

ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER III



ROMAN FINDS GROUP

The beginning of 1991 sees the third Roman Finds Group Newsletter which, in common with its predecessors, has a few modifications after suggestions from readers. This time there is a date of publication AND there are page numbers. In this issue we have included two book reviews and this we hope will become a standard feature of the newsletter.

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January 1991

THE NEWCASTLE MEETING

Hosted by Lindsay Allason-Jones of the Museum of Antiquities the RFG meeting at Newcastle on Tyne continued the evangelising precept of the previous meetings by taking place in yet another region.

Finds from the frontier was a genuinely pragmatic title to cover a diversity of artefacts found near the Wall. Not that the day was dedicated entirely to local material the problem section was maintained with a military belt plate from London and the silver amulet from Shepton Mallet (offprints relating to work at Shepton Mallet please contact Lyn Bevan at BUFAU).

The longer presentations showed the range of material evidence found in the north that has yet to reach publication and which when it does will have a significant influence on artefact studies of Roman Britain. Both the wood from Carlisle (Tim Padley) and the small finds from the extensive excavations at Elginhaugh (Lindsay Allason Jones) were treated to detailed illustration.

The enthusiasm for military artefacts continues with material from Corbridge (Mike Bishop), leather tents from Carlisle (Sue Winterbottom) and enamelled belt mounts from Hadrians Wall (Philip Cracknell). Nevertheless civil material was well supported by Jenny Price's exposition of glass bangles.

FINDSPOT

In this edition of Findspot Christine Jones was kind enough to find time to describe a festive lamp for our New Year Edition. John Davies contributed a moneyers stamp and Martin Dearné a well travelled brooch from the Hebrides. If you have any interesting, arresting or difficult to identify artefacts, please contact the editor Michael Dawson for their inclusion into the next newsletter.

Annum Novvm Favstvm Felicem Mihi!

While it is exciting to research the small finds that come fresh from site (or out of their standard-sized storage boxes!) the material that is already stored or displayed in museum collections can prove equally rewarding to the researcher.

On permanent display in the Museum of London is a fine 1st century Italian lamp with, portrayed on the discus, the figure of a winged Victory holding a shield and a palm branch (fig 1) (Acc No 1398). Having established the date, Loeschcke form, fabric source and identified the figure, and then displaying the lamp in a household situation, it may be presumed that there is little else this lamp could tell us. However research undertaken for a Museum of London



Fig 1

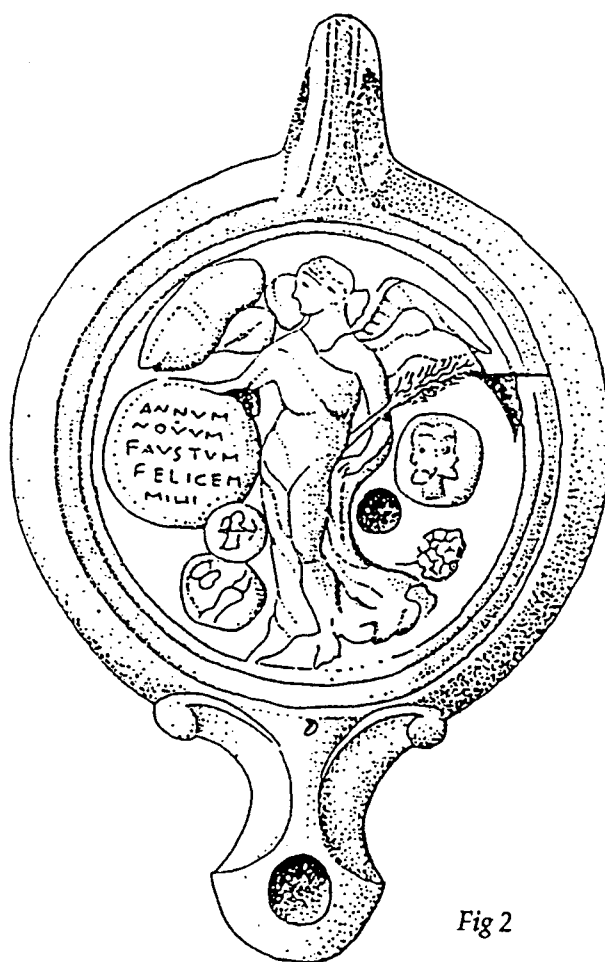


Fig 2

display revealed that this lamp confirmed Classical literary evidence for a New Year custom practised by the Romans.

