

MINUTES

Treasure Valuation Committee Meeting – 2nd December 2015

Committee Members:

Colin Renfrew (Chair)
Harry Bain
Jim Brown
Marian Campbell
Ian Carradice
Peter Clayton
Hetty Gleave
Tim Pestell

British Museum:

Michael Lewis
Mafalda Raposo
Ian Richardson
Claudia Stedmond

DCMS:

Carla Piper

The meeting was held in the Board Room at the British Museum on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015 at 12:00pm.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 15th October 2015

The minutes were passed as a true record of the meeting.

Item 2: Objects

Bronze Age artefacts

1. Bronze Age gold sheet ribbon from Winteringham, North Lincolnshire (2014 T534, NLM-9CECFC)

The provisional valuer suggested £45. The Committee examined the gold artefact in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £45. North Lincolnshire Museum hopes to acquire.

2. Bronze Age gold strip from Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney, Oxfordshire (2014 T901, BH-1BE953)

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee inspected the strip in light of this and took note of its bent state. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £100. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

3. Bronze Age copper alloy socketed hammer from Whitelackington, Somerset (2014 T637, SOM-9AAFF3)

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee viewed the hammer in light of this and commented on its poor condition, which the Committee felt would prevent it from achieving the suggested price in the market. The Committee recommended £75. Museum of Somerset hopes to acquire.

4. Bronze Age gold torc fragment from Whitchurch, Hampshire (2014 T25, BH-149F18)

The provisional valuer suggested £140. The Committee inspected the object in light of this. Although recognisably a part of a Bronze Age torc, the fragment was observed to be very small. The Committee agreed that the piece should, as an ancient artefact, carry a worth of at least twice its bullion value, and, noting that the bullion value of this piece would be around £50, felt that a slightly lower figure than suggested was appropriate. The Committee recommended £120. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

5. Bronze Age gold 'basket ornaments' from Whitchurch, Hampshire (2015 T72, BERK-F548E6)

The provisional valuer suggested £300. The Committee viewed the ornaments in light of this and found the suggested value to be accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £300. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

6. Late Bronze Age gold lock ring from Rossett, Wrexham (13.06, LVPL-5DFE32) - 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £4000-£6000. The Museum submitted comments and the Committee viewed the lock ring at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and requested a second provisional valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £1100. The Museum submitted further comments with regards to the provisional valuations. The Committee took account of all of this as it examined the lock ring again. It also viewed the lock at the same time as another, similar lock ring from Rossett, Wrexham (12.16) which was in better condition.

The Committee acknowledged that artefacts of this type are rare and that exact parallels on the market were difficult to provide. It noted however that it had recently valued a gold lock ring from east of Colchester, Essex (2014 T193, ESS-C0C162) which was smaller, less refined and in worse condition, at £600. Taking account of all of the above, the Committee recommended £1,500. Wrexham Museum hopes to acquire.

7. Late Bronze Age gold lock ring from Rossett, Wrexham (12.16, LVPL-5DFE32) - 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £6000-8000; The Museum submitted comments and the Committee viewed the lock ring at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and requested a second provisional valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £2000. The Museum submitted further comments with regards to the provisional valuations. The Committee took account of all of this as it examined the lock ring again. It also viewed the lock at the same time as another, similar lock ring from Rossett, Wrexham (13.06) which suffered from more damage.

The Committee felt that the first valuation was much too high and that the comparanda cited, although highlighting other pieces from the Bronze Age, were not directly relevant to the subject piece. The lock ring was observed to be finely made and of good size, but suffered nonetheless from damage. The Committee pointed to other lock rings it has valued in the past (2014 T193, ESS-C0C162, £600; 2009 T513, BH-8DC056, £500; 2011 T152, HAMP-8A11A7, £400) and commented that the subject artefact was superior to those, but not to the extent suggested by the first provisional valuer. In agreement with the second provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £2,000. Wrexham Museum hopes to acquire.

Roman artefacts

8. Roman gold earring from Wickenby area, Lincolnshire (2014 T245, LIN-F9B9C2)

The provisional valuer suggested £40. The Committee viewed the earring in light of this, and finding it to be an attractive, though small, piece, the Committee recommended £50. The Collection, Lincoln hopes to acquire.

9. Roman gold earring from Wickenby area, Lincolnshire (2014 T244, LIN-F9CF25)

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Committee inspected the earring in light of this and noted its present poor condition. However, the gold content was felt to be slightly underappreciated by the provisional valuer, and the Committee recommended £55. The Collection, Lincoln hopes to acquire.

