

MINUTES

The meeting was held in the Hartwell Room at the British Museum on Wednesday 12th August 2009 at 11am.

Present

Committee

Norman Palmer (Chair)
Trevor Austin
Ian Carradice
Peter Clayton
Jack Ogden
Tim Pestell
May Sinclair

Other

Caroline Barton (BM)
Andrew Basham (BM)
Roger Bland (BM)
Ian Richardson (BM)
Nicki Fox (DCMS)

Apologies

John Cherry

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 17th June 2009 – Corrections were submitted by the Chairman and members and the minutes were passed as a true record.

Item 2: Objects

Prehistoric artefacts

1. Bronze Age gold strip and fragment from Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan (08.08)

The provisional valuer suggested £200; the Committee viewed the two pieces of gold in light of this and felt it was a fair value. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £200. National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

2. Bronze Age gold biconical bead and wire from Burton, Wrexham (07.13)- 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £130-£150; The TVC recommended £145 (24/04/09). The Finder has submitted a challenge. The Committee viewed the items again and considered the finder's letter. It thanked the finder for his submission but found nothing in the letter to cause it to revise its recommendation. Furthermore it instructed the Secretariat to respond to issues raised by the finder with the following: a.) the Committee is tasked with establishing a fair market value (defined as the anticipated hammer price for a piece at auction) for items of treasure, not a commercial 'best price'. b.) the Committee is recommending this value to the Secretary of State as a fair amount for the *ex gratia* reward; it is not an 'offer' and the Crown is neither seller nor buyer c.) the names of provisional valuers are intentionally omitted from correspondence to protect their anonymity, in order to avoid harassment by persons not content with their advice. The Committee again recommended £145. National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

Iron Age Artefacts

3. Iron Age gold ingot from St Donats, Vale of Glamorgan (08.09)

The provisional valuer suggested £855; the Committee viewed the ingot in light of this and found that the suggested value was consistent with that of similar ingots valued previously. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £855. National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

4. Iron Age gold/silver alloy torc from Telford area, Shropshire (2008 T557)- 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £1,350; The TVC recommended £1,800 (17/06/09). The finder has submitted a challenge. The Committee inspected the torc again and considered the finder's letter. It thanked the finder for the submission and assured him that the points raised therein, namely the quality of the workmanship, the academic significance of this find and the potential for it to create a 'buzz' of interest had been taken into account in arriving at the original figure. The Committee was minded not to change its recommendation of £1,800. Shropshire Museum hopes to acquire.

Roman artefacts

5. Roman silver finger-ring from South Cave, East Yorkshire (2008 T716)

The provisional valuer suggested £300; the Committee took this into consideration when viewing the finger-ring and in comparison with similar objects it felt that a slight increase was called for. It recommended £320. Hull & East Riding Museum hopes to acquire.

Early Medieval artefacts

6. Early Medieval assemblage (Items 1, 2 & 72) from North Yorkshire area (2007 T186)

The provisional valuer suggested £110; the Committee viewed the three items and felt this was a fair amount. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £110. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

7. Anglo-Saxon hooked tag from Norbury, Staffordshire (2008 T242)

The provisional valuer suggested £60; the Committee inspected the hooked tag in light of this and felt that this was a reasonable suggestion, given the potential interest in its re-use of a coin. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £60. The Potteries Museum hopes to acquire.

8. Early Medieval silver strap end from Hannington, Hampshire (2009 T65)

The provisional valuer suggested £40; the Committee examined the strap end and in concurrence with the provisional valuer recommended £40. Hampshire County Museum Service hopes to acquire.

9. Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt brooch from Newport, Isle of Wight (2009 T187)

The provisional valuer suggested £190-£210; the Committee viewed the object in light of this and felt that the presence of the garnets with gold inserts justified a higher value, and therefore recommended £225. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

10. Anglo-Saxon silver pyramidal scabbard mount from Hollingbourne, Kent (2008 T421)

The provisional valuer suggested £2,700-£3,000; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee took these into consideration when examining the mount, and thanked the finder for his letter. It noted that this artefact type is appearing more often on the market, and that smaller silver examples have been seen for less than £500. Case 2004 T409, an inlaid gold mount from Lidlington, Bedfordshire, was valued at £1,250. The finder noted in his letter that gold examples have been valued at £18,000 to £20,000 but the Committee confirmed that the range suggested by the provisional valuer was suitable for a silver artefact of this type. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £2,850. Maidstone Museum hopes to acquire.

11. Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt coin brooch from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (2007 T720)

The provisional valuer suggested £370; The Museum has submitted comments, and the Committee took these under advice when viewing the brooch. It noted that the comments of the Museum would be accurate were the piece regarded as a coin, but as an object it is an unusual and lovely design, which adds to its attractiveness. It pointed out the missing hook and pin, and felt that the value was only slightly less than that suggested. The Committee therefore recommended £350. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

12. Anglo-Saxon grave assemblage from Ringlemere, Kent- 3rd viewing

(2006 T30) Grave 40 (Claw Beaker only)- [REDACTED] valued this item at £400,000- £500,000; [REDACTED] valued it at £500,000, and [REDACTED] has valued it at £400,000. Both the Museum and Landowner submitted comments regarding the valuations. *The TVC requested that a letter be drafted to send to the valuers of this case; the Committee also sought advice from DCMS [IR amended 21/01/13] on i.) the approach it should take when presented with a provisional valuation that pays specific regard to the application of the export licensing regime as part of the rationale underpinning its valuation and ii.) whether provisional valuers should in future be advised to pay no regard to such matters. DCMS [IR amended 21/01/13] have responded with advice. DCMS [IR amended 21/01/13] requests the advice be treated as confidential. The above issues were discussed at the meeting.*

Several specific points were raised in the submissions by the Museum, and the Committee desired to know whether, after being made aware of these points, the provisional valuers would in any way alter their suggestions. The Committee discussed whether it was proper to address to the provisional valuers concerns raised by one of the interested parties, and agreed that it was acceptable to do so provided the concerns of the interested party were filtered by the Committee. It drafted a letter with the factual points that it wished the provisional valuers to consider and this letter will be sent by the DCMS to those valuers, with copies to be sent to the Museum and Landowner.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Committee agreed that it was proper to insert a clause into the *proforma* letters to the provisional valuers advising them to please avoid taking into account

possible effects of the export licencing regime when suggesting a value to the Committee.

The British Museum hopes to acquire.

Medieval artefacts

13. Medieval silver finger-ring from Flint, Flintshire (08.05)

The provisional valuer suggested £50; the Committee viewed the finger-ring and in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £50. Flintshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

14. Medieval silver finger-ring from Carew, Pembrokeshire (08.11)

The provisional valuer suggested £100; the Committee took this under advice when examining the finger-ring and in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £100. Tenby Museum & Art Gallery

15. Medieval silver seal ring with Roman intaglio from Margate, Kent (2008 T171)

The provisional valuer suggested £150; the Committee viewed the ring in light of this and felt that the suggested value was too high given its fragmentary nature and the quality of the intaglio. The Committee recommended £100. Canterbury Museum hopes to acquire.

16. Medieval silver finger-ring from Greywell, Hampshire (2008 T322)

The provisional valuer suggested £30-40; the Committee took this into account when viewing the ring and felt that the figure at the lower end of this range was a fair assessment of the ring's value. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £30. Hampshire County Museum Service hopes to acquire.

17. Medieval silver annular brooch from Niton area, Isle of Wight (2008 T673)

The provisional valuer suggested £75; the Committee examined the brooch and found it to be a tidy piece, but one that is commonly seen. It therefore felt a lower figure was more in order, and recommended £60. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

18. Medieval silver annular brooch from Newport, Isle of Wight (2009 T48)

The provisional valuer suggested £100; the Committee viewed the brooch in light of this, noting its distortion and crystalline nature. The mark was not felt to contribute much to the piece's value. In accordance with the recommended value of a similar brooch from the Niton area, Isle of Wight (2008 T673) also seen at this meeting, the Committee recommended £60. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

19. Medieval silver buckle from Havenstreet & Ashe, Isle of Wight (2009 T106)

The provisional valuer suggested £40-£60; the Committee inspected the brooch in light of this, and it commented that this example was superior to two similar brooches from the Isle of Wight (2008 T673 and 2009 T48) seen at the same meeting, which were both valued at £60. The Committee was therefore minded to recommend £75. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

20. Medieval silver brooch from Mathry, Pembrokeshire (08.13)

The provisional valuer suggested £50-£60; the Committee took this under advice when inspecting the find and felt that the lower figure was suitable amount. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £50. Scolton Manor Museum hopes to acquire.