The Roman winter was the occasion for three major festivals. Saturnalia, the most important, began on 17 December and lasted for seven days. It was a time of revelry and feasting in honour of Saturn, god of agriculture. Buildings were brightly lit and decorated with evergreens. Simple presents were exchanged, particularly wax candles and small pottery dolls. Slaves were allowed to do as they liked and often reversed roles with their masters. On 25 December, followers of the god Mithras celebrated the birth of the Unconquered Sun. The festive season was brought to a close with the New Year celebrations (the Kalends) which started on 1st of January and lasted three days. Presents symbolising a new year wish were exchanged. For example the gift of money was to ensure prosperity and that of lamps was for good luck in the forthcoming year.

A lamp from Ely (fig 2) depicts a winged Victory similar to that on the London lamp. The Ely Victory holds a palm branch. She is surrounded by nuts, sweets, cakes and coins, items that were customarily exchanged as New Year presents. The two headed god Janus depicted on one of the coins looks back at the old year and forward to the new year. On the shield is inscribed the message '*Annvm Novvm Faustvm Felicem Mihi*' I wish myself a happy and prosperous New Year, implying the lamp was bought to bring good luck to the purchaser and his household. The inscription on the shield of the London Victory reads *Filictii* (Felicitas) Good luck. In the light of what we know of Roman customs and the translation of the inscription on the Ely example it seems likely that the London lamp was also associated with New Year celebrations. This lamp is therefore a unique piece of evidence from Londinium in that it can be linked with both the exchange of gifts and imported Roman seasonal customs.

I would like to thank Linda Green whose research for a Christmas display at the Museum of London uncovered the festive use to which this particular lamp was put. My thanks are also due to Sally Holt for the illustrations. It is also appropriate in this edition of the newsletter to re-iterate the sentiments expressed on these lamps and wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

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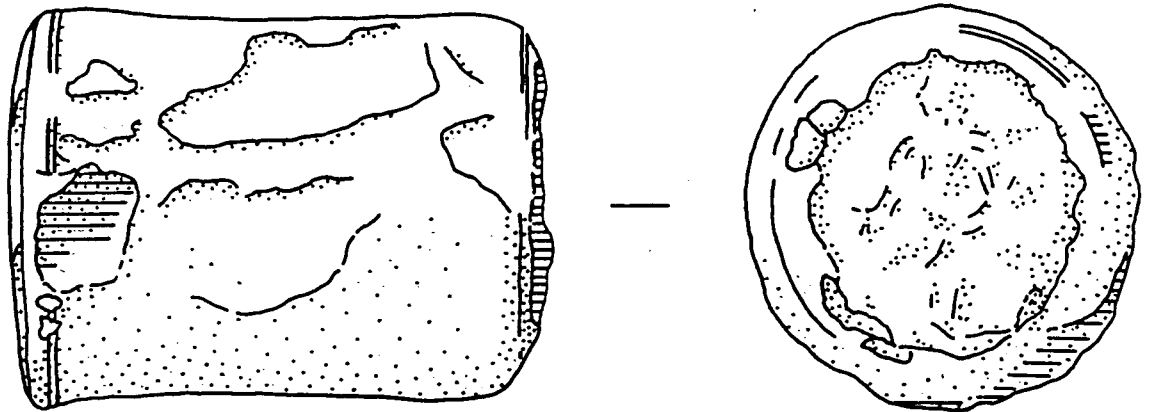
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A late Roman bronze punch from Hampshire

In 1989 an unusual metal object was found at Southwick near Portsmouth, Hampshire, in association with quantities of 3rd century Roman pottery. The object can be described as follows.

This short length of metal rod is made of leaded bronze and weighs 23.91g. It measures 19mm long and has a diameter of 14mm. One end is smooth and bulges outwards at the shoulder, which indicates that it has been hammered. A double tooled ring encircles the shoulder. At the other end there is more of a rounded shoulder, which curves into the flat face. The face is now pitted with corrosion but irregular protrusions within the surface may be the remains of an engraved design or figure. A faint tooled groove is visible on the edge, encircling and emphasising the central zone at this end. Inside this groove, the central zone has been corroded badly but a separate circular zone within the flat face is clearly apparent, which would originally have contained an impression. The object is not visually impressive and could easily have been missed by archaeological fieldworkers or ignored by others (Fig 1).

The object was clearly used as a punch. Unfortunately the design at the tip has now been lost. The corrosion which is restricted to a circular zone where the design once existed could possibly suggest that there was once an inset, which has since been detached. As a metallic punch, it would have produced repeated circular impressions of a tiny design, just 10mm in diameter.



0 1 2 cm

Fig 1

Could it be that this punch, of apparent 3rd century date, was employed in the manufacture of irregular coins of that period - the irregular antoniniani or 'barbarous radiates'? Barbarous radiates are one of the most common Romano-British coin types and turn up on all sites. They range in diameter from the size of official antoniniani 19-20mm, down to just 7mm or 8mm. There was a diminution in size over time and the smallest examples or minims, which are dated between c275-290, would have been produced from dies similar in size to the punch under consideration. These coins were struck (as opposed to cast) in Britain in enormous quantities. Despite exhaustive studies in this field and their profusion, we have very few recorded examples which were struck from common dies. Tens of thousands of dies were in use in Britain, at many locations, between 270 and 290, of which none are known to survive today.

