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EDITORIAL

It is traditional at this time of year to anticipate what the new year will bring, and such time-honoured predictions as 'prosperity', 'good fortune', and 'the London catalogue' can now be joined by 'a secure future for *JRMES*'. Oxbow Books have now taken over the publication and distribution (but not editorial control) of the journal and volume 3 is at the printers as this editorial is being written. Publication of volume 4 is planned for the middle of 1994, and then volume 5 will follow at the end of the year, thus catching up on the backlog and volume 5 will contain papers for the IXth ROMECE, more details of which you will find enclosed. Scholars and re-enactment groups from the whole known civilized world (and even beyond the borders of Tyne and Wear) will flock to Leiden for this event, so book now!

It is difficult to think of a viable alternative to the present format of **ARMA**. Certainly, technology is leaping and bounding ahead, promising us a virtual universe in next to no time. The contents of libraries the world over are already available to those in possession of a computer, modem, 'phone, and the money to pay for access to these intellectual goodies. That same technology will doubtless soon ensure that the pre-selected sections of our favoured newspapers (or military equipment newsletters) are faxed to our home or handheld computers by cellnet 'phone every day. But if you want to read **ARMA** in the bath, will technology permit it? Perhaps you might be able to project it onto the bathroom ceiling or shower curtain, but somehow none of these techniques has the same versatility as twelve, saddle-stitched paper pages. I write this by way of demonstrating that I am no simple techno-junkie; but we must be aware that the message is often more complex than the medium.

Ask yourself: how will military equipment (or any artefacts, for that matter) be published in the future? The Museums Division of English Heritage are already beginning to record some of their material on multi-session CD-ROM, which means they can access full-colour, photo-quality images of items, as well as all the textual data they choose to record. What we are witnessing is not a revolution, but the evolution of the concept of the book. Beam me up, Scotty...

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

I have harped on about German publishers before and once again my admiration goes out to them for producing the excellent catalogue of the recent exhibition of finds (mainly Roman and military) from gravel workings by the Rhine at Xanten. The material, almost exclusively pre-Flavian, includes helmets, swords, vessels, tools, pieces of cavalry equipment, and even a 'lorica segmentata' shoulder guard.

Michel Feugère has written a new book on Roman military equipment. Although I have not yet seen a copy, anything written by Michel should be worth perusal.

H.-J. SCHALLES & C. SCHREITER, *Geschichte aus dem Kies. Neue Funde aus dem Alten Rhein bei Xanten*, Xantener Berichte 3, Rheinland Verlag: Köln (1993) ISBN 3-7927-1378-0 £22.00

M. FEUGÈRE, *Les armes des romains de la République à l'Antiquité tardive*, Editions Errance: Paris (1993) 250 FF

ANOTHER NEWSLETTER

Readers of **ARMA** may be interested to learn of *Res Militares*, the newsletter of the Society of Ancient Military Historians. For instance, did you know that ancient history had been dropped by most of the American military academies? The Society is actively campaigning to get the subject re-instated (an image leaps to mind of a future lantern-jawed American general stroking his chin thoughtfully and uttering 'Alexander the What? Julius Who?'). They

have a bibliography project underway (a little more systematic than that to be found in **ARMA**, it has to be admitted, since I am dependent on what I can spot and what other people tell me about).

There is absolutely no reason why you too should not join, as the newsletter is free of charge. Write (mentioning **ARMA**, please!), giving your name and full address, as well as details of your interests, to Dr M. Pavkovic, Hawaii Pacific University, Hawaii Loa Campus, 45-045 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-5297, USA.

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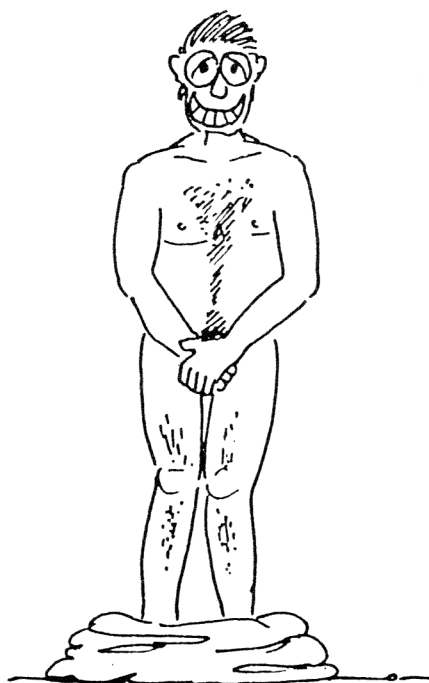
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Reports (Part 9)

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NEIL



RMEC. '85

Neil '86

GREAT CARE HAS TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE
MILITARY TUNIC IS CORRECTLY FASTENED...

