from which it is carved, into a rough semi-circle, perhaps originally a nearly full circle, approximately 45 to 50 mm in diameter. One is slightly smaller than the other; the widths are 20 and 25mm.



Both objects are broken at one end in the same place, apparently a point of weakness. The other terminal is carved into the shape of a hand with extended finger or more probably a protruding thumb, similar to the well-known obscene gesture on fist and phallus amulets. Next to the terminal is a series of transverse grooves and the central zone is carved with a series of grooves running lengthwise. In the middle is a circular hole, presumably at the central point of the object, allowing for the missing section. There are no obvious wear marks around either hole.

The style and design of each piece is very similar and although they were found in different areas of Roman London, the similarity suggests a common source and perhaps local manufacture. Limited investigation in the archives has not yet uncovered any others from London - or anywhere else.

Various uses for these objects have been considered, ranging from hair slides (impractical) to amulets, but their function remains obscure. The central hole suggests that they were affixed to something, perhaps

a circular sectioned pole or stave. I would be extremely grateful for any suggestions or comparanda.

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Rings and things

Question, from Mike Stokes of Shrewsbury Museums Service:

What is the significance of the practice of inserting iron rods into silver rings? The illustration overleaf shows two of these, one with an iron rod set through the hoop below the bezel, the other with a rod set into a special housing offset on the top of the hoop.

The rings are in private hands, and the owner was told that the rods may have been to invoke the powers of Jupiter, or that the rings were betrothal rings. They were not found together. One is also inscribed on the bezel.

Answer #1, from Martin Henig, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford:

Both rings are Type VIII and date to the 3rd century. There is a similar piercing in a silver ring from Water Newton in the British Museum collection (Marshall 1907, no 1196), and possibly another, in a copper-alloy ring from Mainz (Henkel 1913, no 1306). The aim of the piercings was surely to bind two rings together, so each of these has a lost 'twin'.

Answer #2, from Catherine Johns, Prehistoric & Early Europe Department, British Museum:

Thought (1) is that I am sure that the combination of two metals (gold and silver, iron and gold, silver and iron, and so on) is likely to have symbolic resonances. If we assume that the addition of iron somehow augmented the apotropaic power of a piece of jewellery, I think we might be on the right lines.

I don't see why a pin of a different metal would have been used to link two rings.

Ring A

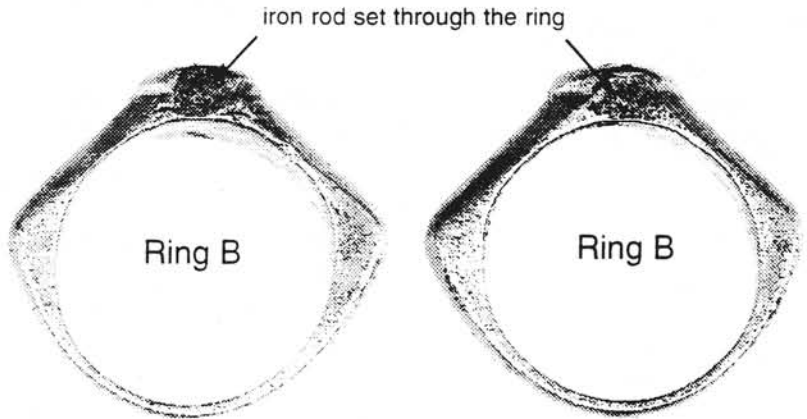
Bronze alloy with an iron rod set into a special housing offset on the top of the ring.
Weight: 3.8 gms
Provenance: Hampshire/Dorset

Ring B

Silver with an iron rod set through the bezel. Rust expansion has caused the bezel to split.
Weight: 6.65 gms
Provenance: West Midlands



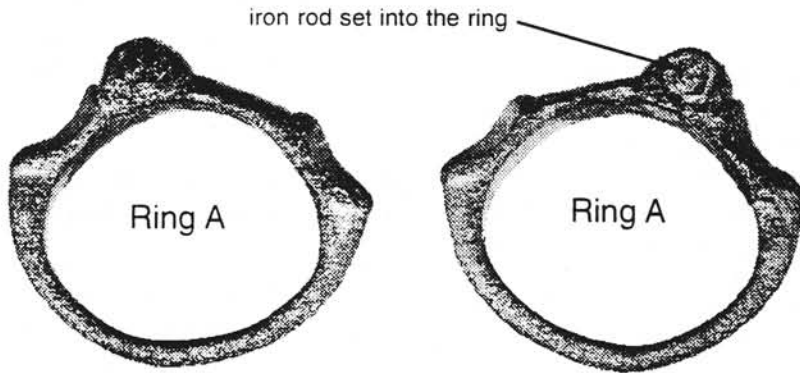
actual size



iron rod set through the ring

Ring B

Ring B



iron rod set into the ring

Ring A

Ring A



Ring A top



Ring B top



Enlargement of the inscription on Ring B

Why not use a silver pin if that had been the aim?

Mike's ring B is indeed a classic 3rd century keeled ring, and the Henkel parallel from Mainz is a reasonably good one. I think we should assume that the addition of iron had some symbolic meaning

Thought (2) is much more mundane. The form of the Water Newton example (Marshall 1907, no 1196) is very reminiscent of a finger-ring key. I wonder whether in that specific instance, a tang might have attached an iron key-bit to a silver hoop. The ring does seem to me to be quite different from the Mainz example quoted by Martin (Henkel 1306).

Ring A is closer in form to the Water Newton parallel. I would agree with the 3rd century date again, but do think that the ring-key explanation is conceivable here. It is perhaps more convincing in the case of the Water Newton one since that is a silver ring, and silver is a less suitable metal for keys than bronze. Most ring-keys are bronze or iron, though there are some made entirely of silver.

References

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Etruscan hinged shoes

Wood is at first sight not an obvious choice for footwear. It is stiff and unwieldy whereas a normal gait requires feet to bend. Even so, wood has been used for this purpose since antiquity because of other properties. Wood-soled footwear can be cheap and relatively easy to manufacture, moreover the material has good insulating qualities. The problem of allowing the foot to "turn" has been tackled in a variety of ways. Roman wood-soled footwear had stilts which in time evolved into rounded front ends which are a feature of traditional Dutch clogs. A more recent and desperate approach is exemplified by the

French wartime "Flexisoles". These had heavily scored crossways on the underside. The process made them flexible to some extent, but also extremely fragile since the scoring cut across the grain of the wood and weakened it.

This contribution considers yet another approach, ie that of a two-part sole connected with a hinge. The design has been used in medieval times for pattens (eg Grew and de Neergaard 1996, 98 fig 135) and is attested in antiquity by finds from pre-Roman Italy.

There are five known instances of hinged soles: they are all very similar and have a date centring on the VI century BC. They come from southern Etruria. One pair has been found in a funerary context at Vulci and can be seen in the Vatican Museums (nos 11901 and 11902). Two more instances are known from the necropolis of Bisenzio on the shores of Lake Bolsena and are in the Villa Giulia Museum in Rome. One not closely provenanced sole for the left foot, has found its way to the Bally Shoe Museum in Schönenwerd in Switzerland (no. 245). The description that follows is mainly based on the detailed examination of this last specimen.

The sole is made in two sections of 30mm thick boxwood originally connected by a leather hinge (Fig 1). The front end, now slightly damaged, shows dips corresponding to the toes on the upper side.

