



The Institute for Archaeologists

## **Finds Group Newsletter Autumn 2012**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Finds Group newsletter. I hope you find something of interest. We have the usual mix of training/CPD, finds news, publications, plus a request for information on why horses' heads were thrown onto a bonfire!

The Finds SIG & York Archaeological Trust will be hosting a Day School/Seminar/Conference on "New research on organic finds from archaeological sites" on 20 March, to be held at the Department of Archaeology, Kings Manor, York (15 minutes walk from York station in the heart of the City). Speakers will include: Dr Sonia O'Connor on bone and ivory objects, Dr Allan Hall on objects of vegetable origin, Dr Andrew Birley on finds from Vindolanda and several PhD students experimenting with bird eggshell, decaying wood, wool & parchment. The University of York are kindly sponsoring this event and costs will be kept to a minimum. If you are interested in attending please email Andrew Jones: [bone@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:bone@yorkat.co.uk)

In September this year the Roman Finds world lost specialist Dr Glenys Lloyd-Morgan. Our condolences go out to her family and friends. A brief tribute to Glenys by Margaret Ward is on page 13.

As ever, if you wish to comment on any issue in this newsletter, or have suitable material for publication in the Spring 2013 edition, please get in touch. My contact details are on the back page.

**Stephen Brunning - Editor**

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### **University Day School**

From Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards: The Archaeology of Money. A Canterbury Christ Church University Saturday day school will be held at its Salomons Campus, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on 23 March 2013, 11am to 5pm. Tutor: David Rudling. This day school will explore aspects of the long history of money and coinage from prehistoric to modern times, especially 'primitive money', Greek and Roman coinages, and the coinage of England. Well illustrated with some opportunities to handle real examples. Fee £25. Contact: [www.canterbury.ac.uk/community-arts-education](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/community-arts-education); Tel. 01227 863451 (Monday-Friday 9.30am-2.30pm), Email: [education.communityarts@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:education.communityarts@canterbury.ac.uk)

## **Samian5: A Fabulous Free Font For All Who Study Samian, or Edit the Reports!**

**By Jo Mills**

The last five years have seen the publication of what has been known until now as the *Leeds Index of Samian Stamps*. In nine beautiful volumes *Names on Terra Sigillata* (Hartley and Dickinson 2008a, b, c, 2009a, b, 2010, 2011a, b, 2012) is the culmination of at least 50 years of study. Here at last, for all to see are samian potters Abalanis to Ximus named, numbered, catalogued, illustrated, discussed, and, dated. Many unit libraries now own these volumes and finds and field archaeologists alike will be pleased to be able to identify and date at least some of their stamps relatively easily. What many are not aware of, however, is the font of special glyphs (as those oddly ligatured letters, leaves, phalli and reversed letters are collectively known) which has been developed as part of the publication process.

For years samian potters stamp reports have been submitted to the commissioning units with blanks in the typescript dutifully filled in with red biro. For, until now, the reproduction of the readings of the stamps has not been possible using typewriter, or any brand of computer or word processing package. It was always intended by the authors that these special letters and symbols should be filled in as directed by the printer. Sometimes this happened; sometimes ligatured letters were underlined; and unfortunately sometimes the readings were published with gaps in!

Now, thanks to the hard work and skill of Paul Tyers, in association with the authors of *Names on Terra Sigillata*, a new font exists which contains them all, reverse letters, peculiar ligatures, the lot. What is even better news is that this is available to everyone free of charge. It came as a shock to me recently to find that not only were some Project and Publication Managers not aware of this font, but that the font had slipped, un-noticed, past some Roman Pottery Specialists and Finds Managers too.

Samian5 is a free font. It is available to download from this link:

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/samian5/>

It needs to be installed on every computer which will be used for writing or reading Samian Potters' Stamp reports including your publishers'. Once done you will be able to write and read full readings of complex potters stamps, and never again will you open a report to find that it contains small open squares instead of letters. Many thanks to Paul Tyers for his hard work in creating it and also Brian Hartley and Brenda Dickinson for the years, nay, decades spent collecting, collating, deciphering, dating and generally getting to know hundreds of potters and their dies so that we can date our sites more closely and further the study of Roman Britain!

