

# Report of the Portable Antiquities Scheme 2005

By GEOFF EGAN

The year 2005, the second in which finds from England and Wales recorded under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) have been reported in this Journal, saw a further significant range of post-medieval objects added to the national database.<sup>1</sup> A great variety of dress accessories, including more examples of the Tudor dress-hooks and ornate pin heads, have come to attention, largely through the Scheme — from Suffolk, East Sussex and from Somerset (nos 5 and 6 below). A silver cufflink with the head of Queen Anne (no. 17) makes up in its loyal reference what it lacks in accomplished craftsmanship. In a similar vein, a slightly earlier decorated pewter spoon displays on its handle the heads of William and Mary (no. 7).

A few late pilgrim badges have been reported, and a brooch in the same tradition of manufacture, seemingly with the figure of Henry VIII (no. 1), may be a rare instance of a find from the Reformation relating not directly to the destruction of the Catholic Church and its institutions but to the usually uncelebrated popular support that the monarch's reforms must have had in some quarters. Perhaps later in date is a possible example of a Catholic charm of lead with a letter V that could refer to the Virgin (no. 2); if so, this is a rare instance of an object that may relate to a form of resistance to the new English Church. A silver chalice found in Derbyshire, bearing London hallmarks for 1632 (no. 9), is another unusual and valuable find. A large iron bowl discovered in a stream in Northamptonshire with several sharp, bent items inside is possibly a witch-countering vessel of unusual type (no. 8). Another possible example of a late manifestation of folk beliefs took the form of a miniature wooden shoe-shaped snuff-box (no. 22) found, apparently concealed, within a house.

An early plaything designed for instruction of children was included in the report for 2004,<sup>2</sup> and further children's toys have come to light during the last year. The discovery of a 16th-century stone mould for casting toy swords (no. 4) is notable for several reasons, not least that it was found in a village in Herefordshire; if early playthings were regularly produced in rural areas such as this, their manufacture was far more widespread than has previously been suspected. A fragment of an early 18th-century toy watch (no. 13) found in Northamptonshire is the first recorded in the county, but a small group of probable toys of the 17th or early 18th century (no. 12), comprising a copper-alloy cauldron, a lead/tin (?) soldier and what could be a miniature drinking glass (if so, the earliest known in England) appears to be the most varied multiple find of early playthings in the country. An incomplete lead shy cock (no. 14) illustrates a humane version of a rural sport that originally ended with the death of a tethered bird.

A high-quality mourning ring of gold from Shropshire (no. 18) is unusual in referring to two deceased persons — a mother and daughter who are identifiable from records. The arms of a married couple, John Pitt, second Earl of Chatham (the brother of Prime Minister William Pitt) and his wife, engraved on a fine fob seal (no. 19) establish its ownership; the seal was in fact found on the family's estate in Somerset. In contrast, a fine silver snuff box engraved with distinctive arms featuring foxes (no. 16), cannot be assigned specifically, despite the heraldry, and there are similar difficulties with a bottle seal (no. 15) found in Cornwall, with a date and the name of an individual, but it is doubtful whether these fit with the only traced local person of the same name.

The Civil War crops up again among finds from 2005, this time in the form of a group of lead

shot from Cumbria which can be associated with one of the smaller skirmishes of the period (no. 10). Also relating to firearms, but from the 19th century, is an assemblage of knapping waste from the production of gunflints (no. 23) at a location in Suffolk where this activity was previously unknown.

Two finds of copper-alloy manillas (bracelets used in West Africa as currency through much of the post-medieval period) found on the Isles of Scilly (nos 21.1–2) relate to a specific sphere of trade beyond Europe. It is not possible to establish their date and specific origin, but similar items were made in foundries in London and Exeter from the 17th century onwards. These two are thought to have come from a wreck or pair of wrecks of trading vessels bound for West Africa.

A German soldier's dog-tag from a prisoner-of-war camp in Lincolnshire tells an unusual story, while a German medal found nearby is a more straightforward loss (no. 24).

Cloth seals of lead continue to feature regularly among new finds. Each of these discoveries adds to the growing picture of the textile trade, the single most important branch of English commerce in these centuries. Two groups of differing

character — the first from the West Country, the second from the north-east — reveal details of early post-medieval commerce. Only local products are present in the first group; faulty products feature prominently among them. In the second group there are no identified local seals but a wide range from different parts of England, as well as examples from a surprising variety of continental sources, ranging widely in date (nos 25–6).

## SOME FINDS RECORDED IN 2005

1. *Cambridgeshire, Shudy Camps* (PAS database CAM-466AB8; finder B. Spall; FLO P. Walton).

