

## Minutes of the Treasure Valuation Committee Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013

The meeting was held in the Board Room at the British Museum on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 11:00 am.

### Present:

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>British Museum:</b>	<b>DCMS:</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>
Ian Carradice (Acting Chair)	Roger Bland	Mark Caldon	Colin Renfrew
John Cherry	Becky Dobson		
Peter Clayton	Lucy Ellis		
David Dykes	Janina Parol		
Hetty Gleave	Ian Richardson		
Tim Pestell			

### Item 1: Minutes of the meeting of Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The Committee accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

### Item 2: Discussion:

**Provisional Valuations** – At the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013, the Secretariat introduced the topic of the greater than anticipated expense of provisional valuations in recent years, and provided members with a short paper. It was suggested that members may wish to discuss possible solutions for reducing the cost of provisional valuations at this meeting, with a full discussion to take place at the November 2013 meeting, when the Chairman should be present.

The Committee members had provided some independent feedback, and at this meeting the acting Chairman asked the Committee to discuss some specific points that had been raised by the Secretariat with the intention of arriving at a concise list of initiatives that might be useful in lowering the costs of provisional valuations, to be discussed at the subsequent meeting.

The specific points were:

- Provisional valuations for very low value items were agreed to be an inefficient use of resource. The Chairman had previously suggested a procedure whereby the Secretariat would only commission provisional valuations for items it felt had a market value over a certain threshold, with the understanding that the Committee would be able to recommend a value for items underneath the threshold without the need for an external provisional valuation. The Committee approved of such a system in principle, but acknowledged that a change in the Code of Practice would be required to enable the system to be implemented. **Therefore the Committee suggested that the upcoming Review of the Code of Practice should include a proposal to revise the Code so that objects and coins of low value do not require a provisional valuation from an independent expert in the trade.**
- The Committee recognised that commissioning more than one provisional valuation per case leads to increased expense. In some instances it was felt necessary to commission more than one valuation, such as where the Committee felt that the existing provisional valuation was inaccurate and where the Committee itself felt that it needed more information in order to recommend a value. However the Committee accepted that it had considerable expertise among its own members and access to data on the value of comparable finds. In the event of challenges by interested parties, it was felt that those parties could be reminded of their right to commission valuations themselves and may even be directed to appropriate experts by the Committee's Secretariat. **The Committee proposed to accept the principle that it would take responsibility for recommending a value which might depart from the provisional valuation without automatically seeking a further provisional valuation to reinforce this, but to reserve the right to commission further valuations as necessary.**

- It was accepted that the independent expert valuers provide reports of varying depth and research. The Secretariat had been concerned that some valuers might have spent inordinate amounts of time compiling reports on low value items and billed accordingly. **The Committee hoped that the implementation of the first point would eliminate concerns that too much time was being spent on valuations for low value items.**
- The Committee recognised that the valuation of hoards could be particularly costly, and that the Secretariat assisted valuers as far as possible (by laying out items, for instance) in order to keep costs down. However it was felt there was little that could be done to reduce the costs of valuing most hoards, given the necessity of the valuer to see all of the elements.
- The relatively small pool of expert valuers from whom the Secretariat could draw was felt to hinder the Secretariat's ability to ensure that it commissioned the best and most efficient valuer for each case. The Committee recognised this, but pointed out that the field of suitable experts in this field was quite small. Nonetheless **the Committee members resolved to be aware that the addition of suitable candidates to the pool of provisional valuers would be useful to the Administration, and to recommend valuers to be added to the pool if it was thought constructive.**
- There was concern over museum withdrawals from cases they had pursued an interest in, especially where the withdrawal comes late in the process and valuations have already been sought and paid for. The Committee considered whether museums could be billed for valuations in cases where interest was subsequently withdrawn, but thought this might be difficult. **It was felt that at the moment all that could be done was to suggest that museums work on their communication with the Secretariat and to inform them as soon as they feel they are unable to acquire an item.**
- The Committee acknowledged that the rate of pay for provisional valuers was already good value for the government, so it cannot be expected to negotiate a lower rate.
- It was pointed out that recipients of very large rewards were benefitting considerably from a system which, in the case of large hoards, could potentially have cost a great deal of taxpayer money. The Committee considered whether it might be possible to adopt a policy of deducting a percentage of very large rewards in order to finance the provisional valuations of the find. **The Committee felt that if there was a strong preference for this policy to be adopted it would require more work to determine the definition of a large reward and would be subject to the consent of the DCMS and amendment of the Code of Practice.**

**Appointment of finders' representative to the Committee** – [REDACTED] updated the Committee with the latest situation in this regard. The Public Appointments team had had a reduction in resource but hoped to be able to advertise the vacancy very soon. The Committee inquired as to whether it was possible, if [REDACTED] was not in post for more than a year, he might be appointed to serve another term. [REDACTED] said he would have to take advice from colleagues on this.

