



UKDFD

BORROWED

times

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United Kingdom Detector Finds Database Newsletter - Issue Number 6 - April 2008

COINSEARCHER *a 'thank you' to our benefactors*

The costs of running the UKDFD are not inconsiderable, and we are therefore very grateful to those of you who make a small annual donation in support of the scheme. As a way of saying 'thank you', we already give our benefactors a higher daily upload limit for their find records (currently 5 per day, as opposed to 2 per day for other recorders). We are now offering you an additional facility in the form of 'CoinSearcher'.

So, "What is CoinSearcher?" you may ask. Well, it is not unlikely that if you have found a few hammered coins, some of them will be cut halfpennies and farthings, and the legends on some of your Roman coins may not be fully legible. If that is the case, CoinSearcher may very well help you positively identify your coin. Take the illustrated cut long cross halfpenny for example.



Would you be able to identify the mint, moneyer and class of the coin? Maybe not, but perhaps you can see some of the letters? From 12 o'clock, hopefully you can make out the following: /PE?*/SE?/ with question marks representing the individual letters you are unsure about, slashes representing the ends of the cross, and the asterisk representing the remainder of the legend on the missing half of the coin. If so, log on to CoinSearcher and enter that exact string of characters in the search field of the long cross database. This is the result you will get:

CoinSearcher

[Search](#)

[Roman Obverse](#)

[Short Cross Reverse](#)

[Long Cross Reverse](#)

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Long Cross Reverse

Search Long Cross Legends For

Page: 1

Found 1 Records searching Legend for "/PE?*/SE?/"

Legend	Reign/Class	Reign Dates
PERIS ON SROSEB (Shrewsbury)	Henry III Class 3ab, 3b, 3c	1248-1250

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As you see, CoinSearcher has identified the mint as Shrewsbury, the moneyer as Peris, and the class as 3. The same principle can be applied to all incomplete coins, and those with partially illegible legends. CoinSearcher currently has databases for Roman Imperial Obverses and Short and Long Cross reverses. The databases have been created over a number of years by Rod Blunt, and the CoinSearcher programme was originally written by him for his personal use. It has been converted from Visual Basic to PHP format for the Internet by his son, Chris.

Please note that access to CoinSearcher will be strictly limited to UKDFD benefactors whose name is highlighted in orange on the forum. Applications will only be accepted when they are received by email from the same address that is registered with the UKDFD. The URL for the site is: <http://chrisblunt.com/coinsearcher>

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NEW FINDS ADVISER



**SANDRA
SHAW**

The team is pleased to announce that Sandra Shaw - also known as 'High Peak Fossicker' has joined them as a Finds Adviser and is currently bringing a lot of expertise as well as 'female intuition' to the identification process. She has steadily been going through the 'back list' looking at previously unidentified objects and, in many cases coming up with a solution.

We wish her well and she is very welcome. The staff room was tidied up specially for her first visit and everyone was on their best behavior! So, what is Sandra's background?

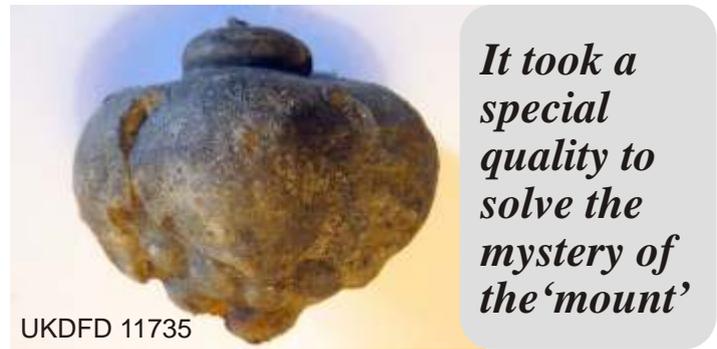
In 2003 Sandra and her husband took an 'executive' decision to sell the family business - which was a country pub in the Peak District - and take early retirement. The pub had kept them very busy with little time for family life. Having leisure time would also mean that they would be seeing more of their five grand children!

On leaving the pub Sandra compiled a wish list that included bringing herself in to this century by mastering the computer and buying that metal detector she had coveted for years but could never afford and didn't have to time to use it anyway! She vowed to turn her collecting habit into a small antique business and . . . she really fancied a quad bike. She managed the first three but the bike turned into a Smart car - it has the advantage of cover, runs forever on £20 pounds worth of petrol and she doesn't get nagged for bringing the bigger and better car home filthy and in a state.

Sandra already had permission to detect on several of the farms in the area as most of the farmers were pub customers and the cottage she moved to sat between two farms.

There has also been a reversal of roles. She is the one spending time in the shed and the one who goes off for hours on end, returns tired and dirty and flops in the chair for the rest of the day.

Furniture restoration and a long term genealogy project also keeps her busy, but it's so much easier now that she has the computer. Sandra jokingly said, "I suppose you have noticed by now that my head is wedged firmly in the past."



