

LUCERNA



THE ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 25, January 2003

Lucerna

Roman Finds Group Newsletter 25

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Editorial

The articles in this issue are a real variety, including an unusual candlestick from Springhead (p 2), a clasp-knife with gladiator handle (p 9), two inscriptions (p 6-7), ivory objects (p 12) and a pair of silver brooches (p 11). There are also yet more Minerva bust wax spatula handles (p 13). A pattern of distribution is beginning to emerge for these objects. It contrasts with that shown by the less elaborate spatulae (p 14), but I cannot help wondering if modern factors are at play here. One of the things that might distort a distribution plot, be it geographical or social, is the improved recognition of iron objects through the use of X-rays. This could make more recently-excavated urban sites dominate any list of iron artefacts.

A joint meeting of the RFG, the FRG 700-1700, and the UKIC Archaeology Section is being held in London next month (17th February) on the subject of X-rays, including contributions on producing good quality images and interpreting them. A programme with details of how to book is included with this posting.

The RFG's next meeting is in March in Harlow. The 'host' is Chris Lydamore of the Museum of Harlow. The Museum has moved to different premises so there are new displays (plus walled gardens) to be seen at lunchtime and after the meeting ends. The programme/booking form is included with this issue.

Membership of RFG is steadily rising but there are still some obvious gaps; for example, no one from Colchester Museum is a member. If you know anyone who 'ought' to join, please encourage them, or their institution, to do so.

Nina Crummy

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATE INTRODUCED

The ordinary sub remains at £5, but a new rate of £8 has been introduced to cover a two-person: single-household membership receiving only one copy of *Lucerna*

An unusual decorated ceramic candlestick from Springhead, Kent

BACKGROUND

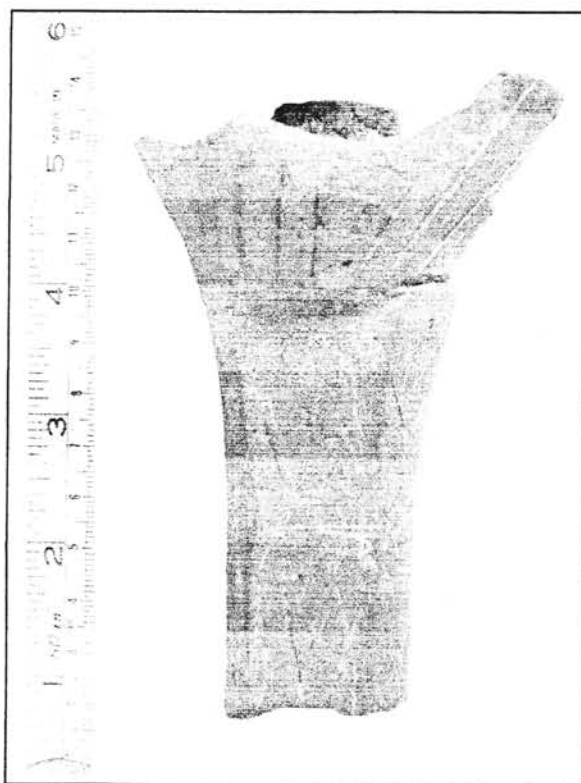
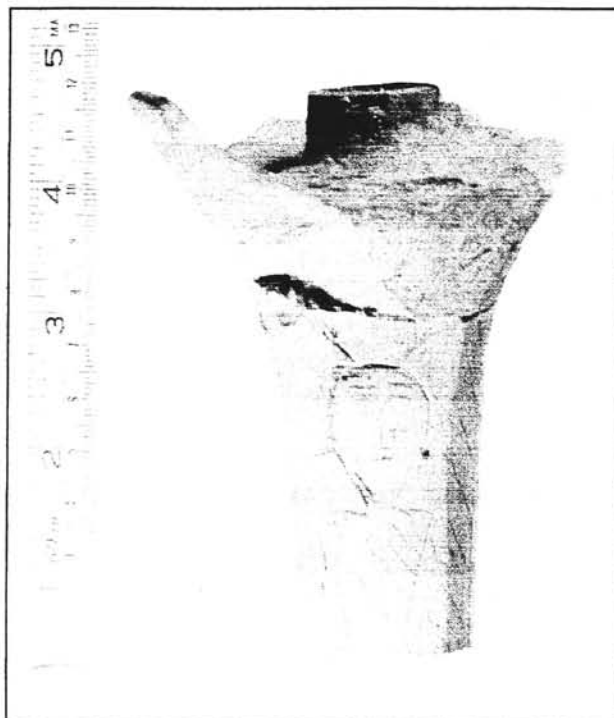
The candlestick was submitted to the British Museum for identification in January 2002 by Mr Wyatt, formerly of Gravesham Archaeology, the archaeological arm of the Gravesend Historical Society (accession no: GHSPA/15633). Mr Wyatt found the candlestick at Springhead, Kent, and said that it came from spoil which had been dumped during work on the Channel Tunnel rail-link (the archaeological work is being carried out by Wessex Archaeology). It was therefore an unstratified surface find. The Gravesend Historical Society intend to display the find in the New Tavern Fort, Fort Gardens, Milton Place, Gravesend.

DESCRIPTION

The object consists of the top part of a tallow-candle holder (Figs A and B). It comprises approximately 66 mm of the shaft, which is 31 mm in diameter at its widest point. The shaft is hexagonal, with three of the sides being approximately 20 mm in width, alternating with three sides which are about half that in width. The shaft expands slightly towards the top. The top part consists of a roughly circular cup, which survives to its full rim height in only one place with the rest broken away; where it survives, the rim is plain. In the centre of the cup is the candle holder, blackened from use, which is subcircular at the opening (diameter approx 20 mm) and cone shaped, with the point extending down a short way into the shaft. The whole of the lower part of the candlestick, which would almost certainly have consisted of a circular base to act as a flat stand, is missing.

FABRIC

The fabric is orange and burnished, with common (about 10%) fine grey inclusions which are well sorted. The closest comparable fabrics to this are the Hadham oxidised wares (Tomber & Dore 1998, 151). Hadham is known to have produced a wide range of forms, although we have not been able to establish if this particular form is a known product. Nevertheless, the distribution of Hadham wares fits in well with the findspot, as they are concentrated in the south east and East Anglia. The New Forest is another possible source, because pedestalled



Figs 1-2. The Springhead candlestick.

candlesticks are known from there (Fulford 1975), but the New Forest fabrics tend to be much lighter in colour, and are less common, though not unknown, from Kent.

DATE

Hadham and New Forest wares were produced in the 3rd to 4th centuries, and this would seem to be a reasonable date for this object. Fulford dates the pedestalled candlestick types known from the New Forest industry to ca. AD 270-380 (*ibid*).

DECORATION

The most interesting aspect of the candlestick is its somewhat unusual and relatively complex, if crude, decoration. On the widest three faces of the shaft are three scratched male figures (Figs X-Z). The scratches were presumably done prior to firing when the clay was leather hard, which is implied by the fact that curves seem to have presented problems, and the artisan seems to have preferred to use straight lines where at all possible. It also seems that in a number of instances scratches were made in the wrong place and either an attempt was made to correct these with additional lines, or they were just left (particularly evident on Fig Z, see below).



Fig X. The first figure, with ?antlered head.

The first figure (X) has an ovular head which is clearly horned or antlered, and has either hair or maybe some kind of headgear. The rest of his features, which include eyebrows, are very rudimentarily sketched. Lines at the bottom of his face may either be a chin or a beard. An attempt has also been made to give him arms, and his chest is criss-crossed - presumably to imply a garment.

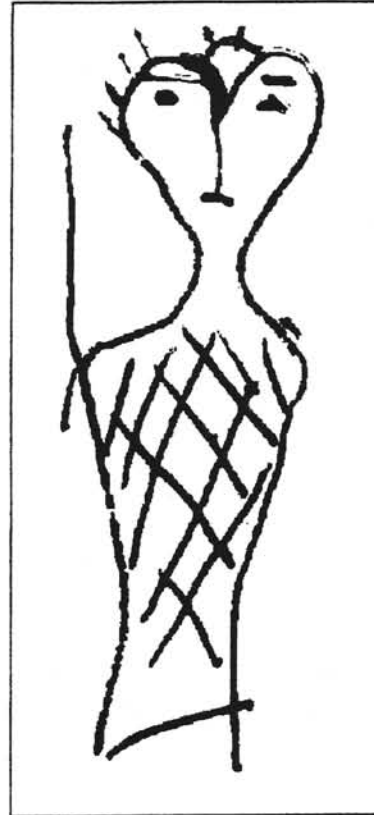


Fig Y. The second figure, with heart-shaped face.

The second figure (Y) has a strange heart-shaped face, with the lines making up the sides of the head joining in the middle to form a nose and a mouth. There are also a series of short spikes protruding from the head, again extremely crude, and these seem to extend below the head at chin level on the other side. The torso is similar to the last, with an attempt at arms being made, and also like the first figure, criss-crossed lines across the chest.

The third figure (Z) is perhaps the crudest of all, with the lines of the oval head continued down the shaft to form the body, but in this case with no additional lines for arms. Criss-crossed lines on the torso are again used, but this time with only a few strokes. Lines below the features might either be, like the first figure, an attempt to show the chin or possibly

a beard. And like the second figure (Y) there are spikes on the head, but this time the addition of a curved line which seems to split into two at the end.



Fig Z. The third figure.

As for the rest of the decoration, the other sides of the shaft have simple scratched lines which in one case resembles an ear of corn, in another a geometric pattern of joined up diamonds. The circular cup is decorated on the outside by deeper incised lines radiating at an angle up from the shaft; a thicker tool seems to have been used to make these marks.

CELTIC, CLASSICAL OR EASTERN?

It is by no means clear who the figures were intended to represent. The only one which has any clear distinguishing characteristic is the figure which appears to have a set of antlers (X). The obvious association would be with Cernunnos, an antlered deity who has been traced back to the 4th century BC (Green 1989, 89). But this requires an acceptance that the lines projecting from the head of this figure were intended to be antlers, so the argument cannot be taken too far. Although the other figures do have distinguishing characteristics, they have no obvious parallels in other depictions, so it is not at all clear who they are supposed to be. It is also unclear as to whether or not all the figures should be viewed as a group of three - Cernunnos, as a parallel, is shown with two attendants on a relief from Vendoeuvres (*ibid*, 95, fig 40).