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ZIENKIEWICZ, J.D. 1993: 'Excavations in the *scamnum tribunorum* at Caerleon: the Legionary Museum site 1983-5', *Britannia* 24, 1993, 27-140

THE RIBCHESTER HOARD

Ever heard of the Ribchester Hoard? No, I thought not, but you will certainly know of the Ribchester helmet. An excellent booklet by Brian Edwards, the County Archaeologist for Lancashire, sets matters to right, in advance of full publication in the forthcoming *Ribchester Excavations* part 4 (edited by B.J.N. Edwards and P.V. Webster). Originally discovered in 1796, the hoard included pieces of cavalry equipment, some saucepans, and a few other curious items, as well as what might be thought of as the definitive 'sports' helmet. A detective story in its own right, the booklet is certainly worth the £2.50 being asked for it. Lancashire County Books can be contacted at 143 Corporation Street, Preston, Lancs.

B.J.N. Edwards, *The Ribchester Hoard*, Lancashire County Books: Preston 1992. ISBN 1-871236-15-0

A THIRD CENTURY LORICA SEGMENTATA BACK-PLATE FROM CARLISLE

Ian Caruana

FINDSPOT AND DATING

The piece of armour to be described was found in the second stone fort at Carlisle, on excavations in 1989 in advance of the latest extension to Tullie House Museum.¹ One legionary barrack and traces of other buildings, a clay and turf rampart and a wide intervallum area which was not intensively occupied have been identified from this period. The armour plate came from a soil deposit in the intervallum area.

The second stone fort dates from c.A.D.183 to c.320-30. The armour plate comes from the fourth and final phase of occupation within this date range which would seem to put it in the early fourth century. However, the individual phases cannot be precisely dated and, in any case, there is a strong possibility that a single piece of armour like this could have lain around for some years.

DESCRIPTION (Fig.1 top)

The plate is very fragile and only partially cleaned. No detail appears on X-rays of the uncleaned part. Original edges survive at the top and on the left hand side. The edge at the upper left corner has gone. The broken pieces on the left half of the plate fit exactly and there is no doubt of the relationship of the pieces. The remaining pieces do not fit but the patterns of corrosion and colouring on the cleaned metal match well. The right edge may be intact but this cannot be proved in view of the state of the metal. The lower left corner and the whole of the bottom are missing. The bronze

fittings have unfortunately corroded as badly as the iron plate.

Attached to the upper edge of the plate is a large lobate hinge, of which only traces survive. It measures 64mm by 48mm and is held in position by five bronze rivets. The outer two lugs of the hinge survive. Underneath the hinge is a line of rivet holes, punched from the outside of the plate. The proximity of the two holes on the left suggest that either two phases or two different types of use are involved. Just to the left of the hinge, the edge of the plate begins to slope down and the metal is everted, forming the beginning of a flange.

At the left edge is a bronze plate (34 × 24mm), held by four bronze rivets at the corners, and enclosing a rectangular slot (20 × 8mm).

Near the lower edge of the surviving metal is part of another bronze fitting, probably part of an eyelet-plate, but too badly corroded to identify the shape. However, two fixing points can be identified. The shank of a 3mm wide bronze rivet is visible, on the reverse of the plate and, where the bronze has disappeared, there is a small hole punched from the reverse of the iron plate.

RECONSTRUCTION

The fittings leave no doubt that this either is the breast- or upper back-plate of a suit of lorica segmentata of Newstead type armour with its slots at the side and eyelet-plates at the bottom, rather than Corbridge type armour with buckle fittings. There are two types of Newstead plate, one with a single slot centrally placed which is the breast-plate; the other with two slots and two eyelet-plates is the back-plate. The Carlisle plate with its asymmetrically placed slot must be a right back-plate. There is ample room in the missing lower left corner for both a second slot and a second eyelet-plate at the bottom as shown in the reconstruction (Fig.1 bottom).

The state of the fittings at the top and bottom also argues for this plate having passed through two stages of use.

In the first stage the back-plate was attached to the collar-plate by rivets (Fig.2). The situation at the bottom of the plate is less clear. The surviving fragment of bronze – just under 20mm wide – is too small to represent the full width of the plate. If we take the bronze rivet to be placed centrally the full width is 35-40mm. Once we realise that the eyelet-plate is of a size comparable to those on the Newstead armour, it becomes apparent that the empty rivet hole is too close to the rivet for both to have functioned together. There must be 20-30mm missing from the bottom edge of the plate. The reconstructions show this with a long eyelet-plate in stage 2 (Fig.1 bottom). The arrangement in the first stage is unclear (Fig.2) though a buckle seems unlikely even if it cannot be excluded.