A damaged, cast lead/tin badge of the early 16th century. It is approximately circular; the decoration is very crude, both in design and execution (Fig. 1). It appears to depict the familiar figure of Henry VIII (1509–47), surrounded by a ring of pellets. On the reverse is a rib where the pin would have been attached. Overall the badge is very similar to a mass-produced pilgrim souvenir and it may be regarded almost as a counter-pilgrim badge, signalling allegiance to the king at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries; a round, copper alloy badge with a portrait of the same monarch from Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire, is a comparable accessory.<sup>3</sup>

2. *Oxfordshire, Littlemore* (PAS database BERK-4F1A27; finder D. Barton; FLO Kate Sutton).

A small, heart-shaped object of lead (Fig. 2), possibly a charm, and probably of late 15th- to 17th-century date, could originally have been part of a pendant as there is some damage to the top where a loop may have been attached. Two points of damage at the sides may (unless recent) alternatively have been where it was held, or the recovered item may be a small part of a somewhat larger object. The front has beading around the edge and a raised 'V' in the centre with a pellet between



FIG. 1

No. 1: Lead/tin badge, probably with the bust of Henry VIII, from Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire.



FIG. 2

No. 2: Lead charm with V [? for the Virgin], from Littlemore, Oxfordshire.



FIG. 3

No. 3: Cast ornate copper-alloy pinhead, from Otterhampton, Somerset.

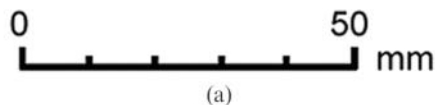
its arms. The 'V' is further decorated with a running series of circular depressions. The back is flat and undecorated. The letter may refer to the cult of the Virgin, which flourished in the late medieval period, or the object could be some later, cryptic, post-Reformation Catholic charm.

3. *Somerset, Otterhampton* (PAS database SOMDOR-E61546; finder T. Phillips).

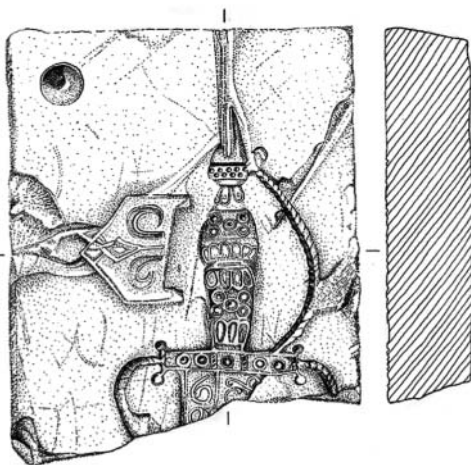
A spherical, openwork copper-alloy pin head of the 16th century (Fig. 3) appears to have been cast to imitate the filigree decoration which regularly appears on precious metal pins of this date.<sup>4</sup> The sphere is divided into two hemispheres by a band. Each hemisphere contains three circles, and each of these in turn is formed of three smaller circles. In the centre of the smaller circles and between the larger ones are tiny, sub-round bosses, of which there are six on each side. The stub of the pin is visible on the main band which divides the sphere. There are also traces of gilding.

4. *Herefordshire, Hampton Bishop* (PAS database HESH-87A116; finder G. Martin; FLO Peter Reavill).

A stone mould for producing toy lead-alloy (?pewter) swords (Fig. 4) is an unusual survival, probably from the Tudor period. It was discovered in the garden of the finder. The mould is made of a sub-rectangular piece of relatively soft siltstone (a sedimentary rock). One face has been smoothed and the intricate design of the sword has been



(a)



(b)

FIG. 4

No. 4: Stone mould for a toy sword, from Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire.



carved into it; the other faces have been roughly trimmed to form relatively uniform, flat surfaces. At one corner a small conical peg hole has been cut to allow the two halves of the mould to be joined together and to prevent movement during casting. A series of small channels have been cut leading to the main design, to allow the metal to flow into the mould while air and gases were released.

The main feature of the mould is the negative of an ornately decorated sword. The stone is broken off beneath the guard, and so only part of the detail survives. The backhand guard is meant to represent corded, rope-like wire and the quillions are similar. The overall design is comparable with continental, especially Italianate, sword types of the 16th century. To the left of the central design is a negative for casting another small object. This has not been identified certainly but it has been suggested that it is either part of a small lid or belt chape. Some broadly similar toy swords of comparable date have been found in London.<sup>5</sup>

5. *Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds* (PAS database SF-EF8898; finder P. Rogers; FLO F. Minter).

An early 16th-century copper-alloy dress-hook (Fig. 5) is unusual among accessories of this broad category, since its plate depicts a somewhat



FIG. 5

No. 5: Copper-alloy dress-hook, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



FIG. 6

No. 6: Silver-gilt dress-hook, from Rodmell, East Sussex.

crude Renaissance-style female bust. It is a (?)girl or young woman shown in profile, with thick hair. A circular dot and a line represent the eye and mouth respectively. This find furnishes yet another example of the great variety of motifs among this extremely varied series of accessories.<sup>6</sup>

6. *East Sussex, Rodmell* (PAS database SUSS-B98CD6/Treasure Case no. 2004/T237; finder R. Lyon; FLO L. Wilson).