Perhaps there is something to be read into the fact that all appear to be male, and all appear to be wearing the same type of garment, picked out by the simple lattice on their torsos. Alternatively, perhaps all three are supposed to represent one and the same figure, maybe at different stages of transition; the figure with the curious double curves to the right of the head could be construed as being the interim stage of antler growth between figure Y (with no protrusions from the head), and figure X, where the antlers are fully developed. But this is pure conjecture, and other ideas would be welcomed.

The other possibility is that the figures are not Celtic, but classical or eastern in influence. Again the idea of three figures together would work here as well - eg the Capitoline Triad (Jupiter, Juno and Minerva) - although none of these figures have any of the attributes one would associate with that particular group. The figures do, however, not look unlike the bronze figurines found at Southbroom, Wiltshire in 1714 (Kauffmann-Heinimann 1998, 232), which included a variety of easily identifiable (eg Mercury) and some not so easily identifiable pieces; and in such company, it could be argued that the spikes on the head of Fig X are not Cernunnos but Mercury (ie his winged helmet). In a similar manner it could also be suggested that the lines to the side of the head of Fig Z are supposed to represent a Phrygian cap, ie Mithras or Atys (it should be made clear however that neither are represented in the Southbroom group).

Finally, it should also be pointed out that the lattice decoration on the torsos of each of the figures is similar to that on a clay incense burner known from Coventina's Well (RIB II, inv 2457.3).

CANDLESTICKS IN BRITAIN

A wide variety of ceramic candlesticks are known from Roman Britain (Eckardt forthcoming). In the Roman provinces, the vast majority of candles would have been made from tallow rather than beeswax, which appears to have been used only by the wealthy and later for altar candles by the church (Forbes 1958, 131-39; Robins 1939, 16-23). New Forest examples (Fulford 1975) sometimes bear decoration in the form of reddish-brown painted linear designs but the incised decoration on this example is presently without parallel.

When compared with 1st-century lamps, which occur mainly in large urban and military

centres, candlesticks are much more commonly found in smaller towns and rural settlements and the discovery of this candlestick at Springhead thus fits well with this general context pattern. The ritual nature of this piece however, implied by the decoration, does make it rather unusual; ceramic candlesticks in general are far less commonly found in sanctuaries, which seem to produce more iron candlesticks and in particular iron tripod types (Eckardt forthcoming).

This candlestick is clearly an unusual item, and we hope that readers find these notes about it useful – any comments will be welcomed.

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Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Ralph Jackson for his comments on earlier drafts of this note.

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Editor's comments

The arms are all in different positions. Fig X, down by sides, Fig Y, right one up, left missing, Fig Z, right down, left ?elbow out, hand touching chest. Is there any meaning in these differences? Could Fig Y be female? Simply because the effect produces a softer face, and the 'clothes' are more 'textured'?

Exhibition Review

Schone Schijn: Romeinse Juweelkunst in West-Europa. Gallo Romeins Museum, Tongeren, (Belgium), 26 October 2002-16 March 2003

It is not easy to devise an exhibition which has a lot to offer both the specialist and the casual museum visitor. This temporary exhibition in Tongeren achieves that subtle balance triumphantly. It is a beautiful display to look at, but the basic concept, by Dr Kathy Sas, the leading authority on Roman jewellery in Belgium, also addresses all the major archaeological issues connected with personal ornament in the northern provinces of the Roman Empire. These include manufacturing techniques, native Iron Age traditions, the introduction of Graeco-Roman aesthetic and technical concepts, and the later absorption of Germanic styles and the rise of Christianity, ending with a coda explaining the influence of Roman jewellery and ancient gems in the medieval and modern periods.

Many museums in Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and Britain have loaned important pieces, including some of the magnificent jet jewellery from the Yorkshire Museum and the Museum of Antiquities in Newcastle, and representative items from the Thetford treasure and the Snettisham Roman jeweller's hoard from the British Museum.

The catalogue (Kathy Sas and Hugo Thoen (editors), *Schone Schijn: romeinse juweelkunst in West-Europa / Brilliance et Prestige: la joaillerie romaine en Europe occidentale* (Leuven 2002, price 32 €) is fully illustrated in colour, and will become a vital reference work. It includes chapters on the main topics of the exhibition written by a team of international scholars. At present it is available only in the bilingual Dutch/French edition, but there are some hopes that an English edition may be published.

Tongeren is a pleasant small town, with fine medieval buildings, and the Gallo Romeins Museum has much to offer in addition to this superb special exhibition. If additional incentives are required, remember that Belgium is famous for excellence in both beer and chocolate...

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Possible temple inscription found in Chester

Part of a slate inscription was found earlier this year during excavations on the edge of Roman Chester's civilian settlement. It came from what appeared to be a natural stream bed that had been adapted during the Roman period to form a channel up to 2 m wide lined with timber and stone. Once it had outlived its usefulness the channel seems to have been used as a convenient place to dump rubbish, including complete pots and more than 50 coins.

Part of two rows of letters can be seen. Those on the upper row are S L L M and are neatly cut. There is also a marking out line clearly visible running along the base of the letters. The lower row has P [or B] E T E R and so could be read as PETER, PETRE, BETER or BETRE and are in a different style to the upper row. The form of the letters suggests an early 3rd-century date.

The upper row of letters are almost certainly part of the formula *Susceptum Solvit Laetus Merito* - "Gladly and with joy he fulfilled his undertaking to [the God] who well deserved it".

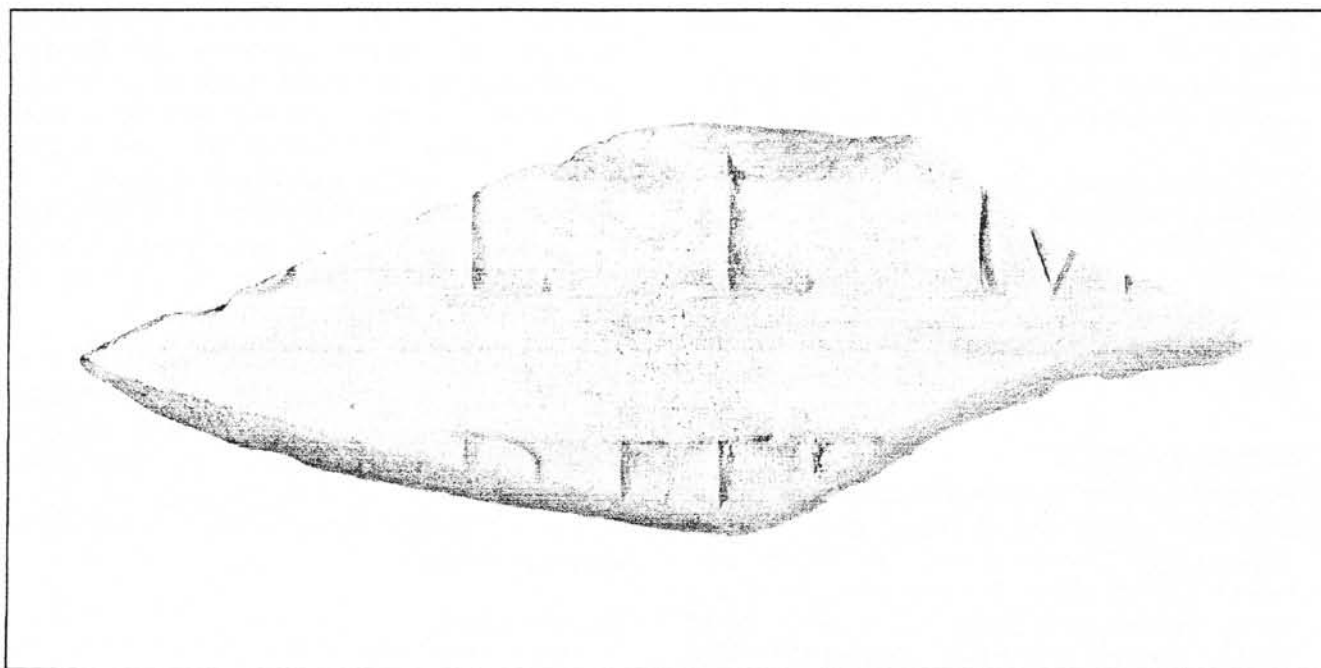
Assuming that this interpretation is correct some deductions can be made about the type of inscription this fragment came from. It has

to be a dedication slab, by someone unknown to an unknown deity. The obvious inference is that the inscription came from a temple, and that what is being celebrated is the building or the embellishment of the temple by a benefactor. If this is so, we have the first certain reference to a Roman temple at Chester. Another possibility is that the inscription adorned a public structure such as a fountain.

The inscription appears to have been modified some time after it was finished. S S L L M being a standard formula which would have been the last line of the inscription. The second line was a later addition and not part of the original design. The different style, and particularly size, of the lower letters tends to confirm this. They also seem to be off-centre compared to the upper line.

Unfortunately there is no obvious translation for the letters of the second line. If the suggestion given above is correct, it would most likely refer to a refurbishment of the building some years later, and the words would have included the name or names of those responsible.

Reading of inscription: Dan Robinson (Keeper of Archaeology, Grosvenor Museum; excavation details: Vanessa Clarke, Earthworks Archaeology.



The Chester inscription. Maximum length 210 mm, maximum width 75 mm, thickness 12 mm.

Londiniensium – cast in stone

The first Roman monumental inscription to name London has been discovered recently during excavations in Southwark. The stone measures 295 mm wide by 320 mm high, being complete at the top but broken at the bottom (Fig 1). The surviving text reads:

NVMAVGG
DEOMARTICA
MVLO TIBERINI
VSCELERIANVS
C BELL
MORITIX
LONDINIENSI
VM
..]IMVS [...

The most likely expansion is:

NVM(inibus) AVG(ustorum)
DEO MARTI CA-
MVLO TIBERINI-
VS CELERIANVS
C(ivis) BELL(ovacus)
MORITIX
LONDINIENSI-
VM
(Pr)IMVS ...