DISCUSSION

The Carlisle plate is important in several respects. The first point to note concerns the method of linking the back-plate to the collar-plate. On all the Corbridge cuirasses the two plates are hinged together using characteristic lobate hinges of bronze. The section beyond the neck does not survive on the Newstead plates, but Russell Robinson assumed that the plates were riveted together.² The Carlisle



RECONSTRUCTION

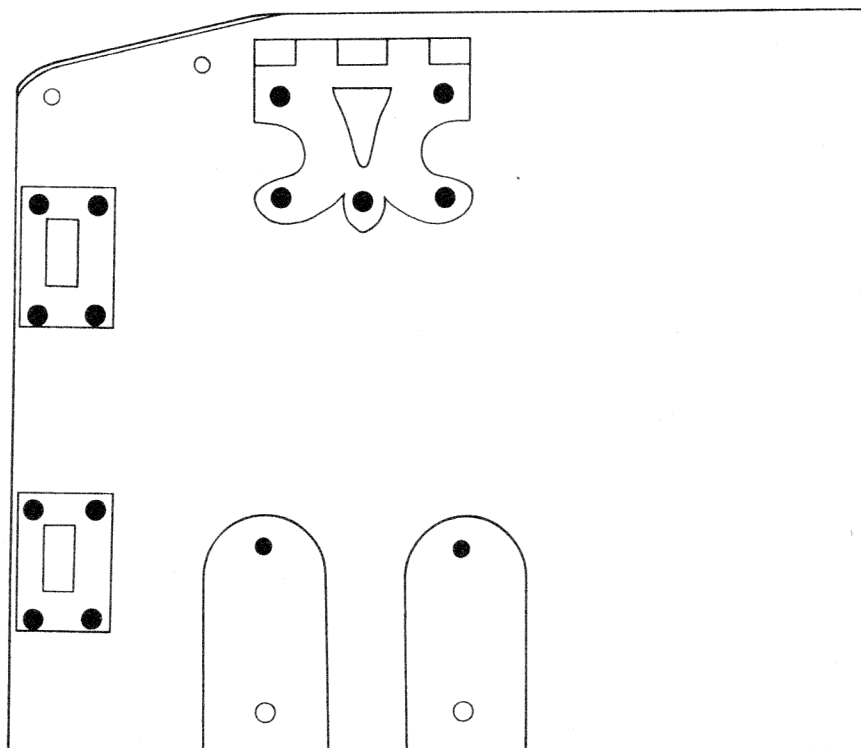


Fig.1 The back-plate as found (top) and reconstruction (bottom) (Scale 1:2, drawing by Phillip Cracknell)

plate confirms this and provides the first evidence of rivet holes.

Equally interesting, is the presence of a lobate hinge overlying two of the rivet holes. This must mean that the armour has been repaired and the original rivets have been replaced by a hinge. In this it is reminiscent of several of the Corbridge suits where repairs, carried out with varying quality, had been necessary. The hinge could be seen as an archaising feature but with a width of 64mm is double the normal size of 27–34mm.³ The additional width may have

been a response to the increase in width of the plates over the Corbridge types. The original rivet holes cover a space of 100mm.

The second point concerns the neck. Evidence for the plate edge around the neck is meagre but just enough survives to show that the metal was everted to form a flange and not rolled back as in the Corbridge types. Poulter pointed out that such a sharp edge would be hazardous to the wearer and he argued that a small rivet hole at the upper left corner of the Newstead back-plate may originally have fixed a