A silver-gilt dress-hook (Fig. 6) dating to the early 16th century has a triangular backplate with a cusped outline. Three hemispherical bosses are soldered onto the front with applied filigree circles; at the point where the three bosses touch is another gilded boss which is attached to the backplate, with petal-like tabs around it. On the back is an attachment bar at the broad end of the triangle. The original recurving hook is missing, but its position is visible from the break.

The triangular form with three bosses is becoming widely known from finds recorded on the PAS database.<sup>7</sup> This accessory was declared Treasure and has been donated to the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

7. *Monmouthshire, Mitchel Troy* (PAS database GLO-5598A7; finder T. Denning; FLO K. Adams).

A late 17th-century pewter spoon (Fig. 7) has a pair of ridges which taper towards a three-petalled flower on the back of the bowl. The stem is trapezoidal in cross-section. Its upper part has the



FIG. 7

No. 7: Pewter spoon with the heads of William and Mary, from Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire.

busts of William and Mary facing each other under a single crown and below these is a foliate motif with annulets. On the back are a series of marks: an incuse C for the owner is on the terminal above a moulded bell, and below these are a lion, a fleur-de-lis (further down), and nearest the bowl the maker's initials TW. The oval-shaped bowl is common in the late 17th century. The overall condition is good, but the stem has broken away from the bowl. Other pewter spoons featuring William and Mary are known from above-ground survivals.<sup>8</sup>

8. *Northamptonshire, Harlestone* (PAS database NARC-0ACAB1; FLO T. Brindle).

A large (?) 17th-/18th-century iron bowl, 0.30m in diameter, with walls 50mm high, was discovered in a stream by two walkers. It may have been associated with witchcraft. Inside it, eleven small copper-alloy pins and fragments were found, along with a stud, a pin, a tack and a possible nail, all of iron. X-raying has revealed that at least ten other pins are still hidden within the corrosion. A bone handle juts out from the bowl's wall, and the X-ray plate reveals the tang and blade of the tool, which is probably a knife. Stones incorporated into the corrosion layer have hampered the penetration of the X-rays, so there may be further small artefacts. The pins retrieved from the bowl all have wound-wire heads and typically date from the 16th to 19th centuries. Eight of the complete extracted copper-alloy pins, the iron nail and iron pin are bent to varying degrees.

The placing of sharp, bent objects, including pins (often alongside human hair and bodily fluids) within ceramic and occasionally glass 'witch bottles', mainly in the 17th century, is well known. These bottles, used as protection against witches, are normally found hidden in houses, usually within walls or behind hearths,<sup>9</sup> whereas the present bowl was found out of doors, in a shallow stream. Although no other 'witch' vessel of this metal has been traced, it is possible that a variety of containers were used in the prevention of witchcraft, as it is more likely to have been the contents than the material that were considered important in warding off malign magic.

This bowl may have been intended to prevent the curses or spells of a witch from crossing the moving water in which it was found. With the realm of folk magic these suggestions can only be tentative, and there is always the possibility that the bowl was simply used as a receptacle for odds and ends. Overall, an antidote to a perceived threat of witchcraft seems a plausible theory.

9. *Derbyshire, Alderwasley* (PAS database DENO-728934; finder J. Mackrell; FLO R. Atherton).

A 17th-century silver chalice (Fig. 8) with a tapering, beaker-shaped bowl, on a baluster stem and domed foot (now detached). The hallmarks show that it was made in London in 1638, although the maker's initials are unclear.

An almost identical chalice from the parish church of Boylestone (just 32km away) was made in 1639. The maker's mark on that vessel is a 'TS' monogram, registered in London in 1601–2. Judging by its style, the Alderwasley chalice was probably made by the same maker. It may also be church plate, possibly buried for safety during the



FIG. 8

No. 9: Silver chalice from Alderwasley, Derbyshire.

Civil War, or in the Commonwealth period. The closest church to the findspot is All Saints, Alderwasley; four other pieces of plate are known for this church, all dated 1849. The chalice has been disclaimed under the Treasure Act and been returned to the finder.

10. *Lancashire, Whalley* (PAS database LANCUM-84CFB7; finder M. Lucas; FLO D. Bruns).

A group of musket shot. Such groups are in themselves not unusual discoveries, but it is very difficult to date accurately any loose finds in this category. In some circumstances, however, it seems possible to tie them down closely. An English Civil War historian, S. Bull of Lancashire Museum Service, has proposed that this particular group is associated with the Battle of Whalley (1643), at which Parliamentary troops surprised and routed a Royalist force.