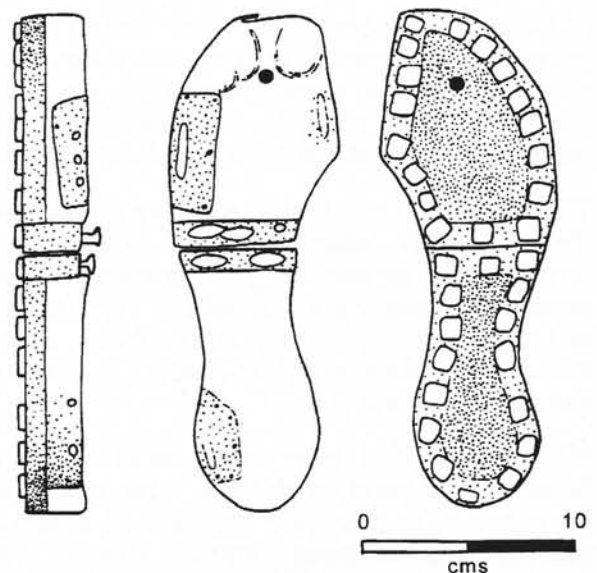


Fig 1. Etruscan hinged shoe in the Bally Shoe Museum, Switzerland.

Each section is carefully shaped and slightly concave on the underside; both are lined on the wear side with copper-alloy sheeting held in place by iron nails and folded over the edges. On the lower part of the edges runs a 10mm wide shallow groove into which fits a copper-alloy ribbon the ends of which meet in the hinge area. This is slightly recessed and completely covered with copper-alloy sheeting. The hinge consisted of a thick piece of leather held in place by five copper-alloy nails with elliptical heads.

While traces of the leather hinge have survived, there is nothing left of the original organic fastening. Normally wood-soled footwear is either held in place by a single wide strap across the instep or alternatively by two narrow strips of material joined at the front in the space between the big and the other toes, running over the foot and fixed on the sides.

In this case, a combination of the two systems appears to have been used. Close examination showed a perforation trough (the black dot on the drawing) the whole thickness of the wood and into the metal beneath it. It is deliberate, not the result of damage. The perforation is now filled with wood, perhaps the remains of a peg. Instances of organic straps threaded through eyes in wooden pegs are known from Egyptian wood-soled footwear dated to the middle of the 3rd millennium BC (eg Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto no. P84.39). The perforation is anyway too narrow for any fastening to go through and there are no provisions for nailing.

Additional evidence for the fastening is provided by traces of four metal plates fixed with fine nails on either side to the edge and the flesh side of the sole. One surviving plate has a 24 mm long slit with traces of leather.

The complete fastening may have looked like the Etruscan sandal known through a terracotta fragment (Fig 2): a narrow strap across the toes, another at the back taking in the heel and meeting at the front, and a third fixed between the toes and coming up the middle of the foot.

All soles of this type have been found in funerary contexts, including the one from Marzabotto, the present location of which is not known (Chapot 1873, 1389). The question, therefore, as to whether this form of footwear was ceremonial and symbolic or was also intended for daily use, must remain

unanswered. The sole I examined showed no clear signs of wear but the artefact was designed to prevent it. The underside, where most of the wear occurs, is protected by a double ring of iron nails, which both keep the copper-alloy sheeting in place and lift it off the ground. Any wear would occur on the iron nails and these could be replaced.



Fig 2. Etruscan sandal on a terracotta fragment.

Footwear of this type was certainly a high status fashion accessory and might be identified with a type of wooden sandal (τάρρηνικα) mentioned by the Greek 4th century BC comic author Cratinus, which had gilded leather straps (fr. 131). The style is certainly in marked contrast with later developments in Roman times when wooden soles are strictly utilitarian. All the known soles are made in boxwood, an excellent choice because this material can be worked to a smooth, silky surface and has a very attractive hue. The metalwork is of the highest standards: the combination must have looked quite stunning with or without gilded straps.

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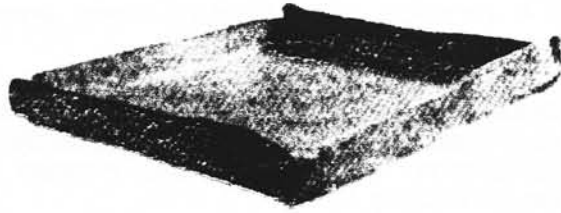
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NEWS FLASH!

Evidence for melon bead production has been found in the naval base of Cologne. Barrack blocks were used in the first part of the second century as workshops. See Instrumentum Bulletin 13, June 2001.

LEAD SALT PANS



Some twelve lead pans used in the Roman salt industry for the evaporation of naturally-occurring brine are known from south and mid-Cheshire.

They average approximately 105 by 95 cm, by 14 cm deep. Low-relief inscriptions record the names Veluvius, Lutamus, Cunitus and Viventius on pans from Northwich (*VCH Cheshire 1*), Middlewich (*Archaeology North West 14*), Nantwich (*VCH Cheshire 1*), and Shavington (*Britannia xxvii; Journ Chester Arch Soc forthcoming*) respectively. They all appear to be of late Roman date. No pans have so far been reported from Droitwich or from coastal salterns.

As part of on-going research into the development of these salt pans, information and references relating to lead salt pans known from any other British context or from any other part of the Roman Empire would be most welcome.

Stephen Penny
Curator
The Salt Museum, Northwich

Editor's note: Stephen is unfortunately very ill at the moment, so any replies please to:

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Late Iron Age Jewellery

Last March the BM issued a press release about a unique group of late Iron Age gold jewellery found by a metal detectorist near Winchester. The find is neither Roman, nor breaking news, but the material is important, a triumph for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and bears repeating here.

The group consists of what appear to be two matching suites of jewellery, a torc, an ingot bracelet, and a pair of chained brooches. One set is slightly smaller than the other. Perhaps one was made for a man and one for a woman, or one for an adult and one for a child.



The torcs were made using interlinked gold rings, a technique used in the Greek and Roman worlds at the time, but only just beginning to spread into northern Europe. (For a description and diagrams of the technique see C Johns 1996, *The jewellery of Roman Britain*, fig 8.3.) The Winchester torcs were probably British-made, the new foreign technology being used to make a traditional status symbol in an innovative way.

The jewellery probably dates to between 60 and 20 BC, a time of social and political change in southern Britain.

The area was excavated after the find but no features or other objects were discovered. The find may be a hoard for safe-keeping in a time of crisis, though J D Hill (BM) suggests it was more likely to be a votive offering.

Colour pictures of the jewellery and further details of both the pieces and the circumstances of the find can be found on the Portable Antiquities website, www.finds.org.uk under 'news'.

Bibliography of sets of gaming counters

While writing up a set of bone and pottery counters from Ewell, Jon Cotton of the Museum of London compiled two valuable tables (opposite) and references for other sets of gaming counters. His article will soon be published in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* but the tables and bibliography are also reproduced here for the benefit of RFG members.

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FREE PUBLICATION!

Archaeometallurgy guidelines

Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy by Justine Bayley, David Dungworth & Sarah Paynter. Product Code XH20166; Publication date: February 2001

These Guidelines aim to improve the retrieval of information about all aspects metalworking from archaeological investigations. They are written mainly for curators and contractors within archaeology in the UK and will help them to produce project briefs, designs, assessments and reports. Sections include a summary of types of metallurgical finds, 'Standards and good practice for archaeometallurgy', archaeometallurgical processes and finds (iron, copper and its alloys, lead, silver and gold, tin and zinc). Following these are a glossary of terms, sections on the scientific techniques used in archaeometallurgy, and a list of specialists to contact for advice on archaeo-metallurgical aspects of archaeological projects.