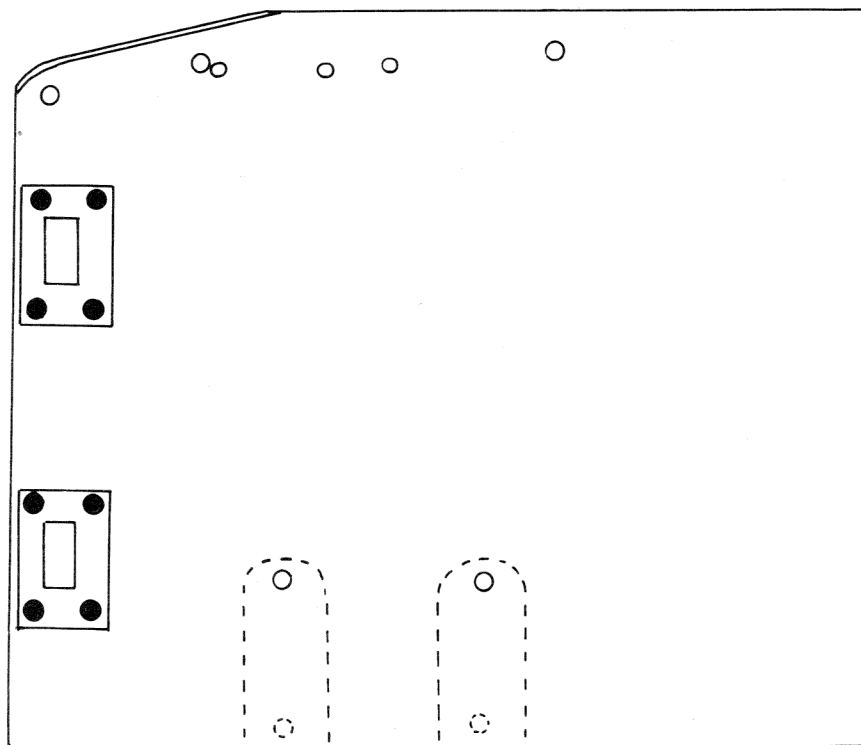


Fig.2 Reconstruction of the appearance of the back-plate in its first stage (Scale 1:2, drawing by Ian Caruana)

bronze strip which folded over the flange.⁴ No bronze strip survives on the Carlisle plate but the presence of two rivet holes to the left of the lobate hinge supports Poulter's idea. The larger of the holes forms one of the line of rivet holes for attachment to the collar-plate but the second hole opposite the end of the flange corresponds to the hole at the other end of the flange on the Newstead plate. It is arguable that the damage to the flange in that area of the plate which otherwise survives tolerably well could be the result of removing a protective strip of bronze or some other material.

The third point to note is the size of the back-plate – at least 165mm high and 220mm wide. This may be the full width but the height is only a minimum. Reasons have just been given for believing it to have been 20–30mm greater. A total height of 195mm is similar to the 215mm and 185mm of the two intact Newstead plates.⁵ Back-plates on Corbridge type armour with heights of 60–80mm are considerably smaller.

It is likewise with the widths: 140–150mm on Corbridge Cuirasses 3, 4 and 5.⁶ The Newstead plates are all broken laterally so that only minimum widths, 120mm and 140mm,⁷ are available. Connolly's reconstruction of the Newstead armour used in Robinson's book gives no scale but the proportions suggest that he worked on the basis of the plate being not much more than 150mm wide. The Carlisle armour shows that the back-plate could be 50% wider than this and actually cover most of the torso. Whether this is a chronological feature whereby breast- and back-plates increased in width over time or whether we should envisage the Newstead plates being rather wider than previously assumed or whether this simply came from a soldier with a very broad back is less clear.

Chronologically the Carlisle back-plate is the latest of the British finds of body armour. The deposition of the

Corbridge armour is placed in the Hadrianic period.⁸ The Newstead pieces are from the Antonine fort and could have been deposited as late as the 180s though presumably made somewhat earlier.⁹ Some armour from Zugmantel, described by Robinson and Poulter but not fully published can be dated to the late second or first half of the third century (c.A.D.170 or c.A.D.233–260). It shows a broadening and simplification of the plates.¹⁰ Another third century armour plate find from near Eining was reported to the 7th ROMEAC at Magdalensburg.¹¹ The Carlisle plate may be contemporary with or of a slightly later date than the Zugmantel and Eining armour. The enlargement of the Carlisle back-plate, if it is real, may, therefore, be part of the same process of simplification. At the same time it seems to show a more considered approach to the balance between articulation and protection in the use of the plates of lorica segmentata. The Carlisle plate also adds to the evidence for third century use of lorica segmentata armour.¹²

NOTES

1. CARUANA, forthcoming.
2. ROBINSON, 1975, 180, Fig.181.
3. ROBINSON, 1975, 182.
4. POULTER, 1988, 34–6.
5. POULTER, 1988, 32.
6. ALLASON-JONES & BISHOP, 1988.
7. POULTER, 1988, 32.
8. ALLASON-JONES & BISHOP, 1988, 6 and 109.
9. POULTER, 1988, 38.
10. ROBINSON, *op. cit.*
11. ARMA 2.1, p.2.
12. COULSTON, 1990.