10. Roman 'votive' group from Fyfield and Tubney, Oxfordshire (2015 T268, BERK-4BFBA9)

The provisional valuer suggested £75. The Committee examined the votive group in light of this and commented on its intriguing nature, speculating that the woodworking tool may have been a small form of axe as well. The Committee felt that a higher figure was justified, and recommended £120. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

11. Roman silver ring from Collingham, Nottinghamshire (2014 T265, LVPL-D46C37) – 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee saw the ring at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and recommended £60. The Finder challenged the recommended value. The Committee examined the ring again, and took account of the finder's submission. It maintained that the ring was in poor condition and explained that it would compare poorly against other examples in the market. However, the Committee recognised that it had valued several other Roman silver finger-rings in poor condition at higher figures (2007 T357, BH-C3A8E7 and 2007 T261, GLO-EF3774) and acknowledged that it would be sensible to increase the recommended value of the subject ring to be consistent with those. The Committee recommended £80. Newark Museum hopes to acquire.

12. Roman gold rings (2) and silver buckle from Murlough, County Down (NI 14.03)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,060. The finder and landowner submitted comments with regards to the circumstances of the find. National Museums of Northern Ireland hope to acquire.

The Committee inspected the group of artefacts in light of this noting that the suggested values for the buckle and the smaller ring were accurate. The Committee observed that the bezel of the larger ring was 'much eroded', as described in the report. The size of this ring and the interesting decoration on the shoulders convinced the Committee to seek further advice before recommending a value, and it asked the Secretariat to commission a second provisional valuation.

The landowner's [REDACTED] submission requested that an abatement of the finder's share of the reward be made on the basis that he had not asked for permission to search with a metal detector, and that the landowner has a policy forbidding the use of a metal detector on their land. The finder's letter had anticipated this argument, and explained that he did not believe he was on [REDACTED] property when the discovery was made, but rather on land owned by the [REDACTED] which he had a permit to detect on.

The Committee considered both submissions and noted that although the Coroner's verdict did not specify the identity of the landowner, the report for the Coroner made clear that the land at the findspot was owned by the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] accepted this. Information submitted by the finder suggested that it was not clear that the findspot was on land owned by the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] admitted that the fencing in place near the site was not meant to constitute a boundary marker and was only in place to contain grazing stock and prevent unauthorised vehicles from accessing the site. The landowner further explained that the land contains no formal or fixed demarcation.

The Committee observed that if the problem of illicit detecting in Murlough was felt to constitute a threat to the extent detailed in the letter of the [REDACTED] it would seem sensible to have clearer signage and possibly boundary markers at the site, especially as the site shares a boundary with an agency ([REDACTED]) that permits metal detecting with a permit. Despite the lack of a clear demarcation of the boundaries on the ground, the Committee felt that the finder's use of a metal detector without permission of the landowner called for a 10% abatement of his share of the final reward, which will pass to the landowner. Therefore, when a final valuation is recommended, the allocation will be 45% of the total to the finder and 55% to the landowner, who had indicated that it would be waiving its right to a reward. The Committee felt that this was an appropriate abatement because although the finder seemed to have accidentally strayed outside the area where he had permission, he had otherwise acted promptly and honestly, reporting the find and disclosing its exact location.

Early Medieval artefacts

13. Early Medieval silver hooked-tag from Gillingham, Dorset (2014 T496, DOR-FB0008)

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Committee examined the hooked-tag in light of this and felt that its completeness made for a more attractive item than had been accounted for in the suggested figure. It recommended £75. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

14. Early Medieval silver hooked-tag from Gainsborough area, Lincolnshire (2013 T837, LIN-05B023)

The provisional valuer suggested £200. The Committee viewed the hooked-tag in light of this and noted that the hooked-tag had a broken attachment loop on one side. The example cited in the provisional valuation report, TimeLine Auctions 27 May 2015, Lot 0937, was felt to be superior, and the Committee recommended £150. The Collection, Lincoln hopes to acquire.

15. Early Medieval silver-gilt plate or ‘quatrefoil’ brooch from Barnby Dun with Kirk Sandal, Doncaster (2014 T977, SWYOR-989140)

The provisional valuer suggested £150. The Committee inspected the brooch in light of this and felt it was very attractive and would command more attention in the market than the valuer had allowed for. It recommended £250. Doncaster Museum hopes to acquire.