Copies of the Guidelines are free from: Customer Services Department, PO Box 569, Swindon SN2 2YR

Tel: 01793 414910

A. Sets of gaming counters associated with burials

Site	No	Material	Context	Date	Main reference
Welwyn Garden City, Herts	24	glass	C (m)	c 10 BC	Stead 1967, 14-19
King Harry Lane, Verulamium, Herts	21	bone	C	AD 1-40	Stead & Rigby 1989, 108, fig 137
Stanway, Colchester, Essex	20	glass	C (m)	c AD 43-50	P Crummy 1993; revised no N Crummy pers comm
Stanway, Colchester, Essex	26	glass	C (?m)	c AD 43-50	P Crummy 1997, 68-9
Alton, Hants	19	glass	C (?m)	AD 45-65	Millett 1986, 43, 53-6
Litton Cheney, Dorset	20	chalk/pottery	I (m)	mid C1 st	Bailey 1967, 156-9
St Martin's-le-Grand, London	?	bone	C	?mid C1 st	RCHM 1928, 154
King Harry Lane, Verulamium, Herts	22	glass	C (m)	AD 80-90	Niblett 1990, 412-13
Grange Road, Winchester, Hants	18	glass	C (?f)	AD 85-95	Biddle 1967, 243
The Looe, Ewell, Surrey	10	bone/pottery	C (m)	late C1 st -early C2 nd	Cotton forthcoming
Old Kent Road, London	26	bone	C	late C1 st -early C2 nd	R Jackson pers comm
Mansell Street, London	24	glass	I	late C1 st -early C2 nd	A Wardle pers comm
Old Newton, Suffolk	10	glass	C	late C1 st -early C2 nd	Philpott 1991, 185
Colchester, Essex	24	glass	C	early-mid C2 nd	May 1930, 275, Joslin Grave group 81 a-b/94
Elsenham, Essex	19	glass/bone	C	mid C2 nd	C Johns pers comm
Victoria Road, Winchester, Hants	29	bone	C	mid-late C2 nd	Crummy <i>et al</i> forthcoming
Ospringe, Kent	24	glass/bone	C	late C2 nd	Whiting 1925, 95
Trentholme Drive, York	46	bone	C (m)	late C2 nd	Wenham 1968, 97
St Pancras, Chichester, W Sussex	25/6	bone	C	AD 150-200	Down & Rule 1971, 83, fig 5.15
Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex	14	bone	C (child)	C2 nd	Atkinson & Preston 1999, 28
St Pancras, Chichester, W Sussex	23	bone	C	C3 rd century	Down & Rule 1971, 83, fig 5.15
Holgate Bridge, York	20 +	bone	I (child)	?C3 rd -C4 th	RCHM 1962, 101
Lullingstone, Kent	30	glass	I (m)	late C3 rd -C4 th	Meates 1987, 123-5, 139-42
Lankhills, Winchester, Hants	26	glass	I	late C4 th	Clarke 1979, 251-4

B. Sets/groups of gaming counters from non-funerary contexts

Site	No	Material	Context	Date	Main reference
Skeleton Green, Herts	4	bone	well	c 10 BC -AD 20	Partridge 1981, 61, fig 26
Tooley Street, Southwark, London	12	bone	floor	late C1 st -early C2 nd	Sheldon 1974, 100, fig 47
Caerleon, Gwent	28	bone/glass	drain	late C1 st -early C2 nd	Zienkiewicz 1986, 155-6, 202-7
Castleford, Yorks	18	bone/glass	floor	late C1 st -early C2 nd	Cool & Philo 1998, 362
Brecon Gaer, Powys	8	bone	drain	early C2 nd	Wheeler 1926, 120
Corbridge, Northumberland	54	glass	box	early C2 nd	Allason-Jones & Bishop 1988, 82
Caerleon, Gwent	40	bone/glass	drain	late C2 nd -early C3 rd	Zienkiewicz 1986, 155-6, 202-7
Ravenglass, Cumbria	126	bone/glass	floor	late C2 nd -early C3 rd	Potter 1979, 75-87
Church Street, York	45	bone/glass/pottery	sewer	late C2 nd -early C3 rd	MacGregor 1976, 2-4, 21-2
Corbridge, Northumberland	20	bone	road	?	Frere & Tomlin 1991, 35-6, no 2440
Balkerne Lane, Colchester, Essex	12	bone	pit	C1 st -C4 th	Crummy 1983, 91, fig 94

VALLETTA CONVENTION

The Valletta Convention, or, more accurately, *The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised)*, which was signed at Valletta, Malta, in January 1992, finally came into force on the 21st of March of this year, six months after its ratification.

Opinion is wildly divided within the wider archaeological community upon the subject of the convention, even within the RFG Committee. If the Convention can manage to halt illicit metal detecting and the trade in portable antiquities, then I am convinced that it can only be beneficial to British archaeology, but our Chairman, Roy Friendship-Taylor is worried that it will also call a halt to amateur archaeological excavations. These differences are clearly matters of interpretation and expectation, and only time will show how the Convention will be applied in practice.

Full details of the Convention, with explanations of the various Articles, in particular Article 3, can be found on www.britarch.ac.uk, and a section in the latest edition of RESCUE News attempts to allay the fears of the independent sector (RN 84, 2001, p 7, 'Pooter's Piece').

Andrew Selkirk has been in the forefront of a campaign against the Convention, and he presents below the viewpoint of the Council for Independent Archaeology (Valletta View #1), while the English Heritage/Government position is explained by Christopher Young (Valletta View #2).

Nina Crummy

Valletta - the view of the Independent Sector

The Valletta Convention, signed by the British government in March 2001, is likely to mean the end of amateur archaeology in this country - unless we do something about it.

The effect is not likely to be immediate but long-term. The signing marks the government's intention to ban amateur

archaeology, and when the time comes to draw up the next Ancient Monuments Act - perhaps 10 years hence - then such a ban will be included - unless that is we make a very big fuss NOW. If amateur archaeology is worth keeping - and I think it is, - we must let the government know that we think it is valuable, and make it clear than in proposing to ban it, they have stuck their face into a wasp's nest, where they will get badly stung!

And don't think that somehow, if the new legislation comes, it will be mild and half-hearted. Governments at present have a habit of gold-plating European legislation, so if they have the Valletta convention before them, we can be sure that the parliamentary draughtsmen will draw it up in the most comprehensive fashion. Similarly, once it is passed it will be administered with the utmost severity - look at what has happened in Spain and Ireland, where similar legislation has led to campaigns against the amateur. We must remember too that the IFA, even if today it wears a mild and conciliatory mask, once they are in power, they will be pushed by their members to use their powers to the full, and eliminate all competition. It is not that they are particularly ruthless, or devious, - but that's the way the world works!

The Council for Independent Archaeology has taken the lead in opposing the Valletta Convention. We have set up a web site at www.SOSarchaeology.org.uk, which gives the full text of the treaty, plus commentary, and an FAQ question and answer on the various problems raised.

There is also an Open Letter in Defence of Archaeology which I hope that all members of the Roman Finds Group will sign - you can do so on-line. It is not just the amateurs that are at issue: the real case is freedom. British archaeology has been a world leader precisely because there is very much a free forum in ideas. Anyone - even (especially) the amateurs can come in and challenge the 'establishment'. This is healthy - this is stimulating. And this is what we will lose unless Valletta is soundly thrashed.

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The Valletta Convention explained

INTRODUCTION

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised), commonly known as the Valletta Convention, was ratified by the UK government in September 2000, and came into effect six months later, in March 2001. Since then there has been great concern in some quarters about the effect the Convention will have on the use of metal detectors and on the control of archaeological excavations. These concerns are in fact misplaced since the relevant sub-clauses have been adopted with little alteration from the earlier (1969) London Convention which the UK ratified in 1972.

Before dealing with those particular points, it is worth looking more widely at the nature, purpose and content of the Valletta Convention.

WHAT IS THE VALLETTA CONVENTION?

The Valletta Convention is one of a series of Conventions for the protection of the cultural heritage produced by the Council of Europe over the last fifty years. All derive their authority from the 1954 European Cultural Convention which established the competency of the Council of Europe in this area. Others include the original Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (London, 1969) and the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985). These Conventions are treaties open to all members of the Council of Europe and to non-member European countries such as the Holy See.