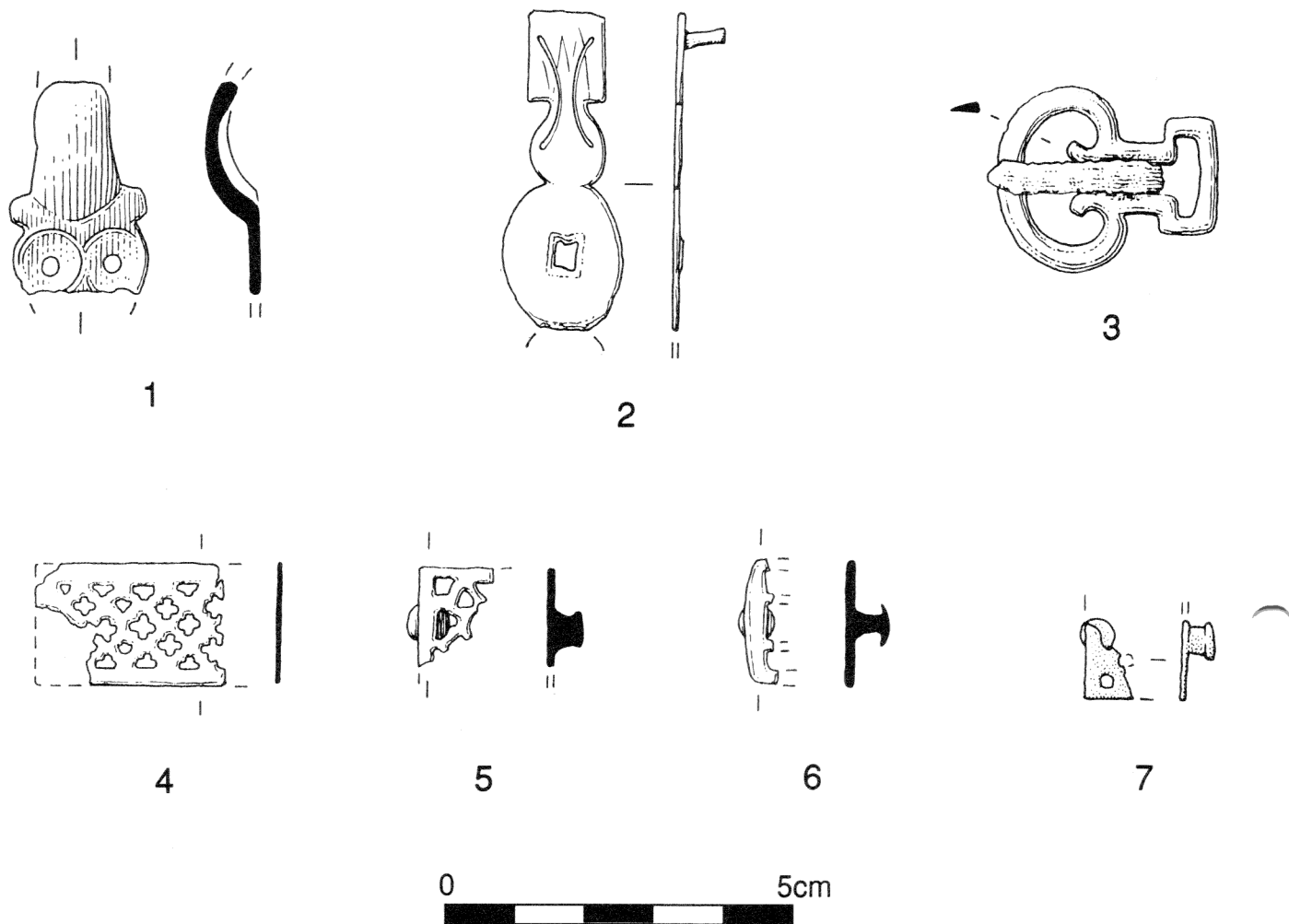


Fig.1: Military equipment from Caerwent (*Venta Silurum*), Gwent, now in the Newport Museum and Art Gallery. Scale 1:1. (Drawn by N.A. Griffiths)

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ROBINSON, H.R. 1975: *The Armour of Imperial Rome*, London

SOME MILITARY FITTINGS FROM CAERWENT (*VENTA SILURUM*)

M.C. Bishop & N.A. Griffiths

It has recently been noted¹ that most of the civil sites in Roman Britain, both large and small, have produced military equipment. A number of reasons for this phenomenon were suggested, including the possibilities that pre-Antonine material might suggest an early fort nearby and 2nd/3rd century objects might reflect the posting of troops in towns during that period. The study was based solely upon published material² and it was always apparent that more evidence existed than had actually appeared in print. Caerwent was not included amongst the sites studied, but recent work by the second author in the Newport Museum and Art Gallery, Gwent, has identified military equipment from Caerwent. This article offers a brief overview of the objects and some speculation about their significance.

CATALOGUE

All objects are of copper alloy unless otherwise stated.