This could be translated as: *To the spirits of the Emperors and to the god Mars Camulus, Tiberinius Celerianus, a citizen of the Bellovaci, merchant, first [...] of the people of London ... [set up this monument]*

The inscription appears to provide for the first time in monumental form evidence for the merchant class that underpinned Londinium's economy. Significantly, however, the man describes himself not with a typical Roman term – *negotiator* or *nauta*, perhaps – but with a word of non-Roman origin. *Moritix* occurs with certainty on just one other stone – from Cologne – and possibly on a long-lost sarcophagus from York. The term is the subject of much debate among linguists. Most are agreed that it denotes a connection with navigation or maritime trade, and indeed on the Cologne inscription it is twinned with the words *negotiator Britannicus*, 'trader with Britain' (or 'trader in British goods'). On the other hand, there remains the possibility that the word had a more a more metaphorical or spiritual meaning – a guide of people or souls, perhaps? If the term has been correctly read on the York sarcophagus, there may be some

significance that the deceased was not only a *moritex* but a *sevir*.

Whatever the precise meaning of *moritix*, that he should use such a word can be explained by Celerianus's origin. As a citizen of the Bellovaci, he was probably born in northern France around Beauvais, which was the capital of that tribe. His very name – which would have elicited derision in the streets of Rome during Caesar or Cicero's time – appears to be a 'fabrication' of the type popular in Gaul: the Classical *Celer* elongated to *Celerianus*.

Tiberinius Celerianus, then, was a wealthy merchant, shipper, guild president or minor priest, perhaps free-born, perhaps of freedman stock. The Seine, which runs less than 50 miles from Beauvais, may have been the river he used to transport goods to London. By commissioning this public monument, with its dedication to the Emperors, he was able to demonstrate his loyalty to the Roman state and his acceptance into Roman society. But at the same time, by means of the dedication to the Gallo-Roman Mars Camulus, he reveals the ambivalence of his social position and his pride in his origins.

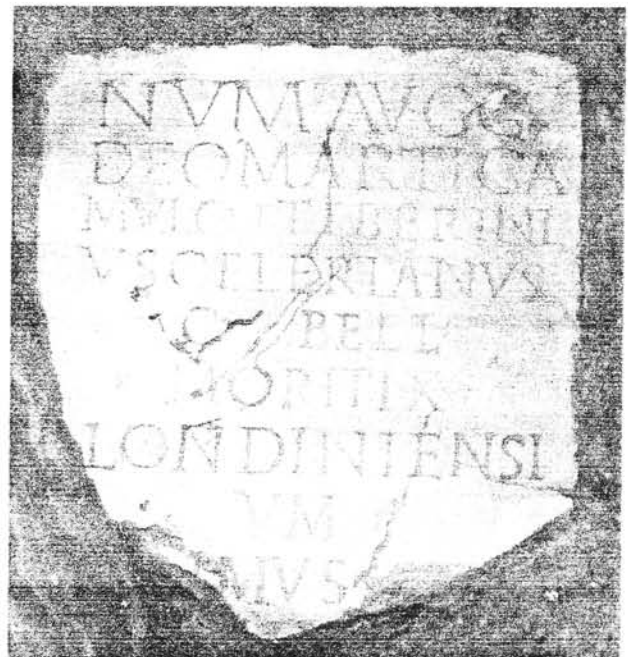


Fig 1. The new inscription from Southwark, London.

Though it is tempting to assume a reference to a British god – perhaps one associated with Colchester, *Camulodunum* – the allusion may in fact be more subtle. There is just one other dedication to Mars Camulus in Britain (at Bar

Hill) but several either from Reims or made by people who had connections with the *civitas Remorum*. Reims lies not far east of Beauvais, and Tiberinus was probably familiar with shrines to Mars Camulus there. To judge by the size of the lettering, the most important lines on this stone contain (a) the invocation to the Emperors and Mars Camulus, (b) the reference to London. Was Tiberinus deliberately pairing the god of his homeland (northern Gaul) with the city (London) where he had made his money, so demonstrating what could be achieved by a successful entrepreneur in the Roman empire?

The lettering on the monument is of very high quality – often a characteristic of the 1st or 2nd century – but the reference to two Emperors appears to date it to the joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus (AD 161 onwards) at the earliest.

The monument was excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Tabard Square, Long Lane, SE1. The work was funded by Berkeley Homes, in advance of redevelopment.

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Acknowledgments

Francis Grew is very grateful to Roger Tomlin for discussing and elucidating so many aspects of this tantalising inscription.

A WORKED STONE FROM THE VICUS AT SOUTH SHIELDS (ARBEIA)

Can any readers suggest a function or parallels for a worked stone, found during excavations in the *vicus* at Arbeia this summer? It is oval, measuring 0.50 m by 0.45 m, with a depth of 0.13 m, and has a slightly

off-centre hole pierced through it. At first sight it appeared it be an unfinished quern, but both the shape and stone type appear to rule this out (I am grateful to Alex Croom for the detailed description and to Clive Hart for examining the stone type). The edges are all equally roughly worked, so it was clearly shaped as an oval rather than having been circular then worn into an oval. The surface is pitted, not smooth enough to be a quern, and the hole piercing it is at a slight angle. It is made from what appears to be an unusual local sandstone, which has a granular appearance similar to limestone, and soft enough to be scratched with a thumb nail. It has clearly seen some kind of usage, as there is wear and an area of damage with some deeper pitting on one surface.

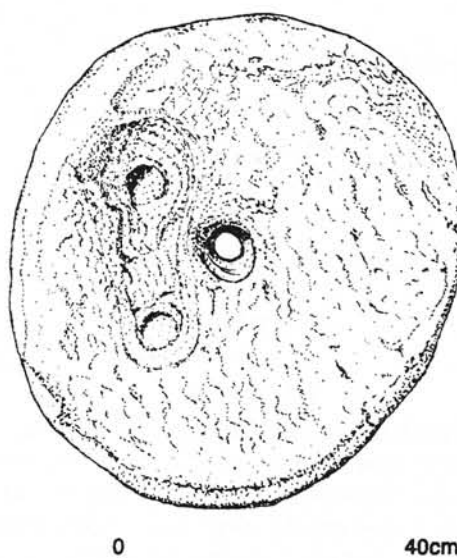


Fig 1. Stone object from Arbeia. Drawn by D Whitworth.

The context suggests some domestic or light industrial use. It was found on the clay floor of a room within a timber building probably of courtyard type (actually partially embedded in the floor which had subsided into an earlier feature). It was c 1 m from a hearth which was incorporated into the outer wall of the room. Beyond the room was a portico 2 m wide, and immediately outside that was a stone-lined well, c 2.50 m deep, and a cobbled yard. This phase of the building dated to the early 3rd century. Can anyone suggest a function for the stone which might relate to the use of the hearth or the well?

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The Piddington Gladiator Clasp-knife

A copper-alloy and iron clasp-knife was found during the trowelling of a newly-opened area in the south-east corner of the walled courtyard (not far from the later first century villa) in a layer dated to the final villa phase (Phase 5, AD 200-250) of the main villa building, in a matrix of mixed building debris and brown clayey soil, and also associated with large quantities of geometrically cut marble pieces possibly from an important piece of furniture and all datable to the mid 3rd century AD at the latest. This layer in turn dipped beneath the edge of a large black organic midden deposit attributable to the final 'squatter' levels and dated to virtually the whole of the 4th and into the 5th centuries AD, and finally brought occupation of the villa to an end.

The knife is complete, with a folding decoratively-inlaid iron blade found lying face uppermost at the easternmost end of the courtyard, within the phase 5 building debris and brown clayey layer amid a small concentration of charcoal. Despite its diminutive size (length 70 mm), it is one of the most naturalistic and detailed gladiator images in the round from Roman Britain. It shows a gladiator of the heavily-armed *secutor* class, his distinctive arms and equipment clearly and accurately depicted. They comprise a smooth fish-like visor-helmet with dorsal ridge, flared neck-guard and characteristically small eye-holes, a straight-bladed sword (*gladius*) and curved rectangular shield (*scutum*), both of standard legionary type, thick quilted padding



The Piddington gladiator. Height 70 mm.
Photographs by Simon Tutty, British Museum.

on the sword arm (*manica*) and leading (left) leg, a short gaiter on the right calf, and a loin cloth (*subligaculum*) with broad armoured belt (*balteus*). The gladiator's stance suggests a position in readiness for combat: the left leg a little advanced, both legs slightly flexed, the sword and shield held in the normal attacking position and the slightly turned head giving an impression of vigilance, always necessary if the *secutor* was to keep in view his traditional adversary, the lightly-armed but highly mobile net-fighter (*retiarius*) (Junkelmann 2000).

The angular-backed iron knife-blade, corroded but intact, appears to have been of a similar high standard of manufacture. It is in the closed position with its concave cutting edge safely recessed into a slot running the length of the gladiator's left side. X-radiography and subsequent conservation disclosed the presence of two tiny inlaid copper-alloy rings (diameter 3 mm) adjacent to the blade back at its distal and proximal angles.

Clasp knives, with a folding iron blade and a handle of bone, ivory, or copper-alloy (and, probably frequently, of wood), were a common and widespread Roman type, a general-purpose 'pocket' utensil like a modern pen-knife. Surviving examples range from plain, workaday knives to costly pieces with highly decorated handles. The handle lent itself well to figured decoration in the round and there are certain common motifs as, for example, a series with open-work designs best exemplified in Britain by the vignette of a hound pursuing a hare, but sometimes comprising marine or exotic scenes. But that series, evidently manufactured in some numbers, is often of fairly indifferent workmanship. The Piddington handle is of much higher quality and, in its precise form, is unparalleled in Britain.

Gladiatorial imagery is not uncommon in Britain, whether in fresco, sculpture, mosaic, ceramic, metal or bone, and there are fine images of ivory from Lexden (Colchester) and South Shields (Allason-Jones & Miket 1984), of copper-alloy from London and unprovenanced, as well as less accomplished examples in bone. The depictions comprise examples of all the most popular classes of gladiator: *thraex*, *murmillo*, *secutor* and *retiarius*, but, while gladiator pairs are generally shown in the other media, the bone and copper-alloy figurines almost invariably depict individuals. Two of these

are clasp-knives, the ivory examples from South Shields and an unprovenanced bone handle in the British Museum (reg no 1907.10-24.4). Both appear to show a *secutor*, though the absence of a helmet on the South Shields figure leaves open the possibility that the gladiator is a *murmillo*. The posture and modelling of the South Shields gladiator is idiosyncratic and very different to the Piddington handle, and the position of the folding iron blade, with its cutting edge accommodated along the gladiator's back, is also at variance. Much closer is the comparison with the unprovenanced bone example, now broken from the knees down. Although the distinctive helmeted head is shown in profile, the posture is nearly identical and the grooved seating for the cutting edge of the blade also runs the length of the shield. However, the image is very schematic and the detail quite rudimentarily applied. Similarly rudimentary is another *secutor* bone-handled clasp-knife from Cologne (Köhne & Ewigleben 2000) with an arrangement for its iron blade, like that of the South Shields knife. Several of these bone and copper-alloy gladiator clasp-knife handles were shown at Lattes, France in 1987, (Cazes & Landes 1987) including the extremely fine ivory example from Lavoex bei Avenches depicting the closing stages of a duel between a *secutor* and a *retiarius*. In its detailed naturalistic treatment and finely-crafted finish, as well as the form of the blade, the Lavoex knife resembles the quality of the Piddington example. Both can be dated to the 3rd century AD, and both were probably prized possessions, not of gladiators, but almost certainly of men who were well-acquainted with gladiatorial combat. The Piddington knife is one more piece of evidence for the wide currency of gladiator imagery in Roman Britain.

