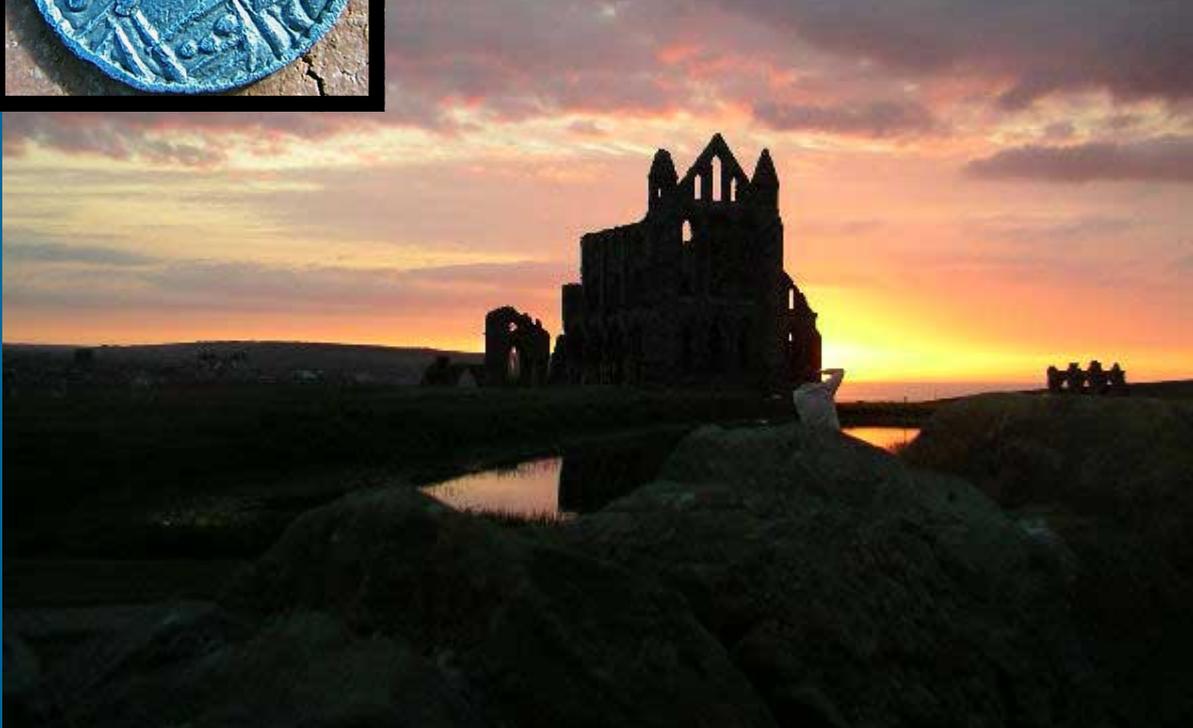


The UKDN

Issue 22
June 2009

World Of Responsible Detecting



Inside this Issue

Message from UKDN Admin	2
FOM Artefact	4
FOM Coin	6
Spotlight on brainy	8
Red Rocket	11
Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno	16
Research into Community Archaeology	26
Not Old, but Interesting	27
Fun Photographic Competition winner	28
Mystery Brooches	29
The Art and History of making Lead Fly	31

Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome

With the European Elections coming up in a few days time, massive distrust within the populace for their local politicians and the continuing credit crunch we thought that this month it wouldn't be a bad idea to emphasise the good within the UK bit of "UK DETECTOR NET"

Let's not forget how lucky we are to live in a country with such a long and interesting history. There are few countries in the world that could match the United Kingdom for sheer variety of history.

With the "Big Brother" society being well and truly in place now we can still see ourselves as relatively blessed by being fairly free to metal detect just as we please unlike many countries within Europe where restrictions are very strict or the hobby is completely banned.

We have the support of the PAS and the hobby is now fairly well respected throughout the academic world.

We also have the best metal detecting forum in the world in UKDN and, may we add, one of the oldest. We can also state that we have the best members in the world so.....

let's all give ourselves a pat on the back and be grateful for the UK part of UK DETECTOR NET

Please Check Your Email Address

Your email address is quite important to your UKDN Forum activity. It lets you get notifications of new posts to topics you have posted to or are watching. It allows you to get notifications from ourselves about forthcoming prize draw events, raffles, auctions and, most important of all, allows you to receive messages from the UKDN Admin Team, about newsletter launches or important UKDN Forum announcements.

Everytime the Admin Team send out an important announcement we get 100's of bounced-back messages which have gone to email addresses that no longer exist.

If you have changed your email address since you joined the forum then please check that you have it entered correctly.

To check your email address go to User Control Panel at near top left of Index or Portal Page. In User Control Panel go into Profile then into Account Settings. You will be able to see your email address in this section. It can easily be changed or corrected from this point.

Message from UKDN Admin

Donations.. You Give - We Give

Hi Everyone,

As you know, Brian & Mo' have always promised that all parts of the forum will be forever free to all users but nevertheless as with everything in life, the forum costs still have to be paid for. This includes the major expense of server fees amongst other hidden costs.

To this end donations are very important to UKDN - the forum has to stand on its own two feet to survive financially. The UKDN survives on donations.

For the forthcoming month or so, UKDN will be rewarding those who decide to donate towards the running costs of the forum. As well as moving up a rank, for this promotional period, users who donate £5 will get a free reproduction Celtic gold stater. Those who donate £10 will get a reproduction Celtic gold stater and two reproduction Roman silver denarii. All reproductions provided by Museum Reproductions, the company run by Brian & Mo'

Below is a photo of some of the coins to be given away. Your coin/coins may not be exactly the same as in the picture.

To donate, go to the portal page [portal.php](#) and click the Donate button.

On a final note, we would like to point out that no one is obliged to donate, this is totally voluntary, but any and all donations no matter how much are very much appreciated.





FOM Artefact

Winner of the May Artefact was this “WIRRAL” BROOCH - By Carl

As normal on a trip out detecting or going on a rally, I picked up Brian Sharples, fellow member of South Lancs & Cheshire MDC and my detecting partner. We were going on a Crewe & Nantwich MDC rally at Spurstow in Cheshire. So 3 different motorways, a section of the A49, a couple of small roads that only Sat Navs could know, and an hour later, we arrive at the post code then see the rally signs and turn into the field being used as the car park.

As were chatting with fellow club members, Tommy Mac being one, it transpires that the fields that we are detecting on today are not the ones that were first choice, they were a ¼ mile further into the village, but seeing that none of us had been here before we weren't to bothered.

We popped along to see Colin Sharret to pay our money and to get the info on the fields for the day. There were six fields in all, one with the farmhouse in it and like the others, pasture. So Brian and I sort ourselves out and set off to the field with the farmhouse in it.

I'm using a Sovereign XS2A pro, Brian uses a Hawkeye. After about 20 minutes we see Ray Lander a fellow member and ask him “done much mate?” He then says “got a roman bronze not brilliant but roman”, he shows us it, then I call him a jammy something or other and we move on (by the way, we're finding signals few and far between, even iron not troubling the machines' electronics) but seeing that one roman coin had come up it gives you that added incentive to carry on.

After a couple of hours not finding much besides a couple of pieces of lead, I decide to change to the Hawkeye (not as deep as the Sov but a lot quicker on recovery and lighter = more ground covered).