21. Medieval silver strap fitting from Maxstoke, Warwickshire (2008 T161)

The provisional valuer suggested £50-£70; the Committee took this into consideration when viewing the find and felt that it was worth less than this amount. It therefore recommended £40. Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

22. Medieval silver mount from Spaxton, Somerset (2008 T551)

The provisional valuer suggested £30; the Committee viewed the mount in light of this and found it to be an attractive piece that warranted a higher value. It recommended £60. Somerset County Museum hopes to acquire.

23. Medieval silver coin brooch from Hollingbourne, Kent (2009 T144)

The provisional valuer suggested £25-£30; the Committee inspected the coin brooch and agreed with arguments of the provisional valuer. It recommended £25. Maidstone Museum hopes to acquire.

24. Medieval silver pendant from Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight (2009 T192)

The provisional valuer suggested £300; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee viewed the pendant in light of this. It thanked the finder for his letter, and pointed out that a recent similar example from Norfolk (2007 T520) was valued at £250. This example is superior and the suggested value was felt to be

suitable. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £300. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

25. Medieval silver coin brooch from Middleton, East Riding of Yorkshire (2008 T654)

The provisional valuer suggested £600; the Committee viewed the coin brooch in light of this, commenting on its nice gilding. It believed that £650 was a more suitable figure, and recommended that amount. East Riding Museum Service hopes to acquire.

26. Medieval gold locket from Newark area, Nottinghamshire (2008 T506)- 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £800-£1,000; The TVC requested a second provisional valuation (17/06/09). The second provisional valuer suggested £500. The finder submitted comments. The Committee took all of this under advice when inspecting the locket and was inclined to agree that the second valuer's reasoning was not accurate for an item of this nature. It noted that the locket is very well made and an attractive piece, and was minded to recommend a higher figure than suggested; £1,600. Newark Museum hopes to acquire.

Post-Medieval artefacts

27. Post-Medieval silver finger-ring from Nethersden, Kent (2008 T253)

The provisional valuer suggested £55; the Committee examined the ring and in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £55. Ashford Museum hopes to acquire.

28. Post-Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Shorwell, Isle of Wight (2009 T183)

The provisional valuer suggested £200-£250; the Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this and complimented the nice gilding. It found several *comparanda* (cf. 2004 T386, valued at £350) examples of rings that had been previously valued, and therefore was inclined to recommend a higher value; £300. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

29. Post-Medieval silver thimble from Carew, Pembrokeshire (08.12)

The provisional valuer suggested £150; the Committee inspected the thimble with this in mind and, in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £150. Tenby Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

30. Post-Medieval silver dress pin from Southwell area, Nottinghamshire (2009 T129)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-£200; the Committee examined the dress pin in light of this and noting that it showed signs of wear, felt that figure at the lower end of the suggested range was suitable. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £150. Newark Museum hopes to acquire.

31. Post-Medieval silver-gilt pin head from Michaelston-y-Fedw, Monmouthshire (06.23)

The provisional valuer suggested £20-£30; upon inspecting the pin-head the Committee concurred with the suggested value, and recommended £20. Newport Art Gallery & Museum hopes to acquire.

32. Post-Medieval silver dress-hook from Westwell, Kent (2008 T661)

The provisional valuer suggested £200; the Committee viewed the item alongside a similar example, (2009 T87 from Arreton, Isle of Wight). It noted that the two were very similar and that they would be worth the same amount, which, in line with other *comparanda*, was lower than the suggested value in this case. It therefore recommended £175. Ashford Museum hopes to acquire.

33. Post-Medieval silver-gilt dress-hook from Arreton, Isle of Wight (2009 T87)

The provisional valuer suggested £150; the Committee viewed the item alongside a similar example, (2008 T661 from Westwell, Kent). It noted that the two were very similar and that they would be worth the same amount, which, in line with other *comparanda*, was higher than the suggested value in this case. It therefore recommended £175. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

34. Post-Medieval silver dress-hook from Chilton Trinity, Somerset (2008 T96)

The provisional valuer suggested at £40-£60; the Committee inspected the dress-hook in light of this and in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £50. Somerset County Museum hopes to acquire.