16. Early Medieval silver ingot from Carhampton, Somerset (2014 T230. SOM-50E721)

The provisional valuer suggested £300. The Committee viewed the ingot in light of this. It noticed that the provisional valuer’s quoted price for the silver melt value was much too high [NB: it is most likely the value in terms of £ / oz. which was cited] and that the actual silver price is around £0.30 per gram. The Committee agreed that the Spink result represented an anomaly in the market and, as it had valued many Early Medieval silver ingots in the past, it felt that a figure consistent by weight with those valuations would be appropriate. The Committee recommended £65. South West Heritage Trust hopes to acquire.

17. Early Medieval copper-alloy strap-end with silver rivets from Rugby area, Warwickshire (2013 T797, WMID-D4D9F2) – 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £300-350. The Committee saw the strap end at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and recommended £200. The Finder challenged the recommended valuation, which he felt to be too low. The Committee read the Finder’s letter and viewed the strap end again. It assured the finder that it appreciated the appeal of the strap end’s design and the inclusion of the two silver rivets. It was pointed out that the prices listed by the valuer included the buyer’s premium, which the Committee observed is above the hammer price, the figure it strives to recommend. The hammer prices for the examples listed were to be found on the first page of the provisional valuers report.

The Committee found nothing further in the Finder’s submission to cause it to depart from its original valuation, and it maintained a recommendation of £200. Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

18. Early Medieval silver strap-end and finger-ring from Beoley, Worcestershire (2015 T172, WAW-CB4595)

The provisional valuer suggested £800. The Finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation. The Committee noted that the valuation was for both the silver strap-end and a silver finger-ring that had been submitted as potential Treasure at the same time as the strap-end, but which was determined not to be associated, and not Treasure. The Committee asked that the valuer be invited to resubmit a valuation report for the strap end alone, and to consider the case again once that is received. Worcestershire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

19. Early Medieval gold and silver ingot from Beadlam, North Yorkshire (2014 T783, YORYM-7706AD)

The provisional valuer suggested £1100. The Committee inspected the ingot in light of this and appreciated the valuer’s lengthy explanation as to how he had arrived at a figure that was 10 times the bullion value of the gold it contained. The Committee felt however that it would benefit from having the opinion of another provisional valuation, and resolved to consider the case again when a second valuation is received. York Museum Trust hopes to acquire.

[Colin Renfrew left the room]

20. Early Medieval silver-gilt terminal from Croydon Parish area, Cambridgeshire (2014 T449, CAM-511D9F) - 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £1000-1500. The Committee saw the terminal at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and requested a second provisional valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £1250. The Committee viewed the terminal in light of this and noted the similarity of the two provisional valuations, which arrived at their figures citing different comparanda. In agreement with the two provisional valuers, the Committee recommended £1,250. Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge hopes to acquire.

[Colin Renfrew returned to the room]

21. Early Medieval gold finger-ring from Tendring district area, Essex (2014 T939, ESS-9CB5B8) - 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £1200-1500. The Committee saw the ring at its meeting of 19th August 2015 and recommended £600. The Finder challenged the recommended valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee read the finder's letter and viewed the ring again. The Committee observed that the examples cited by the finder were for larger, heavier rings, and that the prices included the buyer's premium, which the Committee explained was additional to the auction hammer price, the figure that it tries to recommend a value equivalent to. For instance, in the TimeLine Auction sale of 9th September 2015, lot 1140 had a hammer price of £1,800. The Committee found nothing further in the Finder's letter to cause it to depart from its original recommendation, and confirmed a figure of £600. Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service hopes to acquire.

22. Early Medieval gold disc pendant from Skegness area, Lincolnshire (2013 T705, LIN-7A7C04)

Provisional valuer suggested £1600. The Committee inspected the pendant in light of this and found the valuation report to be well-reasoned and supported by relevant comparisons. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £1,600. The Collection, Lincoln, hopes to acquire.

23. Early Medieval gold sword pommel from Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire (2014 T47, LON-F73775) – 3rd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £2,500-3,500; the second provisional valuer suggested £4,500. The Finder had submitted comments and a private valuation from Duke's Auctioneers of £5,000 - £10,000. The Committee saw the pommel at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and recommended £3,500. The Finder challenged the recommendation. The Committee read the Finder's letter and examined the pommel again. Having considered all of the information before it equally, and finding no argument in the Finder's letter which would cause it to depart from its original recommendation, the Committee confirmed a value of £3,500. Canons Ashby House (National Trust) hopes to acquire.

24. Early Medieval gold ring bezel from Scrayingham, North Yorkshire (2014 T747, LVPL-8C0D79)

The provisional valuer suggested £10,000. The Finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee took account of this as it examined the bezel. It noted that the comparison cited by the valuer, which the Finder commented on, was for a whole and undamaged ring. The subject ring was observed to be unusual but also in poor condition and incomplete, and the Committee felt that it required a further opinion before recommending a value. It asked the Secretariat to commission a second provisional valuation, and agreed to revisit the case once that is received. York Museum Trust hopes to acquire.