The Council of Europe (not to be confused with the European Union) currently has 43 member states extending from Iceland to Azerbaijan, and Portugal to Russia. Its members therefore have very different systems of protecting cultural heritage, as well as extremely diverse administrative structures and legal structures. It is for each individual country to decide how the terms of one of the Conventions should be implemented within the context of its own domestic system.

WHAT DOES THE VALLETTA CONVENTION SAY?

As its full title suggests, the Valletta Convention is an update of the 1969 London Convention. In many cases, wording has been taken directly from the earlier Convention, while in others it has been updated to some extent but without changing the essential meaning of the earlier treaty. The UK ratified the London Convention in 1972 which means that it was in force here for nearly 30 years before being replaced this spring by the Valletta Convention.

By ratifying the Valletta Convention, the United Kingdom government has undertaken to maintain a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage fulfilling the conditions set by the Convention and to devise supervision and protection measures. States joining the Convention also agree to promote an integrated policy for the conservation of the archaeological heritage, to arrange for financial support for research, to facilitate the pooling of information, to promote public awareness and to intensify co-operation between the Parties.

The Convention recognises the holistic nature of the historic environment and seeks to protect all aspects of it, while promoting increased understanding of the past. It covers archaeology on land and underwater.

The Convention defines the archaeological heritage very broadly (Article 1). It deals with inventorying and protection of sites and areas, mandatory reporting of chance finds (all in Article 2) and control of illicit trade in antiquities (Articles 10 and 11). It promotes high standards for all archaeological work which should be carried out by suitably qualified people (Article 3), and recommends the creation of archaeological reserves, while requiring the conservation of excavated sites and the safe-keeping of finds (Article 4).

It follows closely current British practice (as set out in PPG15 and PPG16 in England) for the protection and recording of archaeology during development (Article 5) and contains provisions for the funding for development-led archaeology (again following closely current British practice) and for research (Article 6). Articles 7 and 8 cover the

collection and dissemination of information while Article 9 is about the promotion of public awareness and access. Article 12 deals with mutual technical and scientific assistance internationally.

The Convention is supported by Explanatory Notes which need to be read in conjunction with the treaty itself. Both can be found on the Council of Europe website, www.coe.int.

Table 1 compares the areas covered by the Valletta and London Conventions. From this it is clear that the main new area was coverage of the treatment of archaeology within the development process and the funding both of research archaeology (said to be a government responsibility) and of rescue archaeology (said to be the developer's responsibility). Also significant is the introduction of Article 4, which deals with the physical conservation of the archaeological heritage.

Overall, the Valletta Convention is a wide ranging statement of the best international archaeological standards. In legal terms, the UK already meets its provisions in general though there is scope for it to be used to raise standards in our treatment of the archaeological heritage.

PERCEIVED AREAS OF CONCERN

Since the Convention came into force, there have been concerns over two areas of its provision. It has been argued that it could seriously affect the activities both of metal detectorists and of amateur archaeologists through the introduction of a licensing system. In both cases, these concerns seem to be unfounded.

METAL DETECTING

The Convention requires (Article 2 iii) the mandatory reporting of chance finds and making them available for examination. The Explanatory Notes however make it clear that a state party can restrict this to finds of precious materials. The government view is that this requirement is already covered in England and Wales by the 1996 Treasure Act, which has in practice been supplemented by the very successful voluntary portable antiquities reporting scheme. Scotland and Northern Ireland already have more comprehensive legislation in this area.

Article 3 iii requires the use of metal detectors and any other detection equipment or process for archaeological investigation to be subjected to specific prior authorisation. Licensing of use of metal detectors is already a requirement for prospection on scheduled ancient monuments. Beyond that the government do not believe that further legislation is needed since clause 3 iii applies only to archaeological investigation and not to general use of detectors.

THE ROLE OF AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY

Concerns have been expressed by the Council for Independent Archaeology and in *Current Archaeology* (no 174, pp 241 – 3, and see above) that the introduction of Article 3 means the introduction of a licensing system and the end of the role of the amateur in field work.

Table 1: a comparison of the Valletta and London Conventions

Content	Valletta (1992)	London (1969)
Definition of archaeological heritage	Article 1	Article 1
Identification and designation	Article 2	Article 2
Control of archaeological work	Article 3	Article 3
Physical protection of archaeological heritage	Article 4	
Integration of archaeology in development planning	Article 5	
Funding of archaeological work (public and private)	Article 6	
Collection and dissemination of information	Article 7	Article 4
National and international exchange of information	Article 8	Article 5a, 5b
Promotion of public awareness	Article 9	Article 5d
Prevention of illicit circulation of elements of the archaeological heritage	Articles 10 & 11	Articles 5c, 6, & 7
Mutual technical and scientific assistance	Article 12	

It is instructive to compare the wording of this Article in the London Convention (in force in the UK since 1972) with that now included in the Valletta Convention.

<p>London 1969 Article 3</p>	<p>Valletta 1992 Article 3</p>
<p><i>To give full scientific significance to archaeological excavations in the sites, areas and zones designated in accordance with Article 2 of this Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes, as far as possible, to:</i></p>	<p><i>To preserve the archaeological heritage and guarantee the scientific significance of archaeological research work, each Party undertakes:</i></p>
<p>a) prohibit and restrain illicit excavations</p>	<p><i>i) to apply procedures for the authorisation and supervision of excavation and other archaeological activities in such a way as:</i></p>
<p>b) take the necessary measures to ensure that excavations are, by special authorisation, entrusted only to qualified persons</p>	<p><i>a) to prevent any illicit excavation or removal of elements of the archaeological heritage</i></p>
<p>c) ensure the control and conservation of the results obtained</p>	<p><i>b) to ensure that archaeological excavations and prospecting are undertaken in a scientific manner and provided that</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• non-destructive methods of investigation are applied wherever possible</i> <i>• the elements of the archaeological heritage are not uncovered or left exposed during or after excavation without provision being made for their proper preservation, conservation and management;</i>
	<p><i>ii) to ensure that excavations and other potentially destructive techniques are carried out only by qualified, specially authorised persons;</i></p>
	<p><i>iii) to subject to specific prior authorisation, whenever foreseen by the domestic law of the State, the use of metal detectors and any other detection equipment or process for archaeological investigation</i></p>

While Clause 3 has been expanded in the Valletta Convention, the principle provisions on the control of excavation have actually changed very little from those in the London Convention to which the UK was party for nearly 30 years without any adverse affect on the activities of amateur archaeologists. The recently expressed concerns about the introduction of a licensing scheme are therefore misplaced. The Government has now said (in a written reply to a parliamentary question) that

...The Government does not believe that additional legislation, requiring a licensing system, is necessary to fulfil Article 3. Much archaeological work is already controlled through existing mechanisms. There may be scope for developing a voluntary Code of Conduct for those who wish to undertake archaeological work outside the existing systems of control.

English Heritage believe that the voluntary sector is one of the strengths and distinguishing characteristics of British archaeology, which should be fostered and developed. Rather than restricting the contribution of the voluntary sector there is a need to increase its involvement and to support improvement of standards through means such as training.

We therefore see no need for a licensing system but we do believe that there is scope to use Article 3 to improve the standards of work carried out under Scheduled Monument Consent on scheduled sites, or as a result of the operation of PPG16 in work related to development control. There may also be scope to develop consistent application of standards by those bodies which commission or fund archaeological work. Outside these areas, we believe that a voluntary Code of Conduct, developed with the archaeological world as a whole would be a way of ensuring that all archaeological work is carried out to the highest possible standards.

