



Roman Britain in 2003

Author(s): B. C. Burnham, F. Hunter, A. P. Fitzpatrick, S. Worrell, M. W. C. Hassall and R. S. O. Tomlin

Reviewed work(s):

Source: *Britannia*, Vol. 35 (2004), pp. 253-349

Published by: [Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4128635>

Accessed: 29/11/2012 05:48

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Britannia*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

II. Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme

By SALLY WORRELL

INTRODUCTION

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is an initiative to record archaeological objects found by members of the general public. Pilot projects were established in September 1997: Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) were appointed in Kent, Norfolk, the West Midlands, North Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and the North-West. In January 1999 the Scheme was extended to Hampshire, Somerset and Dorset, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, and Wales. These initial phases were funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the British Museum, and local partners. With further funding from the HLF, DCMS, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, and sixty-three funding partners, the Scheme was expanded during 2003 to cover the whole of England and Wales.¹ The Scheme has additionally appointed four Finds Advisers to check the data recorded by, and provide expert support and training to, the liaison officers, to carry out academic research and to encourage wider use of the data as a research resource.

This report provides an overview of the Roman finds recorded by the PAS during 2003. Some general statistics are offered and preliminary results are outlined. For reasons given below, it is premature to place too much weight on the interpretation of these results. The overview is followed by details of some significant individual objects recorded in the same year.

OVERVIEW

The Scheme recorded a total of 21,658 finds on the database in 2003, 9,915 (45.8 per cent) of which date to the Roman period. Of these, 59 per cent of the finds of Roman date were discovered by metal-detector users. Many of these finds come from archaeological sites which have been damaged or eroded, usually by agriculture, potentially leaving these objects as the only surviving trace of past activity at a particular location. Table 1 shows the number of Roman finds recorded since the Scheme's introduction, subdivided into coins, other metal finds, and ceramics. The impact of the expansion of the Scheme during 2003 is clearly shown in the numbers of Roman finds recorded, despite some FLOs having spent only a very short time in post. The low figures for 2002 relative to previous years probably reflect the impact of the foot-and-mouth outbreak on metal-detecting.

Table 2 shows the numbers of Roman metallic artefacts reported by county (grouped by PAS region) for 2003. These figures are based on the PAS database, except for Norfolk where they do not represent the total number of artefacts recorded in 2003.² For convenience of presentation and to enable possible comparison with other datasets, the subdivision of artefacts by function is based on the scheme introduced by Crummy,³ with some modifications.

The table reveals a large disparity between counties in the numbers of artefacts recorded, but since the Scheme has been underway for varying periods of time in different regions, too much weight should not be placed on these statistics at this stage. The very high number of finds recorded from

¹ In April 2003 projects were established in Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Surrey, and Staffordshire/West Midlands, in August in Cornwall, Essex, Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, London, the North-East, Sussex, and Wiltshire, and in December in Berkshire/Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire, Devon, Gloucestershire/Avon, Herefordshire/Shropshire, Lancashire/Cumbria, and South/West Yorkshire.

² Owing to the very high number of artefacts presented for identification in Norfolk, only a proportion is currently available on the PAS database. Records of other artefacts are entered in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

³ N. Crummy, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2 (1983).

TABLE 1. ROMAN FINDS RECORDED SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

	Non- numismatic metal finds	Coins	Ceramic finds (sherd nos)	Total
1998	476	430	332	1238
1999	650	1858	317	2825
2000	1261	4720	1267	7248
2001	1471	4266	1801	7538
2002	740	2440	2276	5456
2003	1648	4389	3878	9915

Suffolk, for example, is in part a product of the long-standing relationships established between archaeologists and metal-detectorists. Also, the higher numbers of finds from eastern counties of England in general are likely to reflect the intensive character of arable agriculture in these areas and their consequent favouring by detectorists. However, the quantity of finds recorded from Lincolnshire (excluding North Lincolnshire) is particularly striking given the existence of the Scheme for only nine months in this area.

Coins are the most frequent Roman find recorded. There are, however, substantial disparities in the ratio of coins to other finds recorded between the counties. In those counties that have been covered by the PAS since 1999, the proportion of coins recorded in 2003 is higher than average (e.g. Hampshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Somerset/Dorset, Suffolk, and Warwickshire). This may reflect a changing pattern in reporting practice. Generally, well-preserved or unusual artefacts are initially perceived by detectorists as appropriate for recording, but over time many also report more commonplace finds, such as single base-metal coins. This trend is also clear in the changing ratio of coins to other metal finds expressed in Table 1.

Excluding single coins, items of personal adornment are the most frequent metal finds, among which brooches predominate (57.5 per cent). Given the caveats outlined above, it is premature to interpret disparities in the representation of different categories of artefacts between counties. Nevertheless, in the two largest samples, Suffolk and Lincolnshire, the ratio of brooches to other items of personal adornment is noticeably different, slightly less than 2:1 in the former and slightly less than 9:1 in the latter. Undoubtedly, the variation revealed between areas in numbers and types of artefacts must also, in part at least, reflect regional differences in the societies of Roman Britain. The PAS data will increasingly shed light on these regional differences complementing the evidence from archaeological fieldwork, coupled with a developing understanding of the character of metal-detected assemblages as an archaeological resource.

The entries below set out some of the highlights of the past year's discoveries recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers.⁴ Full details of the finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme can be obtained from the Scheme's central office,⁵ and there are full descriptions of finds on the PAS website: www.finds.org.uk. The figure in brackets associated with the following records is the PAS identifying find record.⁶

⁴ Throughout the year, staff at the British Museum, in particular Ralph Jackson, together with Martin Henig (Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford) have provided invaluable support in the identification of individual objects.

⁵ c/o Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG. Contact Dan Pett, Portable Antiquities Scheme (dpett@british-museum.ac.uk).

⁶ The geographical sequence here follows that set out in the 'Roman Britain in 20xx. I. Sites Explored' section of *Britannia*. Finds Liaison Officers have submitted reports which have been edited by the author.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF ROMAN METALLIC ARTEFACTS RECORDED IN 2003 BY COUNTY AND TYPE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Wales													
Glamorgan	20	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	15	42
Newport	13	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	18	39
Monmouth	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	57	71
Swansea	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Rhondha	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5
Caerphilly	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Powys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Flintshire	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5
Denbigh	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4
Wrexham	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	15
Pembroke	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Conwy	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gwynnedd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Anglesey	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
England													
Durham	29	12	11	2	-	1	-	6	3	-	3	3	70
Humbs.	41	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	166	213
E Riding	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	121	124
N Lincs.	9	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	47
N Yorks.	32	3	2	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	57	100
Northumbd	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	5	17
S Yorks.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	7
W Yorks.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Leics.	11	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	6	22
Lincs.	255	29	20	20	1	14	3	5	8	1	3	690	1049
Northants.	4	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	243	254
Notts.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7
Herefs.	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	25	32
Shrops.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Staffs.	10	1	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	45	61
Warwicks.	41	3	1	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	5	310	366
W Mids	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Worcs.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	16
Cheshire	10	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	22	41
Gt Manc.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Lancs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Merseyside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Norfolk	39	23	2	8	-	3	1	-	3	2	1	17	99
Suffolk	159	89	7	45	2	18	6	1	13	15	34	1131	1520
Cambs.	16	5	3	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	60	92
Essex	8	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	34	50

