

Finds Group Newsletter Spring 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of the Finds Group Newsletter. I hope you find something of interest. My apologies for the delay in bringing it to you. There is a policy statement on pages 6-8 setting out the aims of the Finds Group, followed by a short profile of our Chair Phil Mills. Also included is the Roman Finds Group spring meeting and conference, an ECC/MOLA study day, articles on medieval buckles & the Isle of Man Treasure Trove legislation, plus a request for Malachite samples from a doctoral student studying Archaeological Chemistry.

Best wishes. Stephen Brunning – Editor

Roman Finds Group - Spring 2016 Meeting Friday 1 - Saturday 2 April

Finds from Roman York, Brigantia and Beyond

The 2016 RFG Spring Meeting is based in York. It will be a two day conference from lunchtime on Friday 1st April until late afternoon on Saturday 2nd April and is to be held in the Philip Rahtz Lecture Theatre, Kings Manor, University of York, jointly hosted by RFG, the Department of Archaeology at the University of York and the Yorkshire Museums Trust. RFG are grateful for the support given to arrangements for the meeting by these organisations.

There are five sessions of papers, with seventeen illustrated talks, on various aspects of finds from British sites concentrating on York and Yorkshire, but with a range of papers from outside these areas. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about recent finds and research in the York area, as well as an opportunity to explore the Yorkshire Museum galleries.

Although we have a larger room than last year's meeting in Newcastle (which was oversubscribed), space remains limited (maximum of 80 places) so early booking is strongly advised. The cost of the meeting is £40 for fully paid up RFG members, £30 for students, £48 non-members and a £25 day rate (students £20).

What's included

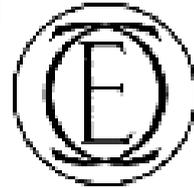
- Access to all conference sessions, finds and poster viewings.
- Teas and coffees as in the programme.

- Wine, soft drinks and snacks at the evening reception/private viewing (must be pre booked).
- Book sales and signing by Lindsey Davies, author of the well known Falco novels.

For further details and to check if places are still available, please contact [Stephen Greep](#)

English Ceramic Circle / MOLA - From Aldgate to Vauxhall

Saturday 16 April 2016 9.30am to 5.30pm
Mortimer Wheeler House,
46 Eagle Wharf Road,
London N1 7ED



The production, consumption and identification of tin-glazed earthenware from London.

London played a crucial role in the development and production of tin-glazed earthenware or delftware from the late 16th until the mid-19th century. This study day, jointly organized by MOLA and the ECC, will take a fresh look at the production, consumption and attribution of delftware, combining opportunities to examine excavated sherds and extant pieces with lectures from leading experts, including Ian Betts, Lyn Blackmore, Graham Dawson, Julie Edwards, Mike Hughes, Chris Jarrett, Nigel Jeffries, Roger Massey, Jacqui Pearce, Roy Stephenson and Rodney Woolley.

A sandwich lunch will be provided. Cost: £55 per head. Spaces are limited – advance booking only: for online booking see ECC homepage, or contact Patricia Macleod at 2 Revell Road, Cheam, Sutton SM1 2ED; [e-mail](#) or by mobile: 07711 626472.

Isle of Man Treasure Trove - Allison Fox

Towards the end of 2015, views were sought on the revision of Treasure Trove legislation on the Isle of Man. As a Crown dependency, the Island has its own portable antiquities legislation which includes a legal responsibility to report all finds of archaeological material, not just those that may be considered as Treasure Trove (see http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue33/fox_index.html for more details on the origin, catalyst for change and current implementation of portable antiquities legislation).

The hope is to bring the Isle of Man's Treasure Trove legislation up to date and provide a clear framework for finders, landowners, museums and other interested parties. It is envisaged that as with the Treasure Act 1996 in England and Wales,

there will be an accompanying Code of Practice to help guide people through the process. The main effect of new legislation would be to increase the categories of material that could be classed as treasure, to ensure that payments of rewards are fair and to provide guidance on acquisition.



A Viking Age gold ingot: the find most recently declared Manx Treasure Trove

Work started on the new legislation in 2008 with the heritage agency for the Island, Manx National Heritage, acting as neutral advisors to the sponsoring Isle of Man Government department. Incorporating information from our neighbouring organisations and feedback from an initial public consultation in 2010, it is hoped that this latest consultation will allow the legislation to be enacted later this year.