11. *Lincolnshire, Dunston* (PAS database LIN-940385; finder R. Lane; FLO A. Daubney).

A lead seal set around a handle sherd from a late 17th-/early 18th-century stoneware vessel, presumably a tavern mug (Fig. 9), was found on a club search with the Lincoln Historic Search Society. The handle is ribbed and has a mottled, light brown glaze. The mark is a crown with WR below, stamped on the rectangular lead band. This is a regulatory capacity mark, showing that the particular stoneware vessel had been checked and was officially found to hold the correct volume of liquid. Usually these marks were stamped integrally near the rim and close to the handle before firing. The added lead versions are far less common. The phenomenon of marking began under William III (1694–1702), who is referred to on this example by his royal initials. The dating is not as simple as it might seem, however, since after a few years of 'AR' stamps under Queen Anne (1702–14), it was noted that the wording of the Act specified the initials 'WR' should be used, and so the authorities reverted to these letters for some years.<sup>10</sup>

12. *Hertfordshire, Cow Roast* (PAS database BH-26CDF5, BH-1F1224 & BH-1F0F22; finders A. Bossendorfer, D. Philips and Mr Halsey; FLO J. Watters).

Three of the participants at a rally of the Weekend Wanderers Metal Detecting Club discovered a small but diverse group of miniatures in a limited area. The group comprises three early post-medieval toys — a tiny cauldron of copper alloy<sup>11</sup> (Fig. 10:1), a damaged lead human figurine, possibly military<sup>12</sup> (Fig. 10:2), and what appears to



FIG. 9

No. 11: Lead ale mark on a handle fragment from a stoneware vessel, from Dunston, Lincolnshire.

be a 24mm-high goblet in green glass (Fig. 10:3). The moulded glass vessel is difficult to parallel, but it could be the only child's toy of this material recorded in the country.<sup>13</sup> These remarkable finds may represent one child's playthings from the 17th to early 18th century. They may be the only known assemblage of toys of different materials of such an early date.

13. *Northamptonshire, Norton* (PAS database NARC-821AC0; finder the Revd Rodriguez-Veglio; FLO T. Brindle).

An incomplete late 17th- or early 18th-century lead-alloy child's toy watch (Fig. 11) was found at Norton. Only part of one of the original two sides was found. The outer edge has a border of small pellets and a wide flange enclosing a ring of rococo-style decoration. There is a beaded circle around the chapter ring, marked with the hours I to XII in roman numerals. The numerals alternate with pellets which indicate the half hours. The dial in the centre is plain, and the hand, which has an arrowhead pointer, indicates 12 o'clock. Toy watches reflect the contemporary designs of real

timepieces in fashion at particular periods and they are thus quite easy to date.<sup>14</sup>

14. *Lincolnshire, Marsh Chapel* (PAS database NLM-9ABB84; finder D. Revell; FLO L. Staves).

An incomplete lead 'shy cock' toy (Fig. 12) is flat and decorated on both sides with cross hatching to indicate feathers. It would once have stood upright, but the flat base is missing. Toys like this were probably used for throwing sticks at to knock them down.<sup>15</sup> They are quite unusual, and difficult to date accurately, but this one is most likely to be from the 18th or early 19th century. The game is a humane version of one which ended in the death of a real, tethered bird.

15. *Cornwall, Perranuthnoe* (PAS database CORN-3E4F86; finder D. Edwards; FLO A. Tyacke).

A circular glass seal from an 'onion'-shaped bottle was found on the surface of ploughed soil. It has an iridescent surface resulting from devitrification, and one edge has been broken off. The moulded inscription reads 'In° Davis 1704'. This was identified by A. Tyacke as referring to John Davis, who lived in the parish of Perranuthnoe and died in 1737.

16. *City of London, London* (PAS database LON-478590; finders T. Pilson & I. Smith; FLA E. Ghey).

An early 18th-century silver snuff box (Fig. 13) was found on the City of London foreshore. This oval container is decorated on the lid with a well-engraved coat of arms with a central shield and chevron (shaded to indicate red) between three erased fox heads. There is a peer's helmet above the shield, with a crest of a standing fox facing left. The central motif is surrounded by acanthus leaves and garlands. 'AS' above a mullet is stamped on the underside of the lid and base. This is the maker's mark of Thomas Ash. His mark is accompanied by a leopard's head erased, Britannia and the letter mark for 1705. Although several families used arms like these, it has not proved possible to link the arms with any particular family.

17. *Isle of Wight, Calbourne* (PAS database IOW-3107D3; finder P. Cave; FLO F. Basford).