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Kent	27	6	1	8	1	3	-	-	3	1	3	158	211
Hants.	60	14	3	14	5	6	3	2	6	1	-	793	907
Herts.	6	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	19
Beds.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8
Bucks.	6	6	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	1	2	16	37
Berks.	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7
IOW	13	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	25
Oxon.	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Surrey	9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	35	46
Gt London	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10
Sussex	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	23
Somerset	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	61	72
Dorset	14	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	26	43
Glos.	18	5	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	44	74
Wilts.	22	9	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	89	131
Cornwall	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10
Total	948	242	60	131	14	55	22	19	58	23	76	4389	6037

- A. Brooches
- B. Other objects of dress and personal adornment
- C. Toilet and medical equipment
- D. Household utensils, furniture fittings, keys, weights, textile equipment
- E. Objects associated with written communication
- F. Objects associated with religious beliefs and practices
- G. Harness equipment
- H. First-century military equipment
- I. Studs/mounts
- J. Miscellaneous objects
- K. Objects of unknown/uncertain function
- L. Coins⁷

1. WALES

MONMOUTHSHIRE

(1) **Near Caerwent** (NMGW-2FC205).⁸ One of two copper-alloy vessel escutcheons recently recorded in South-East Wales. This example depicts a boar which is shown with the front legs (one missing) extending forward beneath the head. The snout is perforated through the sides, beneath a moulded tusk, presumably to house a ring for attachment to a handle. The eyes are moulded and lentoid in form. The raised crest carries incised and punched decoration depicting the hair. A V-shaped recess at the back presumably carried solder to attach the escutcheon to the vessel rim. The boar is similar to examples from Aldborough, N Yorks., Eastcheap, and 'London'⁹ and is closest in style, though more naturalistic, to that from Aldborough.

⁷ All single coin finds, excluding coin hoards. The latter will continue to be reported in the annual fieldwork summaries in *Britannia* ('Roman Britain in 20xx. I. Sites Explored').

⁸ Found by M. Connors. Record by M. Lodwick.

⁹ J. Foster, *Bronze Boar Figurines in Iron Age and Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Report 39 (1977), 21, fig. 11, pls X–XI.

NEWPORT

(2) **Kemmeys** (NMGW-DBBD23) (FIG. 1).¹⁰ A second escutcheon depicts an ox-head. The flaring snout is rounded with a delicate ring-and-dot design for the nostrils and an incised line for the mouth. The circular eyes, defined by incised concentric circles, protrude above the face. The ears project horizontally from the base of the converging horns. There are carefully moulded grooves at the front of the horns and the rear of the head, representing folds in the animal's skin. At the top of the head are the remains of a broken loop to hold a handle. The rear of the escutcheon is hollow in order to contain solder to attach the mount to a vessel. An incised line on the back marks the position of the top of the vessel. It is likely to date from the second to third century A.D.

A number of Roman ox-head escutcheons have been recovered from Wales, including examples from Dinorben (Conwy),¹¹ Welshpool (Powys),¹² Holyhead (Anglesey), and a hoard of five ox-head escutcheons and vessel mounts from the Great Orme, near Llandudno (Conwy).¹³

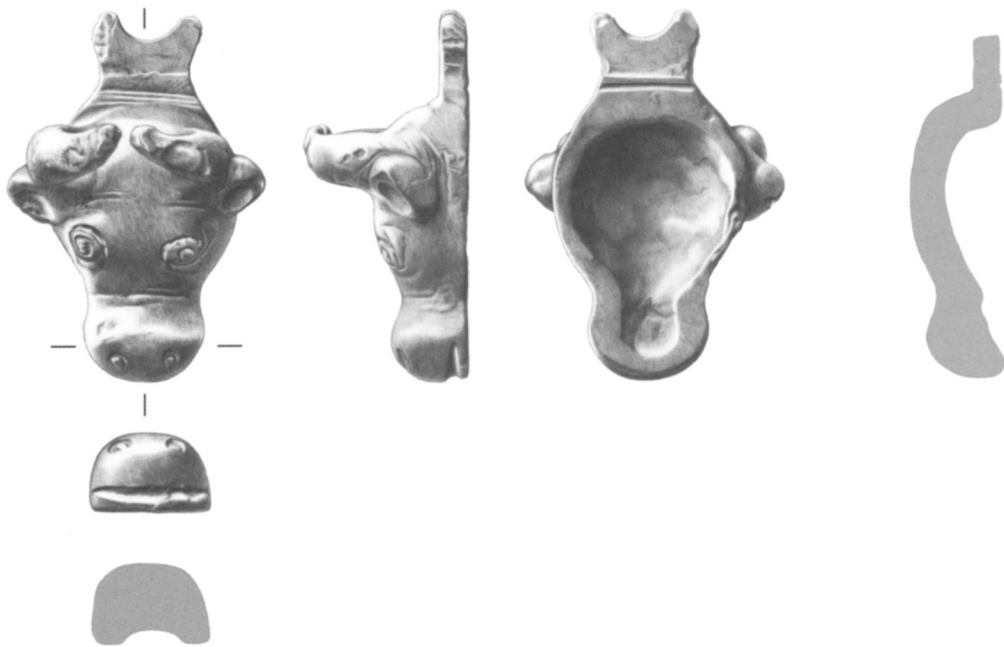


FIG. 1. Kemmeys, vessel escutcheon (No. 2). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by J. Chadwick; © National Museum and Gallery of Wales)

MONMOUTHSHIRE

(3) **Abergavenny** (NMGW-9A9D16) (FIG. 2).¹⁴ A Roman bronze cup or jug was found near Abergavenny in November 2002 and was promptly reported to Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

¹⁰ Found by P. Ronald. Record by M. Lodwick.

¹¹ W. Gardener and H.N. Savory, *Dinorben; a Hill-fort Occupied in Early Iron Age and Roman Times* (1964), 144–8.

¹² G.C. Boon, 'Roman antiquities at Welshpool', *Antiq. Journ.* 41 (1961), 25–6, pl. X.

¹³ R. Brewer, pers. comm.

¹⁴ Found by G. Mapp. Record by R. Brewer and M. Davis.

