

# Report of the Portable Antiquities Scheme 2007

By GEOFF EGAN

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has now been in operation for eleven years as a means of allowing members of the public to make available voluntarily objects of archaeological interest that they have found so that a detailed, permanent record can be made, which will be accessible to all. The Scheme, which is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, employs 36 Finds Liaison Officers based across England and Wales and six National Finds Advisers, as well as management and support staff. The selection below of finds recorded in 2007 shows something of how the Scheme is adding to the picture of material culture in the post-medieval period.

Some items from 2007 listed below are of completely new categories while others are comparable to finds from previous years, providing continuing themes. A 16th-century copper-alloy pen may be from the last days of a monastery close to the findspot. A decorative lead bird trough is an unusual find outside major towns. Also for a bird, an enamelled silver vervel may have come from one used for hunting by a Duke of Norfolk. A mid-16th-century gold finger ring with nineteen diamonds appears from its relatively rough workmanship and the diversity of the stones to have been made of gems acquired perhaps over a period of time. Knives again feature, this time with a handle dated 1526 in arabic numerals, and there is a later one that has been ingeniously repaired with an old thimble. The coins selected are a gold issue of Brittany from the 16th century, a silver piece-of-eight minted in Bolivia, a well-preserved 1666 Sussex token, which apparently corrects a misreading in the standard work, and a late 17th-century farthing with a stamp thought to indicate use in Barbados. Again there are toys from rural areas, two flat female figures from the 16th/17th centuries, a new version of the best three-dimensional ones and a fragment from a crude flat

example from Wiltshire, and also the first known novelty fuddling cup of metal, comprising four vessels. One part of an unusual stone mould was used for laboriously casting a single-shot ball. Another four-matrix finger-ring seal from Gloucestershire is noted, adding to these curious accessories. Cloth seals are represented by what seems to be the first recorded find of an issue from Courtenay in France. A fine silver shoe buckle, probably from the Restoration period, has an apparently previously unrecorded maker's mark. An enamelled copper-alloy buckle represents several finds now known from various parts of England from a mid-/late 17th-century London industry recently identified from documentary evidence. Another lead horn book, with what looks like the head of Charles II, adds to the rural finds of these teaching aids. A blue lead-glass bottle, perhaps for scent, may be an Iberian import. A gold mourning ring, for a named individual who has been traced in local records, is dated 1753. At a more humble level, a clog clasp with a political slogan celebrating the American struggle for independence is an unusual find in Britain. Another manilla has been reported, this time from Staffordshire. A small lead owl (at present unparalleled) may be a variation on the shy cock.

Unusual finds are a pet's copper-alloy coffin and a lead figurine of a former slave turned prize-fighter. Although this celebrity is commemorated in other media, no other example in lead has been traced. Another pipe tamper with a couple in an erotic embrace adds to early pornographic tavern items. An impressive silver-gilt pendant with sizeable gemstones, which seemed on first sight to be from the 17th century and but now identified as a 19th-century copy, is included to illustrate how misleading some unstratified finds can be. Finally, an intriguing spinning piece with Hebrew letters has proved to be of a type sanctioned for Jewish



FIG. 1

No. 1: Copper-alloy knife handle terminal dated 1526, from Gussage All Saints, Dorset.

communities to practise gambling while at the same time reminding the players of their religious inheritance.

#### A SELECTION OF FINDS RECORDED DURING 2007

1. *Dorset, Gussage All Saints* (PAS database DOR-55A6C1; finder M. Green; FLO C. Hayward Trevarthen).

A discoid copper-alloy knife terminal retains traces of the iron tang and on both faces has engraved the date 1526 with a ragged line above and below; these tooled details have a white inlay (Fig. 1). The flat perimeter has three diagonal grooves, perhaps intended as a cord design. The use of arabic numerals this early is unusual in England (it was another quarter century before English coins had dates represented in this way).

2. *Dorset, Chettle* (PAS database DOR-173638; finder D. Cobb; FLO C. Hayward Trevarthen).