**Review of the Code of Practice** – [REDACTED] stated that he hoped to put a submission to the Minister for approval to go ahead with the Review in the Autumn of 2013. The DCMS had been working with the Treasure Secretariat on a draft consultation paper which it was hoped could be put to consultation before the end of the year.

**[Roger Bland left the meeting]**

### **Item 3: Objects**

#### **Bronze Age artefacts**

##### **1. Bronze Age gold band from Sherbourne St John, Hampshire (2013 T154, PAS ID: PAS-067AC5)**

The provisional valuer suggested £80. The Committee inspected the gold band in light of this. It compared the item to a very similar gold item from Chislet, Kent (2012 T659, PAS ID: SUR-1B64F5) seen at the same meeting, and which had been valued at £250. The piece from Sherbourne St John was noted to be lighter and not as well-formed, however the Committee felt that the valuer had slightly underestimated the appeal of the piece. The Committee recommended £100. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

##### **2. Bronze Age gold strip from Chislet, Kent (2012 T659, PAS ID: SUR-1B64F5)**

The provisional valuer suggested £250-£280. The Committee examined the strip in light of this, and compared it to a similar gold item from Sherbourne St John, Hampshire (2013 T154, PAS ID: PAS-067AC5) seen at the same meeting, and which had been valued at £100. The piece from Chislet was seen to be heavier and better formed, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £250. Canterbury Museum hopes to acquire.

##### **3. Bronze Age copper alloy axe and gold objects (5) from North Cove area, Suffolk (2011 T478, PAS ID: SF-BDA986)- 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The provisional valuer suggested £400. The Committee viewed the items on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 and recommended £550. The finder supplied comments and the Committee examined the items again. With respect to the finder's concern of the quality of photographs made available to him, the Committee reviewed the photographs and found them to be of suitable quality. The Committee reminded the finder that in any event it was minded to attach greater weight to valuations where valuers had seen the items in person. Finding nothing further in the finder's submission to cause it to depart from its original recommendation, the Committee confirmed a recommendation of £550. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

#### **Roman artefacts**

##### **4. Roman silver finger-ring fragment from Hayton, East Yorkshire (2009 T632, PAS ID: PAS-190848)**

The provisional valuer suggested £15-£18. The Committee viewed the ring fragment in light of this and in agreement with the valuer, recommended £16. Hull & East Riding Museum Service hopes to acquire.

##### **5. Roman silver probe fragment from Hayton, East Yorkshire (2009 T633, PAS ID: PAS-1951B8)**

The provisional valuer suggested £18-£20. The Committee took account of this as it inspected the item and felt that the piece was interesting. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £20. Hull & East Riding Museum Service hopes to acquire.

##### **6. Roman silver finger-ring from Mid Bedfordshire area (2013 T61, PAS ID: CAM-223944)**

The provisional valuer suggested £140-£160. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this, noting that the item possessed good presence and that the suggested value accounted for the unfortunate state of the intaglio. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £150. The Higgins Bedford hopes to acquire.

##### **7. Roman gold ring from Hayton, East Yorkshire (2009 T634, PAS ID: PAS-19A7A8)**

The provisional valuer suggested £450. The Committee inspected the gold ring in light of this and took account of its current (unwound) state, which the Committee thought would be difficult for a conservator to rectify. The examples quoted by the valuer were, as explained in his report, in their original form and thus achieved much higher values at auction. The Committee also referred to a similarly unwound Roman gold snake-ring from Sudbury area, Suffolk (2006 T537, PAS ID: SF-8A6886) which it had valued previously valued at £230. The Sudbury example was observed to have been more damaged than the ring from Hayton. Having regard to all of the above, the Committee recommended £425 for the Hayton ring. Hull & East Riding Museum Service hopes to acquire.

