



## The Institute for Archaeologists

### Finds Group Newsletter Spring 2012

Welcome to the latest edition of the Finds Group newsletter. I hope you find something of interest. Our Roman Finds Training/Handling session will be held at the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday 22 September 2012. We have yet to finalise the programme and still require a couple of speakers to complete the line up. If you are interested please get in touch. Full details will be sent via the email distribution list in due course. Priority will be given to members of the Finds Group. If you are not a member, please email [groups@archaeologists.net](mailto:groups@archaeologists.net). IfA members may join for free, while non-members are asked to pay £10 to cover mailing costs.

As ever, if you wish to comment on any issue in this newsletter, or have suitable material for publication in the Autumn edition, please get in touch. My contact details are on the back page. Stephen Brunning - Editor.

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## **Courses and conferences**

### **UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**

#### **Continuing Professional Development Courses Summer 2012:**

##### **Ancient Crafts and Technologies (X9006)**

A week-long course, 9-13 July, giving you the opportunity to explore ancient crafts and technologies from a hands-on point of view. Based at the Iron Age Activity Centre at Michelham Priory, Hailsham, East Sussex, we cover pottery, wood working, textiles, building technologies, boat building and flint knapping. Tristan Bareham and other tutors. Fees: £230 (full), £163 (concessions).

##### **An Introduction to On-site Conservation (X90148)**

Day school: Saturday 21 July, 10am to 4pm.

We will be looking at principles and practices associated with the excavation, packaging and on-site care of artefacts. Some practical work will be included, covering packaging techniques and the lifting of fragile artefacts. Tutor: Adrian Tribe. Venue: the Barcombe Roman bath-house excavations, Church Field, Barcombe, near Lewes, East Sussex. Fees: £50 (full) or £35 (concessions).

##### **The Art of Flint Knapping (X90257)**

Investigate flint tools from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age and produce your own replicas. The world of flint comes alive when you discover how the artefacts were made. Start with a raw lump of flint and produce the beautiful, fine tools of the Mesolithic. Make the hand axe of the Palaeolithic. Try out your skills in using the tools of the Neolithic. Two Saturday day schools, 28 July and 4 August, 10am to 4pm, at Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Amberley, West Sussex. Tutor: Robert Turner. Fees: £70 (full), £35 (concessions).

**Contact:** Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9RF; T 01273 678300; E [cce@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:cce@sussex.ac.uk);

W [www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/shortcourses](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/shortcourses)

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## **Medieval Pottery Research Group Conference Douglas, Isle of Man (21-24 June 2012)**

The Medieval Pottery Research Group will hold its annual conference in Douglas, Isle of Man, from 21 to 24 June 2012, hosted by the Centre for Manx Studies and with the support of Manx National Heritage. The theme for this conference is Ceramics on the Edge. It will focus on the role of ceramics in the understanding of the economic, technological and psychological development of peoples and places on the periphery of developed medieval, early modern and modern societies, beyond the assumed limits of market economies and social norms. It will range over the whole period of the Group's interest from the early medieval up to the twentieth century. For booking information please visit [http://www.liv.ac.uk/manxstudies/MPRG\\_2012/index.htm](http://www.liv.ac.uk/manxstudies/MPRG_2012/index.htm) or contact Peter Davey at [pjd1@liv.ac.uk](mailto:pjd1@liv.ac.uk).

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## **Study Group for Roman Pottery Conference University of Glasgow (6-8 July 2012)**

This will be a three-day conference based within the Historic University of Glasgow in the heart of the Bohemian west end of Scotland's largest city. The speakers represent the diverse character of Roman ceramic specialists working in archaeology today and will present their recent research covering Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, the Libyan Sahara and other parts of Europe. There will be a mixture of spoken papers, posters, handling sessions and a field trip.

The Friday night dinner will be an informal event within the beautiful Gilbert Scott Building, while Saturday's evening meal will be a more formal affair within The Sisters Restaurant (<http://www.thesisters.co.uk/>).