35. Post-Medieval silver-gilt dress-hook from Carew, Pembrokeshire (08.10)

The provisional valuer suggested £100-£150; the dress-hook was viewed by the Committee, which noted that its large, complete but flat design warranted a value within the suggested range. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £125. National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

36. Post-Medieval silver dress-hook from Bridgnorth area, Shropshire (2008 T357)

The provisional valuer suggested £75; the Committee took this under advice when inspecting the dress-hook and found it to be a fair value. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £75. Bridgnorth Museum hopes to acquire.

37. Post-Medieval silver-gilt cap hook from Thorner, West Yorkshire (2008 T396)

The provisional valuer suggested £100; the Committee examined the cap hook in light of this and felt it was too generous. It recommended £80. Leeds Museum hopes to acquire.

38. Post-Medieval silver button from Little Hempdon, Buckinghamshire (2008 T514)

The provisional valuer suggested £40-£50; the Committee viewed the button in light of this and commented that it is of the same design as many previous cases (for *comperanda*, cf. 2005 T171, 2005 T168, 2005 T252) The suggested range was felt to be suitable given these examples. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £45. Buckinghamshire Museum hopes to acquire.

39. Post-Medieval silver button from St Albans, Hertfordshire (2008 T704)

The provisional valuer suggested £80-£90; the Committee took account of this when viewing the object, and commented that although of potential interest to collectors, the suggested range was too high. It therefore recommended £70. St Albans Museum hopes to acquire.

40. Post-Medieval silver buckle from Yoxall, Staffordshire (2008 T736)

The provisional valuer suggested at £20-£30; the Committee took note of this when examining the object. It thought that the maker's mark may be identifiable and the other mark was an erased lion's head which may allow it to be further researched and make it of more interest. Consequently it recommended £55. The Potteries Museum hopes to acquire.

41. Post-Medieval silver seal die from Brill, Buckinghamshire (2008 T289)

The provisional valuer suggested £75; the Committee inspected the seal die in light of this and in concurrence with the provisional valuer, recommended £75. Buckinghamshire Museum hopes to acquire.

42. Post-Medieval silver seal die from Little Staughton, Bedfordshire (2008 T387)

The provisional valuer suggested £45; this was taken into account when the Committee viewed the seal die. Owing to its fine engraving, the piece was felt to be worth more, and the Committee recommended £55. Bedford Museum hopes to acquire.

43. Post-Medieval silver seal die from North Petherton, Somerset (2008 T669)

The provisional valuer suggested £130; the Committee took this into consideration when examining the seal die, whose design of a ship it found of interest. The Committee cited as a *comparandum* 2004 T302, valued at £125. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £130. Somerset County Museum hopes to acquire.

44. Post-Medieval silver whistle from North Nottinghamshire (2008 T403)

The provisional valuer suggested £70-£90; the Committee considered the object in light of this and felt that it was worthy of a higher value. It recommended £125. Bassetlaw Museum hopes to acquire.

45. Post-Medieval gold crucifix from Tuxford area, Nottinghamshire (2008 T512)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,000 - £1,200; this was taken under advice when the crucifix was examined by the Committee. It noted the parallel suggested by the provisional valuer and cited a *comparandum* on an auction website listed at £1,350, including the seller's premium. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £1,200. Bassetlaw Museum hopes to acquire.

46. Post-Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Colwinston, Vale of Glamorgan (08.15)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-£200; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee took these into consideration when viewing the finger-ring, thanking the Finder for his letter. Taking account of the observations therein the Committee agreed that the suggested range was low for this ring, but that its value did not approach the figure proposed by the Finder (£600). It recommended £250. National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

47. Post-Medieval silver-gilt posy ring from Erewash area, Derbyshire (2008 T190)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-£200; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee considered these when viewing the ring, and thanked the Finder for his submission and noted the sentiments expressed therein. It felt that the suggested range was accurate for the ring, and set a precise value just above the median. In concurrence with the provisional valuer, it recommended £180. Erewash Museum hopes to acquire.