Our knowledge of the striking of barbarous radiates is slight. All of our evidence is associated with minims and comprises scraps of metalwork, found together with blank coin flans and die linked coins at just six or seven British sites. Among these, at Draethen (Carmarthenshire) and Sprotbrough (Yorkshire), sections of bronze rod were also found in these associations, as well as at White Woman's Hole (Somerset), although at that site 4th century material was also present. In Roman Gaul, a minim production site was discovered at Heidenknopf, where minims and blanks were found together with short metal rods. Thus, there is the strong association between the known instances of minim production in the late 270s and 280s and the presence of bronze rods. It has been thought that small slices of rod were sawn off in order to produce blank flans, which were subsequently struck. However, Mr David Sellwood has pointed out that saws of adequate precision for such delicate work were not available at that date (pers. comm.). It would appear that the rods had some other purpose which may have included the striking of coins.

How would the punch have been used? There are two possibilities. Firstly the tip, which may have originally held an inset, could have been used directly to strike blank flans. Alternatively, the punch design may have originally held an inset, could have carried an intaglio design and could have been used directly to strike blank flans. Alternatively, the punch could have been used as a 'hub', acting as a master punch. In this latter case it would have carried a design in positive relief, like a coin, and would have been hammered into the die face to produce an intaglio, from which the coin flan would have been struck. Hubbing is a process favoured at modern mints and it may have been used in the Roman world.

It may be considered unlikely that the punch, in its current form could have been used either to strike coins directly or as a hub. The lead content present is fairly high, probably in the order of 5-10%. It would have been too brittle and

soft to strike directly onto cold metal. However, if the coin flans had first been heated, it could certainly have been used for such a purpose. The common occurrence of brockages in the coinage of the late 3rd century shows that a substantial impression can be produced on a hot flan by a metal object of similar composition. In addition, in the Roman mints, upper coin dies made of copper could be protected by the use of an iron cap in order to make them more resilient to the high stresses of production. An alternative possibility is that the punch was used to stamp a design onto a softer surface such as leather or bone, although the nature of the very small, circular, design produced would be more in keeping with the face of a coin.

In conclusion, it seems an attractive hypothesis that this stamp was once employed in the striking of barbarous radiate minims. It is possible that a more durable tip was originally set into the end which has become detached, leaving a pitted ring of corrosion on the tip. Such dies would not have had a long life. However, the scarcity of die-identities within the profuse coinage in question indicates that output from individual dies was much less than that achieved at the official Roman mints. Also the general quality of barbarous radiates is comparatively poor. It must be admitted that this writer's main interest is Roman coinage and that the conclusion put forward may be considered somewhat less than totally objective. However the complete absence of dies for the striking of the ubiquitous coinage of barbarous radiates is very strange. It may be that insignificant and dull looking objects such as this punch have been given little attention in the past and that other such objects have already come to light, but their significance is unrecognised. If any readers have any contributions to make concerning this object, their comments would be appreciated by the author.

Acknowledgements.

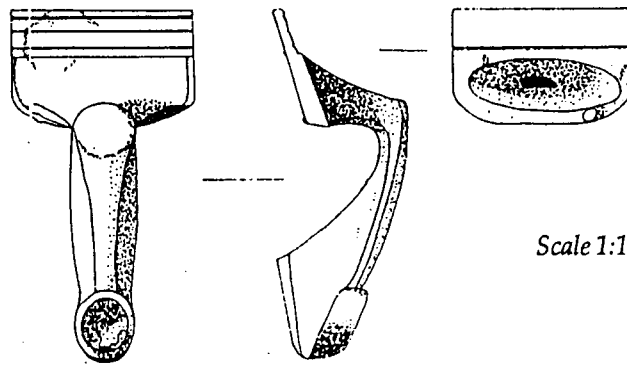
I would like to thank Robert Kenyon, Michael Hayworth and David Sellwood for their help and discussion in the initial stages of the study of this object.

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A knee brooch from South Uist

Martin Dearne asks if anyone knows of a dated (or undated parallel) for a knee brooch found during the excavation by Marek Zvelebil of the Kildonan III midden on the west coast of Uist, Outer Hebrides. Is it of genuinely Germanic form?

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Scale 1:1

INTRODUCING

In this edition there are two introductory articles - coinage in Roman Britain and lorica segmentata. The latter article is particularly apposite as Mike Bishop, working throughout the last nine months, has brought the first volume of the Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies to fruition. It will be published in January.