Please note that as this is a campus-based conference the deadline for residential bookings is **Friday 27 April 2012**. The deadline for non-residential booking is **Monday 18 June**.

There is limited parking at the University of Glasgow. These spaces need to be booked in advance so please contact Louisa ASAP if you require a space.

The **fully inclusive** price for the conference in a standard single room with shared bathroom facilities is **£165**. If you prefer a single room with en suite facilities the cost is **£195 (restricted number – early booking strongly recommended)**. This includes conference fee, Friday night dinner, accommodation and breakfast for two nights, refreshments on all days, lunch on Saturday, a coach trip and a Restaurant meal on Saturday (including wine and coffee/tea).

Our excursion will first entail a visit to the Hunterian Museum's new centrepiece exhibition: The Antonine Wall: Rome's Final Frontier. We will then embark on a coach trip to the Antonine Wall forts at Bar Hill and Rough Castle led by Prof. Bill Hanson. The trip will finish off with tea and a scone at the Falkirk Wheel before our return to the University to prepare for the evening meal at The Sisters Restaurant.

A daily rate for either Friday or Sunday attendance is **£30** to cover the conference fee and refreshments, **£42** would apply for Saturday attendance to also include the coach trip and Falkirk Wheel refreshments. Lunch on Saturday will be an additional **£9** and the conference dinner on Saturday **£40**.

For more information, the full programme and registration form please go to the SGRP website: <http://www.sgrp.org.uk/02/2012Glasgow.htm>

If you require additional information please email Louisa at:

[Louisa.Campbell@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Louisa.Campbell@glasgow.ac.uk)

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### **Roman Finds Group. Autumn meeting: Finds from Vindolanda and the North (5-6 October 2012)**

The RFG Autumn Meeting is taking place on 5 and 6 October 2012, at the Hedley Centre, Vindolanda, entitled Finds from Vindolanda and the North.

There are four sessions, with fifteen speakers (Andrew, Anthony, Barbara and Patricia Birley, Justin Blake, David Breeze, Richard Brickstock, Rob Collins, Alex Croom, Fraser Hunter, Frances McIntosh, Jenny Price, Evan Scherer and Philippa Walton).

The cost is £40 for RFG members, £30 for students and £50 for non-members. This includes all the conferences sessions, two light lunches, teas/coffees, a wine/soft drinks reception, private viewing of the Vindolanda Museum, guided site tour, free admission to the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran and more. Local transport to and from Newcastle and to the conference hotel available.

Numbers are restricted, so early booking is advised. Full details and an application form are available at the RFG web site ([www.romanfinds.org.uk](http://www.romanfinds.org.uk)) or contact the meeting organiser, Stephen Greep ([sigreep@gmail.com](mailto:sigreep@gmail.com)).

Insight from innovation: new light on archaeological ceramics Conference, University of Southampton, (19-20 October 2012)

This conference is organised by the Southampton Ceramics Research Group and will be held on the 19th and 20th of October 2012. The event brings together scholars who are exploring recently developed techniques and their application to the study of archaeological ceramics. A variety of areas of expertise will be represented, including ethnographic and philosophical perspectives as well as state-of-the-art computing applications and chemical analyses. It is hoped that emerging and established researchers will benefit from exposure to new ideas and methodologies, and that the event will provide an up-to-date and integrated platform from which research into archaeological ceramics can evolve.

The conference is held in recognition of Professor David Peacock's many pioneering contributions to the field. It is hosted by the Department of Archaeology of the University of Southampton with the support of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery, and the Medieval Pottery Research Group. Confirmed keynote speakers include Professor Michael Fulford and Professor Simon Keay.

For further details please contact Emilie Sibbesson [E.Sibbesson@soton.ac.uk](mailto:E.Sibbesson@soton.ac.uk).