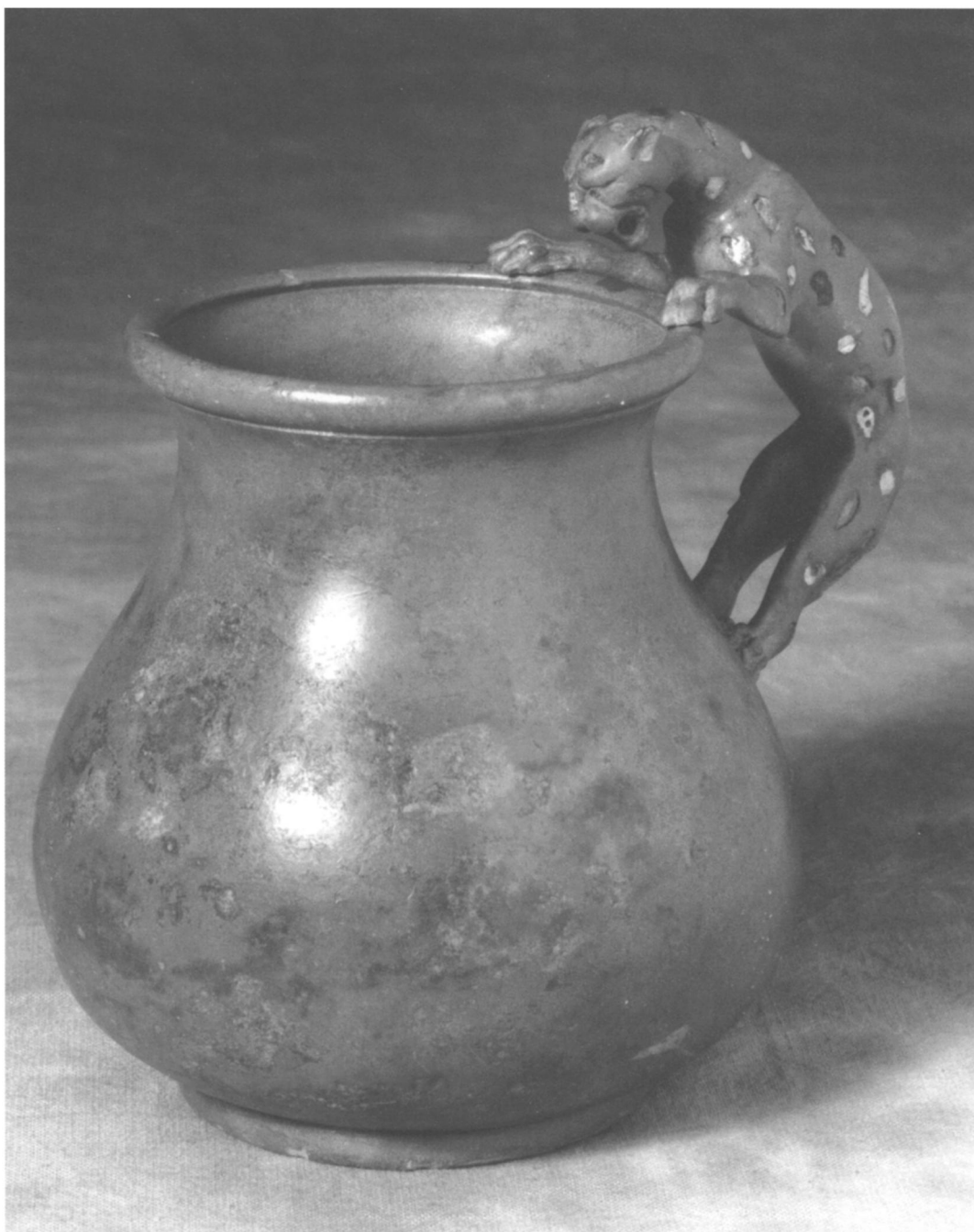


FIG. 2. Abergavenny, Leopard Cup (No. 3). (Photo: J. Wild; © National Museum and Gallery of Wales)

The find-spot was subsequently investigated by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and this revealed that the vessel had been placed upside down in a small pit containing a cremation (see p. 259).

The vessel, 95 mm in height, has a rounded body and a narrow mouth with a rim that has a slight internal lip. The base has concentric grooves and a foot-ring. The vessel was cast in a mould using leaded bronze and then finished on a lathe. Its handle, which had become detached in the ground, is in the form of a leopard. Made separately, it is an exceptional example of 'lost wax' casting. Much of the delicate detail carved on the original wax model remains preserved in the bronze leopard, including finely delineated features on the paws, ears, and face. Further work was undertaken on the finished casting: for example, the tail and canine teeth, originally cast thicker, were cut away to form finer features. The spots, chiselled out from the body after casting, are inlaid with silver. The leopard's eyes, measuring about a millimetre in diameter, were also inlaid, probably with amber to judge from the analysis of the remaining small traces of the inlay.

The form of the vessel can be closely paralleled with cups or jugs of the first century A.D. and the naturalistic form of the leopard also probably confirms an early date. The leopard handle can be paralleled elsewhere, for example at Pompeii¹⁵ and on an amphora in the Sevso treasure.¹⁶ In Britain, two silver handles, one a panther and the other a leopard, occur in the late fourth-century A.D. treasure at Traprain Law,¹⁷ while the late Roman Hoxne hoard contains a silver prancing tigress.¹⁸

The Abergavenny cremation burial, containing the vessel, is almost certainly part of a wider cemetery located close to the Roman road between Abergavenny and Kenchester. There are also indications that a settlement may exist within the vicinity of the findspot. The vessel has been acquired by the National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

2. ENGLAND

NORTHUMBERLAND

(4) **Corbridge** (NCL-393023) (FIG. 3).¹⁹ A Roman copper-alloy clasp-knife handle depicting a gladiator of the *secutor* class, with his characteristic equipment clearly rendered. He wears a crested helmet with small, circular eye-holes and stands behind a curved, rectangular shield with a central boss and incised decoration. His left hand is clenched and rests against the shield; it originally held a sword, which is now missing and is only apparent in a small vertical scar on the surface of the shield. His left arm is protected by thick, quilted padding, as are both legs. He appears to be wearing a loin cloth with a thick belt around the waist; his upper torso is bare and the musculature of the shoulders and back is well observed. The blade is missing, although fragments of iron survive in the slot. The position of this slot demonstrates that the cutting edge of the folding blade would have been accommodated along the gladiator's back.

Three other clasp-knife handles depicting the *secutor* are known from Britain: from South Shields,²⁰ Piddington,²¹ and one unprovenanced. Of these, the ivory example from South Shields

¹⁵ S. Reinach, *Répertoire de la statuaire grecque et romaine* (1909), II.2, 724–5.

¹⁶ L.P.B. Stefanelli, *L'argento dei Romani: vasellame da tavola e d'apparato* (1991), tav. 236.

¹⁷ A.O. Curle, *The Treasure of Traprain. A Scottish Hoard of Roman Silver Plate* (1923), 79–80, pl. 31.

¹⁸ R. Bland and C. Johns, *The Hoxne Treasure. An Illustrated Introduction* (1993), 24 top.