1. A strap junction of 'double spectacle' type,³ broken off just below the rivet holes, and lacking its rivets, as well as most of the loop. The rivet holes are each surrounded by an incised circle, concentric with its rivet hole, one overlapping the other. There are numerous parallels, including examples from Corbridge, The Lunt, Hüfingen, and Moers-Asberg.⁴ 85.162(10)
2. A decorative strap mount from cavalry harness.⁵ Consisting originally of a central, slightly ovoid, expansion (for a dome-headed rivet) with symmetrical extensions on either side, decorated with niello inlay. One extension is now missing, broken off below the central expansion, but the other remains, decorated with opposing incised curving lines for the (now absent) niello and retaining on its rear face the shank by means of which it was attached to a leather strap. The central rivet hole is, unusually, square. Parallels are known from a number of sites, such as Aislingen, Doorwerth, Fremington Hagg, Hofheim, and Newstead.⁶ 85.162(3)
3. A looped buckle still retaining its iron tongue, which is hinged around a central bar. At the opposite end to the triangular-sectioned bow of the buckle is a rectangular expansion for attachment to a belt plate. Compare pieces from South Shields and Zugmantel.⁷ 85.111(1)
4. A fragmentary belt plate with openwork decoration comprising a lattice effect formed from cruciform piercings in a quincunx arrangement. Comparable pieces are known from Straubing and Caerleon.⁸ 85.291(4)
5. A fragment of one end of a belt plate with openwork decoration. On the underside, presumably at the central point of the face, there is a fungiform stud with a flattened top. A comparable piece is known from Straubing.⁹ 85.164(2)
6. A fragment of one end of a belt plate with openwork decoration. On the underside, at the central point of the face, there is a fungiform stud. A possible parallel is known from Caerleon.¹⁰ 85.134(1)
7. A fragment of one corner of a belt plate with openwork decoration. On the underside, presumably at the central point of the face, there is a fungiform stud with a flattened top. One circular piercing survives in the corner, with traces of another near the break. A comparable decorative pattern may be seen on a piece from Caerleon.¹¹ 85.291(6)

DISCUSSION

Venta Silurum was a Hadrianic foundation,¹² but it has long been suspected that a military site dating to the latter part of the 1st century and early 2nd century A.D. lay beneath the town, based upon the evidence of pottery and a small, military-style bath-house of the right date (demolished when the town was built).¹³ Items 1 and 2 amongst the military equipment are instantly recognisable as pieces of pre-Antonine cavalry harness¹⁴ and, as such, noting the reliability of the Webster Hypothesis,¹⁵ serve to confirm early military occupation of the site. This is a pattern that is reflected at other civil sites with a Hadrianic foundation date (such as Aldborough), where finds of military equipment

help to demonstrate that a Flavian fort was succeeded by a town.¹⁶ Tiles of *legio II Augusta* from the bath-house at Caerwent seem to belong with some of the earliest being produced by the legion.¹⁷

The other objects, Nos.3–7, belong to a later period (mid to late 2nd or early 3rd century A.D.) and echo similar finds of equipment from civil sites in Britain. Many possible explanations have been offered for the presence of such artefacts,¹⁸ but the presence of troops on the site during this period cannot be completely discounted.¹⁹

NOTES

1. BISHOP, 1991. Thanks are due to Rodney Hudson, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, for access to the material.
2. *Ibid.* 22.
3. BISHOP, 1988, Fig.50, type 3 (probably type 3a)
4. *Ibid.*, Table 7 with refs.
5. *Ibid.*, Fig.56, type 6c.
6. *Ibid.*, Table 11 with refs.
7. Zugmantel: OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.75,1003; South Shields: ALLASON-JONES & MIKET, 1984, 3.619
8. Straubing: OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.76,1025; Caerleon: ZIENKIEWICZ, 1986, Fig.57,36–7.
9. Straubing: OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.75,1000.
10. Caerleon: NASH-WILLIAMS, 1932, Fig.33,32.
11. Caerleon: EVANS & METCALF, 1992, 124 No.93.
12. WACHER, 1975, 375.
13. *Ibid.* 376.
14. BISHOP, 1988; BISHOP & COULSTON, 1993, 105.
15. BISHOP, 1989, 5.
16. BISHOP, forthcoming.
17. BOON, 1984, 15 and 55. See also ZIENKIEWICZ, 1993, 127–9 and FRERE & TOMLIN, 1992, 128–47.
18. BISHOP, 1991, 25–6.
19. *Ibid.* 25.

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AN ENAMELLED HARNESS MOUNT AND PENDANT FROM SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Martin J. Dearne and Julien Parsons

The subject of this note was found by a metal detector user in May 1984 and is in Sheffield Museum (accession number SHEFM 1985.764). Its provenance was given only as 'Maltby, S. Yorkshire' (c.SK 52 92) and, although other finds suggest Romanised farmsteads in this general area no major site is known in the vicinity and the nearest fort, Templeborough (Rotherham) lies several miles to the west.