### **References:**

Hartley, B.R. and Dickinson, B.M. 2008a. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 1 (A to AXO)* (*Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-01*. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

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Hartley, B.R. and Dickinson, B.M. 2008c. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 3 (CERTAINUS to EXSOBANO)*. (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-03. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B.M., 2009a. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 4 (F to KLUM)* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-04. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R. and Dickinson, B.M. 2009b. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 5 (L to MASCLUS I)*. (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-05. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B.M., 2010. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 6 (MASCLUS I- BALBINUS to OXITTUS)* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-06. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B.M., 2011a. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 7 (P to RXEAD)* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-07. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B.M., 2011b. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 8 (S to SYMPHORUS)* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-08. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

Hartley, B.R., and Dickinson, B.M., 2012. *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' stamps and signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware). Volume 9 (T to XIMUS)* (Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies Supplement 102-09. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London.)

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### **Gaming pieces? Help with identification please!**

**By Talla Hopper**

The finds on these photographs come from a small site at Rodbourne just south of Malmesbury, Wiltshire. The photos show the front and back of six sherds of re-utilised Roman pottery. The initial response from most archaeologists to the question "What are they?" has been "gaming pieces" but, apart from the possible domino piece (object 607), I

have been unable to find out what game they would be used for so any help in identification would be appreciated. I'd also like to know if anyone has come across any similar objects.

Some background information: the site has two main phases, but with some sparse, abraded, residual Roman pottery present. The first phase dates from c1000-c1400 and probably relates to a small grange belonging to Malmesbury Abbey. The finds include a number of high status glazed pitchers and jugs. Other signs of high status include fine structural stone and indications that horses were kept on the site. The second phase runs from c1625-c1830 and relates to a farmhouse which was demolished by the latter date. The finds indicate a fairly prosperous farmer, rather than a labourer's house or manor house. So far I have assumed that the "gaming pieces" are from the medieval period.

The most obvious thing about the "gaming pieces" is that they are all fashioned from Roman pottery. This is probably because of the superior fabric of Roman pottery, but there may also be some underlying symbolic factors behind the choice. The most intriguing piece is object 55 which has what appears to be an arrow scratched on one side and an elongated figure 8 on the other. To support the gaming pieces theory some lead tokens or seals had been re-utilised with stamped 'dots' indicating number one to six, similar to dice numbers; others are scored with an 'X'.

Any help with identifying these enigmatic finds would be much appreciated. I can supply further information about the site if required. Please get in touch with me at [tallahopper@gmail.com](mailto:tallahopper@gmail.com).