While back at the car there's rumours of a couple of hammered's found in the same field near the pond, so back to the field after a brew and a butty.

By this time Brian was working the field's outer edges, I'd gone to try my luck by the pond, still no finds of any interest. Next idea, I'll try the outer edges on the other side of the field and see what happens.

Sometime later I still had nothing, so I decided to head back to the car. I see Brian further up the field to my left - he's heading the same way, so I put my head down and walk on. While I'm studying the grass as I'm walking the detector has gone into sleep mode, Brian has stopped and was chatting to George Hampson, you guessed, SLCMDC, about 10 yards in front of me.

Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

I don't know why I did this next thing but, I turned to my right, swinging the detector. After 3 or 4 steps the detector sounds off, I criss-crossed the signal, pushed the spade into the turf 4 times, then lifted out the square sod, a clump of soil drops from the sod revealing the catch plate end of a brooch.

As this is happening Brian and George come over to see what I've found, I break the sod open and there is the FIRST ever fibula brooch I've ever found. Not only is it near perfect but all the enamel is still on it only the pin is missing. I show Brian and George and hand it to Brian, he gives it straight back with a big smile on his face, but not as big as mine. The usual "jammy sod" and other verbal offerings of "well done" at least that's what I think they meant.

Quite a few detectorist's saw that brooch that day, especially when we got back to the car. I made a point of speaking to Colin, showing him the brooch and thanking him for the day out. I think he was happy that something had come from the quiet fields. I think we were the last to leave the Rally as the news spread of the brooch and "can I see it? ", "with pleasure".

The brooch has been recorded with UKDFD, PAS and the Liverpool Museum as Francis Macintosh and Nick Herepath have been researching this "type" of brooch.

And it's won South Lancs club find of the month, UKDN find of the month and N/W Federation find of the month.



FOM Artefact

Winner of the May Coin was this Saxon 'U' Series
Sceat of the London connected series

- By Dino - UK



Obv, Dragon right.

Rev, man with crosses.

BMC23a. Jeffrey J North number 81, 0.91g. Classed as very rare.

Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
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*All at UKDN
would like to wish
Gerry a full and
speedy recovery
from his recent
heart attack*



The field that produced this superb Sceat has been one of my favourites for the last 10 years, during that time it has produced coins and artefacts from Celtic, Roman, Saxon, Viking and Medieval, in fact virtually every period up to and including modern losses. The field is always productive and has won me the FOM for coin on two occasions now.

Located on the Norfolk / Cambridgeshire borders the soil is very light and preserves metals very well. The field rises up from what would have been marshlands to a beautiful Saxon church and from in front of this church I have had several Saxon coins now, but nothing to compare to the condition of this latest Sceat.

On the day I found it, I had been detecting the lower areas hoping for another of the Celtic gold that I have had the pleasure of rescuing from the dirt here, but it was not to be, so I moved to the area by the church.

After a few small copper alloy targets I was rewarded with the Sceat and as I crumbled the sandy soil off the coin I realised it could be another Sceat, but not having seen one with a dragon on the reverse...and the sharpness of the strike, I was beginning to doubt whether it was. It was not until I arrived home and consulted my copies of Jeffrey J North, that I realised the importance of my find.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone that was as thrilled about the coin as me and voted for it.

Gerry (Dino - UK)



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Spotlight on:

brainy

Page 8



I am Brainy on the UKDN forum. I live in the lovely surroundings of Oxfordshire, Nr Banbury, a town well known for the Banbury cake and Banbury Cross, Ride a cock horse and all that. I work in and around the local area as a plumber and undertake bathroom refurbs from start to finish and central heating systems. I have been interested in metal detecting from a young age but could not afford a machine or get to fields to use one!

In the late 90's I bought a machine and joined a few forums where I met Fred Cooper who went out of his way to make sure I had a good machine and knew what to expect at my first dig. Well now I look back, he actually drove to my house and picked me up to take me to my first dig!! He passed lots of excellent info to me and showed me the ropes...for which I am very grateful.

Spotlight on:

brainy

I never looked back and go detecting on a regular basis with other forum members including JoeB1 who is my main detecting partner. I keep in touch with all of the friends I have made by meeting them at digs.

I have been detecting for around 10 years and in that time have built up a great deal of knowledge about the history of my local area. Most of the farms I have to detect on are arable so they are only available certain times of the year. Joe and I meet up on his farms when my land is out of bounds. That gives me a day in different surroundings and the local pub is superb with 6 local ales!



Spotlight on:

brainy

The two detectors I use now are my beloved Xterra 70 which I will never sell as it has found me so many decent finds and My MXT with a SEF coil. The MXT and SEF is by far one of the best single frequency machines I have ever used.

I have found some nice items this year and my favourite artifact would be my Saxon brooch. The best coin I have to date would be between my Confessor penny, silver Lyre unit and Quarter Stater. I think I would choose the Confessor penny which won find of the month on 2 forums!

Rich.



Out and About in the Red Rocket with Brian & Mo'

By Kind Permission of The Searcher Magazine
March 1992,
Issue No 79

the
searcher

Brian hits gold at last

"You've worked damned hard for that these last few years, out there in all weathers, walking up down. No lad, you keep it."

It wasn't long since our last trip when the Red Rocket was once again struggling to climb the Pennines over to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Readers will remember that last year we had gained permission to search a field that had produced much in the way of medieval buckles, hammered coins and Roman and Saxon artefacts. A few phone-calls confirmed that the crops were well out everywhere and should be so, on this field.

We also had a number of other fields to search so this was the one trip that we were really looking forward to, so much so that we had set out as soon as Brian came home from his night-shift.

We made steady progress and, before seeing the farmer, we were unable to resist a quick look at our 'special' field. We couldn't believe our eyes, for despite seeing hardly a single field with a sign of a crop left while driving 120 miles, this field still had the corn lying in strips waiting to be collected. We felt like approaching the farmer and asking him if we could borrow his machinery. We would have collected the crop for him!

Still, we went to see him and he gave us permission to search between the strips of crop. We're bound to find a few bits we thought, even though it's stubble in between, because there had been many signals last year.

Sad to say that was not the way it was. The stubble was very high and very stiff and although we were determined, nothing of age or interest came up despite our persevering for quite a number of hours. Our excitement had been dulled from a sharp edge to something rather flat.

Enquiries with the farmer told us that this field wouldn't be available during this trip but could be the next time we came, if it was during the next fortnight. We'd have to work on that.

We settled down, opened a bottle of "Falling down juice" (whisky) and discussed what site to go to next day. We elected to try a couple of fields on a farm where, on an earlier trip, we had found a couple of Roman bronzes and a small fibula in the space of an hour or so. We bedded down for the night hoping for better things the next day.

We were lucky with the weather again for this next day began like the previous one with very hot sun. Finds were few and far between despite our having had so much success here the previous year. However, Roman activity was proven when Mo found a Roman fibula. Despite being rather the worse for wear it was a Roman artefact.

The next few hours until early afternoon produced little, the heat was getting to us and we decided to have a break and then to try on the field where Brian had found four hammerededs on one of our very first trips in the Red Rocket.

The break was short because our second day was half-way through and we'd found nothing special yet. For hours we walked the productive areas of this field without finding a coin. Then Brian found a Queen Anne sixpence dated 1708, unexpected but very welcome.