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A pair of silver penannular brooches from Wheathampstead

A pair of silver brooches were among the objects found last year from two graves at Turner's Hall Farm, Wheathampstead. The graves were initially located by metal-detectorists working with the permission of the landowner. The detectorists, Messrs Phillips and Tillcock, reported the find to

Verulamium Museum, who organised an emergency excavation in order to recover details of the features and any other material.

The two brooches are identical and a short section of silver loop-through-loop chain shows that they were a linked pair. One is complete, the other is fragmentary and parts of it are missing. The illustration shows them after conservation and restoration by Phil Carter, Conservator at Verulamium Museum. They are 34.5 mm wide and the complete pin is 34.5 mm long. The total weight of the surviving metal is 15.9 gms. Non-destructive XRF analysis carried out in the Department of Scientific Research of the British Museum gave results of 95 per cent silver.

The main circuit of each brooch appears to have been worked to shape from a bar of silver. In cross-section each has a raised flattened main rib, divided along its centre by a slight line or trough, and decorated with punched rectangular impressions across the trough at irregular intervals. There are also fine punched dots on both outer edges of the rib, again irregularly spaced. The inside and outside edges of each brooch are raised up to about half the height of the central rib to produce distinct troughs with square cross-sections on either side of the central rib. The terminals are in the form of abstract

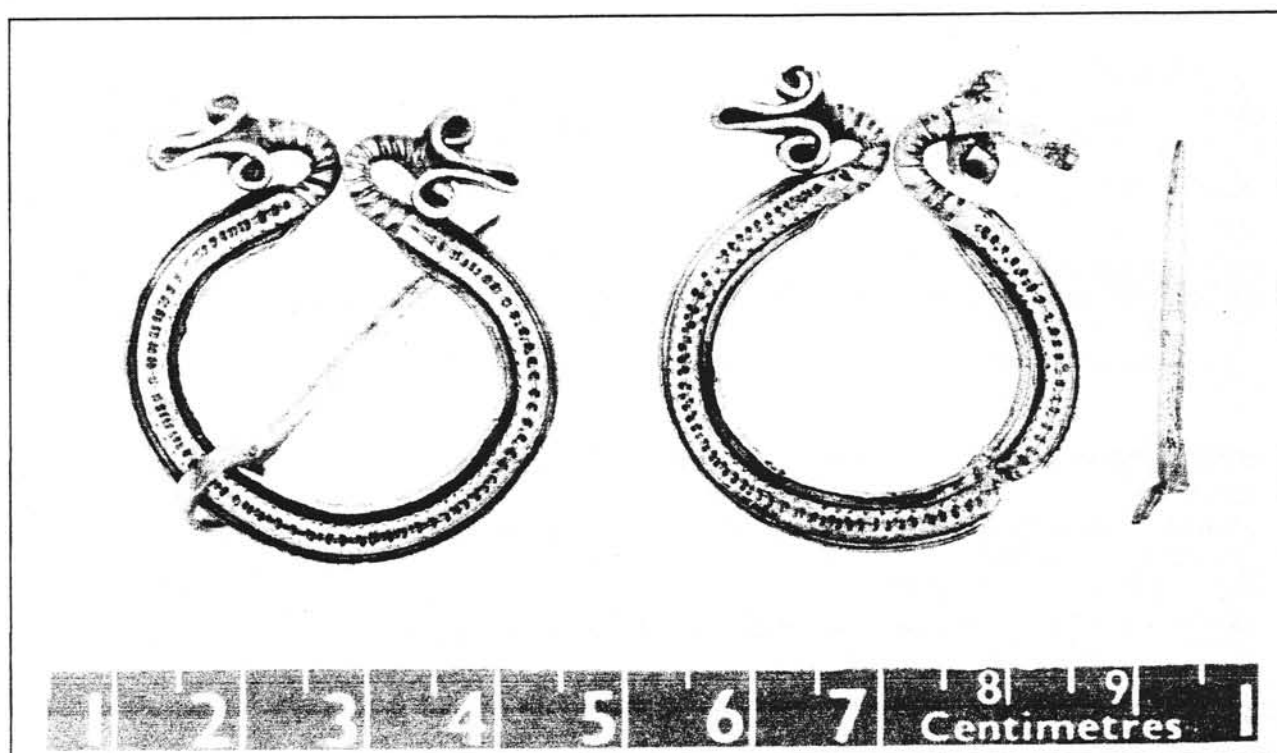


Fig 1. The silver brooches from Wheathampstead.

serpentine heads, highlighted by silver wire soldered onto the top of each. Each 'neck' is grooved to emphasise the sinuous curve. The work is not in general particularly fine, nor has it been executed with great care.

Penannular brooches of this type are very rare finds in Roman Britain. In Fowler's classification they would belong to Type B1, and in Hull's forthcoming detailed study of Roman brooches from Britain (edited by Dr G Simpson & N Crummy) they would belong to Type P11: 'with terminals in the form of snake-heads, or vestigial thereof'.

The exact details of the Wheathampstead brooches are unique. There is a similar penannular brooch from Ham Hill in Somerset, but with knobbed terminals. There are only four known from Britain with snake-head terminals, of which the only closely dated example comes from a burial at Colchester which cannot be earlier than the Flavian period. Other dateable penannular brooches related to the snake-headed type belong to the 1st and possibly early 2nd century.

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Ivory implements from London

Eighteen unusual cylindrical implements, made from elephant ivory came from a 2nd-century context at Plantation Place, London, site code FER97. They were found together and appear to have been contained in a cloth bag. The ivory is now burnt and blackened, but all are similar in form, and general size. The most complete examples, approximately 110 mm in length, have a spherical knob with curved mouldings at one end, set over a series of turned grooves. The main shaft is solid and of almost uniform section, diameter about 8mm, tapering very slightly towards the lower end, which is hollowed for a short distance. The lower end is neatly finished, usually with another series of grooved decoration, although some are undecorated. The lower end of the illustrated example <1626> is damaged,

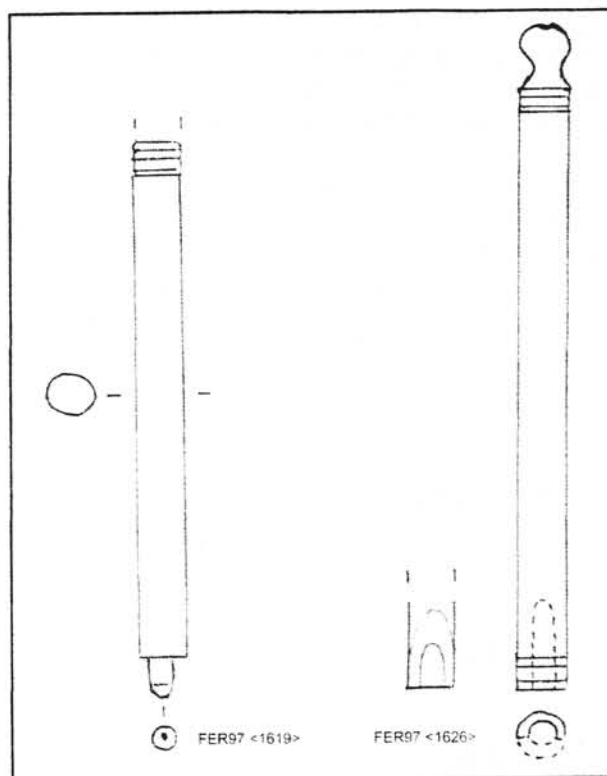


Fig 1. Ivory objects from London. Scale approximately 3:4; length of longest about 110 mm.

showing the extent of the hollow section. On some examples the lower end is plugged, apparently with an ivory cylinder, but in no case is this complete and the form of any terminal/point is as yet uncertain.

Accession no <1619> is the best preserved example, showing how the lower end might have appeared, but it is unclear at present whether the cylindrical projection is a plug or whether it has been made in one piece with the main shaft. Lathe turning marks can be seen on the most complete examples at both ends, and there is no trace of any metal attachment.

It has been suggested that the objects are writing implements, and if so they are more likely to be pens rather than styli, as there would be no obvious advantage over an iron stylus if they simply terminated in iron points. Parallels can be drawn with individual tools from two other sites in London, Poultry (ONE94) and Leadenhall Court (LCT84), but these all lack the lower end. However, although some form of nib could have been inserted into the hollow end, several of the implements are plugged, showing that this is unlikely, and the plugs themselves are too short to have acted as nib holders.

An alternative possibility is that they were used for some sort of textile production, akin

to lace-making bobbins, perhaps for braid. The implements would be easy to handle, and would indeed form elegant handles, but the method of use remains uncertain. Suggestions, or parallels, would be most welcome.

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SEAL-BOX APPEAL

I am a 3rd-year undergraduate at Cardiff University undertaking a dissertation on the occurrence and significance of seal boxes in Roman Britain.

As members of the RFG will know, seal-boxes are small metal boxes of various shapes, with decorated and hinged lids, usually no more than 40 mm in length or width. Slots and holes often appear on the sides and bottoms of the boxes which are thought to have been used to seal official documents making them tamper-proof.

I am currently assembling a database of seal-boxes from published sources, and would like to hear from members of the Roman Finds Group who know of obscure or unpublished examples. A description and sketch would be sufficient and all assistance will be gratefully received.