An introduction to the literature on lorica segmentata

Despite receiving no certain mention in the ancient literary sources, this is the type of armour most readily associated with Roman soldiers, perhaps because it features so prominently amongst the sculpted figures on Trajan's Column (a monument which has profoundly affected our image of the Roman army).

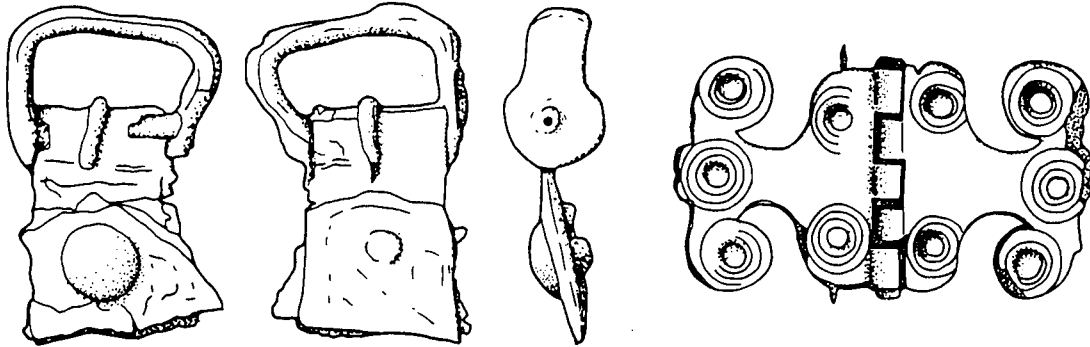
Arguably the most important find of this type of armour was made in a rampart-back building in the legionary fortress at Carnuntum (von Groller 1901), although unfortunately it was not fully published and the material is now missing. Von Groller used the sculptural evidence to interpret the archaeology, suggesting that the strips were attached to a leather undergarment. Soon after, during his excavations at the fort of Newstead, James Curle found fragments of segmental armour of a slightly different form in the well in the headquarters building (Curle 1911).

Other finds of this armour were made on Roman sites of the 1st, 2nd and even 3rd centuries A.D., and minor improvements offered on von Groller's interpretation (Webster 1960); but it was not until the discovery of the Corbridge Hoard in 1964 that a group of cuirasses were found in sufficiently good condition to permit a reconstruction (Allason-Jones and Bishop 1988). Together with the excavator, Charles Daniels, H. Russell Robinson, a practising armourer with detailed knowledge of other periods and cultures, worked with the excavator Charles Daniels on piecing together the fragments. They showed that it was articulated on internal leather straps and not fixed to a garment as von Groller had suggested. Robinson's reconstructions (1975), together with Peter Connolly's drawings, have become the basis for all subsequent work on this armour.

Lorica segmentata as it has become known (the name is a modern one) has two main recognisable forms: the so-called Corbridge (mid 1st to mid 2nd century A.D.) and Newstead (mid 2nd to mid 3rd) types. Formed from bent iron plates with copper alloy fittings, it is most commonly identifiable in the archaeological record by these components (consisting of tie loops, lobate hinges, hinged strap fittings, hinged buckles, and rosette-ornamented

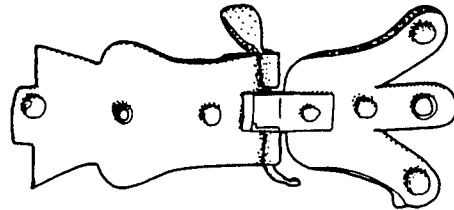
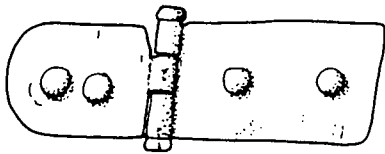
rivet washers). The Corbridge pieces showed that frequent repairs meant that the cuirasses were often equipped with a range of fittings of varying degrees of competence.

Lorica segmentata - fittings of various kinds



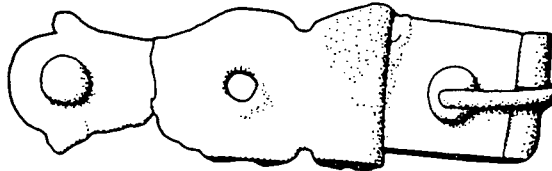
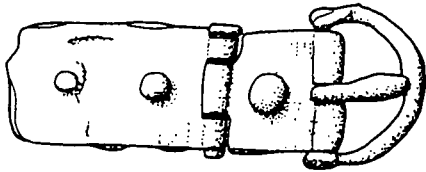
Internal iron buckle of the type found on the inside rear of Corbridge Type A cuirasses