We believe that all responsible archaeologists would support such a move to improve the quality of archaeological work in this country. We will seek to work towards this objective with the voluntary sector, the Council for British Archaeology and the Institute of Field Archaeologists as well as with other involved organisations

CONCLUSION

The Valletta Convention is a wide-ranging statement setting out high international

standards for archaeological work and conservation. It is for each country to apply the Convention within its own legal system. Despite recent concerns, the Convention does not require radical changes to the way in which archaeological sites are protected in this country. It does provide scope for review of the ways in which current legislation and planning guidance might be used to improve standards overall and this needs to be done on the basis of wide consultation. There is also scope for the development of a Code of Conduct to which all those undertaking archaeological work could be invited to subscribe. More generally, the Convention provides an excellent vehicle to raise awareness of the significance of our archaeological heritage to modern society, and the need to protect it adequately and to resource this work. If it is to be effective, though, all parts of the archaeological community will need to use the Convention to aid their work.

Christopher Young
 Head of World Heritage and International Policy
 English Heritage

SPRING MEETING

The RFG Spring meeting will be held at Segedunum, the site and new museum at Wallsend. Segedunum won the Heritage in Britain Award in 2000. Further details and a date will be given in the next Newsletter.

Cleopatra

There is still time to catch the *Cleopatra of Egypt* exhibition at the British Museum. It closes on 26th August 2001, and will then move to The Field Museum at Chicago.

Cleopatra was given some poor reviews when it opened (when did *The Guardian* last give the BM a good review?), with much of the criticism being levelled at the new exhibition room in the Great Court. This is certainly rather oddly-shaped, and dividing it into coherent sections must have presented a challenge. Despite this being achieved with rows of what looked like giant cigarettes, there is no real problem with following the exhibition through its stages. *Cleopatra* is thoroughly enjoyable, and for the finds specialist contains some fascinating material. The interlinking of Hellenistic & Egyptian styles, the

influence of Rome on Egypt and Egypt on Rome are carefully charted. One special find? Difficult to choose, but in 'Roman' terms, probably the mosaic of a terrier-like dog, so finely shaded that from only a short distance away it looked like a painting.

Nina Crummy

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Instrumentum

Instrumentum is a European working group on ancient crafts, which aims to collect for its members all 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. Members receive two *Bulletins* per year (multi-lingual, mainly English, French & German), there is a programme of thematic conferences, and a reasonably-priced monograph series. The *Instrumentum* bibliography is available free on line at www.instrumentum.net, and will also be out by the end of 2001 as both a printed book and a CD-Rom.

Subscription per annum is 100 FF (15.24 Euros). UK subscribers please use an International Money Order or a Giro Transfer. Send to: *Instrumentum*, 38 rue Lafayette, 34530 Montagnac, France.

Roman Finds Group Spring Meeting 2001

This year's Spring meeting was held at the excellent Castle Museum, Colchester (well worth a visit, for those that haven't been before), and was entitled 'A late Iron Age and early Roman miscellany'. Papers were given by a variety of speakers, all based in the east of the country.

LANDSCAPE AND METALWORK

The first speaker was Natasha Hutcheson of the University of East Anglia, who spoke on the metalwork deposits in the late Iron Age landscape of Norfolk. She has chosen the area at the north-west of the county as a pilot study, as there is little significant settlement record, but a wealth of material evidence from metal-detecting and fieldwalking. What can we learn about the relationship between the objects and the landscape within which they were found?

This area is on the edge of the chalk uplands and the flat coastal zone. The Sites and Monuments Record highlighted sixteen finds spots, ranging from the Snettisham hoard to stray finds. Gold, including, of course, the Snettisham hoard, as well as stray gold coins at Sedgeford, seemed to be deposited at the highest points in the landscape. Copper-alloy objects, including those from the Ringstead hoard, also seem to follow a pattern of deposition at high points in the landscape. Non-metal material, including pot and human bone, seems to follow the reverse pattern; all material was deposited at lower points in the landscape.

Put simply, this pattern may reflect a division between settlement locations on lower ground, and 'ritual' locations at high points in the landscape. This does not preclude recent thinking on ritual connotations to domestic sites (see the work of JD Hill), and may, of course, over-simplify the complex and diverse distribution within the landscape, but it does provide a very useful starting-point for future study and discussion.

KELVEDON WARRIOR

Paul Sealey of Colchester Museum gave an account of a late Iron Age warrior burial from Kelvedon, Essex, found by a farmer in 1982, and excavated by a retired policeman, Jim Bennett. Paul has spent considerable time and energy researching the exact find spot and bringing the finds together (there was

never a site archive). The grave goods comprised a La Tène 3 sword, removed from the scabbard, wrapped in textile and bent at the time of burial, a (probable) dagger, a piece from a shield boss, and fragments of a spear, also bent at the time of burial. Other finds include the copper-alloy rim of a ?wooden tankard, and an imported copper-alloy bowl. Pottery consisted of two Belgic pedestal urns, dated to the first-century BC. The finds are on display in the Castle Museum.

This burial is obviously of national importance. Only about fifty burials from late Iron Age Britain contain weapons, of which only one or two contained a sword, spear and shield, as the burial from Kelvedon did. Research on the objects is ongoing, but there is a possibility that at least some of the grave goods are Gaulish imports.

PYRE SITES

Mark Atkinson, from the Field Archaeology Unit of Essex County Council, introduced us to late Iron Age Elms Farm, currently at post-excavation stage, a site that is proving to have implications for our understanding of late Iron Age cremation tradition. The hinterland area of site contained 23 burnt features, all in a distinct zone, and many aligned along a ditch, and roughly 5 m apart. At the time of excavation, these were thought of as cremations, but are now considered the remains of pyre sites.

The pyre sites contain a range of burnt material, including large fragments of charred wood lining, and a variety of ceramic vessels and copper-alloy brooches, as well as iron nails. Not only may the presence of these objects shed some light on pyre ritual - many of the brooches, for example, seem to have been deliberately damaged prior to burning - but so may the absence of other objects - only bone and brooches have been collected. The treatment of pyre debris may be much more structured than we realise. The rest of the debris must have been disposed of elsewhere, perhaps in its own set of rituals. This raises the question - Are pyre rituals more important than the act of burial?

Mark called for excavators to be aware of these features - we may not recognise them for what they are, but only by finding more of them will we be able to gain more of an

understanding of late Iron Age cremation ritual.

WHOSE TEMPLE?

Hilary Major, a colleague of Mark's, also gave an illuminating paper on the animal figurines from Elms Farm, which may indicate to whom the temple on site was dedicated. There are only sixteen items which may be seen as having religious significance, and no figurines of deities, but many of the animal figurines are associated with the god Mercury, including a goat, a bear/boar, a cockerel, a mouse, a stag, and a dog. Representations of animals are not necessarily votive, and none of these figurines were found within the temple deposits, but they may have been imbued with religious symbolism for their owner. The possible attribution to Mercury seems reasonable, and the idea that Elms Farm may have been important as a place of trade further strengthens the idea, as Mercury was also a god of commerce.

CAMULODUNUM

Philip Crummy of Colchester Archaeological Trust spoke on 'Death and Burial in Camulodunum'. He outlined six sites within Colchester, the funerary rites of which may shed light on the interaction between the two communities of Britons and Romans. Some of the sites had produced features with strong similarities to those from Elms Farm.

One site mentioned was late Iron Age to early Roman Stanway, where three burial rites could be seen in a series of enclosures, central chambered graves with only 'token' fragments of grave goods thrown in with the fill, small graves with only a few grave goods, and two very richly furnished graves, one identifiable as that of a 'doctor', another as that of a 'warrior'. This is a high-status site with no obvious foundations of any buildings and has been interpreted as the burial ground of native Britons. Pyre debris was also found in some of the enclosures.