Spirits were getting a bit low and we were aware that we were giving in to "site hopping" as we set off for another field in another area of Roman activity.

This was a large acreage and the Roman material seemed to have spread over a number of fields. We'd only tried parts of each field, for each time we arrived we found only limited parts of the area available for detecting. Hurrying on we drove there and were confronted by a large field open to detecting, one we'd quickly walked over in the past, simply looking for pottery.

Mo was out and gone before Brian and was toggged-up. By the time he'd walked a hundred yards Mo was walking back towards him, large smile evident, "I've found the place and picked up these", showing Brian a George III shilling and a Roman silver denarius. We jumped up and down for a bit and gave each other a quick hug. "I'll catch you up" shouted Brian as Mo walked back to the spot where she'd dumped her machine.

When Mo had gone just a few yards, Brian was pulled up by a good signal. Flicking the soil back he froze. Lying on the surface was a gold disc!

Brian grabbed it in his fist and not daring to look again shouted to Mo "Quick, come and take a gander at this".

"What is it, gold?" Mo shouted, this time running back. After having just found a Roman denarius all she could think of was that Brian had found a Roman gold. Without looking at the disc Brian handed it over to her making various excited noises.

"You've got yourself a lovely Queen Anne gold guinea," pronounced Mo. This lovely find is in perfect condition, although, later that night Brian did manage to find some minor scratches on it with a 30x glass!

This was Brian's first gold coin in almost fourteen years of detecting. It had to be said that it turned up in the most unexpected of places. Why was it there? Could it be the contents of a purse? Isn't it strange that only an hour or so ago Brian found a sixpence of the same Queen?



The golden guinea, obverse and reverse

We searched and searched that part of the field but nothing else turned up except a Victoria silver threepence and some grotty Roman bronzes. We came off the field when it was pitch-dark and decided to see the farmer the next day.

We had no worries about the farmer. The coin was nice to have and if he wanted a half share we wouldn't mind paying him. We could also make him a copy of it. As it was, the farmer was 'something else'. His first reaction was one of joy. When we asked him if he would like us to share the find with him his response was, "Hey, you've worked damned hard for that these past few years, out there in all weathers, walking up and down. No lad, you keep it."

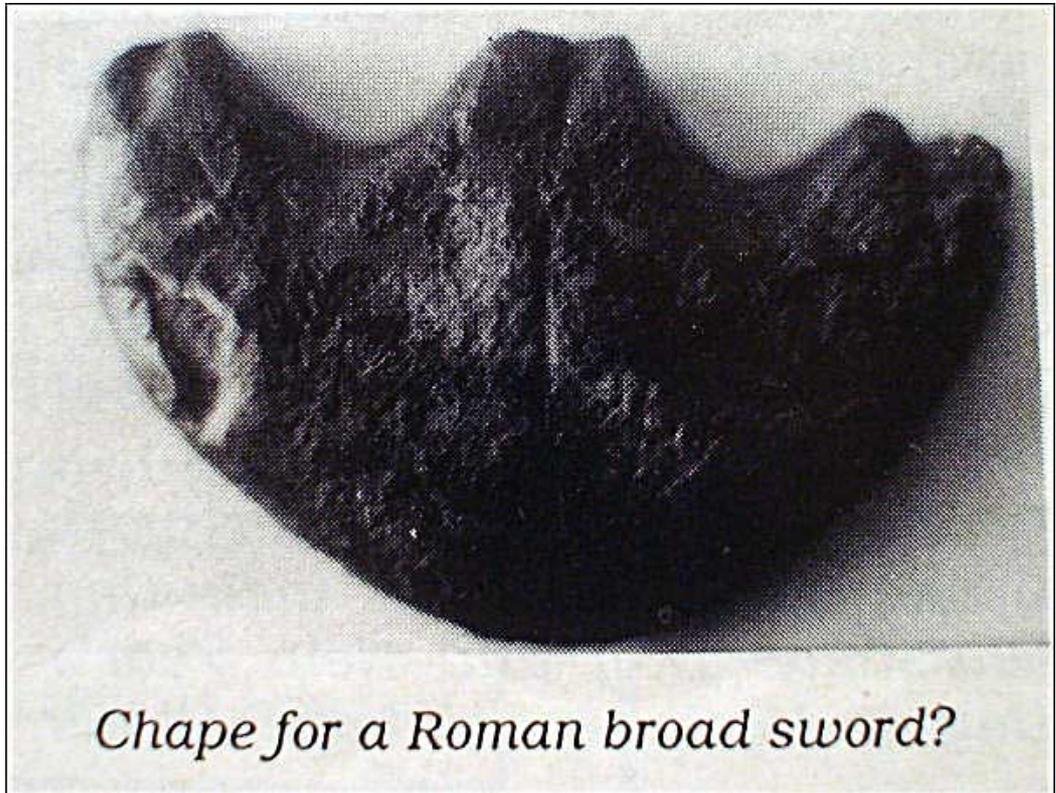
We've since made him several copies and bought him a bottle of whisky. The remainder of that day was spent walking up and down that same field. No more guineas were found and we presumed it to have been an isolated loss. Someone must have been sorely hurt when they found that coin was missing for we figure it was probably worth about one month's wages in 1713: one twelfth of a year's earnings.

We'd now spent two whole days on this one field and, to be honest, we were becoming rather bored with it, even though it had turned up a gold coin. Perhaps a determination to get the most from time available gets the better of patience, and once moving on has produced the goods, it is tempting to think that another move will be just as effective. We drove about quite a bit looking at fields we'd worked last year. Few were in stubble and already some had been seeded! Then we remembered a field we'd popped on to two years ago that showed promise but we hadn't had the time to search it for more than an hour or so. Remembering the story about Archie on the last trip we decided to spend a day on this. It was quite a drive away but luckily when we got there it was available. We were equipped and away with minutes.

Targeting technique

The field was very loamy and full of air so we knew that signals wouldn't be coming from great depths. In fact, it turned out that the field was very quiet even on 'all metal'. We turned our discrimins down to try to locate areas of past activity by looking for concentrations of iron. Once we had found these we would work them slowly hoping for the odd non-ferrous signal. This is a tactic we often use on quiet fields.

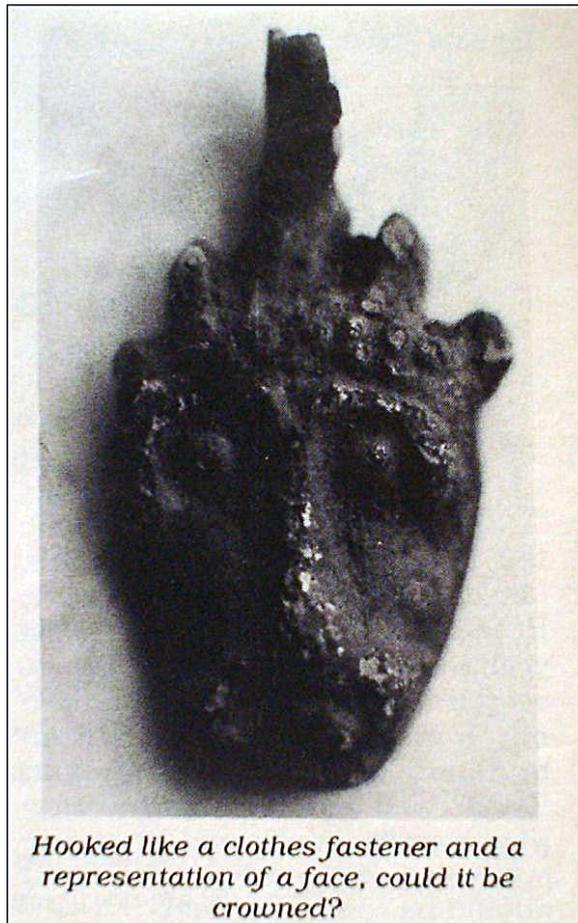
It paid off, for out of one small area Mo extracted some sort of chape – but is much wider than the usual sword or dagger chape, it has been suggested that it is for a Roman broad sword. Once again we would appreciate the assistance of Searcher readers.