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More Minerva bust wax spatula handles

Since the reporting in *Lucerna* 23 of the Minerva bust wax spatula handle found in Micheldever, Hants, a further two similar handles have been recorded through the Hampshire Portable Antiquities Scheme.

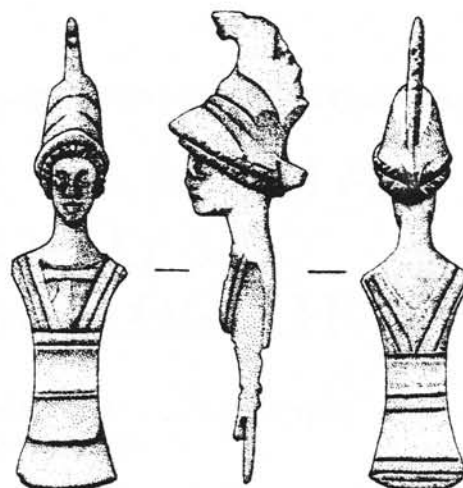


Fig 1. Minerva bust handle from Warnborough, Hants. Drawing by Alan Cracknell.

Both are fine and well-preserved examples of Feugère Type A5 spatulae, with the characteristic high Corinthian helmet, waved hair and drapery. Interestingly, the *aegis* or Gorgon's mask which is usually depicted on the chest, is visible on neither of these examples.



Fig 2. Minerva bust handle from Sole, Hants. Drawing by Alan Cracknell.

The first example, which is 56 mm long, was found by Mr G Holland in North Warnborough, Hants (Fig 1); the other, which is 52 mm long, was found by Mr C Sole in Popham, Hants (Fig 2). Both are similar in many respects to the one from Vicar's Farm, Cambridge, in *Lucerna* 23.

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Hants

ALL MAY BE REVEALED – X-RADIOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS

*Joint meeting of UKIC Archaeology Section, Roman Finds Group and
Finds Research Group AD 700- 1700*

Monday 17th February 2003
in the

Museum of London Interpretation Department

See enclosed programme for details and how to book

Other types of wax spatulae from Britain

Though it has been primarily the number of British finds of Minerva bust handles from wax spatulae that has grown following the publication in *Lucerna* 23 of M Feugère's classification of wax spatulae, there has also been a steady trickle of information about examples of the other forms. (The full classification is reprinted here on the inside back cover for the information of new members.)

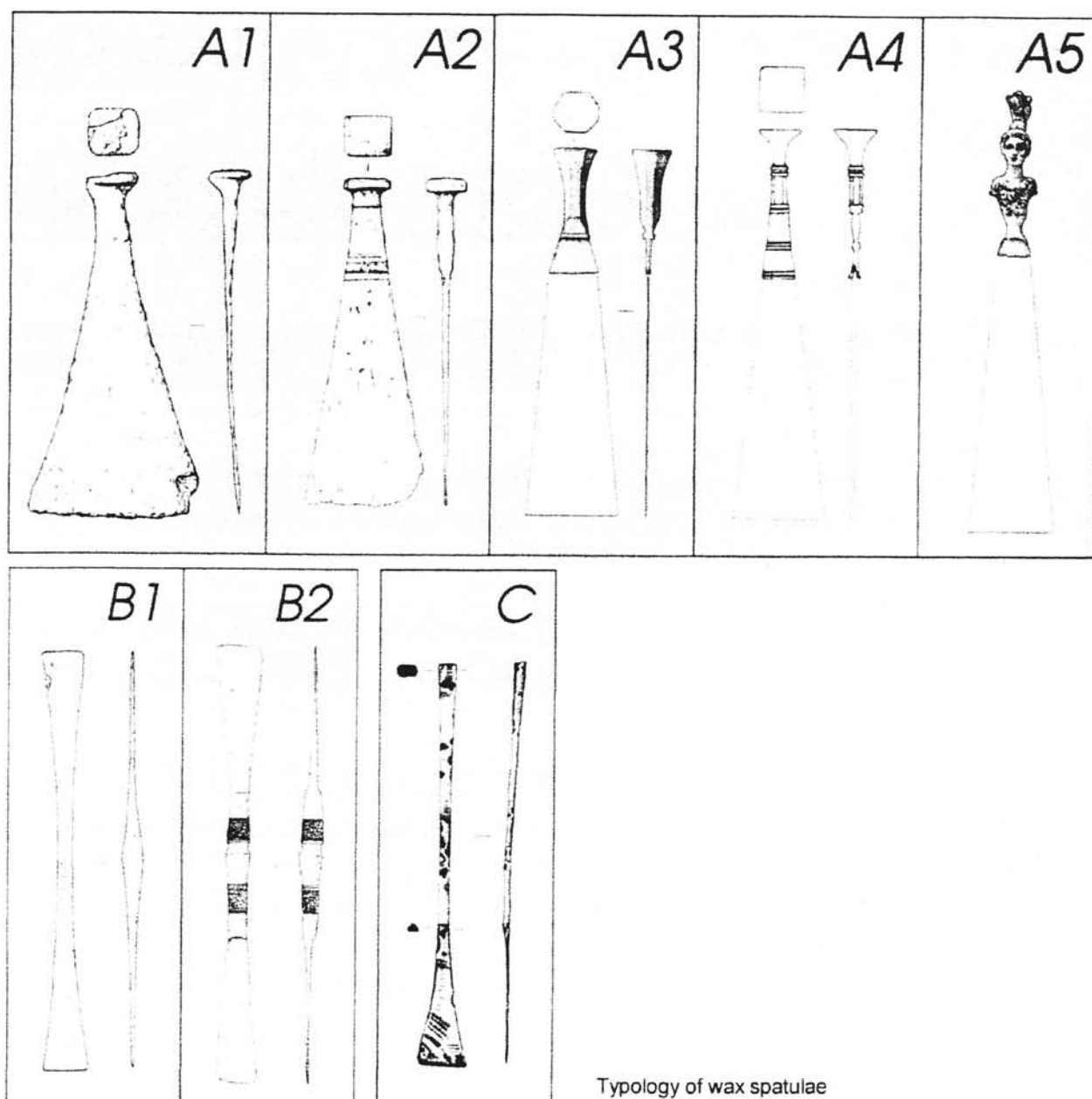
Many of the British spatulae come from London, and a listing of examples is given in Manning 1985 (31-2), the catalogue of the ironwork in the British Museum. Feugère Type C spatulae are listed as Manning Type 1 modelling tools and Feugère Type B2 are listed as Manning Type 3. The identification of these objects as wax spatulae is now generally accepted, thanks to their retrieval from graves containing sets of writing implements, and indeed, Manning includes wax among the substances they may have been used to model. The Instrumentum bibliography at www.instrumentum.net gives the continental references.

A British grave containing a B2 wax spatula along with writing equipment is Grave II from Winchester, dated to the Flavian period (Biddle 1967, fig 9, 27A). The grave also contained two styli, a seal-box lid, and two

knives of types also found with continental writing sets, perhaps used for trimming reed pens (*calami*).

Some 'resistance' to the identification of Type B and C spatulae comes from Justin Blake of the Vindolanda Trust, who has noted a similarity between a tool in a modern sculptor's kit and the B2 type and so prefers the modelling tool idea. The sculptor's kit also contains medical/dental instruments, and so appears to be an example of 'opportunism', the adoption by one craft of tools made for another. Of course, there is nothing to stop a similar opportunistic use in the Roman period, and it may be that potters or sculptors made use of many tools from other crafts. In this respect the recovery of an A3 spatula with a set of bath implements from Urtingen (Witt 1871), raises other possibilities (it would make a very unforgiving strigil), while a wax spatula found among the instruments from a doctor's house in Rimini (Jackson 2002) is a reminder that wax was also used in the healing arts.

Table 1 repeats Manning's list and adds some more recent finds. I have made no attempt to trawl through recent excavation reports or periodicals, so it should not be taken as a definitive list of the British finds. I have, however, included a column for 'site



Typology of wax spatulae

Image copyright M Feugère.

type', as there seems to be a distinct difference between the provenances of these types and of Type A5 spatulae, of which usually only the Minerva bust handle survives. The site type of the Minerva bust handles is given in Table 2.

It can easily be seen from the tables that Type B2 and C spatulae (outside London) come mainly from large towns and military sites, while A5 spatulae (outside London) come mainly from rural, villa, or sanctuary sites. Many factors may affect these lists, of which waterlogging is one. London, Vindolanda and Carlisle are all 'wet' sites, and so ironwork has a better chance of

survival when it is in a good condition on excavation. Another major factor is that iron objects found in the 19th and early 20th centuries and deposited in the collections of major museums have enhanced chances of a) long-term survival, and b) publication. That many of the B2 and C spatulae come from London is undoubtedly a reflection not only of 'site type' but also of 'museum type'.

While accepting that further finds may change this pattern, it does seem at this stage that the provenance differences between the two lists are real, and therefore that they suggest several things. First, B2 and C spatulae were workaday items used by

civilian and military administrators. Second, A5 spatulae were marketed as high-quality items for the civilian population. Third, the Minerva bust handles from A5s may have been recycled as votive objects after the spatulae went out of use.

The evidence is not absolutely clear-cut, and the factors affecting the recovery of iron spatulae may be responsible for distorting the picture, as may the recovery of so many examples from rural Hampshire by metal-detectorists, but a pattern does gradually seem to be emerging. If it holds up in the light of new discoveries, and surely the large number of excavations along the line of Hadrian's Wall would have turned up a Minerva bust handle if one was there to be found, then it presents another intriguing piece in the emerging jigsaw of the differences between the material culture of the urban and military areas of Britain and the smaller towns, rural settlements and sanctuaries.

Finally, turning from the big picture to an individual item, the context of the London A3 spatula (only a fragment) is intriguing. It comes from a timber platform in the eastern entranceway of the amphitheatre, robbed c AD 270-350. Could it have been part of the equipment of a clerk noting down the death or survival of gladiators, slaves, criminals, or wild beasts?

Nina Crummy

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Justin Blake, Vindolanda Trust, Helen Geake, Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer, Jenny Hall, Museum of London, Tim Padley, Tullie House Museum, Angela Wardle, Museum of London Specialist Services, and Sally Worrell, Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer, for all their help in compiling the tables of spatula finds. I am very grateful to Michel Feugère, CNRS, France, who gave permission for me to reproduce the illustration of his typology, and to Ralph Jackson, British Museum, who provided information about the Rimini spatula and the use of wax in Roman medicine. I would also like to thank Dragan Božič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, who kindly drew my attention to the use of the Winchester knives and to the Urtingen spatula.