¹⁹ Found by divers B. Middlemass and R. Mitchinson. Record by P. Walton.

²⁰ L. Allason-Jones and R. Miket, *The Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort* (1984), 300, no. 6.2.

²¹ R. Friendship-Taylor and R. Jackson, 'A new Roman gladiator find from Piddington, Northants.', *Antiquity* 75 (2001), 27–8.

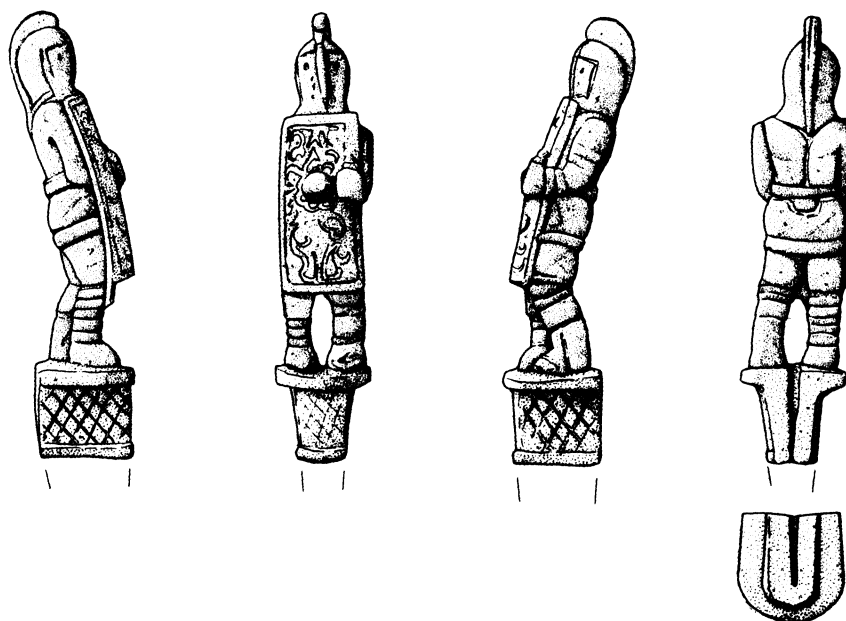


FIG. 3. Corbridge, clasp-knife handle (No. 4). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by and © M. Hoyle)

offers the closest parallel. Both show the *secutor* adopting a defensive stance, with the shield fully protecting his body. The distinctive position of the iron knife-blade along the gladiator's back is identical.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

(5) **Near Selby** (LVPL-D14396) (FIG. 4).²² An unusual copper-alloy mount in the form of a three-dimensional male figure. The poorly defined facial features include a possible moustache, a flattened nose, and shallow circular depressions for the eyes. There appears to be a neck-ring or collar and the torso is crossed by incised diagonal lines from each shoulder. The arms are outstretched and there is a large circular perforation through each hand. Transverse lines across the waist, thighs, and lower legs suggest that the figure is wearing trousers. The reverse of the figure is slightly concave. No excavated parallels are known, but a very similar mount, although in a more 'naïve' style, was found at Barmby Moor, East Riding of Yorkshire, in 1999 and was also recorded by the North-West FLO (LVPL-519).

LINCOLNSHIRE

(6) **Osbourneby** (LIN-2D8324) (FIG. 5).²³ A complete military horse-harness pendant (Bishop Type

²² Found by N. Wilson. Record by N. Herepath.

²³ Found by T. Camm. Record by A. Daubney.

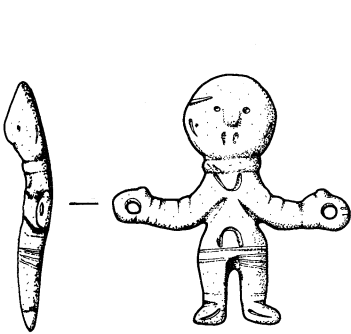


FIG. 4. Near Selby, mount (No. 5).
Scale 1:1.
(Drawn by and © S. White)

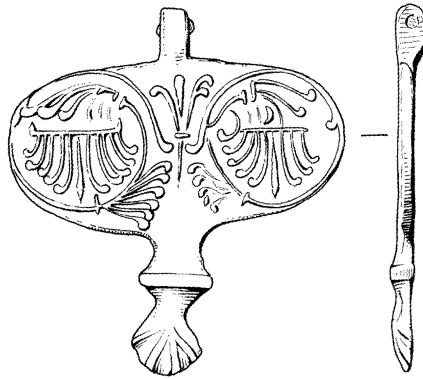


FIG. 5. Osbourneby, military harness pendant
(No. 6). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by D. Watt;
© Lincolnshire County Council)

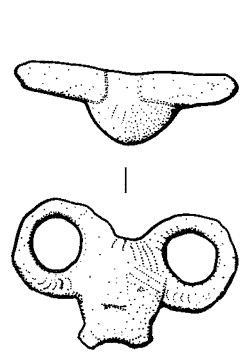


FIG. 6. Nether Whitacre,
strap-junction (No. 7).
Scale 1:1. (Drawn by A.
Bolton; © Birmingham
City Council)

2b²⁴), dating from the first century A.D. The copper-alloy pendant has a pierced lug with traces of an iron hinge, with which it would have been attached to a *phalera*. The winged body is oval and at the bottom there is a transverse moulding with a tapering projection, which ends in an incomplete scallop shell design. The front face is engraved with a symmetrical design of stylised leaves inlaid with niello, much of which survives. Other pendants with very similar decorative motifs are known from the Fremington Hagg hoard, North Yorks.;²⁵ examples of this type of pendant but lacking decoration have been found at Colchester.²⁶

WARWICKSHIRE

(7) **Nether Whitacre** (WAW-C477E6) (FIG. 6).²⁷ An incomplete and much abraded copper-alloy probable strap-junction. At the centre is a human head in relief, surrounded by the remains of three loops, the lower one now missing. The hair is defined by incised lines radiating from the crown of the head. There are two parallel, diagonal lines on the right-hand side of the head which may represent a type of head-wear. The left eye is represented by an incised lozenge, the nose has been damaged and a horizontal line, although abraded, probably represents the mouth. There are crescent-shaped grooves on the front face of the rings. The reverse of the head is slightly concave.

A similar example comes from Richborough, Kent,²⁸ and further strap-unions with three loops surrounding a human head have been recorded through the PAS from Campsey Ash, Suffolk (SF-4428F7), and Ludgershall, Wilts. (HAMP-2961). It is not possible at present to refine the dating of these artefacts beyond the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

²⁴ M.C. Bishop, 'Cavalry equipment of the Roman army in the first century A.D.', in J.C. Coulston (ed.), *Military Equipment and the Identity of Roman Soldiers. Proceedings of the Fourth Roman Military Equipment Conference*, British Archaeological Report Int. Ser. 394 (1988), 96, table 6, fig. 44.

