



UKDFD

BORROWED

times

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United Kingdom Detector Finds Database Newsletter - Issue Number 5 - January 2008

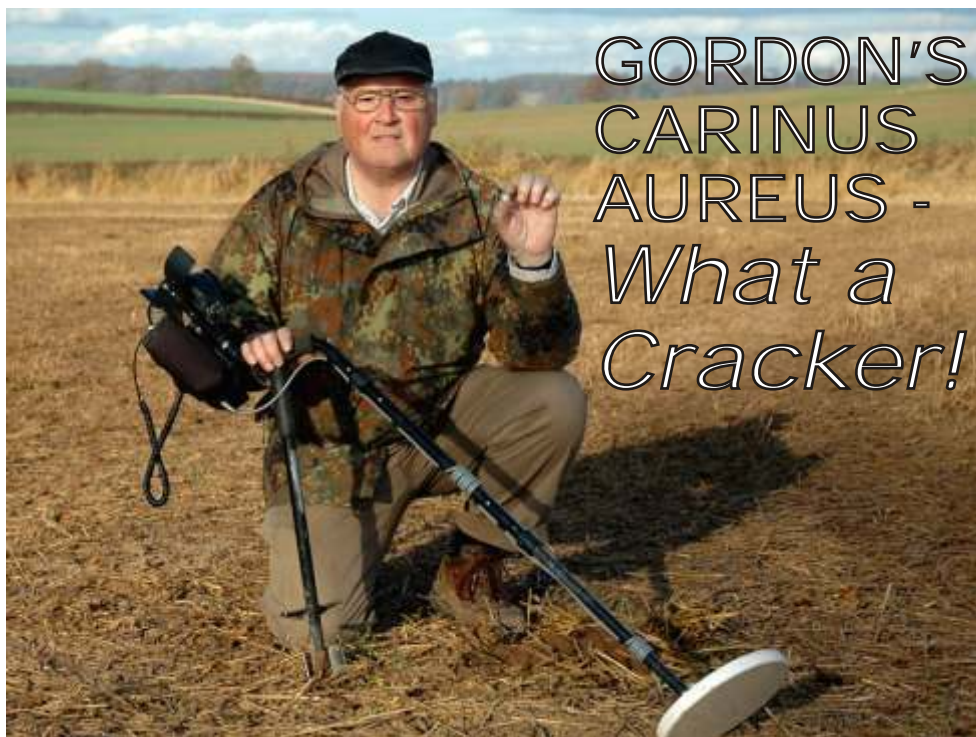


Gordon Walters (Polgor), who found his gold coin on Firework's Day 2006, describes the find as: 'a bloody cracker' and asks if we would allow him to blow his own trumpet. After some thirty-six years detecting, Gordon, why not!

The aureus of Carinus won the most significant coin prize in *The Searcher* magazine's 'Nation's Greatest Finds' contest and is, without doubt, Gordon's best ever coin find.

He says, "My detecting actually started as a spin-off from my interest in electronics. I was looking for a project and decided on building (from scratch) a pulse induction detecting machine. After a few weeks work and after resolving some problems with the coil windings and some weight issues, it was eventually finished.

Taking it out to the local park for a test run (complete with 'Pipe Finders Licence' costing ten shillings), I was amazed at the depth I was picking up Victorian coins - trust me, it would easily outstrip some of today's models! However, the fact that it had no discrimination soon dawned on me. So, because by this time I was well and truly hooked, I bought my first discrimination machine, which I still own.



I worked the local parks for a few months and made some nice finds, but they were all relatively modern.

After reading articles in *The Searcher* about such things as hammered coins and Saxon artefacts I joined a detecting club to see how I could improve on my finds. This is something I would advise all newcomers to do for it is one of the quickest ways to learn and there is really good banter.

My dear wife, who is my greatest detecting partner, has made some very nice finds and is probably a much keener detectorist than myself.

It may sound silly to some of you, but this coin was just too good and rare to keep and after being duly recorded it sadly went to auction where it realised the sum of just over five thousand pounds (with fees)."

## GOOD PRESENTATION

Gordon always makes sure that when he presents his finds for uploading to the database they are always the best he can produce. No fuzzy pictures; no garish coloured backgrounds.

He says, 'I'm of the opinion that if you spend hours finding these little treasures, then why not go the extra mile with your presentation!