Medieval Artefacts

25. Medieval silver brooch from Eccleshall, Staffs (2014 T618, WMID-F0AEA7)

The provisional valuer suggested £15. The Finder submitted comments with regards to the provisional valuation. The Committee took account of these as it viewed the brooch, and noted that although it was damaged, the brooch retained its pin and would attract more attention on the market than allowed for by the valuer's suggestion. The Committee had valued many silver annular brooches in the past, for instance a slightly more elaborately decorated and undamaged example from Stevenage, Hertfordshire (2009 T546; BH-9FF603; £90). The Committee therefore felt it appropriate to recommend a value of £45. Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

26. Medieval silver dress-fitting from Raglan, Monmouthshire (11.21, NMGW-FDC548)

The provisional valuer suggested £25. The Committee viewed the dress-fitting in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £25. National Museum of Wales hopes to acquire.

27. Medieval silver-gilt crucifix fragment from Alkborough, North Lincolnshire (2015 T275, NLM-6035A2)

The provisional valuer suggested £30. The Committee inspected the crucifix in light of this, noting that it was only a fragment of the original, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £30. North Lincolnshire Museum hopes to acquire.

28. Medieval silver annular brooch from Tarrant Rushton, Dorset (2013 T886, DOR-5CC922)

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Committee viewed the brooch in light of this and noted that it was complete and decorative. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £50. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

29. Medieval silver gilt iconographic ring from Chiseldon, Wiltshire (2014 T425, WILT-2452A0)

The provisional valuer suggested £50. The Finder submitted comments with regards to the provisional valuation. The Committee read the Finder's letter and examined the ring in light of this. It had viewed many iconographic rings in the past, as the Finder pointed out in his letter, and the Committee agreed that in relation to the valuations placed on those items, the provisional valuation was too low. Though damaged, the ring was seen to be mostly complete and wearable. The Committee recommended £150. Swindon Museum hopes to acquire.

30. Medieval silver and glass finger-ring from Tamworth area, Staffs (2014 T788, WMID-8D3485)

The provisional valuer suggested £85. The Committee inspected the ring in light of this and commented that the valuation displayed an accurate appreciation of the level of appeal of the ring. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £85. Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

31. Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring fragments from Quainton, Buckinghamshire (2014 T844, BUC-B216EC)

The provisional valuer suggested £100. The Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this and expressed surprise at the figure suggested, which it felt was much too high for a piece in such fragmentary condition. The Committee felt that the ring would struggle to attract attention in the market, and recommended £25. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

32. Medieval silver pendant from Stadhampton, Oxon (2014 T964, BERK-0425A8)

The provisional valuer suggested £320. The Committee examined the pendant in light of this and commented that the parallel suggested by the valuer was likely to command more interest, because it was silver gilt. The subject piece was observed to be bent, and the Committee felt that its potential in the market had been overestimated by the valuer. The Committee recommended £270. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

33. Medieval gold and sapphire finger-ring from Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire (2013 T743, BERK-0E74E5)

The provisional valuer suggested £1000-2000. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and noted that although the stone was large and attractive, the band was thin and distorted, and so it was felt that the lower end of the suggested range represented an accurate value for the ring. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £1,000. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

34. Medieval silver seal matrix from Markington, North Yorkshire (2015 T472, YORYM-13A179)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,350. The Committee inspected the seal matrix in light of this and found the valuation to be well-argued and supported by relevant comparanda. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £3,350. Harrogate Museum hopes to acquire.

35. Medieval gold finger-ring from Hursley, Hampshire (2013 T866, HAMP-0B7C35)

The first provisional valuer suggested £20,000-40,000. The Committee saw the ring at its meeting of 8th July 2015 and requested further valuations. The second provisional valuer suggested £9500 and the third provisional valuer suggested £20,000-30,000. The Finder also supplied comments and a valuation from [REDACTED] for £30,000.

The Committee took all of this into consideration as it viewed the ring again. It commented on the ring's large size and attractiveness. The Finder's private valuation was observed to be from a reliable source, and the Committee observed that his valuation was in the same range as two of those commissioned by the Committee. The Committee felt that the second provisional valuation was too low, and in agreement with the other valuers, it recommended £30,000. Winchester Museum Service hopes to acquire.