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## **Objects and Landscape: understanding the medieval period through finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme**

Portable Antiquities Scheme Conference  
Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum  
(Monday 22nd October 2012)  
09.30 - 17.30

This conference aims to highlight how PAS data has been used to advance knowledge of material culture, and outline the research potential of this data for understanding the medieval landscape.

In contrast to researchers interested in the Roman and Early Medieval periods (in particular) medievalists have not made as much use of PAS data as they might. Although papers presented at this conference will highlight advances in the studies of dress accessories, papal bullae, pilgrim's signs etc., and their distribution, it is apparent that many other artefact types desperately warrant similar academic treatment. Less understood is any sense of the relevance of these artefacts for interpreting the medieval landscape, and it is this which will be considered in the second part of the conference.

Speakers include: Laura Burnett, Anni Byard, Teresa Gilmore, Dr Letty ten Harkel, Richard Kelleher, Dr Kevin Leahy, Dr Michael Lewis, Martin Locker, Dr Tim Pestell, Dr Andrew Rogerson, Dr Eleanor Standley and David Williams.

To book a place please send a cheque for £10 payable to 'The British Museum' to Claire Costin, Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG. Tel: 020 7323 8618. Email: [ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk).

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### **Recovery Procedures - Andrew Jones**

How do archaeologists recover finds from archaeological sites?

In the 1970-1980s there was a flurry of interest in the recovery of finds from archaeological sites triggered by the development of the sieving tanks and frames, and Sebastian Payne's & Bruce Levitan's startling work recovering bones, pottery etc. This elucidated the inherent biases in hand collected assemblages of bones, pottery and small finds recovered from archaeological sites.

As a result sieving and sampling became routine on many archaeological sites.

We have now over 30 years of experience of this work. Our museums and stores are bursting with boxes of bones, sieved soil residues etc, many of which remain unstudied. Archaeological reports (grey literature and full publications) detail lists of seeds, bones etc usually based on tiny samples that are routinely assessed.

As a fish bone worker since the mid 1970s I have a strong interest in ensuring that sampling and sieving procedures continue. However, the pressures of modern archaeological projects, especially in time of economic recession, mean that efficiencies must be made. Furthermore, many of the questions that were being asked in the 1970s and 80s can now be answered with reasonable confidence.

Is it time for a review of what we are actually doing and carry out an analysis of the

efficiency of current procedures?

Is anyone else interested in finding out the following

- How does this relate to the published English Heritage guidance notes?
- Does sieving produce useful assemblages of artefacts and well as animal and plant remains?
- Do we really need more hand collected assemblages of animal bones from medieval urban sites?

If you have experience of what is going on now, and are interested in forming an informal group to research these and similar questions, email: Andrew K. G. Jones, at the York Archaeological Trust, [bone@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:bone@yorkat.co.uk) or phone 01904 6630.

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## **Articles**

*(This article appeared in an earlier newsletter, but the author only received a couple of replies. It is therefore reprinted here. Ed.)*

### **Bronze Age boat back in the Tay Valley - Mark Hall**

Perth Museum & Art Gallery is delighted to announce that following its excavation in 2006 and six years of conservation treatment, the Carpow Bronze Age logboat has finally returned to the Tay valley, for display in the Museum. The boat is part of the Museum's Recognised archaeology collection, having been allocated via Scottish Treasure Trove. The exhibition, 'The Carpow Bronze Age logboat' opened to the public's eager anticipation on 19 March 2012.

David Strachan (Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and with funding support from Historic Scotland) led a team of archaeologists in the excavation and recovery of the boat, which took place in a narrow period of low tides in the summer of 2006. The boat was transported down to the National Museums Scotland Conservation and Analytical Research Laboratory, Granton, Edinburgh for the conservation phase, led by Dr Theo Skinner. This involved the boat being sliced into three segments, soaked in PEG, freeze dried and then re-joined. At 9m long the boat was too big to fit into a freeze-drying oven, unless flown to Tokyo, which, of course, was not feasible. The story of the boats conservation, excavation and recovery are all told in the exhibition. The other key element of the exhibition is an introduction to the Bronze Age context for the 3,000 year old boat. Focussing on the evidence from the Lower Tay Valley the display outlines the nature of settlement and resource exploitation (including some 3,000 year old hazel nuts recovered from the boat!), the way people buried their dead and the making and using of the logboat.