48. Post-Medieval silver-gilt dress-hook from Bempton, East Riding of Yorkshire (2008 T734)

The provisional valuer suggested £65; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee took these into consideration when viewing the dress hook. It noted that two very similar dress hooks had been seen earlier in the meeting (2008 T661 from Westwell, Kent, and 2009 T87 from Arretton, Isle of Wight, both valued at £175) and felt that this item was worth almost as much. It is a piece of substance and is missing only the loop on the back. The Committee recommended £150. East Riding Museum service hopes to acquire.

Item 3: Coins

Roman coins

49. Roman coin hoard (10) from Carnforth area, Lancashire (2008 T469)

The provisional valuer suggested £60-£70; the Committee inspected the coins in light of this and agreed that it was a suitable figure, taking into account the academic interest of the group. The Committee recommended £70. Lancaster City Museum hopes to acquire.

50. Roman silver coins (2) from Stanton area, Derbyshire (2007 T570)

The provisional valuer suggested £230-280; the Museum submitted comments. The Committee took these into consideration when viewing the two coins again. It noted that the entire hoard of 62 coins had been valued at £550 before Derby Museum withdrew their interest, and it expressed uncertainty as to how two coins from the group could account for 50% of its value, as the provisional valuers suggested. It agreed with both the valuer and the Museum that the mint mark was very weak and felt this would hamper its saleability at auction. However it wished to seek further advice on this point, and has asked for a second provisional valuation of the two coins from Thomas Curtis. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

51. Roman coin hoard (1, 470) from Milton Keynes District, Buckinghamshire (2006 T631)- 3rd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £29, 100; the TVC requested more information from the first provisional valuer (27/02/09) which was provided and viewed. The TVC requested a second provisional valuation (24/04/09); the second provisional valuer suggested £20, 000-£25, 000. The Finders have submitted comments. The Committee took all of these into consideration when viewing the coins. It thanked the Finders for their letter, and wished to assure them of the following:

- a.) the provisional valuations and this recommended valuation are based on all 1470 coins.
- b.) the recommended valuation takes into account the lapse in time since the coins were unearthed, and the coins are valued according to what they would have been worth when they were discovered

With respect to the suggested values, the Committee agreed with the second valuers comment about the possibility of depressed prices where a large number of the coins to go on the market at once. Most of the coins in hoards of this type would indeed be sold in bags were they to go on the market. Factoring this in, the Committee was nonetheless inclined toward the figure suggested in the first valuation. This figure, accompanied by the reasoned breakdown, was felt to be largely suitable. The Committee recommended £29,000. Buckinghamshire Museum hopes to acquire.

Early-Medieval coins

52. Anglo-Saxon silver coins (4) from Uparden, West Sussex (2008 T97)

The provisional valuer suggested £2, 500- £2, 800; the Committee considered the coins in light of this and feeling that they displayed a nice condition, it recommended the figure at the higher end of the range, £2800. Chichester District Museum hopes to acquire.

Medieval coins [Tim Pestell left the room]

53. Medieval silver coins (3) from Dunton, Norfolk (2007 T275)

The provisional valuer suggested £1, 050-£1, 450; the Committee examined the coins in light of this and feeling that it was a suitable range, suggested £1300 pounds. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

Item 4: Norfolk Cases

54. Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt mount from East Walton, Norfolk (2008 T693)- 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £480-£500; the Finder and the Museum submitted comments. The TVC requested a second provisional valuation (24/04/09). The second provisional valuer suggested £2000; [REDACTED] has valued this item at £150-£180. The Committee discussed the possible function of this piece

whilst considering these suggestion and submissions. Whilst it remained uncertain what the piece was used for, the Committee agreed that as an example of ‘Piscatalia’ (that is, an object in the representation of a fish) it would generate interest on the market. It cited a fish-head mount (2003 T77 from Grantham, Lincolnshire) valued at £3250, but noted that the item under discussion was not as well modelled or elegant. It therefore recommended £1200. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

55. Early-Medieval silver-gilt knob from Hunstanton area, Norfolk (2009 T53)- 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £700-£800; the TVC recommended £700 (17/06/09). The Museum has submitted a challenge. The Committee took this into consideration when viewing the object again. In light of the *comparandae* produced by the Museum, the Committee felt that diligence required it to seek a second valuation for this item. Lynn Museum hopes to acquire.