**8. Roman gold finger-ring from Wing, Buckinghamshire (2012 T831, PAS ID: BUC-C9CEE4)**

The provisional valuer suggested £450-£500. The finder supplied comments and the Committee took account of these as it viewed the ring. The Committee thanked the finder for his thoughts and confirmed that his story would be passed to the museum hoping to acquire the ring. The Committee agreed that the ring was so small as to be unwearable and that its interest was predominantly as a collectible item. The Committee felt that the lower end of the valuer's suggested range provided an accurate assessment of the ring's worth, and recommended £450. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

**[Hetty Gleave left the meeting]**

**9. Roman gold jewellery fragment from Toppesfield, Essex (2011 T699, PAS ID: ESS-56A4F4)- 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The first provisional valuer suggested £700-£800. The Committee saw the jewellery fragment at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and requested a second provisional valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £500. The Committee examined the item again in light of this information and felt that although small, the piece was attractive, and that a fair value would be between the two estimates. The Committee recommended £650. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

**Early Medieval artefacts**

**10. Early Medieval silver strap end fragment from Brampton, Lincolnshire (2012 T61, PAS ID: SWYOR-2D7116)**

The provisional valuer suggested £5. The Committee examined the fragment in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £5. The Fitzwilliam Museum hopes to acquire.

**11. Early Medieval copper alloy strap end with silver rivets from All Saints Church Lawton, Cheshire (2013 T46, PAS ID: LVPL-FE8590)**

The provisional valuer suggested £25. The Committee viewed the item in light of this, and acknowledged the poor condition of the artefact. Nonetheless it was felt to be an interesting item, especially due to the presence of the inlaid 'eyes', and the Committee recommended £35. Congleton Museum hopes to acquire.

**12. Early Medieval gold and garnet mount from Woodbridge area, Suffolk (2012 T853, PAS ID: SF-394035)**

The provisional valuer suggested £900. The Committee examined the mount in light of this. The Committee felt that the valuer's arguments were convincing and well-supported with a relevant comparison. The Committee found the piece very interesting and noted that it would have been very attractive but for the damage it had suffered. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £900. Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service hopes to acquire.

**13. Early Medieval silver disc brooch from Wilden, Bedfordshire (2012 T268, PAS ID: BH-685AA3)**

The provisional valuer suggested £17,000. The Committee inspected the brooch in light of this and agreed that it would have been very attractive prior to being damaged. Given the dearth of comparable examples on the market, the Committee felt that it required further information before making a recommendation, and asked the Secretariat to commission a second provisional valuation. The Higgins Bedford hopes to acquire.

**14. Viking silver and gold hoard from Bedale, North Yorkshire (2012 T373, PAS ID: YORYM-CEE620)- 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The first provisional valuer suggested £56,400; the second provisional valuer suggested £36,260. The Committee had seen the hoard at its meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 and recommended £51,000. The finders and landowner submitted a challenge to this, and the Committee considered the case again. It thanked the finders and landowner for their submissions, and conceded that the recommended value of the hoard should reflect the total of the recommended figures for the individual values of the two groups of items in the hoard – the star artefacts and the ingots. Since the Committee had felt that an appropriate figure for the jewellery and martial elements was

£35,000, and that an appropriate figure for the ingots was £16,636, the Committee felt that a total of £51, 636 was correct, and made this recommendation.

As for the concern of the interested parties regarding York Museum's Mr [REDACTED]'s quote on the purported value of the necklace, the Committee pointed out that it could not take into account comments made by a third party outside of the context of the valuation process, and noted that in any event Mr [REDACTED] may have been referring to the relative value of the necklace for its original owners. York Museums Trust hopes to acquire.

**15. Early Medieval silver object from North West Essex (2012 T395, PAS ID: CAM-4DB246)- 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The provisional valuer suggested £2,500-£3,000. The Committee had seen the item at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 and had recommended £3,000. The finder and landowner submitted a challenge. The Committee examined the object again and thanked the parties for their submissions. It reassured the finder and landowner that it had taken into account the rarity of the item and its composition in arriving at the earlier figure. The Committee was satisfied that the report for the coroner had correctly dated the artefact and informed the finder and landowner that artefacts with glass inlaid eyes were not unknown, and that the Committee had in fact seen a strap-end with glass eyes earlier in the meeting (Treasure case 2013 T46, PAS ID: LVPL-FE8590). Finding nothing further in the submissions to cause it to amend its previous recommendation, the Committee recommended £3,000. Saffron Walden Museum hopes to acquire.