A cast copper-alloy pen has a lozenge faceted and twisted shaft, which narrows into a plain, rod-like length and terminates in a rounded knop at the top. There is a similar plain length between the faceting and the lanceolate, cruciform-section point. The shaft has been bent (Fig. 2). It was found near the site of a monastery, which may have

been where it was used. Material evidence for clerly practice often focused at former religious houses c. 1500–50.<sup>1</sup>

3. *Shropshire, Alberbury with Cardiston* (PAS database HESH-005348; finder I. Collins; FLO P. Reavill).

A decorative lead bird feeder, originally D-shaped in plan (now distorted), has on the front a chevron with two crosses potent and a fleur-de-lis above and a cross or floral device of five pellets below (Fig. 3). It is probably of 16th-century date.<sup>2</sup> The soil found inside the container was processed to look for any trace of seeds etc., but no organic material was found.

4. *Suffolk, Linstead Magna* (PAS database WMID-FAFCF3; finder R. Evans; FLO D. Slarke).

A Breton *écu d'or au soleil* of Francis I (reigned 1515–47) is the first known single find of a gold coin of his reign in England. The five finds of his gold coins previously recorded in this country are from hoards (one from Bearpark, County Durham, and four from Ely, Cambridgeshire).<sup>3</sup>

5. *Herefordshire, Foy* (PAS database HESH-A49557; Treasure no. 2007 T544; finder C. Chandler; FLO P. Reavill).

An enamelled silver vervel of fine workmanship comprises a relatively large attachment ring above a shield-shaped tab, which is engraved on both faces (Fig. 4). Vervels were attached to the legs of sporting birds to identify the owner by name or coat of arms. One side of this example depicts a silver lion rampant on an enamelled red field (some of which has been lost). The other side is inscribed on four lines: T/NOR/FOC/K. It is assignable to the 16th century. It seems likely that it belonged to one of the Dukes of Norfolk. The arms are those of the FitzAlan Earls of Arundel, a title that the Norfolks inherited with the marriage to Mary



FIG. 2

No. 2: Copper-alloy pen, early 16th century, from Chettle, Dorset.



FIG. 3

No. 3: Lead bird feeder, 16th century(?), from Alberbury with Cardiston, Shropshire. Height: 42.7mm; width: 36.5mm.

FitzAlan of Thomas Howard (fourth Duke, 1536–72). The find may have served to identify one of his hunting birds.<sup>4</sup>

6. *London, City of London* (PAS database LON-AEEE42; finders A.G. Pilson and I. Smith; FLO K. Sutton).

The remains of the wooden handle and a copper-alloy hilt band of a 17th-century iron knife were found on the Thames foreshore (Fig. 5). The hilt band is a re-used, much worn thimble, with a triple linear border below the fine, regular circular pits (the crown had been unevenly cut off). The very thin blade may have been intended for precision work.

In recycling the thimble as a knife-handle band the producer took an old item to hand and turned it to a completely different use. The fine



FIG. 5

No. 6: Incomplete knife handle repaired with a thimble, 17th century, from the City of London, London.

preservation of this particular object allowed it to be recognized, but, had it been recovered from less favourable soil conditions, the significance of the iron corrosion covering the damaged thimble might easily have been missed.

7. *Staffordshire, Ilam* (PAS database WMID-22DE66; finder J. Lee; FLO C. Johnson).

A complete copper-alloy manilla with white metal coating has the form of a small, circular-sectioned penannular arm bangle with sub-oval terminals expanding to flat ends (Fig. 6). A slight mould ridge runs the length of each terminal, and there are numerous fettling marks.

Manillas were used as a form of money, sometimes to trade for slaves, on the West African coast from c. 1550, remaining in use into the early 20th century. They are difficult to date closely as they were made in the same way, using the same metals, for a long time. The present one is very similar to



FIG. 4

No. 5: Enamelled silver verrel, 16th century, from Foy, Herefordshire (© Trustees of the British Museum).



FIG. 6

No. 7: Copper-alloy manilla, 16th/early 20th century, from Ilam, Staffordshire.



FIG. 7

No. 8: Stone mould for casting shot, 17th century(?), from the City of London, London.

the form that would have been produced by a mould excavated at a 17th-century foundry in Exeter (and also comparable to one found in Cornwall).<sup>5</sup>

8. *London, City of London* (PAS database LON-763F17; finders A.G. Pilon and I. Smith; FLO K. Sutton).