²⁵ G.A. Webster, 'A hoard of Roman military equipment from Fremington Hagg', in R.M. Butler (ed.), *Soldier and Civilian in Roman Yorkshire* (1971), 109, no. 20, fig. 12.

²⁶ C.F.C. Hawkes and M.R. Hull, *Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavations at Colchester 1930-1939*, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiqs. 14 (1947), 339, no. 13, pl. CIII.

²⁷ Found by J. Stanfield. Record by A. Bolton and S. Worrell.

²⁸ J.P. Bushe-Fox, *First Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent*, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiqs. 7 (1926), 47, no. 29, pl. XV.

STAFFORDSHIRE

(8) **Near Ilam** (WMID-3FE965) (see frontispiece).²⁹ A fine copper-alloy pan (known as 'The Staffordshire Moorlands Pan') with an incised Latin inscription below the rim (see p. 344, No. 24) and elaborate decoration inlaid with coloured enamel.³⁰ The pan is incomplete, with the base and handle now missing, but the enamel in a range of colours is remarkably well preserved. The slightly out-turned rim has a rounded edge and an external diameter of 89.5 mm. There is a foot-ring, 54 mm in diameter, with an internal ledge onto which the base would have been soldered. To judge from other finds, the handle, now lost, would have been flat and bow-tie shaped and also inlaid with coloured enamel. There is a scar beneath the rim with solder marking where the handle was attached. The convex body is decorated with 'Celtic-style' motifs: curvilinear scrollwork made up of eight roundels in turquoise and blue enamel enclosing swirling six-armed whirligigs, inlaid with alternating yellow, red, and possibly purple enamel. The spaces left between the roundels are inlaid with red or turquoise enamel.

This pan is the third vessel to be discovered that bears the names of forts at the western end of Hadrian's Wall. The decoration on this vessel however differs from that on the 'Rudge Cup', and 'Amiens patera',³¹ for these are decorated with a stylised representation of the Wall, also in coloured enamel. Whereas these others have letters cast in relief against a background of enamel, the Moorlands Staffordshire pan was cast uninscribed, and then the names were incised and enamelled, probably at the same time as the rest of the vessel decoration.³²

HERTFORDSHIRE

(9) **Little Hadham** (BH-1DB7F2) (FIG. 7).³³ A copper-alloy toilet set with three implements intact. The rectangular hanger is decorated on the front with a panel of triangular recesses, inlaid with alternating red and blue enamel, which survives well in four of the recesses. A bar, attached between a pair of roughly circular pierced lugs, below the panel, holds a pair of undecorated tweezers, a broken nail-cleaner, and what is probably a broken ear-scoop. The nail-cleaner and probable ear-scoop have mouldings below the cast suspension loops. The suspension loop at the centre of the upper edge of the hanger is broken. A mid/late first- to second-century A.D. date has been suggested for examples of leaf-shaped nail-cleaners with mouldings such as this.³⁴ Sets of toilet implements are rare, but four complete or fragmentary sets have been found at Castleford.³⁵

NORFOLK

(10) **Shouldham** (FIG. 8).³⁶ A copper-alloy figurine of a standing cockerel on a small oval stand. The head is raised and turned slightly to the right and has dots for eyes, the tail is held aloft and the legs are joined. There are incised lines on the crest and tail. A deep circular hole on the back of the cockerel is flanked by two further shallow oblique depressions. All retain traces of corrosion, probably connected with a missing suspension loop. The cockerel is one of the attributes of Mercury and figurines of the cockerel, ram, or goat often accompanied the god.

²⁹ Found by K. Blackburn and J. Lee. Record by R. Jackson and S. Worrell.

³⁰ A preliminary report was published in *British Archaeology* in November 2003 (M. Pitts and S. Worrell, 'Dish fit for the gods', *British Archaeology* 73 (2003), 22–7).

³¹ J. Horsley, *Britannia Romana or the Roman Antiquities of Britain* (1732), N. 74; J. Heurgon, 'The Amiens patera', *JRS* 41 (1951), 22–4, pl. 3.

³² L. Allason-Jones, pers. comm.

³³ Found by C. Baigeant. Record by J. Watters.

³⁴ N. Crummy, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2 (1983), 58, no. 1872, fig. 62.

³⁵ H.E.M. Cool, 'Toilet and medical equipment', in H.E.M. Cool and C. Philo, *Roman Castleford; Excavations 1974–85. Volume 1. The Small Finds*, *Yorkshire Archaeology* 4 (1998), 86, nos 362–5, fig. 31.

³⁶ Found by R. Oakes. Record by S. Ashley.

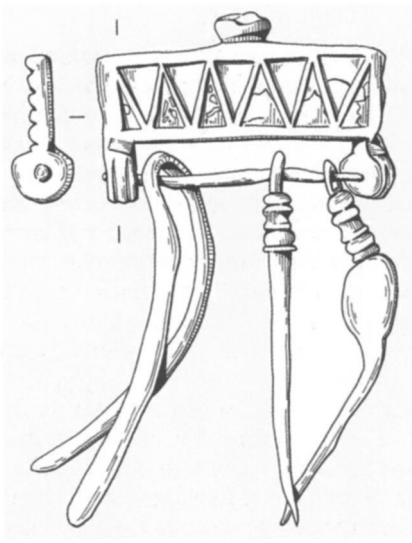


FIG. 7. Little Hadham, toilet set (No. 9). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by and © D. Watters)

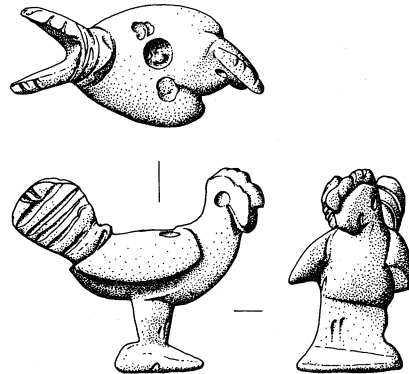


FIG. 8. Shouldham, figurine of a cockerel (No. 10). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by S. White; © S. White and Norfolk Landscape Archaeology)

(11) **Ditchingham** (FIG. 9).³⁷ A first- to second-century A.D. copper-alloy handle from a folding-knife. It comprises a finely modelled, hollow-cast handle in the form of a charging boar, with a prominent crest, ears, eyes and tusks, raised front legs, and engraved details emphasising features and indicating hair. The rear end of the beast is missing. There is a slot along the underside of the handle to receive an iron blade (now lost) when folded, the hinge for which was presumably at the missing end of the boar. Surviving length 50 mm; height 29 mm.