Other fields were worth covering but they would have to wait for the next trip, five days away. Readers may wonder how it is that we can manage to get away so often. One or two, on meeting us, have been surprised to find that we are not a retired couple! Brian works unusual shifts – four twelve hour shifts and then six days off! Sounds great, but it's not that brilliant when you remember that he has to work throughout the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day and gets no holidays. All his holidays are built into those six day breaks.

Five days later the Rocket was back in the area. We could give it only a few days as we had quite a lot of work to do back home including a reproduction of a coin.

There were two finds of note, both by Brian on this occasion. The first was extracted from a field of very stiff tall stubble, so high and difficult to work that we were surprised we found anything at all. This object appears to be some sort of clasp, for the hook on the back looks very similar to that on medieval clothes fasteners. The face is very simple in representation even though it looks slightly evil. It was gilded at one time.



Hooked like a clothes fastener and a representation of a face, could it be crowned?

The second find was a Saxon brooch on another field about a mile away. This was the only object of note to come from this field although last year Mo pulled out a tiny medieval buckle here, and Brian, a half-groat.

The brooch is large and although slightly damaged it is still a nice find. We continued to work hard until it was dark and time to drive the Rocket home. We had persevered for two days and although we had a few finds, we were disappointed we had no hammered reds, which we tend to count when gauging the success of our trips.

The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Monday, 11 May 2009

Hush hush

Can't say much now but watch this space. Contact made, tickets bought and off to Rome this Sunday. Hopefully pictures will start appearing here next week. God I hope the detector doesn't get lost or broken in transit! Think I'll have to take a back up just for peace of mind. Time to start a list.

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

The cat's out of the bag

Just been told it's ok to let others know. The secrecy was to avoid the project being swamped with requests!

On Thursday 29th April I received an innocuous text from Corinne saying she had given my name to Sally Worrel from PAS and that Sally would be in touch. Thinking it was probably to do with lead bag seals I pondered no more on it as I was up to my eyes in my son's wedding that weekend and it was not until the following Monday that Sally managed to get hold of me. After a hectic few weeks culminating in a wonderful family get together we were feeling a bit flat so a request to spend a week in Italy metal detecting on a new archaeological dig with hotel and food supplied was just what was needed! In the interests of saving my marriage my wife was invited along too.

So here I am about to be the first (as far as I know) detectorist ever to be invited to join an archaeological dig in Italy ten miles east of Rome investigating the ancient city of Gabii. See the Gabii Project website. <http://lw.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey/research/Excavation/Gabii/>

As I'll be doing the top soil it will probably be a case of removing all the ring pulls and silver foil for the guys who follow me but just maybe something like the Republican Denarius pictured below that I found near my home town of Colchester will turn up! - PAS ESS-8EA350 http://www.findsdatabase.org.uk/hms/pas_obj.php?type=finds&id=0014098EB080125C



Republican Denarius



By
Stuart
Elton

The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Sunday, 17 May 2009

I'm melting

Nine degrees Celsius when we left Stanstead at 8.40 this morning. 29C when we landed in Ciampino a couple of hours later! Wonderful views to the right of St Peter's Square and the Colosseum as we flew in over Rome that brought back happy memories of a long weekend we had spent here a couple of years earlier.

No problem with the detectors safely stored amongst cushioning clothes in the two suitcases apart from Ryan Air's creative charging system. I was comforted, however, to be in possession of the official invitation from the University of Michigan in English and Italian! It was a relief to see both bags among the first dozen on the carousel.

We were early and Anna and Valentina were caught up in holiday traffic but soon we were in their car heading for Frascati and chatting freely to these two typically lovely Italian ladies. As it will be the first day on site this year for everyone I get a bit of a lie in as Valentina will not be picking me up till 9.30 tomorrow.

The hotel is very pleasant and a much better standard of accommodation than most archaeologists would expect on the average dig I'm sure. Certainly the simple pasta and 'speck' lunch they rustled up for us when we arrived was excellent.

We braved the heat and hill to get our first view of Frascati town. I'm sure Helen is going to enjoy exploring it in more detail and hopefully I can find the time too but today I must admit I took more pleasure in returning to our room to find that they had got the air conditioning working! We had a quick siesta on the cool bed!

Well the GMP detector is assembled and working and the rucksack packed with all the usual accessories and so as the sun heads downwards over our distant view of Rome I had better let Helen get on the computer before we go for dinner. The free Wi-Fi is a real bonus.



The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Monday, 18 May 2009

A grot saves the day

Amazing to see how well this site is looked after - a high gate with digital code to open and a permanent attendant on the site. Valentina picked me up as planned and after some scenic excursions and hair raising turns (it was only the second time she had driven to the site) we met up with Anna who explained the site to me. Also waiting there were the trench masters Sabrina and Federica!

Well as this is an archaeological dig it makes sense to have every signal dug as we all know iron objects can be of great historical value, it's just that they are usually nails of recent age and it is generally best to leave any iron object in the ground unless you have the skill and intent to preserve them immediately before they become a pile of rust. So having spent the day collecting many dozens of nails and lumps of rust plus a few bits of lead it was a mighty relief to locate a Roman coin and though many would class it a grot it was of a good size (thick half a crown size for the oldies amongst us) and Anna thought she could make out two faces on it suggesting the god Janus and putting it nicely in the Republican era that we are interested in. Hopefully a picture will follow tomorrow.

Who cares about digging up endless bits of iron when you have such a lovely work force to do the digging !

The lower photo gives some idea of the number of holes dug and I am pleased to say that not a single target was lost, i.e. every target dug for was found.

I was warned there would be no shade and despite my factor 50 Helen took the precaution of sewing a white hanky to the back of my cricket hat and I think it saved me from burning to death plus it was just the touch needed to complete the well dressed Englishman abroad look that wowed my Italian colleagues.

Minor disaster - my coil went floppy! Luckily it was nearly 4.30pm when we knock off and I managed to nurse it for the last few targets. I just couldn't tighten the head bolt sufficiently and thought it might be broken. No spare for that bit of course as never had a problem with it on this model before. Valentina took me into Frascati but as I feared only metal screws were available so I bought two rawlplugs and managed a reasonable bodge but then I realised one of the washers was missing. Probably lost when cleaning it before packing and it was this that was causing the problem. By a stroke of luck when I checked the washers on the Garret Ace that Roy had lent me as a back up they fitted :).

7.30 start tomorrow and so I'm off to bed.

The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Tuesday, 19 May 2009

Hot Hard Work

The grind starts - nine hours in the sun for 5 coins and a lead decorative piece showing 3 figures on one side and a single figure on the other.