The logboat is the star of the show but the exhibition also marks another first: the display of

all the Bronze Age metalwork (swords, dirk, spear-heads, axe-heads and other tools) recovered from the river Tay, thanks to generous loans from National Museums Scotland, Fife Council Libraries and Museums and The McManus – Dundee’s Gallery and Museum. The majority were recovered from the stretch of the river between Perth and Newburgh and permit the interpretation of votive offerings as a possibility. A series of dramatic paintings of how the boat could have been used include one showing metalwork being offered to the river, from the boat.



The exhibition runs until 31 January 2013 and Perth Museum is open Monday -Saturday, 10.00 – 17.00.

For further details contact Mark Hall, [mahall@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:mahall@pkc.gov.uk) ; telephone: + 44 (0)1738 783414 or visit the website:

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Education+and+learning/Museums+and+galleries/Perth+Museum+and+Art+Gallery/>

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### **Copper Alloy Brooch from Wiltshire - Katie Marsden.**

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a national scheme with one unified database. This makes research easier, bringing all records together in one place. It also means we can record finds from across the country and other Finds Liaison Officers regularly record things found in Somerset. This lovely brooch, **SOM-629D01** is an example of a find from Alverdiston, Wiltshire with strong Somerset connections that can tell us something about local industries in the Iron Age and Roman periods.

The copper alloy brooch is a penannular type - an almost but not complete circle, and has a plain, undecorated frame and pin. The pin is also made from copper alloy and would once have moved freely around the frame but is now stuck in place with the tip over the gap in the frame. The brooch secured clothing by the pin being pushed through the fabric and out

again, with the tip resting on the outside of the frame. Whilst the brooch has been in the ground, it has developed a dark green patina and would have been a simple but beautiful addition to the clothes it secured.

The ends of the frame coil outwards in a spiral and the way they do this makes this brooch very interesting. Most penannular brooches of this time terminate in either rounded knobs (e.g. **WILT-DA0C01**) on the end of the frame, coils that rise up from the frame so that the loops are viewed from the side (e.g. **SOM-E6EC36**) or 'omega' ends that bend back from the frame, producing the shape of the Omega symbol ( $\Omega$ ) which gives them their name (e.g. **KENT-5B4FA5**). Our example has coils that are viewed from the top and are on the same level as the rest of the frame. This is the only example of a brooch with level coil terminals on the PAS database.

Penannular brooches are a form of dress fastener that was used for an unusually long period of time in Britain - from the later Iron Age, into the Roman and Early Medieval periods. The first examples were simple in form, but during the Iron Age new types with decorative terminals began to develop, such as this style. The most comprehensive survey of penannular brooches was carried out in the late 1950s by Elizabeth Fowler (1960, 1963) and the typology that she produced continues to be used today. Fowler suggested that the Type B brooches may have evolved from the earlier type Aa, which had simple, blunt terminals (Fowler 1960, 157). There is a striking resemblance, however, between Type B penannulars and similar brooches that were in use much earlier in Iberia, raising the question of whether the British versions may have been derived in some way from these Iberian ones. Fowler believed that the similarity was coincidental, however, as the British brooches did not seem to occur on sites that had produced other Iberian material. Further work using newly discovered material such as this brooch will enable the possibility of a link between the British and Iberian brooches to be further explored, however, as Fowler was working with a much smaller database.

