

VESSEL

Unique ID: WMID-3FE965

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A 'patera' or handled pan, known as 'The Staffordshire Pan', cast in copper alloy with elaborate enamelled decoration and a Latin inscription below the rim. The body of the vessel is convex and c.2mm thick, and the slightly out-turned rim has a rounded edge, with an external diameter of 89.5mm. There is a diagonal foot-ring with a diameter of 54mm and an internal ledge cast at c.1mm from the base edge, onto which the missing base would have been soldered. Traces of the solder survive on this ledge. The handle is now missing, but judging from other finds it is likely to have been flat and bow-tie shaped and also inlaid with coloured enamel. There are the remains of the solder used to affix the handle on the upper body just below the rim (the soldering scar is c.70mm long).

The body of the vessel is decorated with 'Celtic-style' motifs consisting of a curvilinear scrollwork design made up of eight roundels in turquoise and blue enamel enclosing swirling six-armed whirligigs which are inlaid with alternating yellow, red and possibly purple enamel. The whirligigs are made up of three 'leaf-shaped' motifs inlaid with yellow enamel, alternating with larger, curving motifs, one edge of which is 'feathered', and inlaid with red and possibly purple enamel. The areas between the roundels are infilled with triangular motifs inlaid with either red or turquoise enamel. Along the lower edge, these motifs are in alternating red and turquoise enamel, with the turquoise enamel being very well preserved and the red less so. Along the upper edge, the eight motifs are more elaborate with a central copper-alloy extension terminating in a curving, rounded lobe. In each of these motifs, the upper edge to the left of centre has three or four notches cut out in a diagonal line and they are inlaid with turquoise in five of the motifs, there is a slight trace of red in one and no enamel surviving in two of the motifs. A great deal of the enamel survives and the vessel is in a fine condition.

Just below the rim is an engraved Latin inscription which runs around the pan in an unbroken sequence. It reads,

'MAISCOGGABATUXELODUNUMCAMMOGLANNARIGOREVALIAELIDRACONIS'.

This is a list of four forts located at the western end of Hadrian's Wall; Bowness (MAIS), Drumburgh (COGGABATA), Stanwix (UXELODUNUM) and Castlesteads (CAMMOGLANNA). It incorporates the name of an individual, AELIUS DRACO and a further place-name, RIGOREVALI.

'Rigorevali' may be transcribed as 'On the line of the Wall' (Guy de la Beydoyere; Tomlin 2004). 'Aelius Draco' could be the name of the manufacturer/craftsman, or the client for whom the pan was made. 'Draco' is an uncommon Greek name and may suggest that he or his family originated in the Greek-speaking part of the eastern Roman Empire. If the pan was made for Draco, he is likely to have served in the army and perhaps he was a veteran of a garrison of Hadrian's Wall and on retirement had this vessel made to recall his time in the army.

There is some damage to the rim which has been pushed in, with a tear at the junction of the rim and upper body. The walls of the vessel are very thin, and traces of turquoise enamel are visible from the interior in the lower body. There are also two holes in the plain panel between the base and the enamelled frieze. Otherwise, despite the loss of the base and handle, the vessel is in a remarkable

condition and it is unusual that the enamel is so well preserved.

Only two other vessels with inscriptions naming forts on Hadrian's Wall are known; the 'Rudge Cup' which was discovered in Wiltshire in 1725 (Horsley 1732; Henig 1995) and the 'Amiens patera' found in Amiens in 1949 (Heurgon 1951). Between them they name seven forts, but the Staffordshire patera is the first to include Drumburgh and is the only example to name an individual. All three are likely to be souvenirs of Hadrian's Wall, although why they include forts on the western end of the Wall only is unclear.

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: National importance

Class: Patera Inscription:

MAISCOGGABATAUXELODUNUMCAMMOGLANNARIGOREVALIAELIUSDRACO

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Acquired for the British Museum, Tullie House and the Potteries Museum using a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by a museum - not a Treasure case

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Subperiod from: Early

Period from: ROMAN

Period to: ROMAN

Date from: Circa AD 100

Date to: Circa AD 199

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Diameter: 89.5 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 29th June 2003

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Identified by: Ms Sally Worrell

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 50 finds from Staffordshire

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Secondary material: Enamel

Manufacture method: Cast
Decoration style: Curvilinear
Completeness: Incomplete
Surface Treatment: Inlaid with enamel

Spatial metadata

Region: [West Midlands](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Staffordshire](#) (County)
District: [Staffordshire Moorlands](#) (District)
To be known as: Moorlands

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
Current location: Acquired for the British Museum, Tullie House and the Potteries Museum using a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Worrell, S., 2004 [Roman Britain in 2003 \(II. Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, XXXV, 326,](#)