The consultation is now closed, but the documents can still be viewed at;

<https://www.gov.im/ConsultationDetail.gov?id=538>

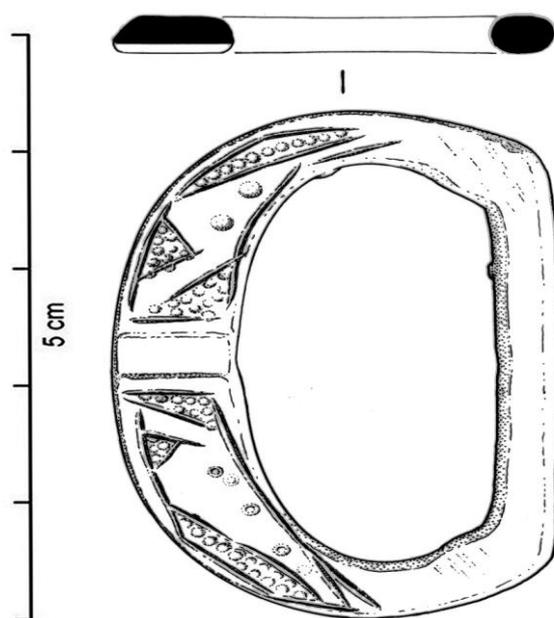
Medieval buckles - Rob Webley

A group of medieval buckles has piqued the interest of member Rob Webley (Portable Antiquities Scheme British Museum/University of York). They are made of copper alloy and are oval in form with a flat, broad outer edge with central groove (pin rest). The outer edge is decorated with engraved decoration either side of the pin rest in the form of stylised animals, foliage or lettering. The surrounding field is decorated with characteristic small punched circles. It is only all of these features in combination that distinguish these buckles, as well as an idiosyncratic distribution pattern. They are also relatively rare, attested by metal detected finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (fifteen collated, to date), but seemingly by only one excavated example from London (Egan & Pritchard 1991/2002, 69; no. 263). Rob is currently writing the group up and would be grateful to hear of further

British examples, excavated or otherwise, and can be contacted via [email](#)



Medieval buckle from the Isle of Wight (courtesy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme)



Medieval buckle from Norfolk (courtesy of Norfolk County Council)

Malachite samples by Daniela Boos Pedroza.

I am a doctoral student in Archaeological Chemistry at the University of Oxford (RLAHA). I am also a qualified conservator and ICON member. I am looking for small archaeological malachite samples from Scotland for my research and wonder if you could help. I've described below the sort of samples I'm looking for, and a tiny bit on my research.

THE SAMPLES

I am looking for tiny samples (~0.5 - 1 g) of archaeological malachite.

- Malachite, $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$, is a copper carbonate mineral often formed in burial conditions.
- Malachite is green. If you have any green corrosion products from a copper alloy object that oxidized while in the soil environment, then it is probably malachite.
- I do not expect purity. If the sample is mix-phase and dirty, a slightly larger sample would be ideal. I need to be able to pick out ~0.3 μg of malachite crystals.
- Leave the material characterization to me. Just send me the green scrapings.
- Provenance: I need to know roughly where the corrosion formed (usually excavation site).
- Extra: If you happen to have geological malachite (ore) samples, I'd love to have a bit for comparison!

I do not want the metal. Often copper corrosion is scraped off and discarded, so why not collect it and send it to me for science instead?!

THE RESEARCH

This part of my research aims to investigate the correlations between malachite and its formation environment using oxygen-18 isotopes. Once the relevant reaction pathways are established, they can be used to elucidate information about the formation environment (like the dominant pathways, oxygen sources, geographic location of formation, temperature of formation and isotope fractionation factors) when it is unknown and for the identification of natural patinas.

Please get in touch with me by [email](#) if you can help, have any questions or need additional information.

CIFA FINDS GROUP POLICY STATEMENT

From November 2012

The Cifa Finds Group is the only finds-related body within archaeology that is not associated with any specific period or type of object. As such it is well placed to represent the interests and views of the whole finds community (all those whose work is mainly concerned with the treatment, recording, analysis, study, care and publication of archaeological materials including artefacts, environmental remains and the by-products of human activity).