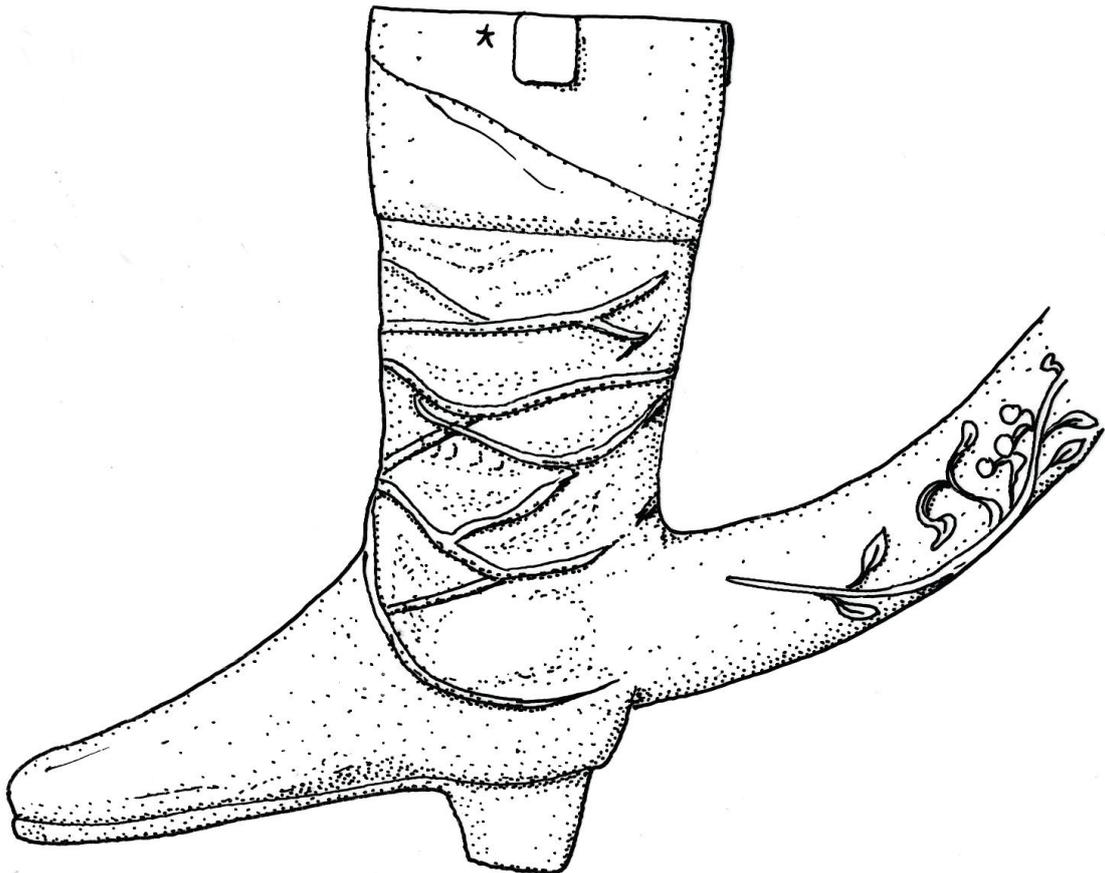
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**Clay Tobacco Pipe from Excavations at Harper Road, Southwark.**

**By Melissa Melikian**

AOC Archaeology undertook a series of archaeological investigations at Harper Road, (Symington House), London Borough of Southwark on behalf of RPS Planning and Development, Lovell Partnership Limited and developer, Family Mosaic Housing.

As well as earlier features, a series of post-medieval wells and soakaways were excavated which contained a large assemblage of clay tobacco pipe. The majority of the assemblage was dated to 1820-1860. All of the pipe bowls are of typical London form. One specific pipe was in the shape of a boot with the remainders of a foliage decorated stem. The foliage decoration is more in keeping with a London pipe which suggests this is likely the place of production (Raemen 2012.). However, the shape of a boot is highly unusual and believed to represent journeyman's masterpieces, often ending their lives as curiosities in tobacconists' windows. Their peak period appears to have been between 1775 and 1860. Although lacking makers' marks, it is interesting to note that the Williams family of Kent Street (now Tabard Street) was well known for their coiled and knotted pipes (Tatman 1994, 36).



## References:

Raemen E, 2012. Clay Tobacco Pipe, In AOC Archaeology, Harper Road (Symington House) London Borough of Southwark: A Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Tatman C. A. 1994 The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe. XIII The Clay Tobacco Pipe Industry in the Parish of Newington, Southwark, London, BAR 239, Oxford.

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## Identifying worked ochre from Late Mesolithic sites.

By Ann Clarke

A large assemblage of ochre found during excavation of the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic sites at Stainton West, Carlisle by Oxford Archaeology North is currently undergoing post-excavation analysis. The size of the collection is partly a consequence of the comprehensive finds retrieval strategy over a large area (100% wet-sieving of c.900 square metres) as well as the identification of ochre in the sorting residues during post excavation. However, good post-deposition survival of this material, together with its apparently common use during the Mesolithic occupations must also contribute to its frequency on site.