An almost complete early 18th-century silver cufflink (Fig. 14) was found in Calbourne parish. The cufflink consists of two pieces of sheet silver, each with a down-turned bevelled rim forming a hollow underside. The rims are decorated in relief with a repeated foliate motif. The front of each is decorated in relief with a female bust facing right,





FIG. 10

No. 12: (1) Copper-alloy toy cauldron. (2) Lead/tin toy figurine. (3) Glass miniature vessel, possibly a toy. From Cow Roast, Hertfordshire.



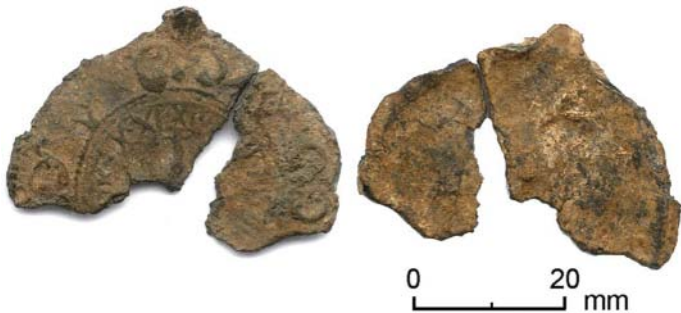


FIG. 11  
No. 13: Incomplete lead/tin toy watch, from Norton, Northamptonshire.



FIG. 12  
No. 14: Lead shy cock, from Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire.



FIG. 13  
No. 16: Silver snuff box with unidentified engraved arms, from the City of London.



FIG. 14  
No. 17: Silver cufflink with head of Queen Anne, from Calbourne, Isle of Wight.

and a letter A to the left of the neck and a letter R to the right. The bust is identifiable as that of Queen Anne (reigned 1702–14), though it is not an accomplished likeness. On the back of each piece is a small silver wire loop, both joined to a longer one to form the linking chain.

18. *Shropshire, Bridgnorth* (PAS database HESH-E35784; finder T. Baker; FLO P. Reavill).

A gold mourning ring with niello panels and a topaz stone, found at Bridgnorth, dates to 1735 (Fig. 15). The exterior of the hoop has five panels. The accomplished design is well executed. Continuing across all the panels is an inscription of gold letters in the niello reading 'MARY / &: SARAH / LITTLETON / OB 7: JUNE / : 1735'. The hexagonal-cut topaz is secured in the bezel by a series of crimps and claws. The front of the gold setting is relatively plain but the reverse is decorated with two scallop shells. Mourning rings were relatively popular in the Georgian and Victorian periods.

The finder has researched the history of the Littleton family in the parish register of the church of St Leonard, Bridgnorth, and discovered that the

ring commemorates the deaths of Mary and her daughter Sarah. It is likely that Mary died giving birth to her daughter, who was christened on 7 June 1735 and died on the following day. They were survived by husband and father Thomas Littleton, who is the most likely person to have commissioned this ring.

19. *Somerset, Curry Rivel* (PAS database SOMDOR-1B27F7; finder R. Hollock; FLO N. Payne).

Part of a late 18th-century gold fob seal set with an oval cornelian intaglio (Fig. 16) can also be



FIG. 15

No. 18: Gold with niello mourning ring, from Bridgnorth, Shropshire.



FIG. 16

No. 19: Gold fob seal of John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham, from Curry Rivel, Somerset.

identified with specific people. The retaining struts and suspension loop are missing, but the arms engraved in the intaglio can be identified as those of John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham (1756–1835), impaling those of his wife, Mary Elizabeth Townshend (1762–1821), daughter of Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney. They include a coronet, supporters and the motto of the Earls of Chatham, 'BENIGNO NUMINE' [by heaven's favour]. The seal must date from between 1783, the year in which John Pitt (the brother of the Prime Minister William Pitt) was married, and 1805, when the Pitt family sold their estate at Curry Rivel.

20. *Cumbria, Kentmere* (PAS database LANCUM-EDCD76; finder E. Bryers; FLO D. Bruns).

The two parts of a late 18th- or 19th-century copper-alloy mould for casting plain tablespoons with oval bowls (Fig. 17) were found in different ends of the same field in Kentmere. (There was a gap of at least two years between the discovery of the first part and the second) The two parts were re-united and recorded as evidence of a local activity. It seems most likely that the products would have been of white metal, though not necessarily pewter.

21. *Isles of Scilly, St Agnes* (FLO A. Tyacke).

Two cast copper-alloy manillas — ingots in the form of bracelets, formerly used in West Africa as a form of currency — have recently been found on the Isles of Scilly. Both could have come from a 19th-century wreck off the islands. Manillas were used on the Nigerian coast from the 16th century until World War II. They are hard to date as they were made in the same way over several centuries, using the same metals and with the same decoration.