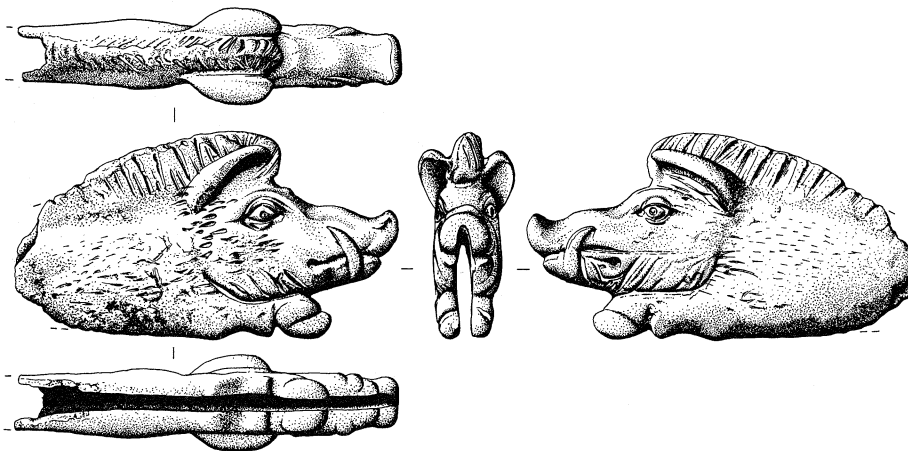


FIG. 9. Ditchingham, folding-knife handle (No. 11). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by S. White; © S. White and Norfolk Landscape Archaeology)

³⁷ Found by F. Crickmore. Record by S. Ashley.

SUFFOLK

(12) **Thorndon** (SF 10636) (FIG. 10).³⁸ A copper-alloy mount in the form of a female head. The woman's face has oval eyes with a circular indentation at their centre, a large nose juts out, and the mouth, with prominent lips, is open. An elaborate, almost triangular head-dress projects forward over the face and bears two rows of longitudinal grooves. The lower row of grooves terminates in circular indentations. Her hair is swept back either side of the face. There is a circular perforation on either side of the face, below the hair. Oval-shaped lobes, with a circular indentation in the centre, may represent the ears and ear-rings. The back of the mount is undecorated and hollow. The shape and form of the object and the attachment holes may imply that it adorned a wooden casket or jewellery box.

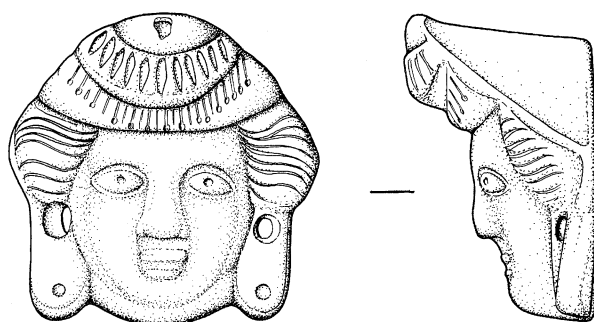


FIG. 10. Thorndon, mount (No. 12). Scale 1:1
(Drawn by D. Wreathall; © Suffolk County Council)

(13) **Winston** (SF-FCE4E4) (FIG. 11).³⁹ A cast copper-alloy bust of Minerva, depicted emerging from a calyx. Minerva wears a tall helmet with a central crest, part of which is missing. Her long,

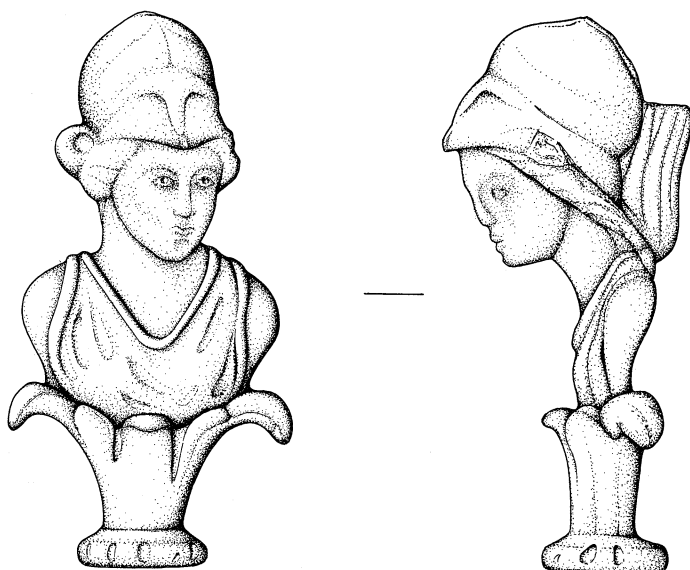


FIG. 11. Winston, Minerva bust
(No. 13). Scale 1:1.
(Drawn by D. Wreathall;
© Suffolk County Council)

³⁸ Found by S. Smalley. Record by F. Minter.

³⁹ Found by G. Stribling. Record by F. Minter.

tied-back hair emerges under the side edges of the helmet. Her facial features are clearly indicated with incised eyes, a projecting nose, and a thin mouth. She is wearing a loose chiton from which her bare shoulders protrude. The back of the bust is slightly concave and undecorated. The calyx, from which Minerva emerges, has two large side petals and one smaller central petal, the tips of which curve over and taper to a point. It stands on a circular base with a diameter of 17 mm. It is likely that this mount had an ornamental, rather than votive or religious function.

(14) **Hacheston** (ESS-525992) (FIG. 12).⁴⁰ A copper-alloy handle in the form of the goddess Minerva. The fully draped figure wears a crested helmet and the familiar breastplate or aegis associated with Minerva, but in this instance the latter does not show the head of Medusa. Her left arm is by her side and would probably have rested upon a now missing shield, whilst her right arm is raised to hold a spear which is also missing. The spear and shield must have rested on the plinth. The remains of a copper-alloy tang suggest that this is the handle of an implement, perhaps a knife. The figure is crudely rendered. The body parts are not in proportion, the head is hairless, and the eyes are lentoid. These features may indicate Romano-British manufacture in the 'native' style in the mid-first century A.D. A similarly crude bust of Minerva was found in Hambleton, North Yorks.⁴¹ The handle has been acquired by Ipswich Museum.



FIG. 12. Hacheston, Minerva 'knife handle' (No. 14). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by I. Bell; © Essex County Council)

⁴⁰ Found by P. Mullinger. Record by C. McDonald.

⁴¹ M. Henig, 'The handle of a toilet-knife in the form of a bust of Minerva from the North Yorkshire Moors', *Britannia* 28 (1997), 353.