Of the six sites outlined, five contained cremation burials where pots seem to have been deliberately broken, and the sherds 'placed' in certain areas. Bone was found in either one or several heaps, or scattered. These deliberate breakages may be seen as immigrant, alien and 'Roman'. The Turner Rise site was comparatively poor in grave

NEWS FLASH!

The UKIC Archaeology Section along with the finds groups are planning a seminar about x-radiography at Fort Cumberland, possibly next spring. Issues to be addressed are techniques (including real time), archival quality, interpretation, image quality, use. If anyone would like to suggest other topics, please contact Glynis Edwards at English Heritage.

goods and some of the features were almost certainly pyre sites rather than cremations.

A recent excavation of a cremation cemetery to the south of the town produced some 4th-century cremations contemporary with the large Christian inhumation cemetery at Butt Road. One grave contained an armlet composed of jet and glass beads and two tiny jet bear amulets.

SUFFOLK SEAL-BOXES

Jude Plouviez of Suffolk County Council then spoke about the great potential for research opened up by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Research is often no longer possible for those within museums, but this resource – Suffolk alone handles between 4000 and 5000 objects a year – can be extremely useful, as long as we are confident that objects are being assigned correctly. To illustrate this point, Jude spoke about seal-boxes from Suffolk. The boxes are grouped according to shape – ovate, circular, lozenge-shaped or square – and many are enamelled. The Suffolk SMR yielded 49 seal-boxes, found all over Suffolk, often in small towns at focal points for the communications network. As we would expect, these objects show that by the second century AD, literacy and 'official business' have become features of Roman settlement.

NORFOLK BROOCH MOULDS

Don Mackreth spoke on brooch moulds from Norfolk. Usually made of clay, those from Norfolk are unusual in being made of metal, bound at the sides with iron staples. It is not clear how often these metal moulds can have been used. There are at least two types of brooch being manufactured in Norfolk from these moulds; the rear-hook and the Harlow-Colchester derivative. Britain was at this time divided into cultural provinces; the rear-hook was easily identified to outsiders

as a Norfolk type, so was not worn after the Boudiccan revolt, when these identifying 'badges' were removed from the newly-suppressed Iceni.

ICENIAN COINAGE

Finally, John Davies of the Norfolk Museums Service spoke on coinage of the Iceni, a prolific assemblage with 65 types, ranging from the Gallo-Belgic stater of 65-50 BC, to later coinage with 'ICEN' on the reverse. Recent discussion has focused on the significance of the symbols on the coinage - in a time of little or no literacy, these symbols, for example, the triplet motif, conveyed messages to the Iceni. Other tribes in the west or south of the country were more exposed to direct Romanising influences, and their coinage reflects this.

Of the 30 coin hoards from Norfolk, many contain good-quality silver and a standard composition of approximately 7% boar-horse, 30% face-horse and 60% pattern-horse. All seem to have been deposited at around the time of the Boudiccan revolt. However, a recently-found hoard contains plated silver, unstruck flans, a crucible fragment, silver pellets and base coinage. Selecting the worst material is very unusual, and this may be a votive deposit. It may be possible to excavate this site in the near future.

John brought an end to his paper with a little mischief-making taken from JD Hill; we know from the coinage that the Iceni were clean-shaven with feathered head-dresses - John's final slide was a photograph of a Red Indian! This brought an end to a very enjoyable day.

Nicola Hembrey, *Finds Specialist*
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REVIEW

Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda, edited by Simon James and Martin Millett CBA Research Report 125, 2001 Price: £15.95

The ten papers in this volume were developed from those given at a session entitled 'Romano-British Research Agendas' sponsored by English Heritage, held at the Roman Archaeology Conference in Durham in 1999. This was designed as a response to the EH initiative which sought to encourage the development of academic frameworks for the study of Britain's past, a process which is increasingly necessary in the light of the changes in the structure and organisation of archaeological activity in the 1990s. The aim of the publication is to encourage those involved in such study to help to shape the future priorities of research into Roman Britain - as the summary states, it does not dictate them.

The papers range widely, from the Iron Age-Roman transition (John Creighton) to the Roman/medieval transition (Simon Esmonde-Cleary), addressing on the way such issues as approaches to identity in Roman Britain (J D Hill), a challenging paper by a self-declared 'outsider', and the interaction between soldier and civilian (Simon James). Innovative approaches to the study of Romano-British urbanism are discussed by Martin Millett, themes for urban research by Barry Burnham *et al*, rural society by Jeremy Taylor and the potential role of zooarchaeology within a Roman research agenda by Keith Dobney. Jeremy Evans outlines ways of characterising site types using ceramic analysis, stressing the importance of using finds as elements of a complete assemblage.

For the finds researcher there is indeed much to consider, and as Lindsay Allason-Jones points out in her contribution 'Material culture and identity', although there are indirect references to finds studies in various research agendas, it is likely that 'the usefulness of objects to inform our understanding of our ancestors is still not fully understood'. Lindsay's examination of the finds from military sites on Hadrian's Wall and the potential for work on comparative assemblages of various types raises many intriguing questions of interpretation. One vital question raised however, is who is going to carry out this work in the future? There will be a great need for trained finds specialists.

The papers provide useful syntheses of the current state of knowledge in their respective fields and suggest some of the significant gaps. Overall they seek to broaden the

horizons of those working in Roman Britain and combat its relative insularity. There is much to digest in this volume, which will have relevance to a wide range of researchers and it should certainly provoke thought, stimulate discussion and help to advance studies in Roman Britain.

Angela Wardle
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Museums On-line

Objects from the British Museum collections are now available through COMPASS (Collections Multi-media Public Access System) both on-line in the BM's Reading Room and on the museum's website (www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk). About 3000 objects have been selected as representative of the collections, and they are presented as high-quality colour images, with brief explanatory texts, the principal published references, and links to associated items. However, the search facilities are not sophisticated, and serious researchers should still contact the relevant department/curator.

Also on-line is the catalogue of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology – no images here, but record cards giving the usual details of accessions – provenance, size, published references, etc. Searches are done by headings such as key word, material, site, etc, so can be very easily targeted to get precisely what you want.
<http://cumaa.archanth.cam.ac.uk/museum.html>

FINDS RESEARCH GROUP 700-1700

A special event has been organised for the Summer by the Finds Research Group 700-1700, for Thursday 2nd August 2001 at The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex. The museum features recreated traditional buildings, a Tudor farmstead, 17th century watermill, historic gardens and country crafts. A demonstration of Tudor cooking and table etiquette by Peter Briers will be part of the day's activities.

For further information contact, asap: Quita Mould, Eastmoor Manor, Eastmoor, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE33 9PZ. Tel: 01366 328910.

The Autumn meeting of the FRG will be a two day conference in Dublin, an opportunity for information exchange and to see the fabulous sites and treasures at the National Museum in Dublin. One day is devoted to the Viking to early medieval transition in Ireland focusing on Dublin, and the second is concerned with the medieval to post-medieval transition in England. 4th- 5th November (Sunday-Monday).

For further information contact: Quita Mould, address above.