56. Post-Medieval silver-gilt dress-hook from Blakeney area, Norfolk (2008 T613)

The provisional valuer suggested £50; the Finder has submitted comments. The Committee viewed the dress-hook in light of this, thanking the Finder for his submission. It felt that the provisional value was low and suggested as a suitable *comparandum* case 2007 T211 from East Hertfordshire, which was valued at £100. The Committee therefore recommended £120. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

Late Addition:

57. Medieval silver pennies (190 plus fragments) from Baschurch Area, Shropshire (2007 T545) – 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £15, 000- £20, 000; the TVC recommended £17, 500 (20/4/09). The coins having been found on land belonging to two separate people, the Committee was invited to value separately the 4 coins found on one parcel of land. These coins have now been marked and set aside for the Committee. It considered the four coins in question and recommended £300. Shropshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

Item 5: AOB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Upcoming Review of the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (for oral discussion) – Following the changes made to the Treasure Act as a result of the enactment of the Coroner’s and Justice Bill (currently being considered by Parliament) the DCMS will be conducting a review of the Treasure Act Code of Practice. The TVC will be asked for official comments during the consultation, planned for later this year, but beforehand the DCMS would welcome Committee members’ suggestions as to any issues they would like to see included in the consultation.

Ideas to which the author of the Review might take into account:

- a.) The possibility of extending *ex gratia* rewards to persons other than finders. (eg. the granddaughter of an original finder who has recently deceased).
- b.) Incentivising or rewarding acquirers of Treasure for reporting. Looking into ways to encourage them to report.

- e.) ~~Looking at the mechanism whereby a finder of potential Treasure delegates the reporting to another individual. What is his or her duty 'to ensure' the find has been reported? How can a finder be assured that the item has been reported? One suggestion would be to ask the coroner to inform the finder once a report has been made.~~
- d.) Examine the wording in the Code of Practice touching on situations where apparent consent to search for antiquities has been given by a person who is not in the position to give it. By re-wording, is it reasonable to expect that this would happen in fewer cases?
- e.) In the valuation stage, addressing the issue of the late or delayed production of evidence by an interested party.
- f.) Addressing the issue of Museums withdrawing acquisition interest late in the process.
- g.) Looking into rewording the paragraph discussing reasons for abatement of reward, and with respect to damage caused to a find by Finder or Landowner, to strengthen it by discarding or clarifying the terms 'deliberate' and 'reckless'. The Committee would possibly like to see discussion of the possibility of abatement for 'investigative' tampering as well.
- h.) Receiving clear guidance as to the relevance of overseas market comparisons in valuations.
- i.) Revising the section on reporting of Treasure to include other persons as designated by the coroner (possibly FLOs), and then give instruction on the conditions under which the FLO has to report the find to the coroner.
- j.) More clearly explaining that detailed research on the history of individual finds is outside the remit of the museum curator and the TVC, and should be undertaken by an interested party if they so wish.
- k.) Rewording the section that addresses pre-inquest disclaims to more explicitly explain that inquests are not necessary in these circumstances.
- l.) Considering ways to facilitate pre-inquest acquisition of Treasure, if possible.
- m.) Considering ways to encourage finders and landowners to waive rewards, for example by offering a medal for services to culture.

Roger Bland announced the launch date of the next Portable Antiquities & Treasure Annual Report, as being 3rd November 2009.

Consulting valuers from Sotheby's in light of recent auctions

The Committee considered whether it would be wise to approach Sotheby's and ask whether they have an expert who would wish to provide provisional valuations to the TVC. However after discussion the consensus was that there are no experts for British Antiquities at Sotheby's on whom it would be suitable to draw.

Notes of thanks

Notes of thanks were read from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with respect to the letter sent to the provisional valuers explaining that they may accept commissions from private individuals.

A letter of thanks was also read from the finder in case 2008 T634, to both the TVC and to Tim Pestell in particular.

Recent Finds from NI

Having seen the objects in person, the Committee confirmed that it would like two provisional valuations each for the bulla (NI 8.01) and bracelet (NI 8.02), and one for the finger-ring (NI 8.03).

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 30 September 2009, 11:00am. Hartwell Room, The British Museum