**Medieval artefacts**

**16. Medieval silver lace tag/ aglet from Brampton, Lincolnshire (2011 T174 PAS ID: SWYOR-B1FFB4)**

The provisional valuer suggested £25. The finder and landowner agreed to waive their right to a reward before the meeting, so there was no need for the Committee to value the find. Fitzwilliam Museum is to acquire.

**17. Medieval silver finger-ring bezel from Stramshall, Staffordshire (2012 T404, PAS ID: WMID-63CB46)**

The provisional valuer suggested £25. The Committee inspected the bezel and observed that it was in very poor condition. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £25. The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

**18. Medieval silver finger-ring from Blyth, Nottinghamshire (2012 T258, PAS ID: SWYOR-D784F1)**

The provisional valuer suggested £25. The Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this and took account of its corroded state. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £25. Bassetlaw Museum hopes to acquire.

**19. Late Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Balderton, Nottinghamshire (2012 T202, PAS ID: SUR-8507E2)**

The provisional valuer suggested £350. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and noted that many similar rings had sold for comparable sums at recent Timeline auctions. In agreement with the provisional valuation, the Committee recommended £350. Newark Museum hopes to acquire.

**20. Late Medieval silver-gilt badge from Wragby, Lincolnshire (2012 T583, PAS ID: DENO-F35022)**

The provisional valuer suggested £40. The Committee examined the badge in light of this and, noting that the item was very fragmentary, felt that the suggestion was accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £40. The Collection, Lincoln, hopes to acquire.

**21. Medieval silver earscoop/ toothpick from Mavesyn & Ridware, Staffordshire (2012 T403, PAS ID: WMID-6283C3)**

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Committee viewed the item and felt that the item possessed a certain interest. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £50. The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

**22. Medieval silver coin brooch from Bassetlaw area, Nottinghamshire (2012 T329, PAS ID: SWYOR-3D99D3)**

The provisional valuer suggested £85. The Committee inspected the brooch in light of this and, noting the damage, commented that the provisional valuation was well-supported. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £85. Bassetlaw Museum hopes to acquire.

**23. Medieval silver brooch from Kendal area, Cumbria (2012 T263, PAS ID: LANCUM-4A3763)**

The provisional valuer suggested £30. The Committee examined the brooch and felt that it possessed slightly more attraction than the valuer had given it credit for and recommended £40. Kendal Museum hopes to acquire.

**24. Medieval silver buckle/brooch from Fifehead Magdalen, Dorset (2012 T644, PAS ID: DOR-987D57)**

The provisional valuer suggested £60-£80. The Committee viewed the buckle/brooch in light of this and commented that the lower portion of the range suggested was accurate for this attractive but plain item. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £60. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

**25. Medieval silver brooch from Tarpoley, Cheshire (2012 T452, PAS ID: BM-1A2026)**

The provisional valuer suggested £120. The Committee inspected the brooch in light of this, noting that the parallel cited by the valuer was for a retail price rather than an auction hammer price. Nonetheless, the enigmatic inscription was seen to make the item interesting, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £120. Grosvenor Museum hopes to acquire.

**26. Medieval gold brooch from Arreton, Isle of Wight (2013 T72, PAS ID: IOW-506491)**

The provisional valuer suggested £2,000. The Committee viewed the brooch in light of this and noted that the comparison cited by the valuer was somewhat different in style. The Committee had also in the past valued several gold medieval brooches but larger and of different style than the brooch from Arreton. The Committee commented that the Arreton brooch had an interesting inscription, a crisp design, substantial weight and was in good condition. The Committee recommended £2,500. Isle of Wight Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

**27. Medieval gold finger-ring from Brigg, North Lincolnshire (2012 T768, PAS ID: NLM-38D575)**

The provisional valuer suggested £500-£600. The Committee inspected the finger-ring in light of this and noted that the slightness of the ring was balanced by the presence of the emerald. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £500. North Lincolnshire Museum hopes to acquire.

**28. Medieval gold finger-ring from Sherborne St John, Hampshire (2013 T56, PAS ID: SUR-692A34)**

The provisional valuer suggested £6,000. The Committee took account of this as it viewed the finger-ring. The Committee commented on the appealing design and praised the intricate detail of the bezel. It was felt that the comparisons cited by the provisional valuer supported his arguments, and in agreement with the valuer, the Committee recommended £6000. Hampshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

**29. Medieval silver-gilt mount from Crays Hill area, Essex (2011 T509, PAS ID: ESS-E41FE8)**

The provisional valuer suggested £200. The finder and landowner submitted comments regarding the provisional valuation and the description of the object and supplied a private valuation from Mr [REDACTED] of Notaras Coins & Antiquities for £1,500 - £1,800. The Committee took account of this as it viewed the mount.