Annual subscription for FRG membership is £3-00 (£5-00 overseas). Information can be obtained from Katey Banks, Membership Secretary, The Potteries Museum, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW. Tel: 01782 232323 Fax: 01782 232500 email: kate.banks@stoke.gov.uk

The FRG mails newsletters to its members twice a year. If you want to circulate information about an event, meeting or publication, to a wide audience, send the details to:

Jane Cowgill, FRG Secretary, Chantry Cottage, South Raunceby, Nr. Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 8QJ. Tel: 01522 545326.

email: jane@envarchcons.demon.co.uk

Websites of other Societies

Historical Metallurgy Society: www.histmet.org.uk

Finds Research Group AD 700-1700:
www.britarch.ac.uk/frg

Bead Study Trust: www.beadstudytrust.org.uk

Ancient Metallurgy Research Group:
www.brad.ac.uk/acad/archsci/depart/resgrp/amrg/amrginfo.html

Association for the Study & Preservation of Roman Mosaics: www.asprom.org

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies:
www.sas.ac.uk

Study Group for Roman Pottery: www.sgrp.org

Pewter Society: members.aol.com/pewtrsocty

Rescue – British Archaeological Trust:
www.rescue-archaeology.freereserve.co.uk

Royal Numismatic Society:
www.users.dircon.co.uk/~rms

Books & Conferences

An Atlas of Roman Britain

by Barri Jones and David Mattingley

An Oxbow reprint of a comprehensive atlas with more than 270 detailed maps, figures, plans and photographs covering all aspects of Roman Britain, including political and military history as well as the physical geography and monuments. Evidence is given for economic activity, such as mining and pottery production, with studies of religion and life in town and country.

Blackwell 1990, Oxbow Books 2001. 341p, many illus and maps. ISBN 1842170325. Paperback. £19.95

Bremetenacum: Excavations at Roman Ribchester 1980, 1989-90

by K Buxton and C Howard-Davis

The excavations in this volume were located at the northern edge of the Roman fort. The work revealed evidence for the demolition of the first timber fort (built c 72 AD), prior to its replacement in stone, and the construction to the north of a large timber building, possibly associated with metalworking. The site was almost certainly abandoned by the end of the 2nd century.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 2000. 455p, many figs, CD-ROM. ISBN 1862200831. Paperback. £45.00

Building a Roman Legionary Fortress

by Elizabeth Shirley

A guide to the planning, design and construction of a Roman legionary fortress, with chapters on building technology, materials, labour and associated structures and features, such as streets and drains.

Tempus 2001, 160p, 52 figs. ISBN 0752419110. Paperback. £17.99

Burial, Society and Context in the Roman World

edited by J Pearce, M Millett and M Struck

A collection of twenty-eight papers from a symposium held at the University of Durham in 1997. The book looks at how the study of cemeteries can add to a wider understanding of Roman society. The papers are divided into five groups: The reconstruction of mortuary rituals; Burial and social status; The dead in the landscape; Burial and ethnicity and society; Religion and Burial in late Roman Britain and Italy.

Oxbow Books 2000. 256p, many figs. ISBN 1842170341. Paperback. £35.00

Cultural Identity in the Roman Empire

edited by R Laurence and J Berry

Ten essays on aspects of regional and ethnic identity within the diversity of the Roman Empire. Subjects include the image of the governor and his entourage, the culture of Roman Sardinia, Roman imperialism in Italy, landscape and cultural identity and 'improvements' in Britain, the spatial layout of Pompeian houses, and the gladiators of Roman Nîmes.

Routledge 2001. 205p, 5 pls, 20 figs. Hardback ISBN 041513594X £47.50. Paperback ISBN 0415241499 £15.99

Dictionary of Roman Religion

by Lesley Adkins and Roy A Adkins

A dictionary of the gods, rituals and religions of the Roman Empire, which also points out the aspects of Roman religion which does not come from other cultures.

Facts on File 1996 (HB), 2001 (Pb). 288p, 63 pls, 65 figs. Hardback ISBN 0816030057. £24.95. Paperback ISBN 0195142330, £11.99

Economía de la Britannia Romana: La importación de alimentos

by Cèsar Carreras Monfort

A study of the Roman economy in Britain based on amphora evidence. The theoretical and methodological premises on which the study is based are described before presenting the evidence for the different types and their chorology. There is also a discussion of provincial trade and exchange and the differences between civil and military strategies of production, distribution and trade routes. Text in Spanish.

Barcelona University 2000. 344p, 102 figs, (Collecció Instrumenta 8,) ISBN 8447524485. Paperback. £30.00

éditions monique mergoil

Available from: éditions monique mergoil, 12 rue des Moulins, F34530 Montagnac, France. For all volumes add p&p of 6.40 Euros (42 FF).

Archéologie des textiles, des origines au V^e siècle

edited by D Cardon & M Feugère

Proceedings of an international conference held at Lattes in 1999, this volume reflects the range of approaches which can be used today to study varied aspects of an ancient industry, from laboratory analysis of tiny fragments of fur and cloth to microwear on tools.

2000. 300 p, 267 figs, 4 col pls (Collection Monographies Instrumentum 14), 38.11 Euros (250 FF). ISBN 2-907303-43-0

Goldschmiedekunst und Bronze-technik

by Barbara Regine Armbruster

Gold- and bronze-smithing in the Bronze and Iron Ages on the Iberian Peninsula are examined in this volume, both technologically and archaeologically. A vivid light is cast on the tools, tool-marks, and manufacture of metal objects.

2000. 354 p, 90 figs, 117 pls, (Collection Monographies Instrumentum 15), 42.69 Euros (280 FF). ISBN 2-907303-27-9

Lampes antiques d'Algérie

by Jean Bussièrre

This volume presents a revised typology of the terracotta lamps of Punic, Hellenistic, and Roman Algeria, with around 8000 lamps catalogued and 2300 illustrated. By accurately defining the typology and chronology of the lamps made and/or used in Algeria in antiquity, thus illustrating the force of Romanisation over the centuries, this volume reconsiders many received ideas while putting forward a simple and practical classification of African lamps.

2000. 600 p, 56 figs & tables, 165 pls (Collection Monographies Instrumentum 16), 54.88 Euros (360 FF). ISBN 2-907303-42-2

Please note:

The main business of Librairie Archéologique has now transferred to Éditions Faton, 25 Rue Berbisey, BP 669, 21017 Dijon, France; infos@faton.fr

Support Reading University's Silchester excavation project by joining

The Friends of Silchester

As a member you will receive newsletters keeping you up to date with the happenings both on and off the site, as well as an invitation to attend special Friends Tours during the course of the excavation. For further information, contact Val Jones at the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O.Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA

The Roman Baths and Macellum at Wroxeter: excavations by Graham Webster 1955-85

compiled and edited by Peter Ellis

The excavations showed that timber-framed buildings, constructed c AD 90 and fronting on Watling Street, were demolished to provide space for the public buildings, constructed between 120 and 160. In the 3rd century a swimming pool was filled in and an additional baths suite built. Some of the buildings continued in use into the fifth century, after their original functions had ceased. The artefact and environmental finds reports are on material deriving mainly from the initial building campaign, but with some third-century groups.

English Heritage 2000. ISBN 1 85074 606 0. Product code XC10849. £45.00

See also:

The legionary fortress at Wroxeter: excavations by Graham Webster, 1955-85,

by Graham Webster, edited by John Chadderton. English Heritage 2000. ISBN 1 85074 685 0. Product code XA20003, £45.00

The baths basilica, Wroxeter, excavations 1966-90

by Philip Barker, Roger White, Kate Pretty, Heather Bird and Mike Corbishley. English Heritage 1997. ISBN 1 85074 528 5. Product code XC10848, £70.00

Prehistoric and Roman Essex

by James Kemble

The archaeological heritage of Essex is reflected in many surviving features, such as Bronze Age burial mounds, Iron Age dyke systems, the Red Hills of salt production sites, and the walls of Roman Colchester. This book provides an extensive gazetteer of sites and places.

Tempus 2001. 208 p, 75 ill. ISBN 0 7524 1934 X. £16.99.

Roman France: an archaeological field guide

by Jeremy Knight

All 94 departments covered, and all important sites described. The sites range in date from the Iron Age to the 7th century.

Tempus 2001. 224 p, 50 ill. ISBN 0 7524 1919 6. £17.99

Roman Infantry Equipment

by I P Stephenson

A systematic look at the equipment of the 3rd-century infantryman and his kit, offensive or defensive, close combat and long-range weapons.