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Provenance	Site type	Lucerna Reference
Kenchester	small town	23 , 7, no 1
Kingscote	villa	23 , 7, no 2
Woodeaton	sanctuary	23 , 7, no 3
Silchester	large town	23 , 7, no 4
London	large town	23 , 7, no 5
Ospringe (grave deposit)	small town/ sanctuary	23 , 7, no 6
Stonea Grange	rural	23 , 7, no 7
Cambridge, Vicars Farm	rural	23 , 7, no 8
Helmsley (Beadlam)	rural/villa	23 , 7, no 9
Micheldever	rural	24 , 13
Stonham Earl	rural	24 , 14
North Warnborough	villa	25 , 13
Sole	rural/sanctuary	25 , 13

Table 2. Site type of Minerva bust handles from A5 spatulae.

Provenance	Site type	Museum/ Unit	Feugère Type	Manning Type	Reference
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	A1	-	unpublished, Vindolanda SF 3334
London, Guildhall Yard	large town	MoLAS	A3	-	GYE92 <122> [12520]
Kenton	rural	private collection	A3	-	Portable Antiquities Scheme
London, Walbrook	large town	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C13
London	"	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C14
London, Walbrook	"	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C15
London, Walbrook	"	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C16
London	"	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C18
London, Regis House	"	MoLAS	B2	3	KWS94 <248> [1291]
unprovenanced	-	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C17
Combeend	villa	BM	B2	3	Manning 1985, C12
Silchester	large town	Reading Mus	B2	3	Manning 1985, 32
Silchester	large town	Hampshire Mus Service	B2	3	Richards 2000, no 94
Alcester. Warwickshire	minor town	Warwickshire Mus	B2	3	Mould 1994, no 32
Charterhouse, Somerset	small settlement	Bristol City Mus	B2	3	Manning 1985, 32
Winchester	large town	Winchester Museum	B2	3	Biddle 1967, Grave II, no 27A
Carlisle (fort & annexe; or possibly the item described in Manning 1985, 32, as from Kirkby Thore; both sites are military)	military	Tullie House Mus	B2	3	unpublished, accessed in 1892
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	B2	3	Blake 1999, no 3866
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	B2	3	Blake 1999, no 5143
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	B2	3	Blake 1999, no 5537
Carlisle, Castle Street (fort & annexe)	military	Tullie House Mus	B2	3	Padley 1991, no 371
Carlisle, Annetwell Street (fort & annexe)	military	Tullie House Mus	B2	3	unpublished
London, Old Steelyard	large town	BM	C	1	Manning 1985, C5
London, Bank of England	"	BM	C	1	Manning 1985, C6
London, Walbrook	"	BM	C	1	Manning 1985, C7
London, Dowgate Hill	"	BM	C	1	Manning 1985, C8
London, Walbrook	"	BM	C	1	Manning 1985, C9
Silchester	large town	Hampshire Mus Service	C	1	Richards 2000, no 93
Silchester	large town	Hampshire Mus Service	C	1	Richards 2000, no 95
Baldock	small settlement	North Herts Mus Service	C	1	Manning 1985, 31; Manning & Scott 1986, no 594
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	C	1	Blake 1999, no 3985
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	C	1	Blake 1999, no 5234
Vindolanda	military	Vindolanda Trust	C	1	Blake 1999, no 5534

Table 1: British finds of wax spatulae apart from Type A5. BM...British Museum; MoLAS...Museum of London Archaeology Service.

RFG Autumn Meeting 2002

Angela Wardle: Future plans for Roman finds work in London

There are 35,000 Roman objects identified from 250,000 records of objects known in the Museum of London in 1992. The MoLAS database adds another 36,000. This demonstrates the enormous richness of the collections and the scale of the problem when it comes to publication.

Reports on excavations at the various London sites have tended to take a synthetic approach to publication, which means that finds tend to be absorbed within the text. This is good from the point of view of context, not so good from the point of view of reference sources for finds specialists. Illustration costs are usually considered too high to make such publication viable.

However, the success of the medieval finds publications (eg Egan & Pritchard, *Dress accessories*, which has had to be reprinted) shows that the demand is there. Therefore an assessment exercise is planned to decide on the best approach to publishing the various finds. It is likely that publications will be themed: examples include the Boudiccan horizon, in order to address the issue of what exactly is a typical Boudiccan assemblage; and the food industry, obviously a huge topic in its own right. Smaller topics will include gathering together evidence for bone working on different sites across London.

The assessment will mean that it is possible to decide which volumes are feasible, and then funding can be sought to work on these. There will also be the possibility of link ups with university departments so that research students can work on different assemblages. On-line cataloguing will also be important, particularly as new material can easily be added.

Fiona Seeley: The pottery evidence for the Northgate House kilns

Five new Roman pottery kilns have been discovered at Northgate. These are very important because there is little evidence for London as a pottery production site. Previously, the largest kiln site was the one at St Pauls discovered in 1672.

The kilns date between about AD 110 and AD 160. The lack of black burnished wares accounts for the earliest date. Overall 24,000

sherds were discovered, representing an estimated 660.78 vessel equivalents.

Two types of clay were used: London clay, micaceous and iron rich, and white clay. Initial products employed a range of decorative techniques, including rouletting, mica-dusting and slipping. Some white wares are stamped mortaria with a variety of names; one maker favoured a herringbone stamp. Some more unusual vessel types are also known, including an odd spindle-shaped object, and a strange hollow 'finial', as well as some face-pot fragments.

London clay forms include coarseware jars. Some of the vessels, eg flagons, were also white slipped. There is also evidence of some of technical problems, including under-firing and 'S'-shaped compression fractures. More unusual fabrics include a local marble ware and an eggshell ware. The kiln site has also produced evidence of glass-making, but this is in the form of glass which had been dumped from another area. A lot of dumping of external material seems to have occurred at the site.

Sue Pringle: Roman stone bowls and basins

Sue drew attention to a couple of free-standing basin fragments which are rare finds from Britain. One has come from Gresham Street, made of Purbeck marble (which is actually a limestone). It can be compared with fragments known from the temple of Mithras and other sites outside London, eg Caerleon and Exeter.

Another fragment, of an as yet unidentified imported marble, is from Regent's House. Roy Friendship-Taylor made the useful suggestion of comparison with David Peacock's marble reference collection which he uses for teaching purposes. On the basis of the fragment, the size of the original vessel was probably very large, about 2 m across. Nothing has ever been found in Britain before of this size, comparable vessels are only known from places like Rome itself.

Sue asked for any more information on stone bowls to be passed her way.

Roy Friendship Taylor: Worked bone from Piddington Roman villa

Various bone objects have been found over the 24 years of excavation at Piddington. The

bone assemblage is one of the largest from any villa in Britain. The usual types of bone pin are known, but also some unusual examples such as one with a somewhat overweight chicken carved into the top. Some bone objects still have evidence of red and green staining. There are also late Iron Age examples of sheep metatarsal bones which have been grooved, which Roy suggested were associated with weaving.

There are also a range of bone counters and furniture mounts and veneers. This category includes objects resembling cricket balls which Roy believes were used at the corners of boxes as inlaid decoration. Roy also drew attention to some curious flat pieces of bone with 'teeth' cut along one side, the function of which is currently uncertain.

Roy also showed an interesting bowl found near Irchester. It is 7th-century in date with an Arabic inscription, but has Roman handles, which must therefore have been added to it at a later date.

Jenny Hall: The Roman School Boxes scheme and the Gresham Street Roman waterworks project

Jenny gave an overview of the Roman School Boxes scheme. Two hundred boxes were produced as part of a pilot scheme, with £50K funding from the Department of Education. The scheme was greatly helped by the enthusiasm and support of the suppliers. The metal boxes were made to order by the makers of boxes usually used for specialist's tools, and provided at cost price. Plastazote also supplied materials at cost and even did cut-outs for them. Stewart Plastics donated £15K worth of boxes for free!

The boxes contained a mixture of real and replica material. Much of the real material comes from the LARC, in particular material from 1930s excavations which has no context information. This includes mortaria fragments, tiles with footprints and tesserae. The replica material includes a pack of replica coins, some Taylor/Hill glassware and some specially commissioned pieces, for instance the foot-shaped lamp originally found during the Jubilee line excavations.

The boxes are aimed at Key Stage 2 (ages 7-9), and were given to 100 keen schools and 100 not-so-keen schools in order to get a balance. They form a mini-museum, which means that children can learn about the objects as well as the importance of display

(eg label writing) and conservation. They also included an information pack on how to use them, and a video in three parts. Training sessions were also set up in different boroughs

Only two boxes were returned unused. A questionnaire was sent out for feedback, which was positive overall. The plan is now to produce another 400, and about 300 'Tudors and Stuarts' boxes may also be put together. Each box costs £375, so a lot of money needs to be found to continue.

The site at Gresham Street produced a bronze gilt life-size arm initially, which must have come from an imperial statue. Then two large wells were found, very deep and wide. Inside wooden boxes were discovered with slots cut in them – dendro dates came up with AD 63. Other evidence then emerged at Cheapside, with parts of up to twelve buckets and chain surviving. The adjacent site at Arthur Street then produced some more, five with iron links surviving.

The reconstruction has a continuous chain with wooden buckets attached. These pick up water after being driven by a drive wheel, which would originally have been animal or human driven. The reconstruction should be up and running by December and available for all to see.

Francis Grew: A new London inscription
Please see the article on pages 7-8.

Jon Cotton: The new prehistoric gallery, 'London before London'

The new gallery, which comes as part of the major building work currently taking place, which will also result in a new entrance hall. As prehistory is not taught in schools the principle aim of the new gallery is to inform people that London was not a greenfield site when the Romans arrived. The valley had been used by farming communities for many thousands of years.

There are four key messages which the displays aim to put across. Firstly, the way in which the Thames valley has been transformed by natural agents and by people, with the starting point being the Anglian glaciation. Secondly, the centrality of the River Thames. Thirdly, the ingenuity of the human groups and how they differed over time. Fourthly, the legacy of prehistory, with continuity into the Roman period.