21:1. (PAS database CORN-327A62; finder W. Berresford Smith). One manilla was discovered about 1m down while laying drains. It is in the form of a penannular armband or bangle made up of a curving, flattened rod, convex in section, with expanded, flat-ended terminals (Fig. 18:1). The terminals and the band are decorated with punched dots and incised rouletting in radiating lines on the terminals. The criss-cross hatching across the band gives the decoration an appearance like cording.

21:2. (PAS database CORN-31B3A7; finder A. Trelvellick Jenkins). The other manilla (Fig. 18:2) was discovered on the surface near the coast in 1945, only about 75m from the first one. This



FIG. 17

No. 20: Copper-alloy mould for casting spoons, from Kentmere, Cumbria.

manilla is of similar basic form to the other, though the rod is circular in section, again with expanded, flat-ended terminals, but here of drop-shaped section. This particular type of manilla could have been made in Birmingham for trade between Britain and West Africa in the 18th or 19th century, although a mould for casting a similar one came from the excavation at a late 16th/early 17th-century foundry in Exeter.<sup>16</sup>

The first manilla is like one in the Royal Institution of Cornwall's collections that came from the shipwreck of the Portuguese schooner, the *Duro*, which sank *en route* to Africa and was lost with all hands off Crebawethan, Western Rocks, Isles of Scilly in 1843 (to the south-west of the findspot of the second manilla described above); and so it is





1



2

FIG. 18

No. 21: Two copper-alloy manillas, from the Isles of Scilly.



FIG. 19

No. 22: Miniature wooden shoe, found hidden in a house wall, from Leigh, Surrey.

possible that no. 21:2 may also have come from this wreck.

There are thus several different possible date brackets and origins for these intriguing finds. Further discoveries may elucidate more about their origins.

22. *Surrey, Leigh* (PAS database SUR-4F3CC5; finders B. & V. Boustred; FLO D. Williams).

A 19th-century model shoe of wood (Fig. 19) was found pushed into a hole in a wall of the finders' late 17th-century house, which was altered in 1893. The shoe is decorated with scores of tiny brass pins which form the pattern of studs on the sole, the lace holes, and the pattern on the instep and toe. The shoe has within it a rectangular void and appears to have started life as a box, possibly for snuff. There is a long folk tradition of secreting shoes inside houses for magical or superstitious reasons,<sup>17</sup> and it seems likely that this deposit is a late memory of that tradition.

23. *Suffolk, Freckenham* (PAS database SF-8C47C2; FLO F. Minter).

A local farmer in Freckenham has discovered a previously unrecorded production site for gunflints. Platform gunflints like these are known to have been made in Brandon and Icklingham,



Suffolk, for the British army from the late 18th century, and these were certainly the main production sites between about 1800 and 1850. Since it seems that few were made elsewhere, owing to the specialized nature of gunflint manufacture, the finding of a large group of gunflint-making waste at a new location is significant. The site was indicated by the discovery of débitage as well as finished gunflints. Its presence could be from a Brandon knapper, perhaps living in Freckenham, making gunflints for the locals, but this suggests a wider network of production sites than previously thought. More historical research is now needed to discover why production was taking place there and who was doing it.

24. *Lincolnshire, Wellingore* (PAS database LIN-CE1D45, finder R. Teather; FLO A. Daubney).

Two World War II artefacts were discovered next to a former Prisoner of War camp at Wellingore. The first is the upper half of a German identity tag or dog tag of zinc-alloy (Fig. 20). It is D-shaped, with two holes near the curved edge. Two tabs of metal protrude from the straight edge and these would originally have attached to the lost opposite side. The tag is stamped with the soldier's details: 'STAMM KOMP I.E.B. 348', below which is a letter 'O', indicating his blood group, and the number '16', indicating his serial number. In full the first line reads 'Stamm

*Kompanie Infanterie-Ersatz-Bataillon 348*' (i.e. Muster Company Infantry Draft Battalion 348). The upper part of an identity tag was normally buried with the soldier if he died in service, whilst the lower part was sent back to the records office. An image of the tag was sent to the Deutsche Dienststelle (German Service Office), who wrote back to say that the wearer of this tag had turned up in Germany in 1956, showing that despite being the upper portion, this was not part of a burial.

The second artefact discovered is an incomplete infantry assault badge (LIN-CE8D25), which was awarded to German infantry soldiers who participated in three campaigns. The badge is moulded in the form of a rifle with strap within a wreath, at the top of which an eagle is perched. The hinged pin on the reverse is intact.

#### 25–6. *Cloth seals*

Once more, a variety of individual cloth seals have been recorded across England and Wales, helping to chart otherwise unknown details of the important cloth trade across the country; the two notable and very different groups described below are particularly interesting.