Tempus 2001. 144 p, 81 ill. ISBN 0 7524 1908 0. £15.99

Food in Roman Britain

by Joan Alcock

Not Apicius, but the archaeological evidence for both native and imported foods. The civilian and military diets are contrasted.

Tempus 2001. 176 p, 100 ill. ISBN 0 7524 1924 2. £15.99

Cambridge: the hidden history

by Alison Taylor

A detailed look at the development of Cambridge, from the small Roman town to the rise and spread of the colleges.

Tempus 2001. 176 p, 113 ill. ISBN 0 7524 1914 5

Verulamium; Roman city of St Albans

by Rosalind Niblett

The rise of the Catuvellaunian capital and its development and changes charted through to the early 8th-century Saxon town.

Tempus 2001. ISBN 07524 1915 3

Upper Nene Archaeological Society

Publications in print: available from 'Toad Hall', Main Road, Hackleton, Northampton NN7 2AD

Iron Age & Roman Piddington: the mortaria 1979-1993

by Lindsay Rollo

Includes an updated report on the villa excavations.

Fascicule 2, 1994. £5.00 members, £5.50 non-members, + £1.50 p&p.

From round house to villa

edited by R M & D E Friendship-Taylor

Proceedings of a conference held in 1993 to celebrate the Society's 30th birthday.

Fascicule3, 1997. £6.00 members, £6.50 non-members, + £2.00 p&p.

Iron Age and Roman Piddington: the ceramic building materials

by Cynthia Ward

Includes a large collection of finials, probably from pharos-shaped louvers.

Fascicule 4, 1999. £10.00 members, £12.00 non-members, + £2.25 p&p.

Iron Age & Roman Quinton: the evidence for the ritual use of the site

by R M Friendship-Taylor

Third and final report on the Society's excavations of this site.

Fascicule 5, 1999. £5.00 members, £5.50 non-members, + £1.50 p&p.

More fascicules in preparation, including The Worked Bone Objects, The Vessel Glass, The Faunal Remains.

Websites for books, new & secondhand

Oxbow Books - www.oxbowbooks.com

Tempus - www.tempus-publishing.co.uk

English Heritage - www.eng-h.gov.uk

Castle Bookshop - www.archaeologybooks.co.uk

Heritage Archaeological Books - www.heritageweb.com

and

don't forget to support your local bookshop - use them or lose them!

Conferences

Archaeological Science 2001 29th August-1st September, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Sessions on a range of themes, with the focus on past successes and future prospects, in particular the new opportunities offered by AHRB, Leverhulme & the Wellcome Trust. Guest speaker: Julian Richards.

Contact: Dr D Passmore, ArchSci01, Dept of Geography, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU, tel 0191 222 6359, fax 0191 222 5421. Email d.g.passmore@newcastle.ac.uk

Annual conference of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors 31st August-2nd September, Winchester

To be held at King Alfred's College Winchester. Further information from AAI&S, c/o University of Exeter, Dept of Archaeology, Laver Building, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4QE.

A Research Agenda for Wales 31st August-2nd September

The first conference of the IFA Wales/Cymru Group will draw together speakers from all areas of the archaeological community in Wales to discuss the importance of national & regional research frameworks, future research priorities. Further information from Kate Geary, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT. Email: kate.geary@heneb.co.uk

Seachange: Orkney and Northern Europe in the late Iron Age and later, 300 - 800 AD 6th-10th September, Orkney

Conference organised by Orkney Heritage Society, speakers include Prof Martin Carver, Prof John Hunter, Dr Mike Parker Pearson and Dr Anna Ritchie. There will study tours of Iron Age sites, as well as the chance to visit a day of demonstrations of Iron Age skills and public lectures in Stromness.

Details from Kate Towsey, Seaview, Burray, Orkney KW17 2SS. Tel: 01856 731227. Email: kate.towsey@talk21.com

Preserving archaeological remains in situ - 2nd conference 12th-14th September, Museum of London

PARIS2 will review the research since the first PARIS conference in 1996, concerned with the effects of the burial environment on archaeological remains. Aimed at archaeologists, soils scientists, conservators, engineers, planners and construction professionals.

Organised by English Heritage, MoLAS, & University of Bradford. Details from PARIS2, MoLAS, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB. Fax: 020 7410 2201. Email: fonam@molass.org.uk

Scanning the horizon 12th-14th September, Norwich

The annual conference of the Museums Documentation Association will be held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, on the theme of emerging and converging technologies, including broadband, wireless and VR, as they apply to the cultural sector.

Details from Frances Bycroft, MDA, Jupiter House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JD. Email: frances@mda.org.uk

How to dig with an elephant: 9th Congress of Independent Archaeologists 21st-23rd September, Nottingham

The 2001 CIA Congress will be held at Lincoln Hall, Nottingham University. Details from Andrew Selkirk, CIA, 9 Nassington Road, London NW3 2TX. Tel 020 7435 7517. Email: congress@independents.org.uk

or Mike Rumbold, The Horseshoes, Main Street, Upper Stowe, Northampton NN7 4SH

The archaeology of church and community 21st-23rd September, York

Joint conference of the Society for Church Archaeology and the Association of Diocesan & Cathedral Archaeologists, to be held at the Dept of Archaeology, University of York. Aims to address how archaeologists can reconstruct and understand the role of the Saxon to post-medieval church in defining communities and in shaping the landscape inhabited by those communities.

Contact: Simon Ward, Chester Archaeology, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD, email s.ward@chestercc.gov.uk

Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists 19th -23rd September, Esslingen am Neckar, Germany

Hosted by the University of Applied Sciences, Esslingen am Neckar, this year's programme consists of three days of meetings in three subject blocks: Managing the Archaeological Record & the Cultural Heritage; Archaeology of Today: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives; and Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record. There will be a day of excursions to significant sites in Baden-Württemberg.

Conference language: English. Details from: Landesdenkmalamt, Baden-Württemberg, Archäologische Denkmalpflege, Silberburgstr 193, 70178 Stuttgart. Tel +(49) 711 1694 700. Fax +(49) 711 1694 707

or EAA-Tagungsbüro 2001, Marktplatz 16, 73728 Esslingen am Neckar. Fax +(49) 711 3512 2912. Email aaa2001@Esslingen.de

Crafts and Craftsmen in the Western Provinces of the Roman Empire from the Early Principate to Late Antiquity: Change and Continuity 27th-29th October, Erpeldange, Luxembourg

Second international conference of SEMANT, and INSTRUMENTUM, with papers dealing with the subject on the basis of the archaeological, legal, epigraphical and literary evidence. The proceedings will be published in the Instrumentum monograph series.

Contact: M Michel Polfer, Grundwee 51, L-9045 Ettelbrück, Luxembourg. Fax: 00352-81.12.07. Email: polfermichel@netscape.net

Roman Mithraism: the evidence of the small finds 7th-8th November, Tienen, Belgium

Organised to collect recent information on the small finds excavated in and around Mithraea, and to look for answers to questions such as - Do mithraea have a typical finds assemblage? Do the finds give information on ceremonies, ritual meals and sacrifices?

Details from: Corry Vanrooy, Dept of Culture, Museum "het Toreke", Grote Markt 6, 3300 Tienen, Belgium. Tel: +32(0)16/805666. Email: museum.toreke@skynet.be Fax: 32(0)16/8110479

The Clothed Body in the Ancient World 17th-19th January, Milton Keynes

This conference aims to bring together a wide range of specialists to widen the debate and enhance current understanding of the role of dress in ancient societies.

Contact: Dr Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, Dept Classical Studies, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, UK. MK6 7AA. Email: l.j.llewellyn-jones@open.ac.uk

or Dr Mary Harlow, Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham UK B15 2TT. Email: m.e.harlow@bham.ac.uk