The stud and pendant (Fig.1) is of copper alloy, has a fair green to grey green patina and an overall length of 49.6mm. The stud, 11.7mm in diameter, is circular with a beaded edge and a circular sectioned shank, ending in a flat circular head showing a good deal of wear or file marks, projecting from the back. The front of the stud has a circular recess containing five sub-triangular millefiori enamel segments. Some are more decayed than others but two seem to have a square white panel with a blue cross (or possibly a blue and white chequer board) on a red ground (Fig.2 No.2) and three a white ?Maltese cross with a central red spot on a blue ground (Fig.2 No.1).

A cast circular loop at the base of the stud holds the cast suspension loop of the pendant; both showing considerable wear. The pendant itself, slightly curved in profile, has a circular upper element recessed for enamel, traces of which are now pale green with a single red trace. Below a slight waisting the pendant tapers towards a triangular terminal. The tapering main panel is recessed for millefiori enamel, five blocks of which remain with a sixth (or the bottom of the fifth) missing. Again not all the patterns are entirely clear due to decay. However, the second and fourth down are of blue and white check rectangular panels on red grounds

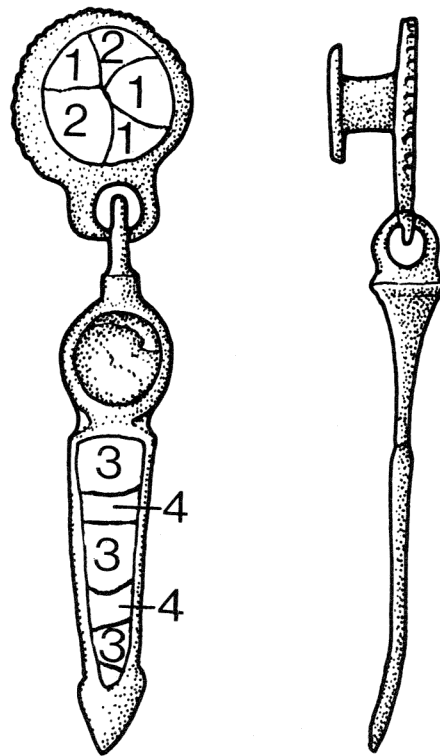


Fig.1: The mount and pendant (1:1).

(Fig.2 No.4) and the third of white Ls outlining a cross with central red spot on a blue ground (Fig.2 No.3). The first and fifth blocks are most likely repeats of the latter but might alternatively be of all over blue and white check.

Millifiori enamelled pendants attached to similarly decorated mounts do not seem to be common. A cursory search has revealed only two pendants/mount pairs with enamelled decoration¹ and neither are particularly close to the present example, both having lunate pendants and relatively restrained enamelling. However, they do share some common features with the Maltby pendant and mount such as a circular mount with a beaded edge and especially the cast loop in loop method of suspending the pendant. The relative difficulty of casting the mount and pendant in one with this requires (as opposed to the use of a hinge or of a strip hook on one of other separately cast elements) perhaps emphasizes the quality of the pieces.

However, the loop in loop suspension system is known on one or two unenamelled pendant types, most notably those with tri-lobed ends.² These seem to have been attached to a variety of mounts/fittings to judge from Oldenstein's examples.

The only reasonably close parallel for the form of the pendant traced to date is the unstratified example from Richborough³ which has a similar shape (except for the replacement of the triangular terminal with a basal knob) but is decorated only by a complex relief pattern of arcs and dots around a circle at the top of the pendant.

NOTES

1. Wiesbaden: OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.45, No.449; ?Chesters: BATESON, 1981, Fig.9iii wrongly described as a casket handle and citing BUDGE, 1907,

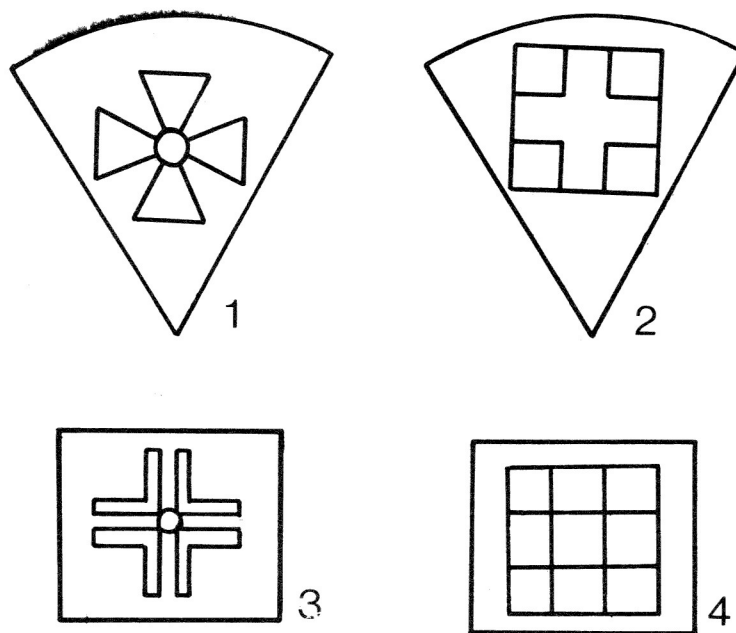


Fig.2: Millifiori enamel patterns (enlarged).