The ochre survives in various forms the most numerous of which are the small crumbs and fragments of less than 10mm in dimension and less than 1g in weight which together form two-thirds of the total collection (445 pieces). Pieces larger than this fall into three categories: worked lumps – those with visible traces of working usually in the form of grooves, striations or concave faces (see photograph); angular fragments – broken pieces of usually hard ochre; and rounded lumps – lumps with rounded faces and edges; ochre in the latter two groups did not bear visible wear traces. Lumps that had been clearly worked number some 50 pieces or 8% of the total collection.

The ochre is scattered across the site but with the greatest concentrations of larger fragments and worked pieces in the southern half of the area. Within this there are groupings of ochre which may highlight discrete working areas. Many uses have been ascribed to ochre: as a pigment; a binding agent; in hide preparation; as medicine; and of course its association with burials throughout the Palaeolithic and Early Mesolithic. However, there is seldom any clear link demonstrated between the presence of ochre and other artefacts and activities recorded on sites. Oxford Archaeology has initiated a program of use wear analysis of the flaked lithics by Bradford University together with a technological and spatial analysis of lithics across the site and information from this is likely to go some way to explaining just how the ochre was used here.

One or two worked lumps of ochre and haematite are known from Mesolithic sites at Sand, Skye; Morton, Fife; Oronsay, Argyll; Musselburgh, East Lothian; and Flixton, N Yorkshire and whilst there was reference to a larger collection of ochreous material from within the structure at Howick, Northumberland there was no mention of wear traces on any of the pieces. It is clear that ochre is present at sites across a wide geographical area though the assemblages are usually quite small. I would be interested to hear of reports of worked ochre from other prehistoric sites in Britain and Ireland to put the Stainton West material in a wider context.

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*Examples of worked ochre from Stainton West, Carlisle*

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## **Urban Archaeology finds factsheets.**

**By Chiz Harward**

Urban Archaeology is planning a new series of illustrated factsheets on common London artefacts and has submitted an application for a grant to cover the cost of research, writing and production.

The factsheets will be illustrated 'spotter's guides' to each class of find, with a brief text on the artefact class, illustrated examples, common identification features, date ranges, and further reading. The information will be pitched at a level suitable for both professional Diggers and the interested amateur archaeologist or student. The factsheets will be published online as free pdf downloads and will be available as A2 posters and as A4 factsheets. Work on the initial series of factsheets will be completed next year, with planned factsheets including London clay tobacco pipes, medieval and post-medieval pottery, and ceramic building material.

Urban Archaeology believes that these factsheets will help archaeologists in the basic identification of artefacts, will expand their knowledge of those finds, and will hopefully encourage further interest in finds and their study. The factsheets will hopefully prove invaluable to a wide range of archaeologists, from Diggers wanting to know more about the artefacts they are digging up, to members of the public eager to identify finds seen on the Thames Foreshore. The publication of the factsheets on the web will mean that they can be accessed at the point of need, via a smartphone or computer, as well as printed out for display in site huts, processing areas, for use as training and educational material, and for individual use. Urban Archaeology plans to expand the series over the coming years and hopes to develop factsheets on a broad range of archaeological subjects.

Urban Archaeology has a proven track record in producing [illustrated factsheets](#), producing a varied range covering formation processes, finds, excavation and post-excavation methods. These original Urban Archaeology factsheets will be updated and republished as part of the new series. Urban Archaeology also created a series of similar [illustrated factsheets](#) on common foreshore monuments for the [Thames Discovery Programme](#). The TDP factsheets have been downloaded over 3,800 times so far, demonstrating both the

appetite and need for training resources, and the suitability of web publication for their dissemination.

Urban Archaeology would welcome contact from any finds specialists (or other archaeologists!) who would be interested in contributing to, or commenting on the series, please contact Chiz Harward via email at [chiz@urban-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:chiz@urban-archaeology.co.uk).

## Urban Archaeology

...define, record, remove...

