



UKDFD

BORROWED

times

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United Kingdom Detector Finds Database Newsletter - Issue Number 4 - October 2007

EXCITING FIND

Previously Unrecorded Coin



Stephen Penny: 1154-1158

When Chris Kilner found this coin in Lincolnshire, little did he realise how important it really was. Number 6305 on the UKDFD database is a Stephen penny of 'Awbridge' type, BMC VII and struck at Hereford.

Dr. Martin Allen of the Fitzwilliam museum says the inscription indicates that this is a coin of a Hereford moneyer and previously unrecorded. Although the first letter of the name is unclear, it is suggested that the name is **TEBALT**, which would be an acceptable variant of the Anglo-Norman **THEOBALD**. He goes on to say: *With the discovery of this coin there are now six recorded Stephen type 7 pennies of the Hereford mint. Three of these pennies (from two pairs of dies) are coins of the moneyer **DRIV**, who was also active in the Tealby coinage. Two other coins (from one pair of dies) have been tentatively attributed to the moneyer **SARIC**, although the moneyer's name is not fully legible on either of these coins. This new coin has provided a third moneyer, with a name previously unrecorded in the Norman coinage at any mint.*

Although Chris only got around to uploading in March, he had found this coin quite some time ago. Since the positive identification on UKDFD he has spent some time checking for more

rare coins in his collection . . . alas, to no avail. However, he hopes that this episode might encourage more people to record their finds.

He said: *I am absolutely delighted to hear that this coin is the first one ever to be recorded, but there must be others out there surely! This is what makes metal detecting the best hobby in the world . . . the chance to find coins and artefacts that have never been seen before. Special thanks to Rod Blunt for the original ID The Fitzwilliam museum are interested in acquiring the coin and that's the best place for it to be!*

Sealed with a Loving Wish



I don't know if you believe in the power of positive thinking and auto-suggestion, but I thought I would give it a go. In all my years detecting, I had never found a seal matrix. Everyone has a 'wish list' and this object was at the top of mine.

I told everyone on a detecting forum that I was going on a dig and asked them to help me by focusing their minds on the meaning of the words *seal matrix*. This collective 'think tank', together with my positive outlook would help me in my quest . . . or so I thought.

And it did! Mind you, I was hoping for a Vesica type seal, but the near perfect Georgian fob seal was gratefully received. I was overjoyed!

It isn't often you find a complete example, especially one with the intaglio intact. Rather unusually, it shows a clenched fist with the inscription, *Should This Meet Your Eye*. I can only assume that is what you get if you disbelieve! Rather apt, don't you think? *John Winter*



Dave's Hoard

David Wilcox refers to himself as a 'weekend detectorist' and recently found himself on the cover of *The Searcher* magazine showing off his 'Corley Hoard' of Henry III and Alexander III hammered coins.

His story graphically described how he found one hundred and thirty one coins with his Minelab Quattro:

Ten minutes into my session and I had a nice positive signal . . . at about four inches I saw the tell tale grey disc which I immediately recognized as a hammered coin. What a great start! It turned out to be a nice Henry III voided long cross penny . . . I did what I suppose everyone else does and waved my coil over the hole to see if anything else was there. Nine times out of ten the hole is empty but this time the signal was still quite strong. Surely it couldn't be another hammered? It was - another penny of Henry III! My pulse was racing a little more now and the hole still wasn't empty. I found two more Henry III pennies from this hole . . .

Dave fulfilled his obligations under the Treasure Act and reported his find to his local Finds Liaison Officer. He now awaits the outcome. Oh - and he also spent just more than a few days uploading and recording each of those 131 coins on the UKDFD! I bet that kept the validators busy!

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PETER'S TREASURE SEAL



When 45 year old Pete Jones found his silver seal matrix last year, he was elated. As well as recording with the UKDFD, he also took it to his FLO . . . this is his story.

"I found the seal on the 20th October 2006 on the outskirts of Shrewsbury and had arranged to meet up with two friends, Russ Edwards and his wife Sharon. We met up at the venue which was a field left to stubble. It was easy going and soft ground so no problems there. I was using my Whites XLT.

I was feeling pretty cheesed off with detecting as I could not remember the last time I had found anything of interest. I had gone at least five months with only the usual Victorian and Georgian coins in grotty state and many tatty buttons plus more lead bits than I care to remember. Just before I set off detecting I remember saying to Shan, 'If I don't find anything today I am going to give this game up for a while.' Well, that's the edited version!