Well all right we had an hour for lunch at the usual cafe nearby and the lovely ladies kept my spirits up. Oh and just remembered a small trinket that I was hoping may be a seal box lid but then again could easily be medieval or even modern. I forgot to get a photo of that. Anna will pass on all the photo's the team take when I get back.

Anna with two days worth of mostly ferrous scrap fought for through the tough roots of years old pasture! From four inch nails to tiny tin tacks and our particular favourite - rusty wire in a variety of lengths! We only found one modern bottle top, about a dozen shotty caps and no silver foil

(have to think positively :)).



The shade.



The winner for the seat in the shade is Sabrina - unfortunately the sun moved for tea-break.



Tomorrow the bulldozers arrive to flatten the scrub and hillocks that still cover half the proposed dig area. Should make life a lot easier and Anna has arranged for all the topsoil to be dumped right next to the dig which will be ideal for you guys who follow on from me as you will always have something to search through if the dig is not producing spoil fast enough.



Tuesday's hard won haul

The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Wednesday, 20 May 2009

The Earth Moves



The digger arrived on site today and made a start on the 'wild' part of the dig site while I continued with my nail mountain. Once Anna had used her mediating skills the plan she had so painstakingly made could finally be put into operation and the digger turned it's attention to making the first cuts of the dig proper on a section I had already covered, moving the soil to a convenient adjacent section.

It was becoming apparent that I would never cover the area in time if we continued to track every iron signal down and Anna readily agreed to my suggestion to ignore all the definite iron from now on as she rightly said we had covered a sufficient area to give a reliable figure of the ratio of iron to non-ferrous finds on that particular site. It is a real pleasure to work with Anna and her team as they manage to combine fun and flexibility with their adherence to professional standards. Even the labourers on the site take every opportunity to help out by digging out the finds when they can persuade the girls to give up the shovel. Below you can see them and various other officials on the site playing that favourite game of guess what the detectorist has dug up. In this case it was two lead sling-shots.

Well the new non-ferrous plan soon paid dividends with much more ground being covered and six coins coming to light including a particularly nice one which was thought to be of a third century Emperor called Gordon!



The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno



The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Thursday, 21 May 2009

The End is Nigh

I was mightily relieved to finish covering the basic area today and it was a joy to get onto the loose earth and just push it aside to locate the find. The picture on the left shows the start of the top soil heaps - look and fear follow on detectorists. This is where you will be banished to fry in the sun while your boots fill with loose soil and sweat when you are not needed in the trenches.



The digger trembles before the critical gaze of Anna and her two enforcers in red hats, Federica and Sabrina, no longer my slave diggers but all powerful Trench Masters now that the trench has been opened!

Equalled yesterdays coin total and managed a couple of interesting partifacts. A fragment of a crucifix with a stone in it and not a toy train wheel as I first thought but a badge of some type. I hope they prove to be medieval and not more recent. Cibalia has since told me that the 'train wheel' is in fact a [Roman fibula](#).



The end of the day and cool, clean shower time.

The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

Friday, 22 May 2009

Parting is such sweet sorrow

Last day going over the remainder of the rough, bulldozed area and a preliminary scan of the start of the spoil heap. Five coins and an old telephone box token and all before lunch when I said my goodbyes to Anna and the workmen and Federica and Sabrina took me back to Frascati by a new new route via Rome! Valentina had to leave as soon as she dropped me off this morning to attend a tutorial with her Professor but I will see her tomorrow as she has very kindly insisted on taking us to the Ciampino airport.

My new helper for the day was Sandrio, whose English was as good as my Italian (mind you he spoke several other languages). Here we are enjoying our one break in the shade.



From the shade I could still see Anna keeping the digger on it's toes

The girls do not hang about and are working their trowels as soon as the digger's bucket leaves the ground. You can see the soil still falling from the moving bucket.



The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

OK I was posing - I know the head's too far above the ground!



And talking of posing here's the last photo I took and my favourite - except that I had to put it on the ground for a self timed shot and a pesky blade of grass has obscured Sabrina's lovely face.



The diary of Windy Miller and the Temple of Juno

The bad news for you follow on detectorists is that Federica and Sabrina will be tied up with their student diggers and Valentina will be doing all her logistics work when you come, so you'll get one of the workmen to be your digger and it's not nearly as nice kissing them on both cheeks when you say goodbye! Welcome to the Hill :).



Sunday, 24 May 2009

Epilogue

Arrived home safe and sound at 1.30 am yesterday morning after a very pleasant day in the Villa Borghese Park in Rome. Strangely Helen thought it was much less crowded than it had been in the week. Valentina decided it was because everyone had gone to the beach; she spent an hour and a half in the traffic queues they created when she came to take us to the airport!

An enormous thank you to Anna, Valentina, Sabrina and Federica plus all the workers on site plus, of course, the directors of the Gabii project, Nicola Terrenato and Jeffrey Becker of the University of Michigan. Finally thanks to Sally Worrel who initiated this great opportunity for metal detectorists.

Research into Community Archaeology

Suzie Thomas, Community Archaeology Support Officer, Council for British Archaeology.

Lots of people make contributions to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of archaeological heritage across the UK. Whether this is through volunteering with a museum or heritage site, active involvement with a local history or archaeology society, a conservation group or through metal detecting and recording their finds with a Finds Liaison Officer or similar, it all adds to what we know about the past.

Recent funding from the Headley Trust has allowed the Council for British Archaeology to appoint a Community Archaeology Support Officer to carry out research into the nature, scale and needs of what might be called 'community archaeology', and to identify how the CBA, as a national educational charity, might be able to enhance the support and advice that we provide for those engaging with archaeology on a voluntary basis.

To this end, I have already circulated a questionnaire to more than two thousand groups, and would encourage **metal-detector users** to consider taking part in the survey, since metal detecting clubs and societies are just some of the many different groups involved with archaeological heritage. The questionnaire can be found online at www.britarch.ac.uk/communitysurvey, but you can also contact me for a paper version if you would prefer. The deadline for filling in the survey has just been extended to Friday 12th June. I am also gathering information through other means such as visiting a sample of groups and talking to different people involved, either as volunteers or as archaeologists that work with volunteers.

Among the plans for increasing our support for groups, based on what my research discovers, is the enhancement of the Community Archaeology Forum (CAF) website – www.britarch.ac.uk/caf - to better suit the needs and expectations of users. While the site is already well thought of – already winning two awards – we know that is room for improvement, and so are keen to hear feedback on this as well. We also hope to secure funding to develop training events for those involved in community archaeology in different ways – again based on the feedback that I am able to collect in the next few months.

If you are interested in finding out more about this project, information can be found about the research at www.britarch.ac.uk/research/community and updates of my activities and visits to groups can be followed through my blog at www.britarch.ac.uk/communityblog.

If you have any questions, or wish to share your experiences and views with me, please email me on caf@britarch.ac.uk.



Not old, but interesting.

Dr Kevin Leahy

Findspot: Old Clee, Lincolnshire

Finder: Ron Fetcher

Date: 1954 AD

Portable Antiquities Record NLM-C88CE1

The Portable Antiquities Scheme was set up to record objects that are more than 300 years old but sometimes we see something recent that is so interesting, or odd, that it has to be included. This large medallion was found near Cleethorpes. It was presented to Gerhard Berzu, the eminent German archaeologist, on his 65 birthday. Berzu (1889 - 1964) came to England in 1935, having been sacked by the Nazis. This didn't save him when the war came and he and his wife were interned on the Isle of Man. They didn't waste their time there and spent the war excavating on the island. Now, however did this medallion get to Old Clee?