One half of a two-part stone mould for casting a single musket ball at a time was found on the Thames foreshore (Fig. 7). It is an irregular cuboid carved with a hemispherical recess and a wedge-shape funnel to pour in the molten lead. There are two recesses for metal pins to hold the two halves together and two notches in the outside surface for a wire binding to keep the parts rigid. Stone moulds for single-shot balls are less common than those for making several at one casting. The present example is probably from the 17th century.

9. *Flintshire, Higher Kinnerton* (PAS database LVPL-834150; finder L. Mouldsdales; FLO F. McIntosh).

A complete, rather rough, cast lead toy figure of a woman wears a full-length dress with prominent pleats (Fig. 8). This figure is similar to, but cruder than, several highly detailed Elizabethan hollow versions from London.<sup>6</sup> The find is significant as the first of this design recorded outside the capital, and because it is from a less accomplished producer.

10. *North Lincolnshire, Crowle* (PAS database NLM-5A2185; finder D. Seddon; FLO L. Staves).

A set of four miniature copper-alloy cauldrons was cast conjoined (Fig. 9). Each vessel has a handle on the outer side (two are missing) and a rectangular foot. This find is presumably of the late 16th or 17th century. Multiple ceramic vessels known as 'fuddling cups' were produced from the 17th century as novelty pieces. They were combinations of three or more small vessels conjoined and with interlinked handles, with a small hole in the shared walls. The idea was to drink from one vessel without spilling from any of them. The metal version was presumably also for amusement.<sup>7</sup>

11. *North Yorkshire, Brearton* (PAS database SWYOR-6C2985; finder J. Warden; FLO A. Cooper).

A copper-alloy finger-ring seal with four oval matrices is probably of late 17th-century date (Fig. 10). Each bezel has a different design (orientations differ; descriptions are as the impressions would appear): one has a shield with a bird (probably a hunting bird) facing right, over which are the initials IW; the next is horizontally aligned, with a cockerel facing right; the one after that, also horizontal, shows a bird of prey advancing to right and holding a small animal in its beak: the last is also horizontal (but the opposite way up to the others) and shows a dog(?) or lion passant with a long tail.<sup>8</sup>



FIG. 8

No. 9: Three-dimensional lead/tin toy figure of a woman, late 16th century, from Higher Kinnerton, Flintshire.





FIG. 9

No. 10: Copper-alloy four-part fuddling cup, late 16th/17th century(?), from Crowle, North Lincolnshire.



FIG. 10

No. 11: Copper-alloy finger ring with four seal matrices, late 17th century(?), Brearton, North Yorkshire.

Another, found in Gloucestershire in 2007, with circular matrices on slightly longer arms has a three-masted vessel under sail; a crown; a bird (dove?) standing with a palm branch in front and above; a heart flanked by two chevrons and pierced by two saltire arrows and a cross in a square above.<sup>9</sup>

12. *Wiltshire, Chiseldon* (PAS database WILT-1C62D7; finder M. Gillett; FLO K. Hinds).

A flat lead female figure has herringbone hatching on the torso on both faces (Fig. 11). The triangular-section arms are flat at the back, with transverse hatching. The arms extend from the top of the body, curve outwards and then inwards to



FIG. 11

No. 12: Torso fragment of two sided 'flat' toy figure of a woman, 17th century, from Chiseldon, Wiltshire.

rest on the narrow waist. The breaks at top and bottom of the body for neck and dress are old. This is one of the cheaper versions, usually assigned to the 17th century,<sup>10</sup> of the accomplished three-dimensional, hollow figures from the late 16th century (see No. 9).

13. *Wiltshire, Mildenhall* (PAS database SOM-BB0BB4; finder A. Morgan; FLO N. Payne).

An enamelled copper-alloy rectangular double-frame buckle from the mid- to late 17th century has trefoil-shaped outside edges and there are external knobs at each end of the bar (Fig. 12). The frame is decorated with moulded scrollwork and the recesses between are filled with black and white enamel. These colours were probably chosen because of Puritan taste around the time of the Commonwealth. The pin is missing.