Since the publication of 'Guidelines for Finds Work' and the acceptance of 'Standards and Guidance for working with Archaeological Materials' the Finds Group has continued to develop training initiatives alongside the promotion of best practice. This document is a statement of the future aims of the Finds Group.

AIMS

The aims of the Finds Group are to:

1. Act as a conduit between the finds community and the rest of the archaeological profession.
2. Represent the finds community within the Cifa.
3. Promote best practice in finds work.
4. Promote the value of archaeological finds as a means of furthering our understanding of the past.
5. Work to protect archaeological objects from loss, damage, mistreatment and misrepresentation.
6. Offer training in order to develop expertise in finds work.
7. Ensure the continuing accessibility of the archaeological material archive, for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

1. Act as a conduit between the finds community and the rest of the archaeological profession

The Finds Group will continue to ensure membership of the Finds Group is open to all, irrespective of Cifa membership.

Provide opportunities for discussion and decision-making – normally at General Meetings or seminars.

Promote the Finds Group as the most appropriate, informed, source for obtaining information and expertise on finds-related issues and specialist groups, both within the profession and beyond.

2. Represent the finds community within the CifA

The Group structure within the CifA is intended to facilitate the exchange of information and opinion on matters relevant to the Institute. Council minutes, and other relevant documents, are circulated to Group Committees, and *vice versa*. It is expected that the CifA will consult Finds Group officers or committee members when finds-related matters are under discussion, or comment is required in a wider forum.

In every such instance the Finds Group will seek to represent the majority views of its membership, and the requirements of the archaeological record.

3. Promote best practice in finds work

The Finds Group will support published standards for the recovery, care of, analysis and publication of archaeological materials, such as those prepared by artefact study groups or those described and referenced in *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, preparation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archive Forum, revised edition, 2011)

The Finds Group will continue to publish guidelines, standards and technical papers relating to best practice in the recovery, conservation, care of, recording, analysis, and publication of archaeological materials.

The Finds Group will advise on matters of best practice, and will compile registers of specialists who are able to give specific advice when required.

4. Promote the value of archaeological finds as a means of furthering our understanding of the past

The Finds Group will communicate the archaeological significance of finds through conference sessions, workshops, publications and other events or publicity as appropriate.

The Finds Group will put itself forward for consultation for policies, strategies, research frameworks and similar initiatives.

5. Work to protect archaeological objects from loss, damage, mistreatment and misrepresentation

The Finds Group will support national and local schemes designed to protect the finds resource (e.g. Portable Antiquities Scheme).

The Finds Group will work to inform archaeological practitioners and the wider audience, on how best to approach the recovery and treatment of finds, either through our own initiatives, or by supporting others (e.g. The Society of Museum Archaeologists, Archaeological Archives Forum).

6. Offer training in order to develop expertise in finds work

The Finds Group will provide training opportunities, in the form of seminars and workshops, for all interested parties.

7. Ensure the continuing accessibility of the archaeological material archive, for the use and enjoyment of future generations

The Finds Group will support national and local initiatives that are designed to secure the future of the finds resource (e.g. museums, local/regional resource centres).

**Finds Group Chair
Dr Philip Mills MCIfA**

I have been working as an archaeologist since 1990, and as a finds specialist since 1995. I specialise in Roman pottery and ceramic building material of all periods. I have been working as a freelance specialist since 2006, mainly on British material but I have also been involved on projects in: Italy, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Bulgaria.

My main research interest is the development of the ancient economy, but I am also interested in approaches to finds that can elucidate the social and political contexts of a site and region under study. I have been developing with Dr Ulla Rajala of Stockholm University a theoretically grounded approach integrating GIS and ceramic studies towards landscape analysis, known as the 'ceramascene'.

I was re-elected chair of the finds group in 2015 and am keen on promoting the role of finds and finds workers at all levels of the profession, and am keen to promote surveys into all aspects of the current state of finds practice in the UK.

The full Finds Group committee are:

Phil Mills - Chair

Matt Parker Wooding - Secretary

Louise Rayner – Treasurer

Duncan Brown – Ordinary Committee Member

Rowena Hart – Ordinary Committee Member

Kayt Marter-Brown – Ordinary Committee Member

Mags Felter - Ordinary Committee Member

Marie-Claire Rackham-Mann - Ordinary Committee Member