Berzu was the first German every to fly in a powered aircraft. When the Wright brothers were demonstrating their aircraft in Germany before the First World War he was a young conscript and 'volunteered' to take a flight. No wonder he didn't go into aerial photography!

Dr Kevin Leahy

National Finds Advisor, Early Medieval, The Portable Antiquities Scheme.



UKDN FUN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNER

This months winner, with 21% of the vote is **raymo**, congratulations !!

Whitby Abbey—taken with a Pentax Optio camera



Mystery Brooches

Stuart Laycock

Here's an interesting one.



In many ways this brooch doesn't look that exciting. It's a brooch, looks a bit like some Roman types, looks a little bit in some ways like one or two Anglo-Saxon types.

It's the sort of thing you could see in someone's collection of finds and not think too much about.

But if you did that, it would be a shame, because this is a very rare type of brooch from the very end of the Roman occupation or from the period just after it.



This example was found near Lincoln and you can see a few other examples of the type as found in Britain at <http://www.fectio.org.uk/articles/hwb/fig43.htm>.

Böhme names them the Glaston type after one of the places they've been found in Britain, but they seem to be originally continental brooches, probably based on an Elbe-Germanic type. Böhme reckons they appear in Britain around the mid-5th century and he associates them with very latest Roman military presence in this country.

Mystery Brooches

Stuart Laycock

I have to say I haven't looked into examples on the continent closely so Böhme may well be right. It is worth noting over here, though, that there is also a significant link with sites of early Anglo-Saxon settlement. One of Böhme's 6 British-found examples comes from Mucking and no less than three come from West Stow or nearby Icklingham.

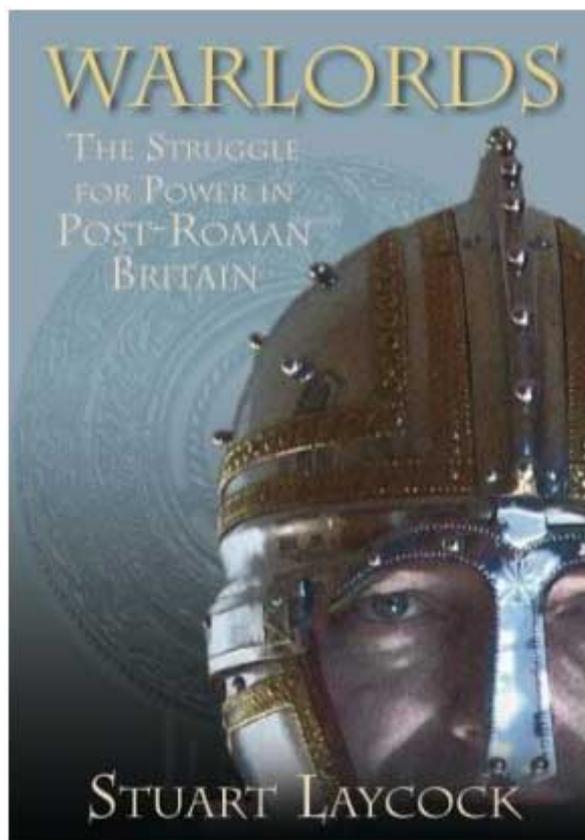
Anyway, whatever they are, they're clearly very interesting and potentially very significant for our understanding of what happened at the end of Roman Britain and afterwards.

So if anybody knows of any more of these brooches found in Britain do please let me or the PAS know about them. Thanks.

Stuart Laycock

stulaycock@live.co.uk

p.s. My new book Warlords – The Struggle for Power in post-Roman Britain, is just out, published by The History Press. Take a look at it on amazon.co.uk sometime!



The art and history of making lead fly

It's a rare event when a detecting trip doesn't yield at least one item of ammunition - typically a shotgun cap, a cartridge case, a musket ball, bullet, or maybe a piece of shrapnel. All this is hard evidence of man's ingenuity to kill fellow man or beast over the centuries. For some of us this



Figure 1 - Ammunition fragments

- 1 : Musket ball
- 2 : Pin Fire shotgun cartridge cap
- 3 : Driving band shrapnel
- 4, 5, 6, 7 : Assorted anti-aircraft shell shrapnel
- 8 : British Mortar Tail fin

waste bin – although I confess not before I have looked at dateable marks such as cartridge head-stamps for any date information that may help in interpreting the site history. Figure 1 shows a range of typical ammunition finds

The human race has been playing with pyrotechnics for many hundreds of years, in fact since the 9th Century in China. The Chinese are believed to be the first to use gunpowder with a “recipe” comprising of 75% finely ground potassium nitrate (saltpetre) 15% charcoal and 10% sulphur by weight. In its infancy it was used for fireworks, eventually finding its way into the Arab world around the 12th C and by the 14th C was used in Europe. Along the way its principal use had transformed into a military one, it being used as a propellant for cannon and “hand-gonnes”. The earliest hand-gonne was essentially a metal tube tapered into a solid butt, it was developed in the 15th C but was not a great influence in battle. It was in effect a small cannon with a touch hole to ignite the charge. It was heavy and unwieldy and required that the user prop it on a stand, brace the butt-end against the chest, and use the other hand to touch a lighted match to the touch hole. The effective range was around 40 yards, which up against a charging mounted knight took real faith in the efficacy of your new fangled device. During the early to mid 15th C the Arquebus arrived on the scene, and with a wooden stock and shaped butt started to bear some

material is ultimate fodder for the nearest hedge, ditch, scrap or waste bin, or for others maybe just something to be left discarded on the surface in laziness, frustration, or a bit of both!

Where all this metal ends up varies depending on the individual and for each of us and there's no doubt a wide variety of personal cut-off points. For example I'll wager that more male detectorists hang on to

selected bits and pieces like this than female – it's a man thing born out of testosterone and watching too many war films. My cut-off point is WWII, anything older generally lands in the collection, younger, and unless it's particularly unusual or complete it's destined for the

resemblance to a modern rifle. Since both hands could now be used to hold the weapon it was also possible to take rudimentary aim. The method of igniting the charge was through a pivoted metal arm called a serpentine. This held a slow burning match of hemp or cotton rope soaked in saltpetre. By pulling the bottom trigger-part of the serpentine the match attached to the upper part was lowered to the touch hole and the powder ignited. Over the next few centuries firearm development concentrated largely on improved methods of igniting the charge through improved lock mechanisms. In the early part of the 16th C the musket started to appear. It was considered the largest and most powerful gun that a soldier could operate. Weight was around 20lbs and at five to six feet in length required a forked rest to support the weight. The simple serpentine of the arquebus had been replaced with a sear matchlock which used a spring operated trigger to lower the match into the priming pan. The matchlock musket would become the workhorse of European armies and would see action in the English Civil War and the thirty years war. Although more advanced lock mechanisms came about such as the Wheellock (circa 1510) The Snaphaunce (circa 1547) the flintlock (circa 1610) and the percussion lock (circa 1805) the inexpensive and easy to manufacture matchlock musket remained in European service until the 1690s. Since much of the fighting was at close quarters the musket was almost an accessory to the bayonet and acted as a short pike.