Data from excavations show that Type B penannulars are strongly clustered in south-west Britain, with a handful of outliers in the midlands and eastern England. A large group were found at excavations of the Glastonbury Lake Village, Somerset (Bulleid and Gray 1948) and these remain possibly the earliest examples of the type found in Britain, dating to somewhere between the mid second century BC and the Conquest. It is possible that production was centred in this location. The findspot of this brooch may support this as it is only 30 miles away from Glastonbury.

## References

Bulleid, A. and St George Gray, H., 1948 *The Meare Lake Village: a Full Description of the Excavations and the Relics from the Eastern Half of the West Village, 1910–33*. Taunton: Somerset Archaeological Society.

Fowler, E., 1960. The Origin and Development of the Penannular Brooch in Europe. *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 26, pp. 149-177.

Fowler, E., 1963. Celtic Metalwork in the 5th and 6th centuries A. D. *Arch. J.*, 120, pp. 98-160.

Anna Booth, project details:

AHRC funded Collaborative Doctoral Award supervised by Professor Colin Haselgrove at the University of Leicester and Dr. Roger Bland of The Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure at British Museum.

Katie Marsden, former IfA Workplace Learning Bursary holder in Somerset with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Somerset County Council.



Two encaustic floor tiles from Randall Manor, Shorne Country Park, Kent - Andrew Mayfield & Sophia Adams

As part of a Lottery funded community archaeology project at Shorne Woods Country Park, excavations have taken place at the site of Randall Manor for the past six summers. Historical research and pottery analysis suggest that activity at the site dates broadly between the mid eleventh and mid sixteenth centuries. This activity peaks between the mid thirteenth and mid fourteenth centuries. A branch of the local de Cobham family lived at the Manor during this period.

In 2008 and 2009, two encaustic floor tiles were excavated from demolition deposits. They appear to be unusual for both their size and decoration and comments are therefore sought from readers of this newsletter.

Tile one; special find number 108 (Photo courtesy of Ruiha Webster)



125mm by 127mm by 17mm (thickness). Note sides are bevelled. This tile was found in the demolition deposits associated with a stone cross wing of the manor.

Tile two, special find number 119 (Photo courtesy of Ruiha Webster)



126mm by 127mm by 20mm (thickness). Note sides are bevelled.

This tile was found in the demolition deposits associated with an external structure built onto the east side of an aisled hall.

#### Discussion:

Both tiles have been shown to Dr Ian Betts at the Museum of London and the late Geoff Egan. The designs and fabric are not the same as any known to Dr Betts from Canterbury or the London 'Westminster' wares. Both floor tiles are also larger than those produced in Canterbury. A search of the tile collection at Maidstone Museum also revealed no parallels

Dr Betts described the figure as a female wearing a hairnet and a brooch. The only example he knew of the bust of a lady being depicted on a medieval floor tile is a late fifteenth or early sixteenth century imported Flemish tile. However, the style of the design is quite different to that found at Randall Manor.

It was also noted that the tiles were poorly manufactured and possibly not properly made i.e. errors were made in their manufacture. Tile 2 may have been smudged in the middle during the production process. There is no obvious evidence of wear of the glaze. In fact the glaze does not seem to cover the whole surface and probably never did.

One theory therefore, is that these tiles may have been discarded and never used in a floor, akin to 'seconds.' This is further supported by the lack of any mortar on the reverse of the tiles.

The tiles were also shown to Irene Pellet, a Tyler Hill specialist. She was also of the opinion that they are not Tyler Hill or Faversham Tiles. She agreed that they looked thirteenth/early fourteenth century. She was not concerned by the lack of mortar on the backs, or the lack of wear as it could reflect their location in a wider floor design, i.e. as an edging or underneath furniture. She did suggest they could be Penn or Chiltern tiles?

The late Geoff Egan, basing his interpretation on the style of dress, gave a date of the

fourteenth century for tile 2.

We would welcome any further comments that readers may have on these two tiles. Are they comparable to any known Penn or Chiltern tiles? Are the designs similar to any seen by members of the group?