Richard Hobbs
Roman Finds Group Secretary

EH Centre for Archaeology Reports

Below are summaries of the reports relating to Roman artefacts that have been produced in the last year. Copies of these reports are available from CfA, Fort Cumberland, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD (cfareports@english-heritage.org.uk); there is a small charge for this (4p per page, with a minimum order value of £1.50). Lists of all reports added to the series, with their summaries, are produced twice a year. Copies of these lists are available free of charge, either as hard copy or as email attachments. Please write or email if you would like to receive them.

69/2001: METAL WORKING DEBRIS FROM ELMS FARM, HEYBRIDGE, ESSEX

David Dungworth

Extensive excavations of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Heybridge, Essex recovered nearly 190 kg of iron working debris and modest quantities of non-ferrous metal working debris. The iron working debris indicates that iron smithing took place and was concentrated in the southern part of the site during the late Iron Age and early Roman period. There was no evidence for iron smelting.

The quantities of iron smithing debris are fairly modest given the large area excavated and the duration of activity. It is unlikely that iron smithing formed a significant part of the economy of the site. The non-ferrous metal working debris included a wide range of material (moulds, crucibles, failed castings, etc) but the quantities are small. The excavations also recovered a large (12 kg) iron bloom which was examined in detail. [34 pp]

107/2001: QUALITATIVE ANALYSES OF COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS FROM GRIMSTOCK HILL, COLESHILL, WARWICKSHIRE

Justine Bayley

A total of 35 brooches and brooch fragments and 83 other copper-alloy objects were analysed qualitatively by X-ray fluorescence. The applied decoration that survives on nine of the objects is described. The results are presented and compared with those of similar objects from other excavations. [9 pp]

108/2001: WOOD PRESERVED BY IRON NAILS FOUND AMONG THE CREMATIONS FROM BROUGHAM, CUMBRIA

Jacqui Watson

The report covers the observations made during the examination of groups of iron nails retrieved during the excavation of cremation burials. The results point to biers and coffins having been made from oak or ash timbers, whereas small boxes or caskets were made of various woods.

There seems to be a clear distinction between the wood used for these structures and the fuel used for the pyres. The metalwork retrieved from each burial also only seems to consist of a small proportion that which would have been required to make each object, for example only sufficient nails to hold together one corner. [5 pp]

109/2001: METAL WORKING EVIDENCE FROM HOUSESTEADS ROMAN FORT, NORTHUMBERLAND

David Dungworth

This report examines the evidence for metal working from a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall in northern Britain. The evidence, which consists of slag, crucibles, moulds, and metal, provides the strongest evidence yet recovered for the production of copper alloy military equipment within a Roman fort in Britain.

The scale of production is difficult to assess because of the delicate nature of some of the material (in particular the moulds) and the circumstances of its deposition and subsequent disturbance. However, the survival of such a wide range of debris and the large quantities of crucible all point to production on a scale above that of occasional manufacture and repair.

Samples of crucible, metal, mould and slag have been analysed qualitatively (EDXRF) and quantitatively (SEM-EDS). In addition to providing information on the nature of the objects which were made, these data have been used to explore the ways in which the different elements in a copper alloy (copper, zinc, tin and lead) behave during melting and casting. [36 pp]

1/2002: EVIDENCE FOR ENAMELLING FROM ELMS FARM, HEYBRIDGE, ESSEX

Justine Bayley

A strip of opaque red glass was found in a pit dated to the mid-late 1st century AD. Analysis showed it had a composition typical of bright 'sealing-wax' red Roman enamels. It is evidence that enamelling was probably practised at Heybridge in the 1st century.

The types of objects decorated in this way are not known; none of the four hairpins with inlaid heads (Cool type 21) from the site contained glass of this type. [7 pp]

22/2002: EXAMINATION OF THE IRONWORK FROM A ROMAN WATER LIFTING DEVICE FROM THE EASTERN BLOSSOMS INN WELL, LONDON

Roger Wilkes

The metallographic examination of three pieces of bloomery iron initially suggested to be of cast iron. Both ferritic and martensitic phases were identified. [8 pp]

50/2002: A METALLURGICAL INVESTIGATION OF METALWORKING REMAINS FROM SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

Shadreck Chirikure and Sarah Paynter

133.5 kg of iron working debris was recovered, the vast majority of which was iron smelting waste. All of the slag from the site had been disposed of in ditches or pits or had been re-used. A large proportion of the waste was from mid to late Roman contexts, although approximately half was from contexts that also contained some later material or insecurely dated finds. Smelting probably took place at a location near to the site in the mid to late Roman period.

The slag produced was phosphorus-rich and therefore smelting is likely to have produced some phosphoric iron. The phosphorus was derived from the ore, likely to be concretionary ironstone nodules, and possibly some ferruginous sandstone, obtainable locally from the Lower Greensand. A small amount of smithing slag was also identified.

A stone-lined hearth excavated at the site may have been used for ore roasting or alternatively may simply have been lined with ferruginous sandstone and used for a non-metallurgical application. [15 pp]

72/2002: ANALYSIS OF OBJECTS FROM STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Sarah Paynter

Five ditched enclosures and a number of burials, dating to between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, were discovered at Stanway, near Colchester. A large number of well preserved copper alloy and glass artefacts, and iron objects including two currency bars, were recovered from the site.

Some copper alloy objects, including vessels and brooches, and also glass artefacts, such as beads and gaming counters, were examined and analysed using X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF), a non-destructive technique, in order to characterise the materials and methods used in their construction.

A section from one of the currency bars was examined metallographically to determine what type of iron alloy was used. The slag inclusions in the bar were analysed and the compositional data obtained will contribute to continuing research into the sources of currency bars. [29 pp]

84/2002: THE METALWORKING REMAINS FROM WESTHAWK FARM, NEAR ASHFORD, KENT

Sarah Paynter

Approximately 1.65 tonnes of iron-working waste were recovered from a Romano-British settlement at Westhawk Farm, near Ashford, in the Weald. The iron-working waste was comprised largely of smelting debris, although some smithing slag was also present.

Much of the debris was recovered from contexts surrounding two workshops, one predating the other. Both smelting and primary smithing of the product took place in the workshops, and some furnaces, a possible hearth and a hammerscale deposit survived.

Analysis of the different types of waste has enabled the process of formation of the different types of slag to be investigated. The scale of iron production at Westhawk has been estimated and is discussed in the context of Wealden iron production in the Roman period. [57 pp]

Summaries provided by Justine Bayley

REVIEW

Artefacts and archaeology: aspects of the Celtic and Roman world, edited by M Aldhouse-Green and P Webster. University of Wales Press, Cardiff, 2002. ISBN 0-7083-1752-9. Hardback, £40.00.

Book titles can be misleading and only slightly relevant to the contents, but this one sums up what lies between its covers perfectly. More than that, through the work of former students and colleagues, it reflects the interests and influence of the person to whom the book is dedicated, Professor W H Manning of Cardiff University. The simple dedication 'For Bill Manning' gives nothing away to non-archaeologists, but the Introduction shows this is really a Taffia Festschrift, born from a conference to mark Bill Manning's retirement.

The papers deal with Iron Age and Roman period topics, and are split between 'sites' and 'finds', occasionally dealing with both, such as *Evidence for an armentarium at Caerleon* by Evan Chapman. RFG members will perhaps particularly enjoy the metalwork papers: Miranda Aldhouse-Green's *Any old iron! Symbolism and ironworking in Iron Age Europe*, Richard Brewer on *Zoomorphic seal-boxes: Usk and the XXth Legion*, Ralph Jackson on *Venus and the Ox: a Roman visual pun*, and Janet Webster's *In aere suo censer: fragments of a large-scale statuette from South-east Wales*.

There are also several papers on glass and pottery, including Denise Allen's *Roman Window Glass*, which covers the experimental work of David Hill and Mark Taylor, Hilary Cool's *Bottles for Bacchus?*, and Vivien Swan and Ray McBride's *A Rhineland potter at the legionary fortress of York*.

The book is not without its humorous element. Kevin Greene's *Pots and Plots in Roman Britain* includes a 'Play in three acts with ceramic correlations' which will surely raise a chortle from any reader. To quote out of context would lose the hilarity of this piece. The paper goes on to examine how 'emplotment' has affected interpretations of archaeological material culture.

The book ends with Catherine Johns' *Centralization or dispersal? Archaeological collections in museums*. This presents a series of arguments for centralized collections in institutions such as the British

Museum and the German Landesmuseum, in the teeth of the current orthodoxy that finds should be housed in a museum as close as possible to their place of discovery.

The papers are thus wide ranging (and I have not even mentioned those on 'sites'), making this a diverse read, with some topics entertaining and relaxing, others polemical and stimulating.

This is not really a book for the seeker after parallels, and so may not find its way onto many unit and museum shelves, but it is a book that everyone can learn from, students, site directors, volunteers, curators, finds specialists. It contains pearls of wisdom on how to interpret sites and objects, plus the pitfalls of interpretation. It deserves to be bought and used. Professor Manning must be justly proud of this offering to his years of teaching and encouragement.