Post-Medieval Artefacts

36. Post-Medieval silver mount from Winteringham, North Lincolnshire (2015 T262, NLM-E2A309)

The provisional valuer suggested £10. The Committee examined the mount in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £10. North Lincolnshire Museum hopes to acquire.

37. Post-Medieval silver mount from Tanlanbanks, Flintshire (13.18, NMGW-025DE1)

The provisional valuer suggested £90. The Committee inspected the silver mount in light of this and felt that the suggested figure was a little too high, and recommended £80. The National Museum of Wales hopes to acquire.

38. Post-Medieval gold posy ring from Uffculme, Devon (2014 T374, DEV-F43347)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-200. The Committee viewed the posy ring in light of this and took account of its damaged state. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £175. Tiverton Museum hopes to acquire.

39. Post-Medieval gold ring from Bridgnorth area, Shropshire (2015 T254, WMID-7998C4)

The provisional valuer suggested £400-500. The Committee examined the ring in light of this and commented on the helpfulness of the parallel provided by the provisional valuer. The Committee observed that the ring was a small example and felt that a figure at the lower end of the suggested range was accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £400. Shropshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

40. Post-Medieval gold posy ring from Lewknor, Oxfordshire (2014 T626, BH-1BC17E) - 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £200 and the Committee saw the ring at its meeting of 19th August 2015, where it recommended a value of £150. The Finder submitted a challenge, and the Committee read his letter and viewed the finger-ring again. The Committee explained that it was unable to place any weight on the comments made by the finder as to value as they only reported on conversation between the finder and the valuers, but were not supported by written independent valuations which are necessary if they are to be taken into account. The Committee therefore found nothing in the Finder's submission to cause it to depart from its previous recommendation, and confirmed a value of £150. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

41. Post-Medieval gold pendant from St Donats, Vale of Glamorgan (11.24)

The provisional valuer suggested £300-400. The Museum has submitted comments with regard to the provisional valuation. The Committee took account of this as it examined the pendant, noticing the absence of the stones that would have once adorned the piece. The Committee expressed the view that the provisional valuation was helpful and felt that a figure at the low end of the suggested range would accurately account for the likely interest in this piece on the market. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £300. National Museum of Wales hopes to acquire.

42. Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Hannington, Wiltshire (2014 T792, WILT-8F308A)

The provisional valuer suggested £800. The Committee inspected the finger-ring in light of this and noted that it was a large example in good condition, with an interesting inscription. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £800. Swindon Museum hopes to acquire.

43. Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Hundleton, Pembrokeshire (13.24, NMGW-02B0CE)

The provisional valuer suggested £850. The Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this and noted that it was damaged and light in weight. However, the Committee observed that the valuer

cited two parallels sold at Timeline Auctions which were felt to support the suggested value. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £850. National Museum of Wales hopes to acquire.

44. Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire (2014 T664, WAW-0DC802)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,200. The Committee inspected the finger-ring in light of this, noting the presence of the maker's mark. The valuer stated that his figure was based on the 'corpus of prices realised' for rings of this style sold in the market, but the Committee stated that it would find it helpful if the valuer could cite one or more specific examples to allow it to frame its discussion. The Committee deferred making a recommendation to allow for the valuer to reply, and will reconsider the case when the information is received. Worcestershire Museum hopes to acquire.

45. Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Durham District, Durham (2015 T249, DUR-4FC118)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,700. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and noted that the presence of an inscription that named a traceable historical figure contributed to the attraction of the ring. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £1,700. Durham University Museum hopes to acquire.

46. Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Quainton, Buckinghamshire (2015 T123, BUC-31EAC2)

The provisional valuer suggested £2,000. The Finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation. The Committee read the Finder's submissions and examined the ring. It agreed that the ring, being a serjeant's ring, was rarer than a posy ring and that its inscription was of interest. It did also point out that many posy rings are valued at much less than the suggested figure in this case, including the several posy rings it had considered at the same meeting (cf. 2014 T626, BH-1BC17E; 13.24, NMGW-02B0CE). The Committee found the serjeant's ring would attract slightly more interest in the market than the valuer allowed for, and recommended £2,300. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

47. Post-Medieval garnet and gold finger ring from Dorchester, Dorset (2013 T888, DOR-5CF698)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,000. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this, noticing that the band was quite thin, but that the setting was of good quality and the gemstone an interesting colour. The Committee observed that the suggested value was a substantial figure, and requested that the provisional valuer supply one or more examples of parallels in the market which might support her valuation. The Committee deferred making a recommendation until that information is received. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

Item 3: Coins

Iron Age Coins

48. Iron Age gold stater from Climping, West Sussex (2013 T389, PAS-2B57CA)

The provisional valuer suggested £1500-2000. The Committee examined the coin in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £1,500. As for the allocation of the reward, the Committee understood that this coin was declared Treasure because, on balance of probability, the Coroner had found that the coin was likely to be a previously undeclared member of a hoard of Iron Age coins discovered at Climping in 2001-2. The Committee noted that the finder of this coin was unknown and that it had come to light when [REDACTED] who had acquired the coin in the trade, brought it to the British Museum with the intention of donating it to the Museum. The Committee therefore recommended that the finder's portion of the reward should go unpaid, but it suggested that the British Museum and Littlehampton Museum should write to [REDACTED] and express their gratitude for his generous action.