They also look great in your Finds'Album.'



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Rob

# the HISTORY boys

We are very pleased to announce the recent appointment of two new validators to the team, Rob Lane (BobHoe) and John Mills (John gm). Rob and John first joined the UKDFD team as Finds Advisers in December 2006, and over the past year they have made a valuable contribution to the identification process.

John said: 'I am very pleased to accept my new role. UKDFD is already a fantastic resource and I hope that my involvement will help lessen the burden on more established team members, thus allowing continual growth of the database.'



John

## Thanks

The UKDFD team are grateful for the many messages of endorsement since the last newsletter. They were gratefully received. This is a short selection, some of which have been slightly edited . . .

Many thanks to all at UKDFD for validating my finds. You provide an excellent service . . .

Big thanks for the wonderful service you have provided during the year . . . thank you so much.

I have found this site invaluable in recording finds . . . and would like to say a huge thank you to Rod and the team for the best service I have ever encountered. At last my finds can be put to order, and all this from my armchair! what more can one ask? Thanks, guys.

A big thank you to the team at UKDFD - the time it takes from upload to identification and on to the database is amazing. Do you get to sleep at all?

Thanks Rod for the ID on my Roman bronze. I'm chuffed as I didn't know there was Roman on my door step. PAS only have one other Roman coin recorded in this area so this will make a second. I'll let my FLO see it at our next meeting.

Thanks very much for all your help over the past year. I can't believe how much I have learnt from reading your validations and articles. I can't thank you and the team enough for all your enthusiasm and dedication which has enabled me to take my detecting to the next level of understanding and have a little education over what I'm finding. It really is a proud feeling to belong to something so worthwhile.

## IT'S MAGIC!

There is a section on the site where you may post your images to see if they are eligible for recording. Alas, and for many reasons, not everything submitted is accepted.

The folded hammered coin posted by Tony Head (Magicman) and shown in **FIG 1** is a case in point. He had rediscovered it lurking in his grot box and, as it wasn't in super condition, he thought that he would have a go at straightening it. This is his account of the 'operation'.

'My DIY on the coin involved heating it up on the gas then quenching in a small glass of water. This was done five times and each time the coin was opened a little bit with two halves of a wooden clothes peg. When complete, I tidied up, went to watch television and fell asleep!' *The result of Tony's DIY labours can be seen in FIG 2.*

Tony says that when he looked in the washing-up bowl next morning, he was surprised to find a cut-quarter! **FIG 3.** He could only assume that the coin had been deliberately bent to secure the smaller piece. But why?

Unfortunately, although an interesting discovery, the detail on the coin wasn't clear enough for classification and for that reason was not accepted for the database.



FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3

### Coin Display Convention

Recorders are reminded that the convention is that the obverse image is shown 1st and on the left. The reverse is shown 2nd and on the right. You may, if you wish, show the two sides of a coin together in the first field, as shown below.



Obverse

Reverse

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# The Whirligig



Examples below kindly provided by  
Dave Watson and D R Edwards



When I was a lot younger I used to raid my mother's button jar looking for one that was particularly large and colourful. Then I'd string it on a long piece of twine and tie the ends together. With the button in the middle and the string held in both hands it was twirled and twirled until a twist was built up in the string. I'd pull the string outward, let my hands come together and then pull outward again. This was repeated as long as the string kept its twist. The spinning button made a humming or buzzing noise as it twirled.

The lead disc whirligig often found by detectorists is sometimes discarded as just being a lead weight. The ones shown above have a 'saw-tooth' edge, feathered pattern markings, and three piercings and are a crude form of musical instrument and toy. Similar to my button, when pulled taut between two hands, the spinning of the disc produces a rhythmic humming (amplified by the toothed edges), which rises and falls with each pull of the cord.

Such toys have variously been home-made, not just from buttons, but more recently from cardboard, these being given as a free gift in comics as late as the 1950s-60s. With coloured panels printed on the cardboard the spinning produced a visual as well as audible toy.

These musical toys have their origin in more ancient times when pig metacarpals and metatarsals were drilled and threaded to serve the same purpose. They have been found in Saxon to early post-medieval deposits in Britain. Lead 'saw-tooth' medieval/post-medieval discs such as these have been found during surveys of Thames foreshore deposits in the City of London.