Typical form of lobate hinge from shoulder guards



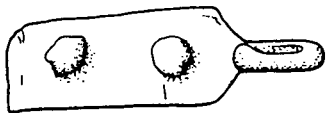
Common form of hinged strap fastener

Unusual form of hinged strap fastener



Common form of hinged buckle fastener

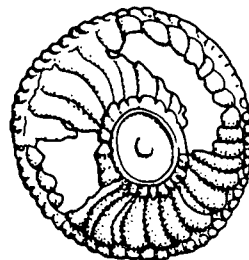
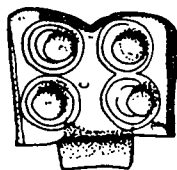
Unusual form of hinged buckle fastener



Common form of tie loop from girth hoops



Unusual form of tie loop from girth hoops



Unusual form of hinged strap fastener (free-moving element)

Decorated rivet washer

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Sites Producing Important Collections

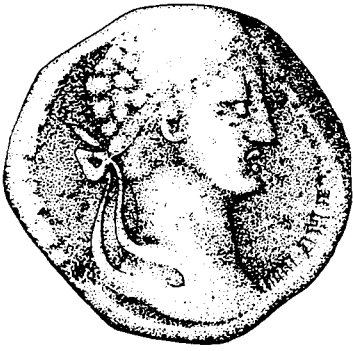
(The main criterion for inclusion here is that these are groups of fittings probably belonging together, or demonstrating some unusual feature).

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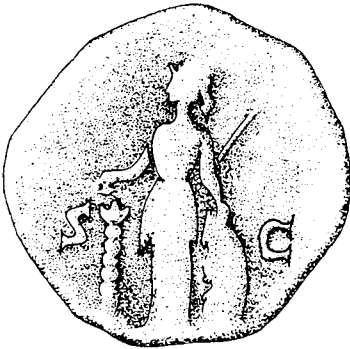
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*An introduction to the literature on Roman coins
from British sites*



*SESTERTIUS COMMODUS
REV: MINERVA
R.M.A.T. COLLECTION*



*ANTONINIANUS PROBUS.
R.M.A.T. COLLECTION
(OWNER R.A. HOWARD)*



Coins are a class of artefact that turns up on all Romano-British sites. Roman coins have generated a very great amount of literature over several hundred years. Some of the works most readily available are now dated in content and many are very expensive. This brief survey will suggest some of the most useful titles available. It comes as a surprise to some enthusiastic beginners that not all types are listed in Sear's *Roman Coins and their Values*. Although that extremely useful handbook is desirable for the collector, the basic literature relating to the identification of Roman coins is extensive. This will be discussed in the initial section. Subsequently, a brief review will cover some of the literature concerning the interpretation of coin finds.

In most coin assemblages from Roman sites there will also be post-Roman and possibly Iron Age issues which must initially be separated. Even in the case of corroded and illegible coins this can be done accurately, although some experience may be necessary in order to distinguish the different series with precision. A handy guide to post Roman coins is Seaby's *Coins of England*, which illustrates all major issues and is very reasonably priced. At urban sites more unusual types, including foreign coins and jetons, will be encountered, for which there is no easy reference. Celtic coins can be separated on the grounds of size and shape, even in the absence of visual detail. Van Ardell's *Celtic Coinage of Britain* is the new standard reference and is very well illustrated.

The Roman issues will now be isolated and ready for the preliminary phase of identification. The level of identification required may vary and it may be that the worker initially only wishes to tie down the coin to a specific reign. For this purpose there are a number of general introductions, all of which are illustrated with useful photos and which also explain the basics of the Roman coinage system. I would recommend *Roman Coinage in Britain* by John Casey, *Identifying Roman Coins* by Richard Reece and Simon James, *The coins of Roman Britain* by Andrew Burnett and *Roman Coins* by Richard Reece, which is out of print but copies may still be tracked down.

The great depth of scholarship which has been carried out on 353 Roman coins allows most types to be closely dated and has given rise to a bulky and formidable series of standard reference works. The essential volumes are *Roman Imperial Coinage* edited by H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C. H. V. Sutherland and R. A. G. Carson, in nine volumes. In volumes I to V the coins of each emperor are given a continuous run of serial numbers. In volumes VI to IX the issues are separated into the output of individual mints.

The same types were struck at different locations across the empire and the mint of origin needs to be ascertained before an issue can be looked up and given an RIC number. These catalogues are not extensively illustrated and the inexperienced worker, especially one who does not have a knowledge of Latin, may have trouble isolating a partly legible coin using the plates and indexes alone. It is often easier to cross reference particular coins with well illustrated catalogues. RIC volumes V and IX are also out of date and the former is currently under revision. Volume V is no longer adequate reference for the coinage of the Gallic Empire and the work of G. Elmer is preferable for that period, although less accessible. *Late Roman Bronze Coinage* by R. G. A. Carson, P.V. Hill and J. P. C. Kent is an important reference for post 364 coinage, for which RIC IX is badly dated.