Prior to the meeting, TimeLine had confirmed for the Committee's Secretariat that the third comparison cited in the provisional valuation report, a silver-gilt finial mount offered at TimeLine Auctions on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012, had had a pre-auction estimate of £400 - £600, but was unsold. This the Committee duly noted. In examining the artefact the Committee also commented that the item was indeed likely to be a representation of Jesus.

The Committee pointed to several further comparable items; a silver pilgrim's mount featuring John the Baptist and Agnes Dei offered on the TimeLine Original's website at a retail value of £550, and a silver pendant of John the Baptist listed on the website Den of Antiquity for £225. The Committee felt that the mount from the Crays Hill area possessed more interest than these items, because in addition to the fact that it featured a representation of Jesus, the attachments on either side implied that it had been attached in an unusual fashion.

The Committee commented that the valuation by Mr [REDACTED] was unsupported by evidence for his suggested figure, and found it difficult to attach weight to this suggestion.

Having regard to all of the above, the Committee recommended £700. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

**30. Medieval silver finger-ring from Chigwell, Essex (2012 T16, PAS ID: LON-121037) - 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The provisional valuer suggested £150. The Committee had seen the item at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and recommended £150. The finder submitted a challenge and the Committee took account of this as it viewed the ring again. It was felt that the comparison item suggested by the finder (a silver iconographic ring sold for £550 at TimeLine Auctions of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Lot 785) was more attractive than the finger-ring from Cheswell. Nonetheless, the Committee felt that this comparison indicated that the market value of the Chigwell ring would be higher than previously recommended, and the Committee recommended a new figure of £250. Epping Forest Museum hopes to acquire.

**Post-Medieval artefacts**

**31. Post-Medieval silver lace tag from Benhall, Suffolk (2012 T785, PAS ID: YORYM-149F81)**

The provisional valuer suggested £35. The Committee examined the lace tag in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £35. Colchester & Ipswich Museum hopes to acquire.

**32. Post-Medieval silver dress accessory from Measham area, Leicestershire (2013 T55, PAS ID: WMID-C46A82)**

The provisional valuer suggested £70. The Committee viewed the dress accessory in light of this and felt that the valuation was well-argued. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £70. Leicestershire County Council Museums Service hopes to acquire.

**33. Post-Medieval silver cufflink from Hamstall Ridware, Staffordshire (2012 T13, PAS ID: WMID-6E0A37)**

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee examined the cufflink element in light of this, and noted that this was an object type that it had seen and valued before on many occasions. It had recently valued an example from Aldbury, Hertfordshire (2011 T647, PAS ID: BH-4372D5) at £40, though it had been in slightly worse condition than the item under discussion. Taking account of the above, the Committee recommended £70. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

**34. Post-Medieval gold dress accessory in the form of a dog from Cambridgeshire area (2011 T937, PAS ID: CAM-218502)**

The provisional valuer suggested £350-£400. The Committee examined the item in light of this. It commented that the design of the dog could easily indicate a date of manufacture later than that suggested in the report for the coroner. Indeed the Committee noted that the valuer had speculated that it could date to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Nonetheless the Committee felt that the suggested valuation adequately accounted for the appeal of the item, and in agreement with the valuer, the Committee recommended £350. Royston Museum

[REDACTED]

**35. Post-Medieval silver vervel from Horton, Dorset (2012 T793, PAS ID: DOR-62DF93) –**

The provisional valuer suggested £320. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation, and the Committee took account of these as it viewed the verve. The Committee pointed out that although the inscription on this item provided a clue to a possible landowner, it was not as clearly linked with a specific individual as were some of the examples cited by the finder. Nonetheless the plausible association with the Sturt family was felt to impart some interest, which despite the small size and relatively poor condition of the piece warranted an uplift on the valuer's suggestion. The Committee recommended £400. Priest's House Museum hopes to acquire.

**36. Post-Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Ashfordby, Leicestershire (2013 T163, PAS ID: LEIC-2E0A04)**

The provisional valuer suggested £500. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and commented on the playful and interesting motif of the exterior design. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £500. Leicestershire County Council Museums Service hopes to acquire.