I set off and within the first twenty minutes and only 10 metres from the car, I got a good solid tone. I didn't expect anything unusual as this field was full of trash but had been known to produce the odd Roman grot. I pinpointed and lightly flicked out the area with my spade. I grabbed a lump of soil passing it over the coil and there was the sound again. I rubbed the dirt off and smiled. It was the seal, intact and still swivelling in very nice condition. I shouted out to Shan who came over to see my very first and to date only seal of any description. A solid silver fob seal.

The swivel mechanism works faultlessly and is in fine condition. I placed it carefully into my pocket, but it was taken out again a few times before I had finished. I did not have any other finds of note for the rest of the day . . . but it didn't seem to matter.

I posted my seal on the UKDFD for identification and a few days later, as I support the PAS and suspected it might qualify as treasure, took it to the local FLO Peter Reavill. He took the seal for ID in the normal way and I haven't seen it since.

Eight months later I have received a letter from the BM saying it qualifies as treasure and an inquest will be arranged locally. Apparently the Shrewsbury Museum is interested in it so I doubt I will see it again. I can't help feeling a bit sad at that thought but don't mind so much if it is displayed for all to see. I just hope it does not disappear into a dark room in a box to never be seen again."

The initial report from Dr Dora Thornton of the British Museum describes the seal as follows:

Silver fob seal, the handle pierced for attachment to fob chain. Double sided seal swivelling within frame. On one side arms with two plain bands and a central band with three fleur de lis. On the other side the initials PS with three flower stems between the letters. The form of the seal and lettering suggest an early 17th century date.

In terms of age and as the object contains a minimum of 10% precious metal it qualifies as treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996.

RING STATUS QUESTIONED

When Andy Swan uploaded a gold finger ring to the database, the UKDFD validators reckoned that it was from the late Anglo-Saxon period and recorded it as such. However, the experts from the British Museum disagreed, saying: *This ring has been examined by curators responsible for Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval collections, but none of them can give a positive identification or rough dating. As the find cannot be securely dated to pre-1707 it as such falls outside the provisions of the Treasure Act.*



Andy doubted this ID and proceeded to check other authorities. Nigel Mills thought it might be Viking, but he would have to see it. The National Museum of Scotland assured him that the BM would have checked collections around the UK and that their ID would be correct.

But, it was Professor James Graham-Campbell from University College London who eventually identified the ring as a Viking type circa 850-950 AD. He had just happened to be visiting the BM to advise on another ring and asked if Andy's ring was still there - because he would like to see it.

The upshot is that now, after the ring's status has been confirmed by an independent expert, it has been submitted once again to go through the treasure process.

Andy thanked the UKDFD team for all the hard work they put into validating finds, especially when working on a voluntary basis. This illustrates just how much expertise there is in the detecting community. Andy's persistence paid off! *I think you do a fantastic job,* he said.

JOAN ALLEN

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Happy Birthday!

Two years old and making good progress . . .

On September 1st two years ago a group of metal detecting enthusiasts joined forces and formed an online facility to promote good practice within the hobby. As you know, they called that initiative the United Kingdom Detector Finds Database (UKDFD) and it has proved to be an enormous success. And why is the database going from strength to strength? That's easy to answer . . . as well as being a friendly and supportive site many detectorists have found the database very easy and ideal way of recording. Ever-increasing numbers of detectorists are uploading their finds for identification, thus building a personal record and in so doing ensuring that the information is available for future generations.

At the time of writing nearly 9,000 items have been recorded and a limit has had to be put on the number of objects that any one person can upload in one day - see Gordon Heritage's report about the site upgrade on page 4 of this newsletter.

In September 2006 the average number of people who visited us each day was 550 and just ten months later, in July 2007 the number had escalated to 3,406 and rising every day.

April 2007 saw the start of a regular column in the *Searcher* magazine, edited by John Winter and entitled *Just for the Record* . . .



Finds recorded on the database are highlighted each month, generating a lot of interest and reader feedback. Articles on rare, unusual and previously un-recorded items, post medieval finds, pipe tampers, objects that have not yet been identified and pilgrim badges are just some of the past articles.

In an editorial for the first article, the Editor said: "*It is important for readers to note that **The Searcher** fully supports 'best practice' by way of recording all significant metal detecting finds with the . . . Portable Antiquities Scheme . . . However, **The Searcher** also recognises that there are still detector uses who, for their own reasons, do not . . . record with PAS. Rather than allow valuable information . . . to go unseen and unshared, **The Searcher** would encourage these finders to place their finds on public record via the UKDFD. Hopefully, at some time in the future, these hesitant finders may feel more inclined to report and record with the PAS as well.*"



MYSTERY OBJECT



The Andress Tool

The mystery object in the last newsletter was patented in 1875 and was the Leatherman or Swiss knife of its day and, I suppose, would be best described as a *combination tool*. The corkscrew is missing.