Muskets were relatively fast to load but extremely inaccurate. The effective range was from 100 to 200 yards but in reality they were only accurate to 40 yards or less. The term “couldn’t hit a barn door” was literally true when it came to the accuracy of smoothbore muskets. At 300 yards only 1 shot in 20 would hit a target of 18 square feet and the guns did not even have an aiming device. General Grant wrote in his memoirs “You might fire at a man all day from a distance of 125 yards without him ever finding out. The limitations of the smoothbore led directly to the military tactic of massing troops into lines and firing coordinated volleys. It was even considered un-gentlemanly to draw a bead on an enemy combatant. With muzzle loading weapons the size of the ball had to be smaller than the bore of the gun barrel in order to fit easily. This contributed to the inherent inaccuracy of the smoothbore musket since some of the force of the expanding gases from the exploding charge could by-pass the ball on its passage up the barrel - a phenomenon known as “windage”. For the same reason the undersize ball could easily rattle up the barrel, which coupled with the variable shape of the musket ball affecting its

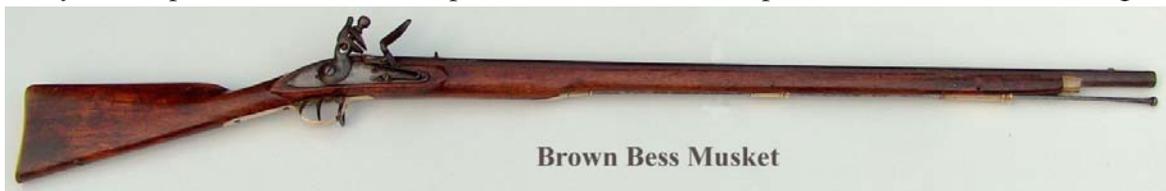


Figure 2 - The Brown Bess the Army musket 1700 to 1815

consistency of flight made achieving accurate fire impossible. Gun calibre was measured by the number of balls with diameters equal to the diameter of the bore that when combined weigh a pound. Most muskets fired a lead ball of between 10 and 20 bore. The most famous British flintlock musket was the Brown Bess or Long Land Pattern musket which was in use with the Army from 1796 to 1839 when it was replaced by the Enfield percussion rifle. It was a muzzle loading smoothbore and fired a lead ball 0.69” in diameter. It saw considerable action in India, the American Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars, and albeit much later in 1910 even inspired Poetry from none other than Rudyard Kipling. Seven versus, of which this is the last.

"Brown Bess"

*Where old weapons are shown with their names writ beneath,
You will find her, upstanding, her back to the wall,
As stiff as a ramrod, the flint in her teeth.
And if ever we English had reason to bless
Any arm save our mothers', that arm is Brown Bess!*

Rudyard Kipling

Figure 4 shows a variety of Musket Ball sizes, these are frequent detectorist finds across the fields of Britain. The example far right is close to Brown Bess calibre.



Figure 4 - Examples of detector found Musket balls

It was recognised quite early that ballistic improvements could be made to shot accuracy by imparting spin to the projectile, this was made possible by creating a spiral groove inside the barrel, the aim of which

was to physically engage with the bullet and cause it to rotate on its path to the target. The grooves came to be known as "rifling" and the weapons as rifles. Rifling was invented as early as the 16th C but in order to be effective, the bullet had to be a tighter friction-fit in the barrel this made muzzle loading slow and sometimes impossible, due to fouling of the barrel from gunpowder residue and it was not pursued fully until much later on in the sequence of firearms development. One of the earliest was the muzzle loading rifled Baker rifle adopted by specialist Army units around 1801. Designed by Ezekiel Baker, the improved gyroscopic stability of the spinning projectile meant that the rifle could score nine out of 12 shots at a target from 200 metres, and riflemen during the Napoleonic wars of the 95th and 60th regiments boasted "one shot, one kill." Its short, 30-inch barrel also gave riflemen the choice of loading the weapon while lying down. Sharpe in the TV series of the same name uses a Baker rifle. Gun ammunition itself had seen very little in the way of innovation and development, consisting for centuries of the plain and unsophisticated spherical Musket ball that we are all so familiar with. Given that breech loading weapons were not available at this time, projectiles had to be sufficiently undersize to fit down the barrel. This set the challenge for designers to come up with a viable solution to the ease of loading and rifling engagement dilemma. A number of experimenters worked on testing new expanding bullets as a way of overcoming this problem. It was resolved most successfully by a Captain in the French Army, Claude-Etienne Minie and his minie ball. This bullet was made with a dome-shaped top and a series of greased annular rings around a hollow base. In the base was an Iron cup, and upon firing this was forced by the expanding gases into the hollow base so expanding the skirt against the internal rifling of the barrel.

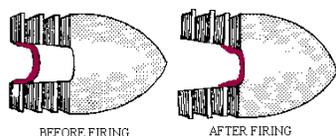


Figure 3 - Minie Ball Principle

This had a good number of advantages. Loading was made easier, the bullet profile was more aerodynamic and the spin imparted by the expanding skirt engaging with the rifling improved accuracy and stability. Furthermore, this reduced windage and improved muzzle velocity. The bullet calibre was still large, going through many variants to suit particular

weapons but generally well in excess of half an inch, in general though ammunition calibres were starting to reduce. The Minie ball was widely adopted in the 1850s and was used extensively during the American Civil War.

The Brunswick rifle introduced in 1836 saw further developments. The weapon had a two-groove barrel engineered to accept a "belted" round ball. There were

Fig 4 Brunswick belted ball



a number of variants produced in .704 and .654 calibres. The weapon also had a more modern percussion lock. This used a top hat shaped copper alloy cup filled with mercuric fulminate. This compound is extremely explosive, and is shock sensitive, a sharp blow, or even too

much finger pressure, can cause it

to detonate. A percussion cap was placed on a nipple-shaped



Figure 9 – "top hat" percussion caps

cone, hollowed through to the rifle chamber, when the cap was struck by the falling hammer the hot gas ignited the main charge and fired the weapon. The

Enfield Pattern Rifled Musket was used in a number of different variants. The 1853

model was a .577 calibre muzzle-loading rifled musket and fired a

Pritchett bullet with the same expanding principle as the minie. The Pritchett bullet was

designed to expand without the need for an iron cup. The rifle's cartridges

contained 68 grains of black powder, which would drive out the ball with a muzzle velocity at around 850-900 feet per second. With practice a good

marksman could hit a man-sized target at about 500 yards. The example shown in

figure 6 was found back in the mid '70s on

a Victorian range site close to the Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield

North London. It was unearthed at the firing point end so has in all

likelihood been dropped not fired. The range also produced a number

of

buttons of the 'Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry' shown in Fig 8 and the rather

unusual and still unidentified white-enamelled artefact in Fig 7. My best guess was, and still

is, some kind of epaulette flash – any ideas out there would be gratefully received. The RSAF

was the company that manufactured many of the small arms in the latter part of the 19th C

and into the 20th C. Up unto this point breech loaders had never really been very successful

due to difficulties in sealing the breech, backflash and windage being the main issues.

Manufacturing technology had now reached the point where production techniques,

machining tolerances, metallurgy and ingenuity of design made such improvements viable.