25. *Dorset, Cerne Abbas* (PAS database SOMDOR-EDA9E4 etc, finder R. Lovett, FLO N. Payne).

This group comprises 23 late 15th-/early 16th- to early 17th-century issues. All the attributable seals are local official issues of cloth inspectors from Dorset (Fig. 21:1) or from neighbouring Somerset (Fig. 21:4). Three others are those of weavers/clothiers, presumably local producers (Fig. 21:11, 16–17), while an unused blank (Fig. 21:15) suggests that processing of some kind was taking place close to the findspot.<sup>18</sup>

26. *North Lincolnshire, Gainsborough* (PAS database NLM-766E12 etc, finder J. Bennett; FLO L. Staves).

Contrasting with the preceding very localized group, 32 seals found at Gainsborough are much more wide-ranging, both in date and in their national and international scope.<sup>19</sup> They include three unusual early official examples of seals from the area of modern Belgium, dating from the era when little cloth was woven in England: a 14th-century seal from Malines; a somewhat later one from Ypres and a 16th-century example from Bruges. Commoner issues for 16th- and 17th-century imports of linens and half-linens are also represented, such as one for a 'holland' from Haarlem and another for a narrow cloth from



FIG. 20

No. 24: Zinc-alloy German World War II military identification tag, from Wellingore, Lincolnshire.