**37. Post-Medieval silver-gilt dress hook from Chichester area, West Sussex (2012 T175, PAS ID: HAMP-F59475)**

The provisional valuer suggested £100-£150. The finder submitted comments regarding the provisional valuation, and the Committee read and took account of these before viewing the item. The Committee had over time valued many artefacts of this type before, and noted that they had been increasingly seen on the market. It had valued a slightly more attractive dress hook from Swainsthorpe, Norfolk (2006 T468; PAS ID: NMS-E1FD52) at £150, and another, more damaged example from Fawler, Oxfordshire (2006 T604; *Treasure Annual Report 2005/6*, pg. 144) at £90. Having regard to all of the above, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £125. Chichester District Museum hopes to acquire.

**38. Post-Medieval gold ring from Nuneaton area, Warwickshire (2011 T710, PAS ID: WMID-9318D6) – 3<sup>rd</sup> viewing**

The first provisional valuer suggested £2,500; the second provisional valuer suggested £10,000; the third provisional valuer suggested £900. The Committee had seen the ring at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and recommended £2,500. The finder submitted comments regarding the recommended valuation, and the Committee examined the ring again. The Committee found no new evidence in the finder's submission, but it pointed to two similar rings listed by auction houses. The first, described as a 'Tudor Death's Head ring' by auctioneers Rowan and Rowan, sold for £3500. The second was named as an 'Unusual 16<sup>th</sup> century Mourning ring' by auctioneers Henry Aldridge and Son, and sold for £4,000. Both examples were gold and featured a six-pointed bezel and an image of a skull, though they appeared slightly more robust and attractive than the ring from Nuneaton area, Warwickshire. Taking into account this new information, the Committee recommended £3,200 for the Nuneaton area ring. Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

**Item 3: Coins**

**Iron Age coins:**

**39. Iron Age silver coin from Orford area, Suffolk (2013 T63, PAS ID: SF-904EC1)**

The provisional valuer suggested £35. The Committee inspected the coin in light of this and found the suggested value to be sound. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £35. Orford Museum hopes to acquire.

**40. Iron Age gold coins (3) from Bedworth, Warwickshire (2012 T857, PAS ID: WAW-740DB2) addenda to 2011 T189**

Provisional valuer suggested £1,650. The finder has submitted comments regarding the provisional valuation, as well as a private valuation from [REDACTED] at Spink for £2,900. The Committee took account of this information as it viewed the coins. It noticed that the provisional valuation of the VEP coin amongst the original group from this hoard (2011 T189) was higher than the provisional valuation for the VEP in the current group, and felt that the private valuation was for this coin more accurate. For the remaining two coins, the Committee observed that the provisional and private valuer cited different sales as offering evidence for their suggested figures. Taking these both into account, the Committee felt that the 'Kite' type was worth £800 and the 'Domino' type £600. In total, the Committee recommended £2,400. Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

### Roman coins:

**41. Roman copper alloy coins (11) from Wheaton Aston (Lapley), Staffordshire (2012 T6, PAS ID: WMID-300940)**

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Committee viewed the coins in light of this and agreed with the valuer's assessment of the condition of the coins. The Committee recommended £50. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

**42. Roman silver coins (33) from Stafford area, Staffordshire (2012 T666, PAS ID: WMID-993205)**

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee took account of this as it inspected the coins. The Committee commented on the poor condition and fragmentary state of the coins, which were felt to limit the market value of the coins. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £100. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

### Medieval coins

**43. Medieval silver coins (2) from Montgomery, Powys (12.09, PAS ID: CPAT-D77C21)**

The provisional valuer suggested £30-£50. The Committee viewed the coins in light of this and took account of their worn state. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £40.

The National Museum Wales hopes to acquire.

**44. Medieval silver coins (3) from Oswestry, Shropshire (2011 T37, PAS ID: HESH-D77EC2)**

The provisional valuer suggested £80-£120. The Committee viewed the coins in light of this and commented on the appeal of coins of King John. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £120. Shropshire County Museum Service hopes to acquire.

**45. Medieval silver pennies (2) from Wroughton, Wiltshire (2012 T544, PAS ID: WILT-FA9074)**

The provisional valuer suggested £2,480. The Committee viewed the pennies with this in mind, commenting that the report was thorough and well-supported. On balance, the Committee felt that a very slight uplift was warranted, and recommended £2,500.