The Committee further observed that in two previous cases that were addenda to the original discovery, the landowner was allocated a reward only for case 2006 T107, where the finder came forward several years after the date of finding to declare the discovery. In case 2004 T114, where the subject coins were seized after appearing in the trade, no reward was paid to a finder (as one

could not be identified) or to the landowner, since the landowner for the original case argued that the coins were from an unknown provenance. For the current case (2013 T389), the Committee reasoned that the Treasure status of the coin, being based on its association with the original hoard, implied that the landowner in the original case was also the landowner here. Since he had not suggested that the coin was unprovenanced, it stood that the landowner should be entitled to his share of the reward.

Littlehampton Museum hopes to acquire.

49. Iron Age gold staters (6) from Wing, Buckinghamshire (2015 T414, BUC-D7ACBF)

The provisional valuer suggested £2900-3400. The Committee inspected the coins in light of this and felt that the coins would each be worth a figure at the higher end of their suggested ranges, and that as a group the value was slightly greater. The Committee recommended £3,500.

Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

50. Iron Age gold coins (7) from Claverley, Shropshire (2015 T178, WAW-D64063)

The provisional valuer suggested £10,000-13,000 for the hoard. The Committee viewed the coins in light of this and found the valuations to be very accurate, with the midway figure in the suggested range for each coin felt to be correct on all but coin number three, which the Committee valued at £6000. Overall, then, the Committee recommended £10,625, with the breakdown as follows:

- 1.£275
- 2.£650
- 3.£6000
- 4.£450
- 5.£400
- 6.£1750
- 7.£1100

Shropshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

Roman Coins

51. Roman silver denarii (3) from Pontsbury, Shropshire (2014 T633, WMID-AABF61)

The provisional valuer suggested £130-170. The Committee inspected the denarii in light of this and found the higher end of the suggested range for each coin to be accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £170. Shropshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

52. Roman silver coin hoard (6) from Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire (2014 T481, WAW-AB57C8)

The provisional valuer suggested £205-275. The Committee examined the coins in light of this and noted that some were fragmentary but that they were legible. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £260, broken down as follows:

- Anon: £30
Annius: £10
Aquilus: £10
Scribonius: £10
Augustus: £120
Tiberius: £80

Worcestershire Museum hopes to acquire.

53. Roman coin hoard (179) from St Levan, Cornwall (2015 T243, CORN-DC395B)

The provisional valuer suggested £500-600. The Committee viewed the hoard in light of this and found the valuation to be well-supported and accurate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £550. Royal Cornwall Museum hopes to acquire.

54. Roman silver coins (13) from Frome area, Somerset (2013 T785, WILT-C90386)

The provisional valuer suggested £550-600. The Committee examined the coins in light of this and commented on the accuracy of the valuation. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £580. Museum of Somerset hopes to acquire.

Early Medieval Coins

55. Early Medieval silver sceattas (3) from Buttercrambe with Bossall, North Yorkshire (2014 T748, LVPL-8E270E)

The provisional valuer suggested £245. The Committee inspected the sceattas in light of this and observed that the valuation was well-supported by recent auction parallels. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £245 for the group, and also the same value per coin ascribed by the provisional valuer:

1. £110
2. £80
3. £55

York Museum Trust hopes to acquire.

56. Early Medieval silver sceattas (17) from Buttercrambe with Bossall, North Yorkshire (2013 T43, LVPL-E80948)

The provisional valuer suggested £1300. The finders submitted comments regarding the provisional valuation, in which they questioned whether several of the coins had been mixed-up by the valuer. The Committee examined the coins closely and explained that the delineated values in the valuer's report had been attributed to the correct coins. The Committee felt that these values were all accurate, so in agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £1,300. It also agreed the individual values as specified in the valuer's report. York Museum Trust hopes to acquire.