The manufacturers of this buckle are thought to have also produced enamelled buttons, stirrups, ornate candlesticks, etc. This material has recently been attributed to makers in London (it was formerly known as 'Surrey enamels' from a mistaken attribution to a foundry in that county).<sup>11</sup> A similar though incomplete frame with blue and white enamel has been found in Norfolk.<sup>12</sup>

14. *Lincolnshire, Belton and Manthorpe* (PAS database LIN-16BF84; finder D. Baker; FLO A. Daubney).

A complete rectangular 'hornbook' of lead has one side taken up with the alphabet in five lines, each separated by a moulded transverse line. The other side has a crude depiction of the crowned King Charles II (Fig. 13). The alphabet reads as follows: ABCDEF/GHIKL/MNOPQ/RSTVW/XYZ. It lacks the letters J and V, and the N is reversed. The find can be assigned to c. 1660–85.



FIG. 12

No. 13: Buckle with black and white enamel, mid- to late 17th century, from Mildenhall, Wiltshire.



FIG. 13

No. 14: 'Hornbook' of lead with deficient alphabet and representation of King Charles II, late 17th century, from Belton and Manthorpe, Lincolnshire.

True hornbooks were made of wood onto which a printed paper would have been mounted, and then covered with a thin sheet of transparent horn for protection. The lead tablets are presumably cheaper versions.<sup>13</sup>

15. *East Sussex, Ringmer* (PAS database SUSS-2864F4; finder W. Piggott; FLO E. Andrews-Wilson).

A 17th-century copper-alloy trade token issued at Boreham in East Sussex has: ★[IOSEPH] EASTON around the Mercers' arms // ★BOREH[AM.IN] SVSSEX around I.E. 1666.



FIG. 14

No. 16: Silver shoe buckle with maker's mark, late 17th century, from the Newport area, Isle of Wight.

In the late 17th century many traders issued tokens for use as small change to make up for the dearth of coins. Most had a fairly local distribution, as they could only be exchanged within the area where the trader was known. The standard catalogue of 17th-century traders' tokens lists only one from Boreham in Sussex, for a 'Joseph Elston'.<sup>14</sup> The design is the same and so while the present find could be a newly discovered variant for the same

person, the catalogue may have drawn on an example with a less clear legend.

16. *Isle of Wight, Newport area* (PAS database IOW-4074C3; Treasure no. 2007 T607; finder R. Fry; FLO F. Basford).

An incomplete silver shoe buckle of baroque form dates from c. 1675–1700 (Fig. 14). The buckle is decorated with scrolls and shell motifs on the frame; the chape has a stud with radiating grooves, and is stamped on the back with the lion passant and a maker's mark: RM above a star in a shield (apparently previously unrecorded).

This is probably a man's shoe buckle. From c. 1660 men wore shoe buckles, which are characterized by their small size and delicacy. This buckle is similar to a slightly later example from Somerset.<sup>15</sup>

17. *Dorset, Wimborne Minster* (PAS database DOR-23C926; finder S. Rowland; FLO C. Hayward Trevarthen).

A small, translucent blue bottle of lead-glass is of a form not previously noted in Britain (Fig. 15). Its blown body flares out into a rounded drop-shape, which is flattened front and back. The applied flat foot is so uneven that the vessel cannot stand on it. It is decorated with two applied blue-glass sub-circular prunts, one on each face. These are impressed with criss-crossing lines. There are applied trails of clear glass forming double loops on each side of the neck and the sides on the main body (one trail is broken off below the neck). The