I know some of the functions, but not all. And apologies to those who suggested it was a glass cutter, for this is only one of its functions. Did you notice the little wheel on the end and the bits for snapping the glass? At the other end to the cutter is a putty knife. The inner bit was designed to tighten or loosen different size nuts. It was also a knife sharpener, but how this worked beats me. It was also an apple peeler, a nut cracker and a wire cutter!

There is something that could be a toffee hammer at one end. For its other uses, perhaps you can employ your imagination . . . Anyway, I hope you were not too disappointed. Perhaps I should wait a while before presenting you with another challenge for this one was just far too difficult.



CJ's Metal Detecting Pages

We are pleased to announce that Chris Marshall, a key member of the UKDFD development team, has kindly allowed us to host his web pages

www.netmarshall.co.uk/buckletitlepage.htm

WANTED

Serious collector and researcher interested in buying:
Short-cross pennies of Henry II & III, John & Richard I
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UKDFD SITE UPGRADE

Gary Brun and Gordon Heritage are the two guys we have to thank for ensuring that the database is working smoothly and efficiently. Recently, Gordon made some important upgrades. Did you notice?

Although most of the improvements were administration and security based, regular recorders may have noticed that four images may be uploaded instead of the previous three. Another two images can be added by a validator which is handy to show references and parallels.

There is now an upload limit which was needed to prevent our validators from being swamped with uploads which has been set at four in 24hrs.

One of the most exciting improvements is the ability of adding an extra field through a series of new database tables. These new tables are separate from the main record entry and are fully dynamic. Fields can be added and displayed for a specific category. Although we haven't utilised this feature yet, it gives us a more flexible database for future eventualities.

Other subtle subtle changes have been made which you may notice as you navigate the database.. At the top of each category you visit you will now see the most recent records posted to that category.

The layout has also changed in the displayed records - the entries are now in two columns and the hidden fields are no longer displayed. Click on the 'supersize' link below the images and you will see the new improved enlarged view of the image.

Click on the 'Member List' link and you will now see a thumb nail of each members first record and in the views column you will the total number of views for all of their records . . . some of which are truly amazing!

If you ever have login problems you can now delete your cookies via the login screen. This feature isn't new, but it now works better.

Gordon says: *There are a lot more changes that I will let you discover yourself!*



Can you help out on this one?

STUMPED!

Although the majority of items submitted for identification are done within a short space of time, it is inevitable and to be expected that some of the items uploaded to the database are not so easily identifiable, thus validation will take longer. So what happens to them and what is the procedure?

First, the Identification Team discuss all problematic artefacts online within a private user group on the UKDFD forum. They may seek identifications that are supported by published sources of reference and records are only validated when there is a high level of confidence in the accuracy. If identifications are confirmed and the record is validated, the UKDFD will acknowledge the person providing the information (unless requested otherwise). Although accessible by those registered with the database, any unidentified objects are not listed on the public database due to their ID status.

The item shown above (number 7232 on the database) was found about four years ago by Sally Atkinson when she showed it to the PAS, but it came back unidentified. She says that it was found on a proven 'Roman site' and she is almost certain it is from that period. But what can it be? It is 34 mm in length, 15 mm at the top and tapers to 9 mm.

Resident validator Andy Appels, our Roman expert, says that the form and patina would suggest a Roman date but was unable to say for definite what it could be. Some of the suggestions have ranged from some kind of shank, key related, knife handle, fibula section, furniture terminal or the leg off something. So, the jury's still out on this one unless, of course, you know better!



ANOTHER STRANGE OBJECT



They certainly find some fascinating objects in Yorkshire. Peter Morris has just uploaded this cast copper alloy base - number 9057 on the database - which also has everyone scratching their heads as to what it might be.

The intriguing thing about this find is that the base contains a decorated material resembling horn or it may be fossil!

A Good Read!



Brian Read is currently writing a book on Clothes Fasteners and has found several fine examples on the database that he wishes to use. Many members have helped by allowing him to use their finds.

He was especially interested in the one shown above, found by Lynda Winter, and asked if he could borrow it so a sketch could be made.

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 or by using the site's private messaging system.



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