### Factsheet No 3 London Clay Tobacco Pipes

Clay tobacco pipes (CTP) are a ubiquitous find on post-medieval sites in London. Tobacco was originally taken as snuff in Europe, however by 1580 pipes made of white clay or kaolin were increasingly used. They were produced in bulk from 1580 to c.1910, and were latterly controlled by a guild in London. Regional variations existed with major production centres in London and Bristol as well as local production sites. The pipes were produced in moulds and then trimmed and finished by hand.

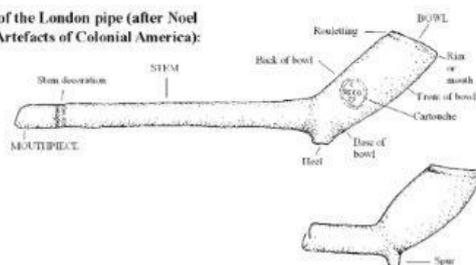
The size and shape of the pipe changes over time and the pipes are therefore an extremely valuable dating material, as well as being of intrinsic interest. The increasing size of the bowl has been ascribed to falling tobacco prices after 1620, at the same time stems often increased in length.

The maker's initials or an emblem was often moulded or stamped on the pipe, often on the heel or side of the spur. Higher quality pipes were often burnished after finishing. 19<sup>th</sup> century pipes could be extremely ornate, and some were painted.

The pipes consist of a bowl, a stem, and the mouthpiece, the stem was often 10-15cm, but could be up to 90cm.

Other artefacts made from 'pipe clay' include wig curlers and figurines.

#### Key to parts of the London pipe (after Noel Hume, 1985 *Artefacts of Colonial America*):



**Collection strategy:** 100% of bowls, stems and mouthpieces should be collected where possible, especially from discrete or sealed deposits. CTP is excellent dating evidence, often with twenty year date ranges and even the stems can be roughly dated. Complete pipes are both extremely rare and fragile and should be protected from breakage, pipes can often be reconstructed as long as all stem fragments are collected. Stamped and moulded examples are generally accessioned.

#### Further reading: London Clay Tobacco Pipes

MoI digital database of Clay Tobacco Pipe maker's marks from London:

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/claypipes/>

Atkinson, D R and Oswald, A 1969 *London Clay Tobacco Pipes*, Museum of London

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Ayto, E G 1994 *Clay Tobacco pipes*, Shire Publications Ltd

Le Cheminant, R 1981, *Clay tobacco pipes from London and the south east*, in P Davey (ed) *The archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe VI: pipes and kilns in the London region*, BAR British Ser 97 127-172

Oswald, A, 1960 *English Clay Tobacco Pipes*, Museum of London

Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay pipes for the archaeologist*, BAR 14, Oxford

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Extract from the existing Urban Archaeology factsheet on London clay tobacco pipes **Lead**

## Flask from Randall Manor, Shorne Woods Country Park, Kent.

By Andrew Mayfield.

In the Spring I reported to the Finds Group two medieval 2-colour floor tiles found during excavations at Randall Manor, Shorne. This resulted in a member coming forwards with invaluable information. We have had another fascinating find which we hope someone out there may know more about.

The excavations are part of a long-term Heritage Lottery funded community archaeology project based in Shorne Woods Country Park. Historical research and pottery analysis suggest that activity at the Manor dates broadly from the mid eleventh to the mid sixteenth centuries with a peak c. AD1250-1350. A branch of the local de Cobham family lived at the Manor during this period.

Figure 1: showing the flask in-situ, with an L-shaped 8 by 8cm scale and a red and white 50cm scale



The flask was found buried in a levelling deposit for the stone cross wing extension to the 13<sup>th</sup> century aisled hall. This extension has been tentatively dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A metal detector sweep of the floor surface of this building, at the end of our summer season, gave a strong signal in the SW corner of the floor. Investigation of this signal revealed the lead flask under a pebbled surface.

The flask measures approximately 18cm by 18cm. It has a spout and two hoops or suspension loops attached to the spout and main body.