Whirling toys made of hammered lead musket balls or coins too old or thin to be of value have been excavated from early American towns, plantations, and military campsites. The sound of the whirling disk lends this folk toy its common name of 'buzzer', although it appears in English literature as early as 1686 under the general name for spinning toys, whirligig. The scalloped edge of our buzzer identifies it more particularly as a 'buzz saw' toy. In past times the edge was often sharply cut into a sawtooth pattern, but a buzz saw with any shaped edge will produce an impressive loud, whizzing noise when it reaches full speed . . . <http://tinyurl.com/2syewm>

## Remember This?



You may recollect reading about Wayne Burton's gold chain in a previous newsletter. The story was highlighted because Wayne hadn't realised that it was so old until after the UKDFD identification when he was advised to report it under the Treasure Act.

This he duly did and the article ended by saying that the item was currently at the British Museum going through the process.

Wayne found the item in October 2006 and is still waiting for a response. He said: *'I am not happy with the length of time it's taking to go through the system. We are now into 2008 and there is no date set for the inquest. I've asked the FLO to chase it up and was told that I could always contact the coroner myself!'*

A disgruntled Wayne added: *'I've just placed another item in the system . . . but I'm not holding out for a quick response!'*

## MILLED COINS



Please note that milled regal coins, i.e. those struck after 1662, are not eligible for recording on the database.

We make exceptions to this general rule for gold coins, and silver coins up to 1816, provided that they are in a minimum of Fine condition.

Non-regal tokens of all types are, however, eligible.



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# Gary Brun

A MINI PROFILE



**G**ary firmly believes that heritage belongs to everybody and not just those who have an 'ology'.

With a sixteen-year background in the Event-Management and Hospitality industry, he's been working with internet based technology for many years.

Gary was the developer of the first metal-detecting related PHP forums and his contribution was fundamental to the establishment and operation of most of the major forums on the UK detecting scene.

At this moment in time, he runs one of the largest detecting forums on the internet today, is a director of web development and trans - Atlantic video production companies.

He is also the proud father of two children and has two horses, a dog, two cats and a Mother-in-Law all living in the same house on his little farm in Norway. Bliss!



## Mrs Polgor's BROOCH

Those who have a wife as a detecting partner are indeed fortunate. On the first page you read about Gordon's find and what he had to say about his wife:

*"My dear wife, who is my greatest detecting partner, has made some very nice finds and is probably a much keener detectorist than myself."*

And here is one of her finds - a superb example of a complete penannular brooch with an outside diameter of 26mm. It is of circular cross-section, a little over 2mm diameter, with knurled spherical terminals of approximately 4mm diameter. The undecorated wrap-around pin is highly arched, flattened at the point, and at 32mm, somewhat longer than the diameter of the brooch.

The brooch is that known as a Fowler Type A2, which is dated between the 1st and 4th century AD. However, the highly arched pin of the present example would suggest an early date in this range.

**WANTED**

Serious collector and researcher interested in buying short-cross pennies of Henry II & III, John & Richard I  
 Scottish hammered of William I, Alexander II and 1st coinage of Alexander III  
 Irish hammered issues of John, both as Lord & King  
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10729

This AE3 of Constantine I (the Great), struck at London, AD 320 is another one of Mrs Polgor's finds!

## DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?

**All the recorded information on UKDFD is publicly accessible** and you don't have to register to view the records.

The HOME PAGE contains general information as well as reference articles on:

- Barrel padlocks**
- Buckles through the ages**
- Buckles visual catalogue**
- Button makers**
- Coin weights**
- Crotal bells**
- Galley halfpence**
- Gunter's chain**
- Harness pendants**
- Nuremberg jetons**
- Papal bullae**
- Pocket sundials**
- Seal matrices**
- Thimbles**
- Tumbrels**

**If you wish to record your finds on the database THEN you will have to register. It only takes a few minutes and is absolutely free.**

*Borrowed Times*, the newsletter of the UKDFD, is produced by John Winter with the help of the UKDFD Team and distributed free to detectorists. The Editor welcomes *any kind* of feedback and you may contact him via email on [john.winter@ukdfd.co.uk](mailto:john.winter@ukdfd.co.uk) or by using the site's private messaging system.

**THANK YOU FOR RECORDING WITH THE UKDFD**



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