(15) **Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet** (SF-170D83) (FIG. 13).⁴² An incomplete copper-alloy crest-holder from a Roman legionary helmet of the 'Coolus' type, dating from the first century A.D. The complete conical terminal has a base diameter of 26 mm and a height of 25 mm, and there is a central rectangular slot across the top. The tip of the holder bears two opposing circular perforations, measuring 3 mm in diameter. Below these are a number of transverse grooves, which appear to have been caused by wear. The conical terminal is waisted and there is a flared hollow base, which is now broken. This base, 18 mm in diameter, would originally have been soldered to the bronze helmet. A similar example is known from Chichester.⁴³

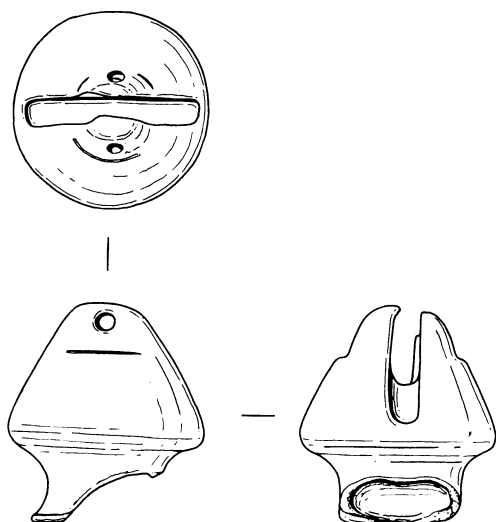


FIG. 13. Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, legionary helmet crest-holder (No. 15). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by D. Wreathall; © Suffolk County Council)

WILTSHIRE

(16) **Bishopstone** (WILT-ECCBB4) (FIG. 14).⁴⁴ The head of a copper-alloy figurine representing Jupiter. It is hollow-cast and there is an ancient break at the top of the neck. The head is crowned with a prominent laurel wreath tied low at the back of the head. The features are quite fine, although rather worn; the eyes are oval, the nose delicate, and the mouth slightly open. A moustache curls downwards to join the full beard which has prominent curls. The back of the head is smooth.

HAMPSHIRE

(17) **Bishopstoke** (FASW-A3A4D7) (FIG. 15).⁴⁵ A copper-alloy and iron razor with the handle in the form of the head and neck of a griffin. Its head is turned backwards, the ears are pricked forwards, and the eyes are depicted by a horizontal line within an elongated oval moulding. The nose curves downwards and its tip tapers to a rounded end. The neck is decorated with slightly irregular

⁴² Found by S. Garrod. Record by F. Minter.

⁴³ M.C. Bishop and J.C. Coulston, *Roman Military Equipment from the Punic Wars to the Fall of Rome* (1993), 94–5, no. 2, fig. 58.

⁴⁴ Found by Mr and Mrs L. Duffield. Record by K. Hinds.

⁴⁵ Found by N. Horn. Record by S. Worrell.

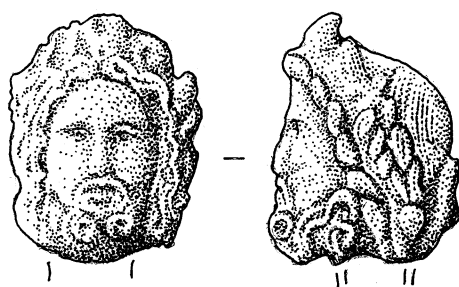


FIG. 14. Bishopstone, head of a figurine representing Jupiter (No. 16). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by N. Griffiths: © N. Griffiths and Wilts. Archaeological and Natural History Society)

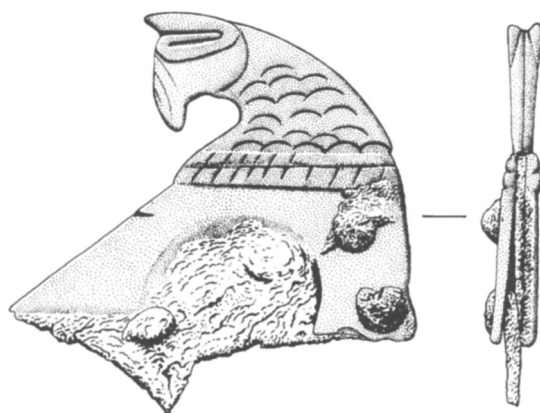


FIG. 15. Bishopstone, razor handle in the form of the neck and head of a griffin (No. 17). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by A. Cracknell: © Winchester Museums Service)

transverse stamped convex lines, many of which conjoin. Below the neck are two closely-set transverse mouldings which are decorated with oblique lines. Both sides of the handle are decorated in the same manner. There is a semi-circular cut-away to accommodate the iron blade, only a small part of which survives. The handle was secured by two iron rivets with domed heads, on one side. A very similar, but complete example from Naron, Dalmatia, and now in the Ashmolean Museum, has a double-edged triangular blade,⁴⁶ and there is another similar example from Canterbury.⁴⁷ Though not a common form of razor handle, two examples with griffin heads have also been recorded through the PAS from Lissington, Lincs. (LIN-F3CA92) and Blankney, Lincs. (LIN-0BB044). These are more stylised than the Bishopstone example and no surface decoration survives.

(18) **Upham** (HAMP 3317) (FIG. 16).⁴⁸ A copper-alloy rivet spur which is substantially complete, although the pointed iron prick, the terminal of one arm, and the hook are missing. The intact arm terminates in a disc with three short oblique incised lines around its edge and a copper-alloy rivet through its centre. The two arms are of different lengths, with the right arm shorter than the left. This feature would have turned the prick to the right and suggests that this spur would have been worn on the left foot. Above and below the prick are short bifurcated projections and the hook projects from the centre. The hook is incomplete and its tip is missing. This is the second prick spur recorded through the PAS in Hampshire. The other, from Kimpton, has longer bifurcated projections above and below the missing iron prick and the hook terminates in an animal's head (HAMP-567). Both are similar in form to two late fourth-century A.D. examples from Clausentum⁴⁹ and three from Lincolnshire.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ G.C. Boon, 'Tonsor humanus: razor and toilet-knife in antiquity', *Britannia* 22 (1991), 25, fig. 3f.

⁴⁷ S.S. Frere and S. Stow, *Excavations in the St. George's Street and Burgate Street Areas*, *The Archaeology of Canterbury* 7 (1983), 333–4.

⁴⁸ Found by L. Bunyan. Record by S. Worrell.

⁴⁹ M.A. Cotton and P.W. Gathercole, *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton 1951–1954* (1958), 45, nos 6–7, fig. 12.

⁵⁰ K. Leahy, 'Three Roman rivet spurs from Lincolnshire', *Antiq. Journ.* 76 (1996), 237–40.