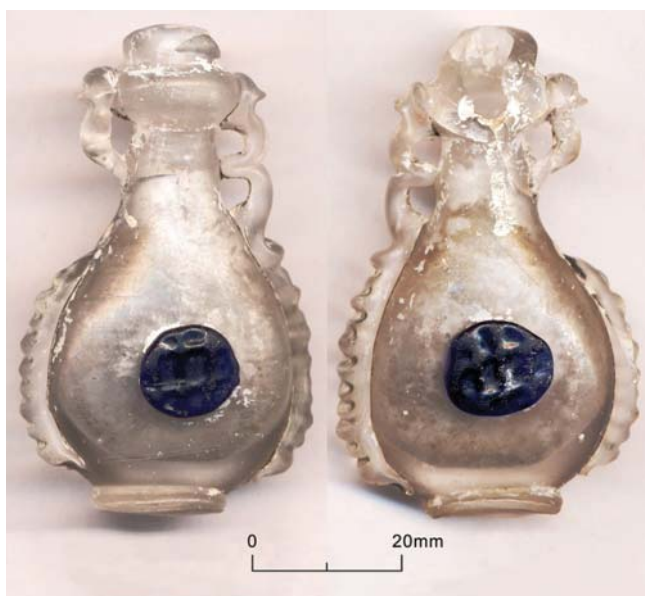


FIG. 15

No. 17: Blue lead-glass bottle, late 17th century(?), from Wimborne Minster, Dorset.





FIG. 16

No. 18: Lead cloth seal for Courtenay in France, late 17th/early 18th century(?), from Nash Mills, Hertfordshire.

trails have been tooled to form transverse grooves and ridges along the body of the bottle.

The looped trails along the side are similar to those on some Spanish glass.<sup>16</sup> The vessel may be late 17th-century, as this tooled trailing and stamped prunts were popular then, although it is a relatively crude example.<sup>17</sup> It was perhaps intended to hold scent.

18. *Hertfordshire, Nash Mills* (PAS database BH-0A8713; finder R. Shelton; FLO J. Watters).

A two-disc lead cloth seal for an imported textile is from Courtenay, near Paris (Fig. 16). One disc has the legend 'BU[R.]/DE COU[R]/TNAY/TRANSI...', which indicates that it was issued, perhaps for customs in transit, by the Courtenay bureau. The other disc bears crowned saltire batons or staves, with C in the left-hand angle, D below and C/G in the right-hand angle. It can for the present only be assigned broadly to c. 1650–1750. This appears to be the first Courtenay seal recorded anywhere. As the town was not noted for textile production, its existence is as much unanticipated as is its presence in Britain.

19. *Devon, Exeter* (PAS database DEV-AB49A5; finder J. Upsher; FLO D. Wootton).

A silver eight *reales* Spanish 'piece of eight' is from a South American mint (Fig. 17). The

obverse has the arms of Spain (quarterly, a castle top left and bottom right, and a lion rampant top right and bottom left) and the reverse has the Pillars of Hercules (the Straits of Gibraltar) with three lines of text: P 8 VR (P=mintmark for Potosi in Bolivia, 8 = the denomination of the coin — i.e. eight reales, VR=initials of the assayer); PLUS ULTRA (the Latin motto of Spain meaning 'further beyond'); VR 8 P (repeats the top line but in a different order). It can be dated to c. 1689.

Devon is famous for its links with pirates, and at the time of discovery this find captured people's imagination. It was featured on BBC South West news and has its own webpage.<sup>18</sup>

20. *Oxfordshire, Letcombe Regis* (PAS database SUR-1000F7; finder I. Laws; FLO D. Williams).

A copper-alloy William III farthing, now very worn, seems to be dated 1696, and is stamped on the reverse with a heart containing the letters IB and six pellets (Fig. 18). The only known usage of an IB stamp is on a range of European copper coins supposedly countermarked for use in Barbados, probably in the late 17th/early 18th century. The heart-shaped stamp is not known on these issues, though it was used in the Caribbean (for example, on coins in Martinique). The identification of such secondary marks is rarely secure, but Barbados seems at least a plausible identification for the present item.<sup>19</sup>



FIG. 17

No. 19: Silver eight *reales* coin minted in Bolivia, late 17th century, from Exeter, Devon.



FIG. 18

No. 20: William III farthing with IB stamp, for use in Barbados(?), late 17th/early 18th century, from Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire.

21. *Somerset, Milborne Port* (PAS database SOM-FA3D08; finder H. Vincent; FLO N. Payne).