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### **Samian Ware cup - Andrew Peachey**

The vessel is probably a small cup (c.8cm wide/high) that appears to have been produced in eastern Gaul, probably at Rheinzabern. Critically it does not appear in any of the well-established samian ware form type series, and has also puzzled the German pottery specialists that have looked at it. The rim and body appear to be a hybrid of several forms and a working hypothesis is that it may be a trial or apprentice piece. The barbotine decoration around the rim is certainly not perfectly executed. The vessel was recovered from a layer, well-dated to the mid-late 2nd century AD by other pottery, in north-west Suffolk. I would be very interested if any readers have come across any similar types of vessel in non-ceramic materials that may have influenced the design of the vessel. Please contact [ajpeachey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ajpeachey@yahoo.co.uk).





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### **An unusual Medieval Brooch Pin - Julie Franklin, Finds Manager, Headland Archaeology**

This copper alloy pin was found during excavations by Headland Archaeology on the site of Fulk de Breaute's Castle in Luton, Bedfordshire, funded by the University of Bedfordshire. It was in a midden, deposited around the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and it appears to be a brooch pin, though unusually large (70mm) and of a particularly ornate form. It is cast in one piece, with an integral loop. The ridges and flange on the exterior of the loop may be to allow easier manipulation of the pin, or reflect ornamentation on the brooch frame itself. Cast pins with integral loops (as opposed to pins with open loops bent around the brooch frame) are sometimes found, but are generally of 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century date, and of simpler form (eg. Biddle and Hinton 1990, fig.172: 2030; Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig.161, 1314), often with a collar between the base of the shaft and the loop. They are also usually a good deal smaller. A brooch pin found in Norwich meanwhile, is of similar size but more simply made without integral loop (Margeson 1993, fig.7:62). I have been unable to find any examples of this particular form. Does anyone know of any examples of a pin like this, or of a type of brooch on which it might have fitted? Any information gratefully received.



For further details of excavation see: <http://www.headlandarchaeology.com/News/news.html>  
<http://www.beds.ac.uk/news/2011/september/secrets-from-lutons-past-unearthed-at-bedfordshire>  
<http://www.luton-dunstable.co.uk/News/Secrets-from-Lutons-past-unearthed-at-University-12092011.htm>

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#### References

Biddle, M and Hinton, D A 1990 'Annular and Other Brooches', in Biddle, M (ed) *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester* Winchester Studies 7ii Oxford 639-43

Egan, G & Pritchard, F 1991 *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 3: Dress Accessories c1150-c1450* HMSO, London

Margeson, S 1993 *Norwich Households: The Medieval and Post-medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-1978* (East Anglian Archaeology Report No.58) Norwich

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#### **Cataloguing the Staffordshire Hoard - Dr Kevin Leahy**

The story of the discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard and accounts of what it contained are now too well known to need to be recounted here (Leahy and Bland, 2009; Leahy et. al. 2011) it was the largest find of Anglo-Saxon treasure ever found and, as such, it presented its own challenges and problems. What I would like do here is describe the process through which we went to catalogue the hoard which I hope might be of interest and use to colleagues faced with a similar problem.

I will never forget first seeing the hoard at Birmingham Museum on 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2009, I think that everyone there shared the same feelings of excitement and awe; we had all dreamed of the big find, our Sutton Hoo, and here it was for us to sort out: the sense of responsibility was terrifying. Some things had to be done immediately; the find spot lay next to two main

roads making it highly vulnerable; security vital; no one outside the group was to be told what had been found. An excavation, carried out by Birmingham Field Archaeology, was started on the find spot and round-the-clock security was arranged for the site. This find was clearly potential Treasure (under the terms of the 1996 Act) and an Inquest would have to be held; to do this the Coroner had to have a report on what had been found, this was the responsibility of the Dept of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum. As one of the Scheme's National Advisers I was given the job of preparing the first catalogue and an interim account of the Staffordshire Hoard.