Small numbers of Republican denarii are found on certain British sites. For these, Crawford's *Roman Republican Coinage* should be used.

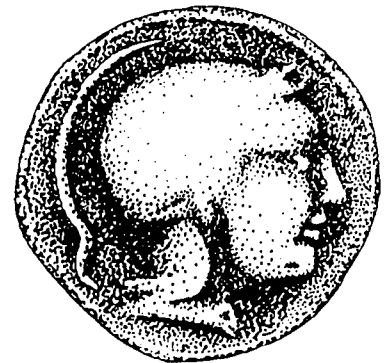
Identification can easily be undertaken by comparison with the full catalogue of illustration provided. In order to supplement the RIC catalogues the British Museum *Catalogue of Coins of the Roman Empire* contains far more illustrations. Unfortunately, these volumes only cover the years to AD 238, which accounts for a minor part of the coinage of Roman Britain. These basic, essential tools of the trade take up some three feet of library shelving and cost many hundreds of pounds to acquire.

The range of Roman coinage normally found in Britain is far more restricted than is suggested by the range of references available. For example, coins recovered from sites are almost exclusively restricted to copper/bronze/brass issues. Gold coins are rare in Britain and silver types are more common in hoards. Secondly, the coinage of Roman Britain can be separated into two main periods. The Augustan system prevailed from the Invasion of AD 43 until the 260s. That decade saw the final disappearance of the familiar denominations of that system and their replacement by large quantities of bronze coins, which often contained small quantities of silver. No single satisfactory currency system was subsequently devised to replace that of Augustus. The bulk of finds from British sites are base metal issues belonging to the years after 260.

A major part of a coin specialist's time will be spent separating and identifying later 'Roman bronze issues. Attempts to fully catalogue these will quickly run into difficulties. Large numbers of post 270 coins found on Romano-British sites are what is termed irregular. These contemporary imitations differ from the coinage struck at official mints in both subtle and more blatant respects. Only experience of handling Roman coins will allow the worker to distinguish these copies from the official types. There are no standard reference works against which to compare the



AE 3/4
VALENTINIAN
REV: SECVRITAS
REPUBLICA



REPUBLICAN
QUARTUNCIA
REV (NOT SHOWN)
GALLEY PROW/"ROMA"
R.M.A.T. COLLECTION

(INCIDENTAL ILLUSTRATIONS
BY M. TREVARTHAN)



SESTERTIUS FAUSTINA
JUNIOR
FROM GARE, FALMOUTH
HOARD IN ROYAL CORNWALL
MUSEUM, TRURO

imitations at present. The main epidemics, of the 270s-280s, the 340s, the 350s and 360s, are the subject of ongoing research, as are the first century Claudian imitations. At present, the most useful discussions are to be found in journals but a general reference is currently in preparation by this writer and others. For general consideration of these coin types, G. C. Boon's paper, 'Counterfeit coins in Roman Britain', in Casey and R. Reece (eds) *Coins and the archaeologist* should be consulted, together with the separate contributions in N. Crummy (ed) *Coins from Excavations at Colchester 1971-79*.

In conclusion, it can be said that identifying a fully legible, official, Roman coin can be achieved accurately with practice. Unfortunately, virtually all coins that come from Romano-British sites suffer from wear and abrasion. Only hoard coins tend to be found in uncirculated condition. The work of the specialist involves the identification of partly legible and illegible issues. Much of the coinage thought to be totally illegible by the non-specialist will be, at least, partly identifiable by the experienced worker - who will at least be able to narrow down the range of possibilities as to what it can or cannot be.

Having outlined a selection of the more useful reference works, a brief consideration must be given to the subsequent study of the information compiled. The interpretation of numismatic evidence has undergone great advancement in recent years. Much research in Britain concentrates on the more numerous later Roman coinage. David Walker's report *Roman Coins from the Sacred Spring at Bath* must therefore be strongly recommended, in which he has provided a standard model of the coinage in circulation within early Roman Britain. Other more general works to be recommended are *Coinage in the Roman World* by A. Burnett, *Understanding Ancient Coins* by Casey, J., *Coins and the archaeologist* edited by Casey, J., & Reece, R., and *Coinage in Roman Britain* by R. Reece.

This outline of the more useful books has necessarily been brief. A major difficulty that the less experienced worker will encounter will be finding adequate photographs with which to compare finds. For this purpose, auction catalogues can be a very useful source of comparison. Similarly *Spink Numismatic Circular* and *Seaby Coin and Medallion Bulletin* are profusely illustrated and often carry useful articles. Finally a most useful set of chronological and genealogical tables in the ring bound form has been prepared by David Sear, which is helpful both to the numismatist and the general Roman scholar alike.