A gold mourning ring has the hoop divided into five curvilinear scrolls, which contain a legend highlighted by niello (Fig. 19). The legend reads WM BYSHOP OB:24 JULY.1753 AE:40, i.e. the ring commemorates a William Byshop who died on that day, aged 40. On the inside of the band there is a maker's mark IW in a rectangle.

The finder checked the parish registers for Milborne Port and discovered that a William Byshop married a Sara Hallet on 23 October 1739. This ring presumably belonged to Sara, who would have had it made after the death of her husband. The maker's initials are not uncommon among goldsmiths (several London goldsmiths who were



FIG. 19

No. 21: Enameled gold mourning ring for William Byshop, dated 1753, from Milborne Port, Somerset.

active at this date had the same initials), but perhaps refer to John Webber of Plymouth, who entered his name and mark at the assay office in 1724.

22. *Surrey, Guildford* (PAS database SUR-A665E0; finder M. Stonard; FLO D. Williams).

One of a pair of sheet copper-alloy clog fasteners stamped with the legend LIBERTY TO AMERICA and a wreath (Fig. 20) can be dated to c. 1770–1800.<sup>20</sup> It is an unusual instance of an object with a slogan favouring American independence found in Britain, suggesting radical, unpatriotic sentiments among the lower classes.

23. *Cheshire, Plumley* (PAS database LVPL-555B72; finder A. Wijs; FLO F. McIntosh).

A cast lead owl is detailed on both sides with the bird facing (Fig. 21). With its large eyes, hooked beak and pointed ear tufts the bird is identifiable as a Long-Eared Owl. It was possibly a toy similar to a shy cock,<sup>21</sup> and probably of 18th/19th-century date. No parallel is known.



FIG. 20

No. 22: Copper-alloy clog fastener with 'LIBERTY TO AMERICA', late 18th century, from Guildford, Surrey.



FIG. 21

No. 23: Lead figure of an owl, possibly analogous to a shy cock, 18th/19th century(?), from Plumley, Cheshire.

24. *Cumbria, Ambleside* (PAS database LAN-CUM-F58134; finder P. Adams; FLO D. Bruns).

A cast copper-alloy pipe tamper has a handle in the form of two lovers embracing (Fig. 22). The male figure stands upright while the female's legs are bent giving her the look of being seated, suggesting a full erotic encounter.



FIG. 22

No. 24: Pornographic copper-alloy pipe tamper with figures embracing, late 18th/early 19th century, from Ambleside, Cumbria.

This is the second tamper of the same design recorded by PAS, though it appears to be from a different mould.<sup>22</sup> It is presumably of the late 18th/early 19th century, as another came from the wreck of a ship which sank in 1798.

25. *Isle of Wight, Ryde* (PAS database IOW-40D6F1; finder D. Hewison; FLO F. Basford).

A lead figurine of a man with a robust body and head thrust forwards is probably a representation of the celebrated black American pugilist, Tom Molineaux (Fig. 23). The hair is tightly curled and the facial features are negroid in character. The right arm is broken off just below the elbow and the left arm just above the elbow, and both legs are broken off close to the knee. The figure is attired in tight boxing shorts with a high waistline and a prizefighter's belt. When complete the figure would have had a boxing stance with the left leg placed slightly forward and right arm raised at the elbow. Originally this figurine was coated in a black substance, much of which has worn off. It can be dated to the early 19th century.

Born a slave on a Virginia plantation, Tom Molineaux (1784–1818) fought fellow slaves while plantation owners wagered on the contests. After winning one of these matches against a rival, Molineaux was granted his freedom and the sum of \$500 by his owner, Algernon Molineaux. By 1809 Tom had travelled to New York and subsequently to England where he became a notable prizefighter. Two notorious contests with the English champion Tom Cribb in 1810 and 1811 won Molineaux a place in boxing history and he became a celebrity in England. He fought only sporadically, opting to





FIG. 23

No. 25: Incomplete lead-alloy figure of the prize-fighter Tom Molineaux, early 19th century, from Ryde, Isle of Wight.

engage in numerous sparring exhibitions. His death in Dublin was reported on 13 October 1818.<sup>23</sup>

26. *Cornwall, Padstow* (PAS database CORN-FA0676; Treasure no. 2007 T643; finder J. Clemes; FLO A. Tyacke).