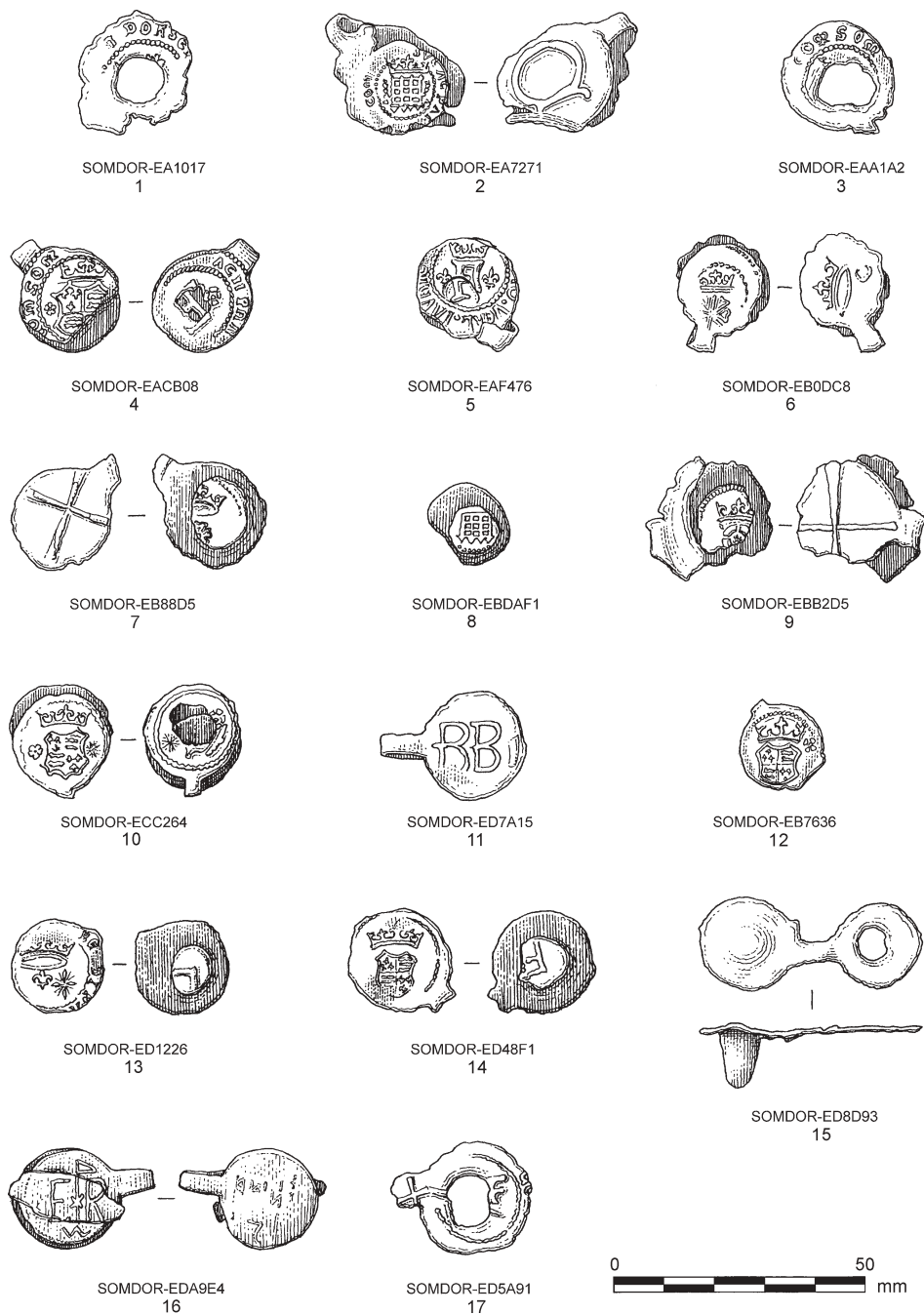


FIG. 21

No. 25: Group of lead cloth seals from Cerne Abbas, Dorset

(1) Dorset alnage seal. (4) Somerset alnage seal. (2) Taunton crown over portcullis alnage seal. (11, 14, 16) Seals of weavers/clothiers, presumably local producers. (15) Unused blank. (4, 5, 14, 17) Seals with letter 'F' indicating a faulty textile. Drawn by Nick Griffiths.

Strasbourg. There are more than ten of the very common Augsburg fustian seals. While there are none from Lincolnshire itself (the county was not prominent in cloth manufacture after the late Middle Ages), other finds attest East Anglian fabrics — one probably a worsted from neighbouring Norfolk, another what is most likely to have been one of the ‘new draperies’ from Colchester in Essex. There are also three early 17th-century London dyers’ seals, indicating that some of the cloths represented had passed through the capital to be coloured. A textile woven in Wiltshire, also dating from the late 16th/17th centuries, represents a more distant industry. The places of origin of other weavers’/clothiers’ seals in this very varied group cannot be established.

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> See Egan 2005.
- <sup>2</sup> Egan 2005, 331, no. 4.
- <sup>3</sup> Halliday datasheet, 4/8/2006.
- <sup>4</sup> Margeson 1993, 10–11.
- <sup>5</sup> Forsyth & Egan 2005, 86, no. 1.19.
- <sup>6</sup> cf. Egan 2005, 329–31, with references.
- <sup>7</sup> Egan 2005, nos 1a & 1b.
- <sup>8</sup> cf. Homer 1975, 45, top two.
- <sup>9</sup> cf. Merrifield 1987, 160–75.
- <sup>10</sup> Bimson 1970.
- <sup>11</sup> cf. Forsyth & Egan 2005, 111–14.
- <sup>12</sup> cf. Forsyth & Egan 2005, 169–70 and 174.
- <sup>13</sup> Willmott suggests that a small, late 17th-century glass wine-type bottle is a toy (Willmott 2002, 89, fig. 114b).
- <sup>14</sup> cf. Forsyth & Egan 2005, 358–60, nos 12.28–34.
- <sup>15</sup> Forsyth & Egan 2005, 238–40.
- <sup>16</sup> Blaylock 2000, 46, fig. 17; 68–9, fig. 27, no. 134.
- <sup>17</sup> cf. Merrifield 1987, 131–5.
- <sup>18</sup> See Egan 1995 for the wider background.
- <sup>19</sup> cf. Egan 2001 for another West Country assemblage, found in Salisbury.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## PUBLISHED SOURCES

- Bimson, M. 1970, ‘The significance of “ale measure” marks’, *Post-Medieval Archaeol.* **4**, 165–6.
- Blaylock, S.R. 2000, ‘Excavation of an early post-medieval bronze foundry at Cowick Street, Exeter, 1999–2000’, *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* **58**, 1–92.
- Egan, G. 1995, *Lead Cloth Seals and Related Items in the British Museum*, 2nd edn, British Mus. Occ. Pap. **93**.
- Egan, G. 2001, ‘Cloth seals’, in Saunders 2001, 43–77.
- Egan, G. 2005, ‘Report of the Portable Antiquities Scheme 2004’, *Post-Medieval Archaeol.* **39**:2, 328–34.
- Forsyth, H. & Egan, G. 2005, *Toys, Trifles and Trinkets: Base Metal Miniatures from London 1200–1800*, London: Unicorn Press.
- Homer, R.F. 1975, *Five Centuries of Base Metal Spoons*, London: privately printed.
- Margeson, S.M. 1993, *Norwich Households: Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971–78*, *E. Anglian Archaeol.* **58**.
- Merrifield, R. 1987, *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic*, London: Batsford.
- Saunders, P. (ed.) 2001, *Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Medieval Catalogue 3*, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum.
- Willmott, H. 2002, *Early Post-Medieval Vessel Glass in England c. 1500–1670*, *Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep.* **132**.

## UNPUBLISHED SOURCE

- Halliday, J. n.d., ‘Datasheets’ [detailing detected finds, Malton, privately circulated; information currently being transferred to the PAS Database].

## ABBREVIATIONS

- FLO Finds Liaison Officer  
FLA Finds Liaison Assistant

clo Dept of Prehistory and Europe, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK  
[gegan@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk]

*This report is published with financial assistance from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.*