Problem issues will turn up in many site assemblages. Hybrid issues, uncatalogued types, or perhaps Greek Imperial issues will occasionally be encountered. The regular coin worker will need to research beyond the basic bibliography cited here. Despite the wealth of literature available on this subject much past research has been

concentrated on precious metal coins and hoards. Much research still remains to be done on the low denominational coins which were the everyday coinage of Roman Britain.

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REVIEW

'The Finds of Roman Britain' by Guy de la Bedoyere
Batsford, London 1989, pages 242, figs 122, plates 27,
(ISBN 0 7134 6082 2 19.95).

The advent of a book which promises to fill a gap in the literature is to be welcomed, and it was with some anticipation that this writer looked forward to acquiring a volume devoted to the small finds from Roman Britain. The book has something to recommend it, but in the words of one of Evelyn Waugh's characters '...up to a point, Lord Copper'. Yes, it is a nicely bound hard back book, with a decent size of print on good paper, and most of the colour plates are a credit to the museums which supplied them. The layout of plans and drawings in relation to text is also nicely done. However there are some flaws which should be borne in mind. Firstly, the drawings are not quite up to the standard that one would expect in this type of *vade mecum*. For although they would be useful on excavation site catalogue cards, or in a museum accession register as an aide memoire, these sketches give little idea of the solidity and depth of the objects. Cross-sections of a few more items would help clarify their shape, especially for the beginner who has had little experience in the finds shed.

There are some statements which either within context or quoted separately make odd reading. For example, when talking about the Roman military dagger on p23 it is noted that 'It does not appear on Trajan's column but this may be because of an artistic convention in which the shield conceals the left side'. Curious: one had always assumed that the shield was carried on the left for protection and self defence. There are also some curious omissions in the bibliography. For example no standard catalogues of bronze vessels are listed, nor classic studies such as those by Willers 1900 and 1907, Radnoti 1938, or Eggers 1951 and 1955. Even if only the den Boesterd catalogue of the vessels in Museum Kam, Nijmegen, NL, published in 1956 had been listed and quoted, de la B would have been able to use it to identify the *patera* from Prickwillow, Isle of Ely, Cambs., shown on plate 7 as being a 'saucepan with bulging wall and flaring foot' otherwise known as a 'Godakertyp' *patera*. The engraved 'palisade' ornament below the rim indicates that it was probably made in Gaul, based on a Capuan type, and that it can be dated to the late first or second century AD, and not, *pace de la B.* made in Britain. Another caption, in this case referring to plate 13, describes the Coddendam, Suffolk, mirror box which is decorated with plaques in repousse, after the *orichalcum* issues of coinage from the mint of Lyons between AD 64 and 67. No, they are not medallions which decorate the box. No, the diameters of the two sections of the box are not 6.25cm, but were a maximum of 5.8cm when this writer first studied the piece in the early 1970s. No, the 'reverse' scene

but were a maximum of 5.8cm when this writer first studied the piece in the early 1970s. No, the 'reverse' scene with figures is not a sacrificial scene but shows an Adlocutio, with Nero haranguing a representative three legionaries, and has been published as such, first by John Gage in *Archaeologia* 27 (1838) 359-60, and by all subsequent commentators.

The note on p16 col a, which whilst referring to military finds presumably can be extended to all other classes of Romano-British material, states that '...emphasis is placed on the kind of evidence most commonly found in Britain'. In that case, I am highly surprised to find the huge Wroxeter mirror (dia 28.8cm, not 30cm, *pace de la B.*), of an extremely rare type, included amongst the 'commonly found' objects of Roman Britain. My records of this group for the whole of the Roman world at present consists of four complete examples and two stray handles. Perhaps the finds of more than fifty rectangular mirrors, and the forty or so hand mirrors, where the mirror disc is decorated with a border of countersunk holes, representing two of the most common types of Roman mirrors found in Britain, and elsewhere, are of insufficient merit to warrant attention?

In short, one would suggest that any student or young professional with £20 in hand would be better advised to spend the money on a good handful of books in the Shire Archaeology series, as these give a good basic introduction to a wide range of subjects, all with decent drawings, photographs, brief bibliography and list of useful museums to visit where finds can be studied at first hand.

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'Ancient Brooches and other artefacts' by Richard Hattatt. Oxford 1989 Oxbow Books (ISBN 0 946897 17 4 520 (30)).