None of the material in the hoard was stratified, it was all found in a 5 x 4m area of top-soil where it had been deposited by the plough. The lack of plough damage to most of the objects suggests that the deposit had only recently entered the plough-soil, probably in the preceding October. It is likely that the 21 metal-filled lumps of clay recovered by Mr Herbert, the finder, represented the base of deposit and their survival in the top-soil supports the hoards recent removal from what had been its long-term place of rest.

While I have dealt with larger groups of material the hoard presented its own problems, speed was vital, the find could not be announced until after the Inquest, but for this the report was needed, the longer the delay the more chance there was of news getting out about the find. Unlike excavated finds most of this material had no documentation, no neatly bagged finds with context and find numbers, it was a case of opening each bag and seeing what it contained. Initially, I was told that there were 240 finds, this wasn't the case: there were 240 bags of finds, some of which contained more than 90 pieces. There were also the 21 lumps of clay, each full of metal fragments, which the finder had kept intact and, during the first month, material continued to pour in from the excavation.

Each piece had to have its unique number; these were issued using peach coloured raffle or cloak-room tickets which offered many advantages. Firstly when working quickly there is a constant danger that a unique number will be missed, or, worse still, allocated to two different objects. Each raffle ticket could physically only be allocated once and with masses and dimensions being recorded on its back. Recording the mass and dimensions of each piece provided a check against the, as yet, unmarked objects being placed with the wrong ticket during handling. The colour of the tickets was important as this meant that they could be seen through the packaging making it possible to quickly see if an object had been recorded and, finally, the big black numbers could usually be read without unpacking the objects. While the subject of some amusement at the time it is notable that the peach raffle tickets are still in use!

Unlike the material recovered by the finder, the excavated finds had been plotted and site codes issued by the archaeologists, these objects were integrated into the raffle ticket system acting as a concordance between it, and other numbers. At the end of the process we had recorded 1,381 pieces and the subsequent examination of the earth blocks took the total up to around 3,500 pieces. More than 73% of the finds weigh less than a gramme, also included are groups of tiny metal fragments, each weighing less than 0.01g, which were not given individual numbers.

The cataloguing of the hoard was carried out in the Conservation Studio at Birmingham Museum over a period of seven weeks, working two days each week. I was helped by Dianne, my wife, who weighed and measured each piece before I described and classified it on a small Access database. This included tick-boxes for the materials and the most common features (cloisonné, filigree, etc.). It goes without saying that without the database the report could not have been completed in the time available. The two of us working together also speeded things up; constantly having to transfer between instruments, pen and laptop would have taken more than twice as long. As it was, the cataloguing of the first

1,381 pieces took two of us 91.5 hours spread over 12 days of intensive work. an average rate of 15.1 pieces per hour. Some problems occurred, but the system allowed them to be isolated and rectified.

In some ways working with this material was just like dealing with the usual bags of nails, the weighing, measuring and describing is the same whatever we are recording; on the other hand we were conscious of the enormous privilege of being the first archaeologists to really see these amazing things. It was an experience never to be forgotten.

## Bibliography

Leahy K, Bland R, Hooke D and Jones A, 2011, 'The Staffordshire (Ogley Hay) hoard': recovery of a treasure' *Antiquity*, 85, pp. 202-220.

Leahy K and Bland R, 2009, *The Staffordshire Hoard*, British Museum Press.



Bag contents, the contents of a typical bag ready for cataloguing.



Some of non-hoard finds from the find site together with one of the peach raffle tickets. Other than the hoard the field was almost devoid of historical material, almost all of the other finds post-dated enclosure in the 1830s.