57. Early Medieval hoard, (18 coins & 4 ingots) from Llanwrog, Gwynedd (15.01, NMGW-038729)

Provisional valuer suggested £6,610 for the coins and £1,130 for the ingots. The Committee examined the hoard in light of this, observing that some of the coins were unusual, but that the valuer had recognised this and his suggested figures were correct. The suggested figures for the ingots, too, were felt to adequately account for their attraction on the market. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £7,740. National Museum of Wales hopes to acquire.

Medieval coins:

58. Medieval silver coins (21) from Millom area, Cumbria (2015 T16, LANCUM-D556B4)

The provisional valuer suggested £164. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee read the finder's letter and inspected the coins. It noted that many of the coins were in a poor state, and explained that the grading of 'Fine' for these coins did not imply that they were in an attractive condition. The Committee further explained that the condition of coins has a great impact on their market value, which the valuer has accurately accounted for in his suggested figures. In agreement with the valuer, the Committee recommended £164. It also took note of the finder's claim to be aware of detectorists selling unreported Treasure, against the law, and hoped that the finder would report any such transgressions to the police. The Beacon Museum hopes to acquire.

59. Medieval silver coins (2) from Bangor, Gwynedd (15.15, NMGW-12F469)

The provisional valuer suggested £240. The Committee examined the two coins in light of this and felt that the valuer had overestimated their potential. Owing to their condition, the Committee felt that the Series C groat would only be worth £100, and the Series D coin £50. In total, the Committee recommended £150. Gwynedd County Museums Service (Bangor) hopes to acquire.

60. Medieval coin hoard (4) from Coolnacran, County Down (NI 15.01)

The provisional valuer suggested £610. The Committee viewed the small hoard in light of this, and expressed the view that the figure was slightly high. It recommended £500. National Museum of Northern Ireland hopes to acquire.

61. Medieval silver coins (16) from Llanllyfni, Gwynedd (14.05, NMGW-11D242)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,130. The Committee examined the coins in light of this and felt that most of the figures suggested for the individual coins were accurate. The most desirable coin in the group, number 6 in the catalogue, was judged to be slightly overvalued, and the Committee recommended £270 for it. Overall, then, the Committee recommended £1,000 for the hoard. Gwynedd County Museums Service hopes to acquire.

Post-Medieval Coins

62. Post-Medieval (civil war) coin hoard (37) from Wheaton Aston area, Staffordshire (2015 T126, WMID-480382) – 2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £624. The Committee saw the hoard at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and recommended £624. One of the Finders challenged the valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee read the Finder's letter and noted that the Finder did not provide any evidence to support his views, and reminded the Finder that the provisional valuation had cited relevant auction results to justify the figure arrived at. The Committee found nothing in the submission to cause it to depart from its earlier recommendation, and confirmed a value of £624, with the delineated valuation per finder as before. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

[Tim Pestell left the room]

Item 4: Norfolk Cases

63. Iron Age gold coin hoard (catalogue # 1 only) from Runhall, Norfolk (2014 T819, NMS-F5AAEE)

The provisional valuer suggested £250. The Committee examined the coin and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £250. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

64. Early Medieval copper alloy strap-end with silver rivets from North Pickenham, Norfolk (2015 T5, NMS-2A8C26) - 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £700-£800. The Museum had supplied comments and the Committee saw the strap-end at its meeting of 15th October 2015 and asked for a second valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £300. The Committee examined the strap-end again in light of this. It acknowledged that the item was composed mostly of copper-alloy and therefore that comparison with silver examples sold in the market was unhelpful. The Committee nonetheless felt that the large size of this strap-end added to its appeal and it recommended £350. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

[Tim Pestell re-entered the room]

Item 5: British Museum Cases

65. Post-Medieval silver cufflink element from South Petherton, Somerset (2013 T789, SOM-E05190)

The provisional valuer suggested £60. The Committee inspected the cufflink element in light of this and noted that it was in good condition, but only represented part of a complete cufflink. The Committee had recommended values for many other similar artefacts in recent years, and it felt that a lower figure was more accurate. It recommended £30. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

[Tim Pestell left the room]

66. Early Medieval silver strap-end from Deopham, Norfolk (2015 T190, NMS-9F1DB3)

The provisional valuer suggested £120. The committee examined the strap-end in light of this and agreed that it was an appealing example, but felt that its small size and worn condition indicated a slightly lower value. The Committee recommended £100. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

67. Medieval silver piedfort from Kenninghall, Norfolk (2015 T108, SF-DFC30D)

Provisional valuer suggested £435. The Committee viewed the piedfort in light of this and noted that it had seen several of these items in recent years. The suggested value was observed to be consistent with past figures and so in agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £435. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

[Tim Pestell re-entered the room]

Item 6: Any other business

Bronze Age gold ornaments (8), pottery and copper alloy awl from Woolaston, Gloucestershire (2013 T805; GLO-E9EC16)

The finders disagreed with the Treasure Valuation Committee's recommended value for the hoard, and made representations to the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 70 of the Treasure Act Code of Practice. The DCMS requested clarification of the Committee's recommendation with respect to one issue: it was noted that one provisional valuer suggested £22,000 - £28,000 and the other suggested £18,000. The Committee was asked to clarify why it recommended a figure (£20,000) which was at the lower end of the spectrum of suggested values.