An ornate silver-gilt pendant with a different openwork design on the front and the back and

sizeable gems on the former looks at first sight 17th-century, though it is a mid 19th-century neo-baroque piece (Fig. 24). These were made in several European centres when the fashion saw a revival.<sup>24</sup>

It has foliate openwork with a cherub(?) and decorative niello inlay, around rectangular collets with five emeralds, one ruby (held in a



FIG. 24

No. 26: Silver-gilt baroque-style pendant with enamel and gems, 19th century, from Padstow, Cornwall.





FIG. 25

No. 27: Small copper-alloy coffin for a pet, early 19th century or later(?), from Kirkham, Lancashire.

heart-shaped collet set in the chest of the figure's bust), two garnets, and two citrine quartz stones around a central amethyst, which is set in a corded collet, with two settings missing their gems. The stones are all scratched and worn and have been re-used in these newer settings.<sup>25</sup> The attachment loop at the top is incomplete, as are two small suspension loops at the bottom, which would probably have held pendant pearls. The frame appears to be made up of two main parts, a cast, openwork back, and a possibly earlier hand-tooled front with cast settings soldered on (it may have been weakened by this process). The whole object is relatively roughly made, particularly the back. That it is silver, not gold, and that the cherub(?) is not winged as would be expected in a 17th-century jewel of this type argue for it being a 19th-century copy.<sup>26</sup>

27. *Lancashire, Kirkham* (PAS database LAN-CUM-1A3576; finder R. Lewis; FLO D. Bruns).

A small copper-alloy coffin, length 83mm, comprises three parts: a robust, cast casket and lid, and an incomplete, thinner top plate (probably intended for an inscription, though there is none). They are held together by a rivet at the head end (Fig. 25). The plate may alternatively have protected a message that might have been wedged between it and the lid (none survived). The shape of the coffin is late post-medieval/modern. Its size suggests that it was meant for a small pet (or possibly the ashes of a large one). Pet burials and coffins are not unusual, but do not have a long tradition. It is unlikely that this object dates from before 1800.

28. *Isle of Wight, Shalfleet* (PAS database IOW-918A57; finder C. Davis; FLO F. Basford).

A roughly square-sectioned lead gaming piece has a pointed base and a small handle at the top, in the manner of a tee-to-tum (Fig. 26). The upper part is hollow and the handle is damaged. The base is formed by an angled tab extending down from each corner, to form a saltire cross, meeting at the centre in the point that enabled the piece to be spun in the manner of a spinning top. It can be identified as being for the *Dreidel* game played in the Jewish community, as each face has a Hebrew letter in relief within an ornamental frame. It is probably of 19th- or early 20th-century date.

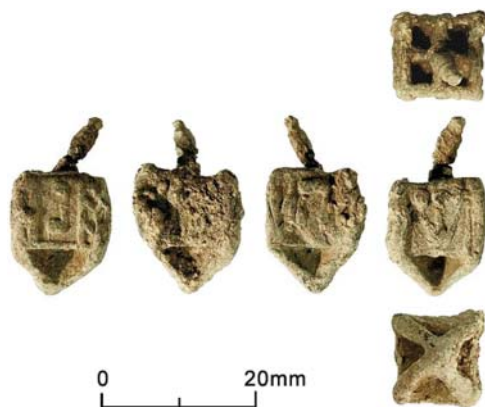


FIG. 26

No. 28: Lead spinner for the game *Dreidel* played in the Jewish community, 19th/early 20th century(?), from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight.

The *Dreidel* game began in Germany hundreds of years ago. Rabbis there allowed gambling only during Hanukkah (the Festival of Lights). German gambling 'dice' had four letters on their sides, which were translated into the Hebrew equivalents to show what the player received or had to add to the kitty: N (*nicht* = nothing, Hebrew letter nun); G (*ganz* = all, *gimmel*); H (*halb* = half, *hey*); S (*stell ein* = put one in, *shin*). These four letters also each represent an initial of the phrase *Nes gadol haya sham* ('a great miracle happened there'), which is a reminder of the story of Hanukkah. This eight-day Jewish holiday celebrates the rededication of the Temple at Jerusalem during the Maccabee rebellion in the second century AD. The festival is observed in Jewish homes by the kindling of lights on each night of the holiday (one on the first night, two on the second, and so on). In this way a gambling game was changed into a reminder of Hanukkah.<sup>27</sup>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Egan 1998, 271, no. 898. See PAS database NARC-7DB472 for another from Northamptonshire.