Microsoft Access - [DrawForm]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help

**Finds database**    ◀ ▶ Image Gallery

NLM:  Finders no :

Item:  Broken:  Complete:  Dirty:  Distorted:

**Decoration**

Cabochon:  Cloisonne:  Foil Backed:  Geometric:  Gilt:  Grooved:

Incised:  Interlace:  Niello:  Raised:  Style II:  Zoomorphic:

Filigree:  Reeded:  Ringed:  Plain:  Scrolled:

**Dimensions**

Length:  Width:  Thickn:  Diameter:  Height:  Mass:

**Materials**

Garnet:  Glass:  Gold:  Iron:  Silver:  Copper Alloy:

**Analysis (%)**

Au:  Ag:  Cu:  Other metal 1:  Other metal 2:

Date:

Notes:

The data entry screen used for recording the Staffordshire hoard. Not all of the field were found to be of value and some were not used. After the Inquest it was necessary to go through the database consolidating the terminology.

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## **Publications**

### **Excavations at Chester, the western and southern Roman extramural settlements.**

A Roman community on the edge of the world: excavations 1964-1989 and other investigations by Simon W Ward and others. xvi+446 pages. Oxford: Archaeopress. (BAR Brit Ser 553), 2012. ISBN 9781407309316. £55.00.

This is the first detailed, wide-ranging report to be published on excavations in the extramural settlement of the Roman legionary fortress at Chester, specifically those around the western side of the fortress. This publication concentrates on ten interventions carried out over twenty-five years in the area to the west and south of the fortress and attempts to



summarise in more detail, discoveries elsewhere around its perimeter. Discussions attempt to characterise the townscape, its development and population, and also to explore the role of the Chester extramural settlement generally. To order, go to the Archaeopress website:

<http://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/defaultAll.asp?Series=British+Archaeological+Reports&PublishedDateGT=13+Jan+2012.>>

**Hoard, Hounds and Helmets:  
A conquest-period ritual site at Hallaton, Leicestershire.**

Price £30.00 (+ £4.75 p&p) contact ULAS@le.ac.uk , 0116 2522848.

The discovery of over 5000 Iron Age and Roman coins on a hilltop in rural Leicestershire by amateur archaeologists captured the imagination of the general public and archaeologists alike. Excavations uncovered a ritual site with a polygonal boundary ditch, buried hoards of coins, Roman helmets and other valuables and an entrance guarded by dogs. Offerings probably began in the later 1st century BC and include at least 16 hoards of Iron Age gold and silver coins. Other metal finds included parts of Roman cavalry helmets, a silver bowl, and silver and copper alloy ingots. The discovery of numerous pig bones outside the entranceway and the composition of the individual coin hoards strongly suggest that the site drew people from all over the region at specific times to participate in communal rituals and feasting.

The Hallaton hoards are among the most spectacular and important archaeological discoveries ever made in the East Midlands. They have completely rewritten our understanding of relations between Iron Age Britain and the Roman world in the period just before and after the Conquest in the first century AD and provide a new model for understanding other deposits of metalwork and coins from across late Iron Age Europe.

**Roman London and the Walbrook stream crossing: excavations at 1 Poultry and vicinity, City of London.**

Julian Hill and Peter Rowsome. Monograph Series 37. MOLA 2011. ISBN 978-1-907586-04-0. Hb 597pp + CD-ROM. 410 bl/wh and col ill (2-part set). £57.

No. 1 Poultry proved to be one of the most significant Roman sites ever excavated in the City of London, with an unparalleled sequence of buildings, roads and open spaces. A timber drain of AD 47 beneath the main road is the earliest securely dated structure yet known from Londinium, and a pottery shop, destroyed in the Boudican revolt, gives a snapshot of life in AD 60/61. A 2nd-century AD writing tablet preserves the only evidence for the sale of a slave found in Britain to date, while the 3rd- and 4th-century buildings found provide a rare demonstration of the continuities and changes that occurred in Roman urban life.

If you would like any further information or are interested in receiving a copy of this title in order to review it in your publication please contact 020 7410 2228 or email to [bookreviews@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:bookreviews@museumoflondon.org.uk)

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