Figure 5 - Enfield musket Bullet a variant of the Minie ball called a Pritchett bullet. Found with a C-Scope back in the late '70s



Figure 8 - Uniform button of the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry



Figure 6 - Unidentified object with remains of white enamel. Note the fixing points on the back. Found on the site of a former Victorian shooting range.

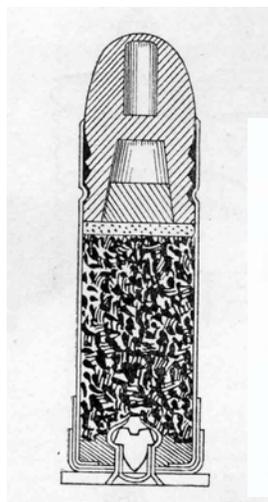


Figure 7 Graphic of a Boxer cartridge with the real thing alongside note the ceramic plug in the base of the bullet.



Integrated metal cartridge development alongside this resulted in many Enfield 1853 Rifled Muskets being converted to breech loading Enfield Snider rifles in 1867. The main advantage of a breech loading weapon is a reduction in the reloading time; it is much quicker and simpler to load the projectile and charge in at the breech than it is to force them down a long metallic tube, especially when the bullet is a tight fit and the barrel is rifled. The firing rate of the Enfield Snider was around 10 rounds per minute. The cartridge used was a metal Boxer cartridge named after a Colonel Boxer and firing a Snider bullet of 0.577 calibre. Fig 9 shows a graphic of the Boxer cartridge for the Snider with metal detector found examples of the real thing alongside. Note the ceramic plug in the base of one of the bullets. The Boxer cartridge case was made of a



Figure 10 - Martini Henry rifle of Zulu fame. Image courtesy of Adams Guns.

thin sheet of brass rolled around a mandrel, which was then soldered to an iron base. They were found to be vulnerable to being easily damaged, and produced inferior muzzle velocities. Later, the rolled brass case was replaced by a solid drawn brass version which remedied both of these problems. The Snider was a converted muzzle loader, but the first service rifle designed from the outset to be a breech loading metallic cartridge firearm was the Martini Henry. It protected and served the British Empire and her colonies for over 30 years and was made famous in the Zulu wars in particular by the defence at Rorkes Drift.

All the weapons up to the late 19th C used black powder as the charge for the projectile. This was not far removed from the original concoction invented by the Chinese centuries earlier. As a propellant it had a number of problems. It produced clouds of acrid white smoke, and this not only obscured the battlefield but if you were trying to snipe at the enemy your position was given away on the first shot with a tell-tale puff of white smoke. Being hygroscopic it did not like getting wet, and the spent residue also produces a thick corrosive layer that eventually fouls the gun barrel.

A major improvement took place when Guncotton was introduced in 1846. Guncotton was many times more powerful than gunpowder, but at the same time was somewhat more unstable. After several production accidents it went out of use for several decades until it had been tamed and made more stable. It was not until the 1880s that nitrocellulose based smokeless propellant became viable. Smokeless propellants such as cordite were introduced in the 1890s and the new type of powder removed much of the obscuring smoke from the battlefield and, combined with high-velocity ammunition and increasingly accurate rifles, made the long-range sniper all but invisible. Furthermore the higher muzzle velocity developed caused the bullet to have a flatter trajectory and better accuracy. Ammunition also started to become smaller and lighter and was more resistant to moisture.

As described earlier, in the 19th C lead projectiles had moved on from musket balls into shaped more streamlined bullets. The word "Bullet" is derived from the French "boulette" which roughly translated means "little ball". Much experimentation took place on the rifling inside the

barrel investigating the number of grooves and the pitch of the spiral required to give optimum spin to the bullet. Lead is very soft, and some bullets were found to override the rifling leading to adjustments of the alloy in order to make it harder and more resistant to the deforming effects of increasing propellant power. Lead bullets fired at high velocity may also suffer surface melting due to hot gases behind and friction with the bore. However, because of its density lead was still a good choice, since the mass developed high kinetic energy. The next important change in the history of the rifle bullet occurred in 1883, when a Major Rubin came up with the innovation of putting a copper jacket or envelope over a lead core. Full Metal Jacket as it came to be known. The copper jacketed bullet allows much higher muzzle velocities than lead alone, as copper has a much higher melting point, greater heat capacity and is harder.



All this said, identifying and dating the myriad of diverse projectiles can be a problem. Whilst there was growing standardisation in military arms, outside of this there was a hotchpotch of types and calibres. Over centuries of innovation and development, mans ability to come up with ever more ingenious means of accurately doing away with kith, kin and sundry beasties has resulted in this massive variety. You couldn't hope to identify all of these, but by following some broad principles and knowing the dates of the key developments you can end up in the right ball-park if you'll excuse the pun. Below is a list of questions, answering some or all of which may help narrow things a bit.

Is it a ball or a bullet? – bullets and shaped projectiles started to be introduced in the earlier part of the 19th C. Be wary though as some lead balls could be shell shrapnel and not from musket or pistol.

If a musket ball does it have a casting line or sprue? In the late 18th C the drop tower method of lead ball manufacture eventually did away with casting lines and sprues. Albeit homemade manufacture using tried and tested bullet moulds continued for decades.

Does it show any rifling? Commercially Rifling was a largely a 19th C innovation.

Is the bullet jacketed? – If yes then after 1883 and most likely 20th C onwards.

Is the calibre large? – In general calibres became smaller in the later 19th C. If it's a ball then smaller calibres are often pistol rounds.

Does the bullet have cannelures - radial grooves on the bullet? These were introduced with cartridges in order to crimp the bullet in place and will be post the late 19th C

Is the bullet dumpy or more elongated? Short dumpy bullets are more common in hand guns like pistols and revolvers, and in early rifles/muskets.

Does it have an expanding skirt – then it must be the wife – no sorry it will most likely be post 1850.

I hope this article has been of some interest and if it causes the more interesting finds to remain in the find box, or at least some respectable delay in the majority hitting the hedge, ditch or waste bin faster than they left the gun in the first place, then it has achieved its aim.

Archer

Garry Crace

About us

UK DETECTOR NET was created on September 28th 2002 to bring together responsible metal detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

Visit the forum

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/index.php>

Contact UKDN

enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk

UKDN newsletters to download

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=166>

If you would like to **contribute to the newsletter** please contact either UKDN as above, Phil D via PM, or Corinne Mills at Corinne.mills@ourpasthistory.com

UKDN AIMS

UKDN is a forum for people who are interested in the hobby of metal detecting. UKDN is an online community where members can exchange and share knowledge, their views, discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the hobby and some of the wider issues through healthy pro-active debate within the forum and through the monthly newsletter, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The newsletter includes UKDN based news and articles, as well as wider news, debate, and issues of heritage interest.
2. Provide a platform to inform beginners in the hobby of the basic principles in the use of a metal detector, gaining permission, site research, basic heritage law, farming scheme rules and in the 'best practise' for conservation, recording and co-operation.
3. Actively promotes the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting' to all members of the UKDN online forum and beyond.
4. Encourage all UKDN detectorist's to record their finds with the appropriate bodies (depending where they detect); In England and Wales, this is with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in Scotland this is the Treasure Trove Unit.
5. UKDN will actively work towards ensuring the future security of the hobby. We will liaise and co-operate with heritage professionals in a way which is mutually beneficial to all parties whilst maintaining our independence, and we encourage their active participation, either in the UKDN online community or through our on-line newsletter.