

VESSEL

Unique ID: BM-749729

Object type certainty: Possibly

Workflow status: Published

A copper-alloy vessel mount, possibly from a large bowl similar to those of Eggers Type 96, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103 and 104 depicting a naked figure reclining under a tree, dating to the Roman period. The object is asymmetrical and teardrop shaped in plan. In section, it is approximately hemispherical in section. The underside of the mount is slightly convex and has a rough, scored surface, with traces of a white substance, possibly lead solder, attached to it.

The mount is decorated with a cast figure, reclining right. The figure's right arm is resting behind his head, whilst the left arm is truncated, but is resting at the figure's side. The figure's left leg is tucked under its right leg. The figure reclines against a tree stump, which would originally have extended to form vessel handle, but this has been substantially remodelled and filed down with the matching mount removed. The rendering of the figure is approximate and there few details picked out. There is, however, an incised circle measuring 2mm in diameter on the right side of the figure's chest. The teardrop shaped plate on which the figure rests, is decorated by two circumferential incisions and is broken in the area in front of the figure, perhaps damage caused when it was prised from the vessel which it decorated.

It is possible that the figure represents a sleeping Hermaphrodite, a composition known from Hellenistic and Roman sculpture.

For a zoomorphic vessel mount with a similar integral suspension loop or handle, see Tassinari 1975, 52, no. 110 found in the Saone at Chalon. She references Eggers Type 102, Pl. 10. For the vessel form, see den Boesterd, no. 172, Pl. VIII, p. 52 which is dated to the first century AD and is of Campanian manufacture. Pictorial representations of such bowls suggested they were used for serving food or as fruit bowls. Bowls with zoomorphic mounts are thought to date to the first or second century with the earliest forms made in Capua, Italy and later ones throughout the provinces (Kohlert-Nemeth 2002, 76). Compare also with an example from Trier depicting reclining Tritons (Menzel 1966, 104, No. 258 and Taf. 76).

Notes:

SF 160. Seen 4.6.18

Class: Escutcheon **Evidence of reuse:** The mount has been modified by removing the means of attachment

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN
Period to: ROMAN
Date from: Circa AD 43
Date to: Circa AD 200
Period of reuse: ROMAN

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 34 mm
Height: 26 mm
Width: 56 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: Box 20, Bag 5

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [North East](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Darlington](#) (Unitary Authority)
District: [Darlington](#) (Unitary Authority)
Parish or ward: [Piercebridge](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: NZ2115
Four figure Latitude: 54.52984883
Four figure longitude: -1.67701825
1:25K map: NZ2115
1:10K map: NZ21NW
Grid reference source: From finder
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Other chance find
Discovery circumstances: While diving in the River Tees
General landuse: Open fresh water