Acquiring museum: Swindon Museum

### Post-Medieval coins

**46. Post-Medieval silver clippings, (48) from Millthorpe area, Derbyshire (2012 T858, PAS ID: DENO-789371)**

The provisional valuer suggested £250-£350. The Committee inspected the clippings in light of this, commenting that it found the items interesting. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £300. Sheffield Museums hopes to acquire.

**47. Post-Medieval gold coins (cat #'s: 1 & 90) from Twinstead, Essex (2011 T827, PAS ID: ESS-644C25)**

The provisional valuer suggested £410 for the two coins. The Committee examined the coins in light of this, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £410 (£210 for catalogue #1 and £200 for catalogue #90). The British Museum hopes to acquire.

**48. Post-Medieval silver coins (82) from Uttoxeter, Staffordshire (2012 T604, PAS ID: WMID-867514)**

The provisional valuer suggested £1,800-£2,200. The Committee viewed the coins in light of this and felt that the suggested range was accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £2,000. The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

[Tim Pestell left the room]

### Item 6: Norfolk Cases

**49. Bronze Age hoard from Hempnall, Norfolk (2012 T722, PAS ID: SF-2D55E2) – 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The first provisional valuer suggested £1,700. The finder had submitted comments regarding the provisional valuation. The Committee viewed the hoard at its meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and took account of the finder's comments, and commissioned a second valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £1,650.

The Committee examined the axe moulds again, and referred again to the records of the valuation of a socketed axe head mould and three axes from Rothley, Leicestershire (2009 T278; PAS ID: LEIC-A6BB51) which it had valued at £5,375. In light of this recent find and the two independent valuations received, the Committee felt that in retrospect its valuation of the Rothley find may have been inflated. It was the first such find to come before the Committee. On balance, the Committee felt that the second valuation of the Hempnall hoard served to support the first valuation, and the Committee recommended £1,700. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

**50. Early Medieval gold coin pendant from Mildenhall, Suffolk (2013 T106, PAS ID: SF-4AA4E3)**

The provisional valuer suggested £2,800. The Committee viewed the pendant in light of this and commented that the valuer's report was well argued. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £2,800. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

**51. Medieval silver buckle from Nargord, Norfolk (2012 T472, PAS ID: NMS-874D33)**

The provisional valuer suggested £100-£150. The finder and the museum submitted comments, which the Committee read and paid regard to before viewing the buckle. The Committee accepted the finder's point that the buckle cited as a comparison by the provisional valuer was different in appearance, however, it took the view that the parallel proposed by the finder, from Market Harborough, Leicestershire (*Treasure Annual Report 2001*, pg 69) was more appealing than the Nargord buckle. The Museum had also offered as a parallel a buckle from Postwick, Norfolk (2009 T697; PAS ID: NMS-ABEC90) valued at £260, and the Committee found this to bear a greater resemblance to the Nargord buckle, though it was also observed to be substantially heavier. Bearing all of this in mind, the Committee felt that a figure at the top of the valuer's suggested range was appropriate, and recommended £150. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

**52. Iron Age coin hoard from South West Norfolk (2012 T71, PAS ID: NMS-076680) - 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing**

The provisional valuer suggested £2,500-£3,000. The Committee viewed the coin hoard at its meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and recommended £2,500. The landowner submitted a challenge, and the Committee examined the coins again.

In response to the landowner, the Committee clarified that it was more persuaded by the provisional valuation than the private valuation because the provisional valuer cited a comparison for coin no. 41 which was struck from the same reverse die as the coin being valued (albeit of a different denomination) whereas the private valuer had used as a comparison a coin with a different reverse die.

Upon further consideration, the Committee accepted that a figure in the middle of the range suggested by the provisional valuer was more likely to accurately reflect the worth of the coins, and the Committee recommended £2,750.

The Committee assured the landowner that the expert valuers commissioned as part of the process were independent experts drawn from the trade, pointing out that the valuer in this case, [REDACTED], was a consultant with [REDACTED] specialist auctioneers. The Committee also pointed out that the recommended figure was an amount to be paid as a reward to the finder and landowner, rather than an offer. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

**[Tim Pestell re-entered the room]**

**Item 4: Any Other Business:**

**Register of Interests** - The Committee was asked to update the register of interests to ensure it is accurate. The members present confirmed no changes in their interests as registered previously.

**Item 5: Date of Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be held at 11:00 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 in the Board Room at the British Museum.