385 No.1397.

2. Cf. e.g. OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.30 Nos.202 and 206; Taf.34 Nos.260-7; Taf.35 No.280; STEAD, 1976, 213 No.111; WHEELER, 1928, Fig.14 No.31 and pl.33 Nos.7-8.
3. BUSHE-FOX, 1949, pl.XXXV No.109.

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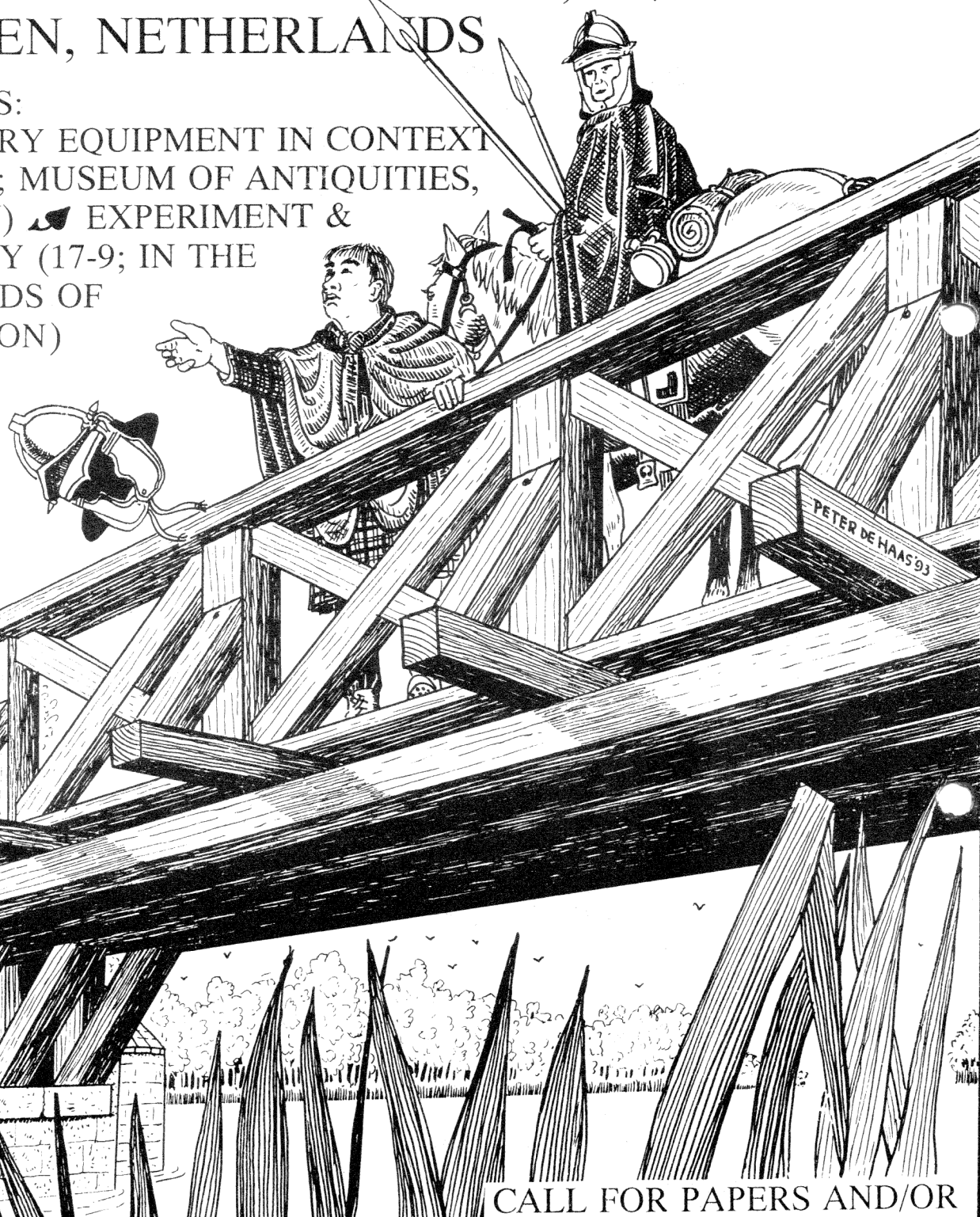
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