<sup>2</sup> Spencer 1985, 451–2; Egan 2005b, 128–9.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Kelleher (British Museum), pers. comm.

<sup>4</sup> Egan 2005a, 331–2, no. 5, for another of similar form with the royal arms.

<sup>5</sup> Egan 2006, 311–12, no. 21:2; Blaylock 2000, 46, fig. 17; 68–9, fig. 27, no. 134; PAS 2005/6, 107–8 (PAS database CORN-327A61).

<sup>6</sup> Forsyth & Egan 2005, 152–5, nos 4.13–17 for the finer ones, which have only been found in London. See No. 13 for a two-sided flat example.

<sup>7</sup> Egan 2007, 306, no. 10, for an example combining three cauldrons.

<sup>8</sup> Oakley 1983.

<sup>9</sup> PAS database GLO-F89AF1, from Gloucestershire (see also PAS database ESS-393EF8; WILT-D1D4D6; WAW-BC0821).

<sup>10</sup> The lower part of the triangular dress of another from East Yorkshire was also recorded in 2007. It is decorated on both sides, one with a grid pattern and the other with two paired perimeter bands of zigzags (PAS database YORYM-5C25C7). Uniquely, this fragment has the remains of four copper-alloy rivets with lead caps, suggesting that it had been attached to something, perhaps a base enabling it to stand upright. There is a cluster of these figures from North Yorkshire. Cf. Egan 1996, 5–6, fig. 9 right; Forsyth & Egan 2005, 155, no. 4.19.

<sup>11</sup> Blair 2005; Blair & Patterson 2006. The latter includes a few buttons. See No. 16 for buckles from

the same manufacturer; a mount has also been recorded by PAS (database LON-0985F7).

<sup>12</sup> PAS database NMS-CDABE7.

<sup>13</sup> Egan 2005a, 330–1, fig. 4, no. 4.

<sup>14</sup> Williamson 1967, 1162, no. 27.

<sup>15</sup> PAS database SOMDOR-DA1AE6.

<sup>16</sup> Hugh Willmott, pers. comm.

<sup>17</sup> Rachel Tyson, pers. comm.

<sup>18</sup> <[http://www.livinghere.org.uk/page\\_id\\_192\\_path\\_\\_0p4p67p.aspx](http://www.livinghere.org.uk/page_id_192_path__0p4p67p.aspx)> [added 19 December 2007].

<sup>19</sup> John Naylor (PAS post-Roman Coins Adviser), pers. comm.

<sup>20</sup> Read 1995, 178–9, dates the fashion for clasps on shoes to c. 1790–1810 and a revival on clogs in northern England from the 1850s to c. 1920.

<sup>21</sup> Forsyth & Egan 2005, 238–40, for shy toys; Egan 2006, 307, 309, no. 14, for a shy cock recorded by PAS.

<sup>22</sup> Egan 2007, 305, no. 21. PAS database ESS-FE21B0 is a non-pornographic tamper with St George slaying the dragon, also recorded in 2007.

<sup>23</sup> A hand-coloured etching showing Tom Molineaux in a similar stance to that of the figurine is in the collections of Virginia Historical Society, Richmond (Va). Porcelain figures of him are also known, Halfpenny & Beddoe 1990, pl. S12 (Miranda Goodby, pers. comm.). The present figure seems to be the first recorded in lead.

<sup>24</sup> Identified by Dora Thornton, British Museum.

<sup>25</sup> S. Chambers (gemmologist), pers. comm.

<sup>26</sup> E.g. Marquadt 1998, 252, cat. no. 274.

<sup>27</sup> Sarah Harel Hoshen, Jewish Museum, London, pers. comm.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS

- FLO Finds Liaison Officer  
PAS Portable Antiquities Scheme

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