This is the fourth volume documenting the brooches in Mr Hattatt's collection (details of the others will be found in the introductory bibliography to brooches in RFG Newsletter 1). Just over 220 brooches of Roman date are described, nearly all coming from British sites. The other brooches catalogued consist of 70 Anglo-Saxon examples and small numbers each of pre-Roman, Medieval and early Mediterranean forms. For the first time in this series, a selection of other artefacts is also published, again primarily of Roman date and from British sites, but including material from other areas and of different dates. As normal all of the artefacts are illustrated at full size and

Another new departure in this volume is the synthetic section which includes a visual catalogue of the brooches from this and other volumes. In just over 100 full-pages of figures, three quarters of which are devoted to Romano British types, all the brooches are grouped by type and illustrated at reduced scale. There are also bar charts which illustrate at a glance the date ranges of types and a synthesis of pennanular brooch typologies with accompanying distribution maps.

From this it will be apparent that the book is something of a miscellany. It will automatically be acquired by brooch and Roman small finds specialists, but the question arises whether it will be sufficiently useful to non-specialists to justify purchase. I think the answer is yes. They will find the visual catalogue of brooches invaluable, and for this feature alone the book deserves a place on the shelf of anyone who might ever be required to identify and date a Roman brooch. They will find much of value in the discussions of the brooches, but less in the sections on the other artefacts. Here a few additional references to standard works such as *The Thetford Treasure* Johns, C. & Potter, T. 1983, for spoon no 129 and to '*Soldiers and Settlers in Britain, fourth to fifth century*' (Hawkes S. C. and Dunning, G. C. *Med Arch* 5 1-71 1963) for the strap ends nos 107-8, would have been very helpful. Some of the dates advanced in this section should be treated with care.

The lack of a major published work of reference on brooches is a great gap in the literature on Romano British finds. Mr Hattatt's volumes help to rectify this major lacuna, and provide the most easily accesible survey of Romano British brooches available. We all owe him a considerable debt of gratitude. In the first place for collecting these brooches, the majority of which would probably have gone unrecorded; and in the second for writing the books and subsidizing their publication so that the collection is available to everyone.

Hilary Cool
16 Lady Bay Road
West Bridgeford
Nottingham

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Made in Britannia

Monday 25th February 1991

Conference to be held at The Museum of London. Evidence for a variety of craft and industries in Britain in the Roman Period.

Details from:

Hilary Cool,
16 Lady Bay Road,
West Bridgeford,
Nottingham.

Finds from the Imperial West

20 - 22nd September 1991

International weekend conference of the Roman Finds Group at Leicester University. Programme to be announced.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

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Ceramic Building Materials Consultant now available for the full recording and reporting of brick and tile. Could combine on-site finds processing with sampling and recording of brick and tile.

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ANY SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions, or letters for this Newsletter please contact the Editor;

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 Bedford, MK42 AG

JOURNAL OF ROMAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT STUDIES

The Roman Military Equipment Conference (ROMECC) has been meeting since 1983 and has had four of its five volumes of proceedings published by British Archaeological Reports, but in future contributions to the conferences will be appearing in the new *Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies*, along with other papers on the subject.

This is a new publication designed to provide a much-needed regular outlet for the important work being carried out in this modern and rapidly-developing field of scholarship. Its scope will be much wider than might at first be suggested by the title, however, for not only will articles dealing with the arms, armour and equipment of Roman armies from the rise of Rome to the fall of Byzantium be welcomed, but also papers that examine that of the enemies of Rome during this period, particularly if this has a direct bearing on the development of Roman equipment. Each volume of *JRMES* will have its own index.

Publication due January 1991

Apart from the annual journal, a series of monographs, including collections of material from specific sites or regions, is planned and these will be made available to subscribers at a reduced price.

Published twice a year (June and December), ARMA is the newsletter of the Roman Military Equipment Conference and includes short notes on new finds of equipment, requests for information, and a running bibliography of relevant articles and reports published since 1980. Annual subscription to ARMA is £3.50, including postage (UK first class, surface elsewhere) and packing.

Subscription to *JRMES* for 1990 is £25.00 (£20.00 to current subscribers to ARMA), although a special introductory offer price of £23.50 is available for a joint 1990 subscription to *JRMES* and ARMA (this offer applies only when no invoice is required).

Cheques or postal orders (in Sterling only, please) should be made payable to 'M.C. Bishop' and sent to: Dr M.C. Bishop, 36 Simpson Street, Crookhill, Ryton, Tyne & Wear, NE40 3EP, England

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- Roman military equipment on civil sites in Roman Dacia M. Dawson
- Dolphin scabbard runners Karen Ramsey Dixon
- Two Roman helmets from Eich, Alzey-Worms district Jürgen Oldenstein
- Ein Bruchstück eines neuen großartigen Helms aus einem Tempel im vicus Papcastle A.C.H. Olivier, C. Howard-Davis, & H. Quatremaine
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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