The Committee reviewed the papers on this case. It understood that in cases where more than one valuation was commissioned, and where a private valuation was also supplied, it was natural for Finders and Landowners, the parties that will benefit from receiving a reward, to show a preference for the highest figure cited. Consequently, it is understandable that those parties will also be disappointed when the recommended value is less than that figure.

The Committee explained that it had considered all of the relevant factors in this case in order to determine what it felt was a fair and accurate assessment of their market value. These included but were not limited to the rarity of the items, whether the bracelets might be wearable or not, their condition and what their potential for improvement after conservation might be. On the issue of wearability, the Committee explained that the fact they were too small for adults to wear did not detract from their appeal, but rather if they had been possible to wear, that this could have been an additional element in increasing their commercial appeal. Though from an archaeological and museological point of view the wearability of artefacts is a moot point, it was noted that the commercial value of artefacts can be enhanced if they are able to be worn.

In its opinion, having weighed all of the various factors in the attraction of the bracelets against one another, it felt that £20,000 was a fair valuation.

Bronze Age gold strip from Roche, Cornwall (2014 T39; CORN-8EC344)

The finder disagreed with the Treasure Valuation Committee's recommended value for this item (£250). He made representations to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State confirmed that he accepted the Committee's valuation. The finder remained unhappy and sent a further complaint about the process to the British Museum. In answer to the complaint, the Secretariat informed the finder that in the interests of fairness it would share a letter from the finder with the Committee, and ask the Committee to comment.

The Committee read the finder's letter of 26th July 2015 which he had sent as a challenge to the Committee's recommendation of 8th July 2015. The Secretariat had not previously put the letter to the Committee as it was not felt to contain any new or relevant information on which to challenge the Committee's recommendation. On reading the letter on this occasion, the Committee agreed with the Secretariat that it contained no evidence that would have caused it to amend its recommended valuation. The Committee further assured the finder that it had carefully considered the case at three separate meetings and had given full attention to the previous submissions he had made and the information contained therein. It was unfortunate that he felt that the recommended valuation by the Committee was too low, but it was observed that the Secretary of State had reviewed the case and made a decision and that this was final.

Norfolk County Council cuts to Finds Recording Service (PAS Norfolk)

Norfolk County Council has announced a proposal to cut 2.5 posts in the Finds Recording Service, and to only fulfil statutory duties.

The Chairman wished to raise the issue in Committee for discussion. He noted that it was open to question whether the funding of local archaeological positions is a matter for the Treasure Valuation Committee to take a view on. The Committee felt that it could offer a view insofar as

the proposed cuts had the potential to impact the reporting of Treasure under the Treasure Act 1996 and the Treasure process. It was noted that PAS Norfolk record the highest number of Treasure cases per year and that their staff produce all of the reports for the Coroner as required under the Act, and the Committee was concerned that a loss of more than half of the team would have a negative effect on the time available to complete this work and also the available expertise. The process depends on the accurate and timely and accurate work of the local staff.

[Tim Pestell left room]

The Committee therefore resolved to write to the Norfolk County Council to firstly congratulate it on the tremendous amount of material that it handles under the Treasure Act and the efficiency of its staff in meeting targets for the timely processing of Treasure cases. It would also express its concerns that the proposed cuts might impact on the workings of the Treasure Act and in the long run will discourage finders from reporting their discoveries as required.

[Tim Pestell re-entered the room]

Dates of Meetings in 2016

These dates were proposed:

18th January – Binyon Room
9th March – East Residence Training Room
27th April – East Residence Training Room
15th June – East Residence Training Room
3rd August – East Residence Training Room
21st September – East Residence Training Room
9th November – Board Room

Item 7: Next meeting

Monday, 18th January 2016, in the Binyon Room (World Conservation and Exhibition Centre)

Provisional valuations:

The table contains 40 rows of data, all of which are completely redacted with black bars. The redaction covers the entire content of each row, making the specific values and categories unreadable.

[REDACTED]
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