UKDFD 11735

It took a special quality to solve the mystery of the 'mount'

WOMAN'S INTUITION!

Other advisers have been pleasantly surprised, nay, astounded by the expertise that Sandra has brought to the staff room and I have chosen just one example to illustrate the point.

A recorder called 'Earl of Tarring' found what he thought was some kind of mount on the Thames foreshore near Greenwich and uploaded it to the database. See UKDFD 11735 above

This apparently nondescript object attracted the attention of the advisory staff but they were rather puzzled as to what it might be . . .

Sandra was sure that she had seen something like it in a book or magazine and set about trying to track it down. Her diligence and perseverance eventually paid when she found exactly what she was looking for in part 35 of a magazine called *What's it Worth*.

The object, as you can see from the picture below, is the lead counterweight from a German gravity operated tightrope-walker toy of about 1900. The remains of the steel suspension wire are just visible on the top.

The weight keeps him balanced on the wire and the revolving wheel is geared to make his legs move back and forth as he gently descends.

Bring on the Clowns

People and animals were second in popularity only to cars, trains and planes as subjects for this kind of mechanical tin-plate toy.

Another area, especially popular with children, was the circus. Performing animals, tight-rope walkers, trapeze artists and tumblers provided movement.

Lithographic decoration provided a bright, eye-catching effect cheaply achieved on these toys which were made for a low-budget market.



WANTED

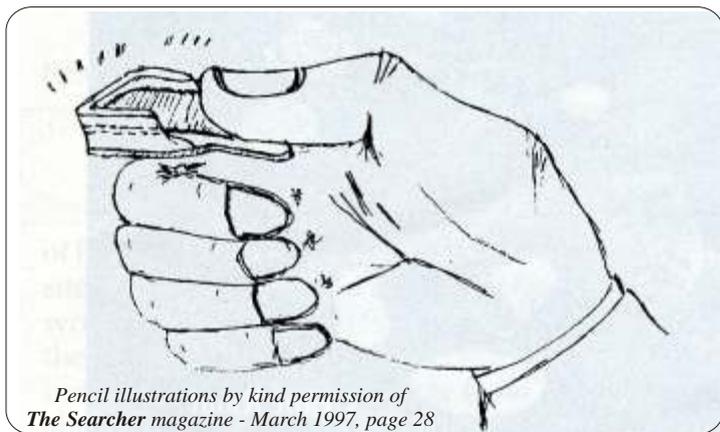
Serious collector and researcher interested in buying short-cross pennies of Henry II & III, John & Richard I
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CLICKETYCLICK



Another 'Earl of Tarring' find from the Thames foreshore also proved initially to be a bit of a poser for the identification team. This time it was the keen eyes of Rob Lane and Nigel Nicholson, the latter coming up with the definitive answer he had gleaned from an article in the March 1997 copy of *The Searcher* magazine that finally clinched the ID.

UKDFD 11921 shown below illustrates a white metal die-cast toy variously known as a clicker, cricket or sometimes referred to as a clacker. I remember having one of these shaped as a frog when I was younger. The picture above shows how it was placed in the hand. To make the noise, you pressed down on the metal strip inside the housing and then quickly released it - click-click! I seem to recollect that the versions of my childhood resembled a small plastic box.

Chris Littledale, the founder and director of the Brighton Toy and Model Museum said that these cheap toys were made all over the world for a very long period and this example probably dated from the early 1900's.

The maker's identity can be determined by the initials CR and 'Paris'. Charles Rossignol (1868-1962) specialised in painted tin clockwork vehicles. Incidentally, but I'm sure that you know, the word BREVETE is French for patent.

Although I haven't seen any of these toys around lately, I am told that dog-trainers use clicker-training to great advantage and is an easy way to train your pet for they don't require strength or much coordination on the part of the trainer!



FROM THE ARCHIVES a magnificent badge

This silver openwork badge with the crowned royal cypher of Queen Victoria was found by M Evans near Oswestry, Shropshire. The cypher is within an oak wreath and has at its base a ribbon with the inscription, DIEU ET MON DROIT (French 'God and my right'), the motto of the royal arms of Great Britain.

Although we know that it is a badge, it is not clear where it might be found. It has been suggested that it might be a sabretache badge i.e. worn on an officer's belt - more for dress than for function by the reign of Victoria! Or could perhaps be a British police officer's cap badge?

For tall those budding sleuths out there, I can tell you that it measures 55mm by 40mm. If anyone can provide further details on this object, then we'd be very grateful.



Borrowed Times, the newsletter of the UKDFD, is produced by John Winter with the help of the UKDFD Team and distributed free to all members. I welcome *any kind* of feedback and you may contact me via email on john@johnwinter.com or by using the site's private messaging system.

I regret to announce that this is the last newsletter in the present format. Due to my other commitments I am unable to sustain a regular issue. However, if the team have anything to tell you that is important, interesting or informative, then a special issue of this newsletter will be produced. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have allowed me to show finds and tell their story and all the help and encouragement I have been given from the UKDFD team.

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