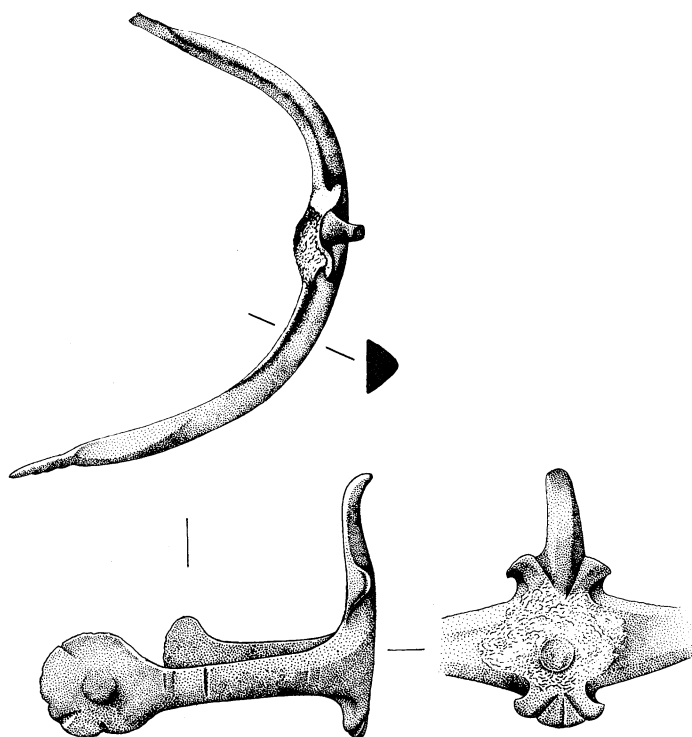


FIG. 16. Upham, rivet spur (No. 18). Scale 2:3. (Drawn by A. Cracknell; © Winchester Museums Service)

ISLE OF WIGHT

(19) **Newchurch** (IOW-D68314) (FIG. 17).⁵¹ A copper-alloy fish brooch, possibly representing a salmon. This is the first Roman fish brooch to have been recorded from the Isle of Wight. Cells, originally enamelled, on the head represent a large circular eye and a gill. The body is decorated with three chevron-shaped recessed cells, containing traces of red enamel, which represent scales. At the top and bottom of the body there is a curvilinear cell which extends from the gill area to the tail and which contains traces of ?green enamel. Dorsal fins protrude from the top and bottom of the body. It would appear that the brooch has been deliberately bent in order to emulate a swimming movement. Similar fish brooches have recently been recorded through the PAS from Ashwell, Herts. (BH-DE79D7) and Piercebridge, Co. Durham (NCL-36DF13).

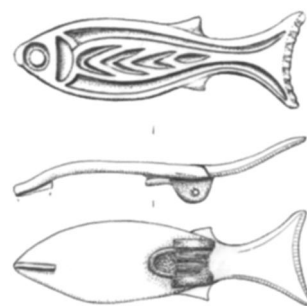


FIG. 17. Newchurch, fish brooch (No. 19). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by and © F. Basford)

⁵¹ Found by D. Holmes. Record by F. Basford.

BERKSHIRE

(20) **East Ilsley** (BUC-544E73) (FIG. 18).⁵² A copper-alloy figure, probably part of a pin. The head and torso of a female may represent Venus, in a very provincial style.⁵³ The figure is apparently naked, although oblique incised lines at the hips may represent drapery. The chest is flat, but the breasts are well-defined by dot-in-ring motifs. The right hand rests on the hip, the left hand is positioned towards the stomach. The figure appears to be wearing a neck-ring and a bracelet around her right wrist. The hair is defined by incised oblique lines and a plait is arranged around the head. A crest, with a circular suspension loop, extends from the centre of the head behind the plait to the nape of the neck. The distinctive position of the hands is reminiscent of that on the female figure depicted on the bone plaque from Lydney, Glos.⁵⁴

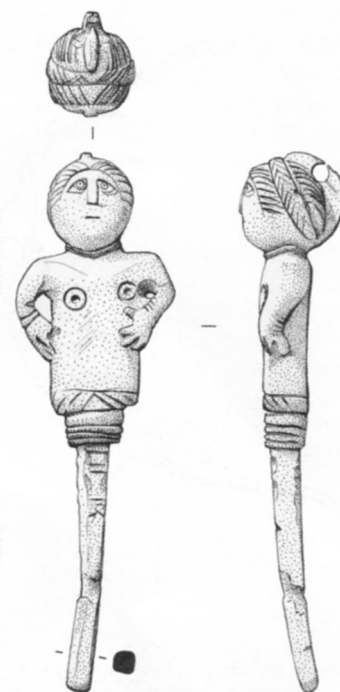


FIG. 18. East Ilsley, ?pin with a figurative head (No. 20). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by and © D. Williams)

SURREY

(21) **Ashtead** (SUR-CDD082) (FIG. 19).⁵⁵ A copper-alloy knife handle terminating in a crudely-worked animal head, probably of a feline. The head emerges from a grooved moulding, below which the shaft of the handle is decorated with two bands of incised lozenges with dots at their junctions. The lower end tapers to a slot for the blade. A similar handle, with the shaft also decorated with spots, with the iron blade intact, was recovered from the bed of the Walbrook in London, but has a head resembling that of a dog. It is dated to the first to second century A.D.⁵⁶

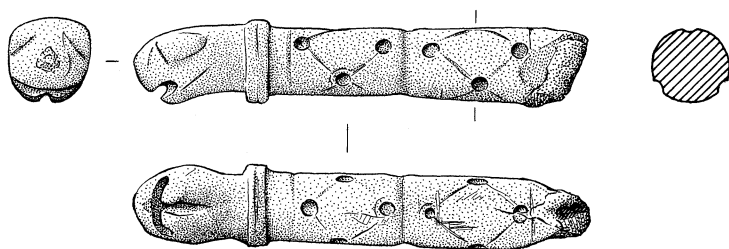


FIG. 19. Ashtead, knife handle (No. 21). Scale 1:1. (Drawn by and © D. Williams)

⁵² Found by D. Tombs. Record by R. Tyrrell.

⁵³ M. Henig, pers. comm.

⁵⁴ R.E.M. Wheeler and T.V. Wheeler, *Report of the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Site in Lydney Park, Gloucestershire*, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiqs. 9 (1932), 89 no. 122, pl. XXVI.

⁵⁵ Found by N. Green. Record by J. Bird.

⁵⁶ W.H. Manning, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum* (1985), 110, pl. 53, Q3.

KENT

(22) **Chislet** (KENT-6E5FE6).⁵⁷ A fragmentary copper-alloy jug and fragments of two copper-alloy bowls. The body of the jug has undergone severe plough damage, but the handle, with an escutcheon depicting a cherub's head, is complete. Excavation of the find-spot revealed that the jug had been placed upright in a shallow pit. Nearby were two other pits, one of which contained a copper-alloy dish inside the remains of a wooden box, the other a Dressel 20 amphora. The box, which was heavily truncated by the plough, contained burnt material, but no bone. Fragments of cremated human bone were present within the amphora. It is not clear how the jug, or the other vessels, related to either the amphora or the box and dish. It is possible that they were deposited as accessory vessels with the likely cremation contained in the wooden box with the dish. The amphora may have formed part of the same burial, or may represent a later burial. All of the finds, including an enamelled disc brooch, are suggestive of a first- to second-century A.D. date. The objects have been donated to Canterbury Museum.

*Portable Antiquities Scheme, Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY
s.worrell@ucl.ac.uk*

This paper is published with the aid of a grant from the Portable Antiquities Scheme

⁵⁷ Found by G. Healy and N. Goodman. Record by A. Richardson.