Figure 2: Detail of the flask pre-lifting, with 8 by 8cm scale



The flask was block lifted and transported to Dana Goodburn-Brown at the conservation lab at Sittingbourne CSI for remedial conservation work. Further funding has been sought from the County Archaeological Society to bring this find up to display standard, so it may be placed in the archaeology exhibition at the Visitor Centre at Shorne Woods.

Figure 3: Flask after remedial conservation work 20cm scale



Photo courtesy of Ruiha Webster.

We are now planning our 8<sup>th</sup> year of excavation work at the Manor, for 2013. I would be interested in the Group's thoughts on this object. Research by the excavation team suggests it could be either a lead costrel or a pilgrim's flask? On excavation the slight remains of a painted? cross could be seen on one side of the flask (see figure 2).

Has anyone in the Group come across a similar object, of similar size? Does the group have any thoughts on its use?

I have read of examples of flasks buried in the floors of medieval buildings. Given the high status nature of the site, a manor owned for a while by a Sheriff of Kent, could this be some sort of dedication or offering?

All thoughts welcome!

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[www.facebook.com/archaeologyinkent](http://www.facebook.com/archaeologyinkent)

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## Dr Glenys Lloyd-Morgan, FSA 1945-2012

### Margaret Ward writes:

Dr Lloyd-Morgan Roman passed away in Llandudno on September 21st 2012, aged 67, after an illness which had lasted for very many years. She had worked at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, through the 1970s and 1980s, before becoming a freelance consultant in 1989. She served on various committees including those of the Roman Society and the Roman Finds Group. I first met her when I joined the Grosvenor Museum Excavations Section in 1975 and knew her throughout her remaining time in Chester. Her illness in the 1990s and onwards was a sad loss to the study of Roman artefacts. She was also, indubitably, a 'larger than life' character, whom none of her former colleagues and friends are likely to forget!

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### 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 publication presents the detailed results of eleven excavations which attest high-status civilian occupation in a distinct zone lying between the western and southern defences of the Roman fortress and the River Dee. The opportunity is also taken to summarise all other significant discoveries across the whole of the *canabae* up to the end of 2009.

Building on this data, a series of discussions examine the development of the river channel; the nature of the occupation of the western extramural area and the status of the Infirmary Field cemetery through functional analysis of the small finds; the spatial and chronological development of the *canabae* as a whole; the origins and size of the civilian population; and the role of the *canabae* in framing the economy and society of the region.

To order, go to the Archaeopress website:

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

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**And finally.....**

## **HORSES' HEADS**

**By Roy and Lesley Adkins**

When doing research recently, we came across this London incident reported in a Scottish newspaper, the *Caledonian Mercury* for 24 April 1817:

In London in April 1817 Mary Sadler was found guilty of assaulting a patrolman in Peter Street, where she lived, by 'throwing a bucket of nightsoil in his face'. A shoemaker who witnessed the affray declared that 'this poor woman, save your Worship's presence, threw a pail of — [shit] upon Mr Patrole; and he and another Philistine dragged her along, by J— [Jesus], worse than an Algerine would a Christian; or just as your Worship would drag an old horse's head to a bonfire!'

Thousands of worn-out and deceased horses were fed to dogs or passed to knackers' yards, where every part was used, such as for tallow, glue and the horsehair. Horses' heads were also used for ritualistic purposes, but we are puzzled by the significance of dragging an old horse's head to a bonfire – if the statement has any significance. Does anyone have any ideas?

Email us via our website: [www.adkinshistory.com/contactus.aspx](http://www.adkinshistory.com/contactus.aspx)

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### **Finds Group Committee**

Chair: Phil Mills. Secretary: Matt Parker. Treasurer: Andrew Jones. Committee: Duncan Brown, Stephen Brunning and Michael Lewis.

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**Many thanks to contributors:** Roy & Linda Adkins, Ann Clarke, Gill Dunn, Chiz Harward, Talla Hopper, Andrew Jones, Andrew Mayfield, Melissa Melikian, Jo Mills, David Rudling and Margaret Ward.

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