Nina Crummy

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RFG SPRING MEETING

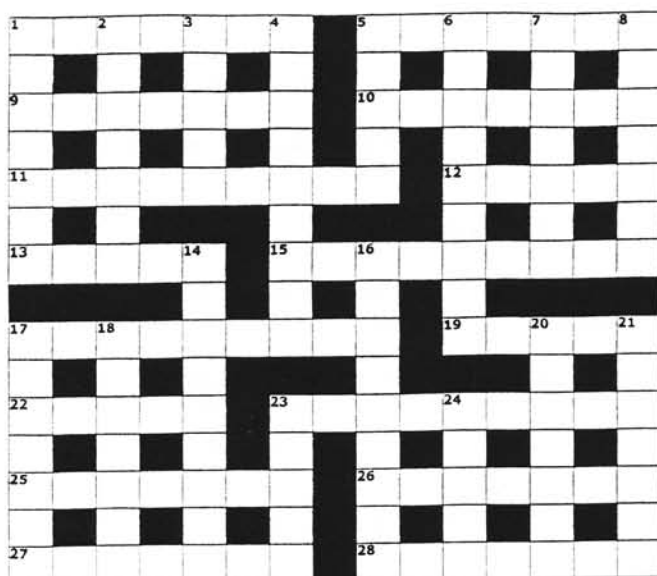
MUSEUM OF HARLOW

MONDAY MARCH 17th

Speakers include Martin Dearne, Ralph Jackson, Val Rigby, and Alison Taylor

The Museum has recently moved to new premises with new displays

Crossword by Digger



Across

1. Castle, or SA hall (7)
5. Bank, or an accumulation in a pit, perhaps (7)
9. First row – Romano-British script (6,1)
10. Wool-combs, naturally (7)
11. Tangled thread found round chest in late Roman urban layer (4,5)
12. Greek island, rather ancient in part (5)
13. Arrests Harvey (for shoplifting, perhaps?) (5)
15. Modern note on the extent of an Irish monument (3,6)
17. English hipposandal (9)
19. Naiad transformed into a goddess (5)
22. A large number somehow deal in gold or silver, possibly (5)
23. Pointed implement could be stuck in place, we hear (4-5)
25. Drug given to Pontius to get rid of hair (7)
26. It shed light on Roman Britain (3,4)
27. Weighty American or Roman coin (7)
28. Goes on and on, without any purpose (post-ex work sometimes feels like this!) (7)

Down

1. Lad once smashed pottery (7)
2. Tibetan trickster hides something concerning Buddhist scriptures (7)
3. Legendary bowler, out for a duck? (5)
4. Unlike Theseus, you could get lost in this if you were clueless (9)
5. Get rid of the gully (5)
6. Applied coat, well oiled (9)
7. Change poles round at seasonal processing site (7)
8. Try out a musical note with a will (7)
14. Length of metal used for weighing? (9)
16. Sharpener which could be wet (honest!) (9)
17. Sharply criticises parts of a piano (7)
18. Communist's rise in the Essex marshes – it's a 7 (3,4)
20. Mean to state how old it is (7)
21. So, a port is sacked - it's Fate (7)
23. False jumping insects (5)
24. Food for boy from Capetown? (5)

Answers on p 24

RFG Treasurer retires, Publications Co-ordinator needed

Christine Jones, the RFG Treasurer for many years, has unfortunately been unable to get to any meetings for some time because of pressure of work and so has retired from the post. The RFG is grateful to her for all her hard work and for her support of the organisation in its infancy. Currently at the Post Office Museum, Chris has formerly worked at the Museum of London and Colchester Museum.

Jenny Hall has taken over from Christine, which leaves the post of Publications Co-ordinator vacant. It was originally created to look at the possibility of producing finds guides or data sheets.

Any volunteers?

Contact the RFG President, Roy Friendship-Taylor, if you are interested (address, phone no, & email on page 22).

New Instrumentum V-P for UK

The new Instrumentum Vice-President for the UK is Dr Paola Pugsley. If you are interested in joining Instrumentum (the European Working Group on Ancient Crafts), or have an article you feel is suitable for their Bulletin, please contact Paola at 38 Eastern Avenue, Langley Park, Durham, DH79XS or email her at: paola_pugsley@hotmail.com

Please also notify Paola of any new publication regarding ancient crafts or finds (IA & Roman) so that it can be added to the Instrumentum on-line Bibliography.

RFG donation to Durham Conference Proceedings

The RFG has donated £250 to the Centre for Provincial Archaeology, Durham University, to help with the publication costs of last July's conference proceedings.

The proceedings will be published by Oxbow Books, and will be advertised through *Lucerna* when appropriate.

Books

Guide to conservation for metal detectorists

by R Hobbs, C Honeycombe, S Watkins

A step-by-step guide for members of the public, particularly detectorists, who find historic metal artefacts. The book explains the technical considerations which should be taken into account in order to ensure the long-term survival of the objects.

Tempus. ISBN 0-7524-2522-6. £9.99.

Order from Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos. GL5 2QG

The coinage of Roman Britain

by R Reece

A very readable guide to how coinage was used in Roman Britain and in particular how its use can be understood through site finds and hoard finds. Includes a useful appendix on how to produce Reece-style coin graphs.

Tempus. ISBN 0-7524-2523-4. £17.99.

Order from Tempus Publishing Ltd, address above.

Weapons of the Romans

by M Feugère

A comprehensive study of Roman arms and armour from the Republic to the Late Empire, showing the development of weapons and armour to suit time and place and the adoption of the weapons of conquered. Also covers topics such as ownership.

Tempus. ISBN 0-7524-2506-4. £19.99.

Order from Tempus Publishing Ltd, address above.

Lorica Segmentata I: a handbook of Roman plate armour

by M C Bishop

Lorica Segmentata II: a catalogue of finds

by M D Thomas

Vol 1 presents the principal types and discusses the development, technology, use, etc. Vol II is a detailed catalogue of published finds across the whole Empire.

Vol I: ISBN 0-9539848-4-2; Vol II, ISBN 0-9539848-5-0.

Order from The Armatura Press, Braemar, Kirkgate, Chirnside, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3XL

Roman cookery: ancient recipes for modern kitchens

by M Grant

A collection of recipes, from breakfast to dinner, inspired by Roman cuisine. Includes studies of the sources and the social context of food and feasting.

Serif, published 1999. ISBN 1897959397. 176 pp. £9.99.

Order from Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN.

Remember to support your local bookshop - ordering through them helps them to survive

The Roman Cookery of Apicius

translated by J Edwards

A reprint of the 1985 translation of Apicius' recipes, with annotations. Orders being taken now.

Rider, Random House. ISBN 0712610642. 322 pp. £12.99.

Order from Oxbow Books, address above.

Circulación monetaria en al área occidental de la península ibérica

by C Blázquez Cerrato

An analysis of the circulation of coinage, and its economic and social impact, in the territory crossed by the Camino de la Plata, which linked Augusta Emerita and Asturica Augusta.

Archéologie et Histoire Romaine 6, éditions monique mergoil. ISBN 2-907303-64-3. 358 pp. 42 € + 5.10 € p&p.

Order from: éditions monique mergoil, 12 rue des Moulins, F34530 Montagnac, France.

La nécropole gallo-romaine de la Citadelle à Chalon-sur-Saône, 1: Catalogue

edited by M Augros & M Feugère

Illustrated catalogue of up to 213 graves from the rescue excavations of 1976-7. The cemetery, largely used for cremations in the 1st to mid 2nd century AD, was redefined several times by the digging of new boundary ditches sited to avoid cutting through earlier graves.

Archéologie et Histoire Romaine 5, éditions monique mergoil. ISBN 2-907303-60-0. 206 pp. 32 € + 4.60 € p&p.

Order from: éditions monique mergoil, address above.

Illuminating Roman Britain

by H Eckardt

An examination of the social context of lighting equipment from Roman Britain, plus a typology of lamps and other items. This will be a standard work for years to come.

Monographies Instrumentum 23, éditions monique mergoil. ISBN 2-907303-60-0. 46 € + 5.10 € p&p.

Order from: éditions monique mergoil, address above.

Fibel und Fibeltracht

by J Hoops and R Müller

A guide to brooches and contemporary clothing in central and northern Europe, including England, from the Bronze Age through to the post-Roman period. Covers method of manufacture, typology, distribution and date.

de Gruyter 2000. ISBN 3110168588. £16.50

Order from Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN.

Answers
Across. 1. Citadel 5. Deposit 9. Linear B 10. Teazles
11. Dark earth 12. Thera 13. Nicks 15. New Grange
17. Horseshoe 19. Diana 22. Medal 23. Fish-spear
25. Epilate 26. Oil lamp 27. Solidus 28. Endless
Down. 1. Celadon 2. Tancic 3. Drake 4. Labyrinth
5. Ditch 6. Plastered 7. Saltern 8. Testate 14. Steelyard
16. Whetstone 17. Hammers 18. Red hill 20. Average
21. Atropos 23. Fleas 24. Salad

Conferences

Student-led archaeology conference 2003

Department of Archaeology, Cambridge. 1.2.03-2.2.03

Organised by the Cambridge University Archaeological Field Club. A conference for students by students. Three sessions: 1. open session: opportunity to talk about current research/dissertations; 2. future of archaeology: where do we see ourselves taking archaeology in the new millennium; 3. student archaeology: experience, fieldwork, courses and student-led archaeology groups. For more information please email Emma Rouse, Publicity Officer, at evr21@cam.ac.uk or Mary Leighton, President, at mtfi2@cam.ac.uk

UK archaeological science 2003

St Anne's College, Oxford. 2.4.03-5.4.03

For further details contact the organisers at Archaeological Science 2003, Research Laboratory for Archaeology & the History of Art, 6 Keble Road, Oxford, OX1 3QJ, fax 01865 273932, email ukas2003@riaa.ox.ac.uk

5th Roman archaeology conference and 13th theoretical Roman archaeology conference

School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. 3.4.03-6.4.03

These twin conferences of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, and the TRAC Standing Committee. The conferences are being administered as one event, and booking gives access to both. For further booking and programme details contact RAC/TRAC, School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, tel 0116 2522611, fax 0116 2525005, email ractrac@le.ac.uk

IFA annual conference

University of Wales, Bangor. 15.4.03-17.4.03

For further details contact the Conference Committee, Institute of Field Archaeologists, University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, PO Box 239, Reading RG6 6AU, fax 0118 9316448, email administrator@archaeologists.net

The table: the material culture and social context of dining in the historical periods

Department of Archaeology & Prehistory, University of Sheffield. 3.5.03-4.5.03

Theme is the social practice of dining from the Roman period to the 18th century, drawing on artefactual, documentary and pictorial evidence for the consumption of food and drink in various historical, social and cultural contexts. Issues that will be explored include: dining milieu; social status and dining practices; the production of dining paraphernalia; dining rituals; changing forms and styles of tableware; dining and social identity. For further details contact Dr Hugh Willmott, email h.willmott@sheffield.ac.uk

Debating late Antiquity in Britain AD300-700

Archaeology Department, University of York. 14.6.03-15.6.03

A two day conference hosted by the and aimed at bringing together researchers of the period AD300-700. For more information contact James Gerrard, email jfg101@york.ac.uk

European Association of Archaeologists annual meeting

St Petersburg. 10.9.03-14.9.03

The 9th annual meeting of the EAA is included in the programme of the city's tercentenary celebrations. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to register as early as possible to avoid possible problems and delays in obtaining necessary visas. For further information contact the Meeting Co-ordinator, Dr Nicholas Petrov, Meeting Secretariat, EAA AM 2003, European University at St Petersburg, S Gagarinskaya st., St Petersburg 191187, Russia; tel +7 812 2794408, fax +7 812 2794408/2755139, email info@eaa2003am.spb.ru