

WORKING MINUTES

Minutes for Treasure Valuation Committee Meeting – 14 November 2018

The meeting was held in the Hartwell Room at the British Museum on Wednesday, 14 November at 11:15am.

Present:

Committee

Colin Renfrew (Chair)
Harry Bain
Roger Bland
Gail Boyle
Jim Brown
Marian Campbell
Hetty Gleave
Chris Martin

British Museum

Ayla Karaman
Amy Marsh
Mafalda Raposo
Ian Richardson (Sec.)
Beverley Nenck (item 35 only)

DCMS

Paul Maley
Penelope Rafter

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2018 – The minutes were passed as a true record of the meeting.

Item 2: OBJECTS

Bronze Age

1. 2017 T635 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard from Bix, Oxfordshire (BERK-C8CB8E)

The provisional valuer suggested £5-15. The Committee viewed the hoard in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £10. Oxfordshire Museums Service hopes to acquire.

2. 2017 T922 Bronze Age gold folded strips from Shackleford, Surrey (SUR-4956AF)

The provisional valuer suggested £100-£110. The Committee examined the folded strips in light of this and felt that it was an appropriate range for the items. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £100. Guildford Heritage Service hopes to acquire.

3. 2016 T940 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard from Winchfield, Hampshire (HAMP-EF62CF)

The provisional valuer suggested £220-240. The Committee inspected the hoard in light of this and felt that the group had been slightly over-valued, and it recommended £200. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

4. 2017 T901 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard from Badlesmere (III), Kent (KENT-B7FA19)

The provisional valuer suggested £220-240. The Committee viewed the hoard in light of this, acknowledging that the hoard was composed of non-descript ingot fragments. It felt the hoard was slightly over-valued, and recommended £200. Dover Museum hopes to acquire.

5. 2016 T460 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard from Betley, Staffordshire (WMID-05C33F)

The provisional valuer suggested £320-350. The Committee examined the hoard in light of this and felt that the axes had a pleasing presence and were slightly under-valued. It recommended £360. The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery hopes to acquire.

6. 2018 T89 Bronze Age gold penannular ring from Preston Candover, Hampshire (HAMP-425F0D)

The provisional valuer suggested £400-600. The Committee viewed the ring in light of this and felt that the valuer's report adequately accounted for the probability that this was a solid gold, rather than gold-plated, example. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £500. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

7. 2017 T202 Bronze Age copper-alloy axe bivalve mould from Chinnor, Oxfordshire (BUC-7E5EA8)

The provisional valuer suggested £700-900. The Committee viewed the mould in light of this. It observed that the item was a fairly rare find for Britain and that there would be a market for it. Its large size was felt to contribute to its appeal, and in agreement with the higher end of the valuer's suggested range, the Committee recommended £900. Oxfordshire Museums Service hopes to acquire.

8. 2016 T470 Bronze Age copper-alloy hoard from Barton Turf, Norfolk (NMS-6DAFAC)

The provisional valuer suggested £2,365-2,600. The acquiring museum submitted comments on the possibility of recommending a value for the individual pieces of the hoard. The Committee took account of this as it viewed the hoard. It was of the view that the valuer's suggested range was accurate, and that the overall worth of the hoard was £2,500. The valuer had suggested ranges for the four principle groups of items in the hoard, and the Committee agreed with these overall, recommending:

1. £1,400
2. £475
3. £35
4. £590

Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

9. 2016 T683 Bronze Age gold armlet from Bewholme, East Riding of Yorkshire (YORYM-80ADC9)

The first provisional valuer suggested £4,800-5,500; the second provisional valuer suggested £10,000-15,000. The Committee viewed the armlet in light of this. It noted that the valuers had referred to two of the same parallels from sales at Timeline Auctions (from 14/12/12 and 30/8/16) and that these were not very informative guides, as clearly the piece in question was worth more. The Bewholme Armlet was observed to be a rare and impressive piece, though relatively light for its size, and the damage it had suffered was felt to impact on its market value. Taking all of this into consideration, the Committee felt that a figure between the two valuations, though closer to the first, was appropriate. The Committee recommended £6,500. Hull and East Riding Museum hopes to acquire.

Iron Age

10. 2017 T125 Iron Age burial assemblage from Oakley, Hampshire (HAMP-B37694) – 4th viewing.

The first provisional valuer suggested £7100-7810; the second provisional valuer suggested £500-550; and the third provisional valuer suggested £300-350. The Committee had considered the case on three earlier occasions and at the most recent one, on the 1st of August 2018, had recommended a value of £500. The acquiring museum submitted a challenge to this, as it felt the recommendation was too high given the projected costs of conservation of the hoard. The Committee thanked the museum for its letter and observed that it was useful to see the elements of the planned conservation treatment detailed in this way. It has sympathy for the museum but observed that its task was to recommend a value for the hoard in its current condition. Even in its current poor state, with conservation necessary in order to make it stable and displayable in the long term, the Committee still felt that it would command a figure on the open market from an interested buyer. It pointed out that the figure it had recommended was at the very low end of the values suggested by the provisional valuers, and it felt this was appropriate. The Committee confirmed a valuation of £500. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

Roman

11. 2017 T278 Roman silver bracelet fragment from Melton Ross, North Lincolnshire (NLM-AB948E)

The provisional valuer suggested that the piece had no commercial value. The Committee examined the item in light of this and recommended £10. North Lincolnshire Museum hopes to acquire.

12. 2016 T331 Roman silver finger-ring bezel from Haversham-cum-Little Linford, Milton Keynes (NARC-E33294)

The provisional valuer suggested that the piece had no commercial value. The Committee viewed the bezel in light of this and recommended £10. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

13. 2018 T55 Roman silver brooch fragment from Lacon, Shropshire (WREX-F1478D)

The provisional valuer suggested £25-28. The Committee inspected the brooch fragment in light of this and acknowledged that it would have been part of a once impressive piece. It recommended £30. Shropshire Museums hopes to acquire.

14. 2015 T753 Roman silver bead from Driffield area, East Riding of Yorkshire (YORYM-B7374F)

The provisional valuer suggested £30-50. The Committee viewed the bead in light of this and commented on the tiny size but interesting decoration. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £40. East Riding of Yorkshire Museums Service hopes to acquire.

15. 2016 T849 Roman gold finger-ring from Toynton All Saints, Lincolnshire (LIN-E73083)

The provisional valuer suggested £300-350. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation. The Committee took account of these as it inspected the finger-ring. It noted that the report for the Coroner had contained a comment from an early draft, suggesting that the shank was of modern construction, but that this observation had been withdrawn. However the valuer had been working from this report, so the Committee felt it appropriate to go back to the valuer and point out that the ring was now accepted as late Roman in date, and ask whether he would like to reconsider his valuation. The Committee will return to the case when a response from the valuer is received. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

Early Medieval

16. 2017 T166 Early Medieval silver ingot from Worldham, Hampshire (HAMP-726C8B)

The provisional valuer suggested £60-80. The Committee examined the ingot in light of this. The Committee had in the past valued a number of Early Medieval silver ingots of the same generic shape and sought to establish a consistent valuation for them depending on their weight. In this case the weight of the Worldham ingot indicated that the suggested value was slightly below the Committee's usual rate, and it recommended a value of £100. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

17. 2017 T1147 Early Medieval silver ingot from Cundall with Leckby, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-17FF56)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-165. The Committee examined the ingot in light of this. The Committee had in the past valued a number of Early Medieval silver ingots of the same generic shape and sought to establish a consistent valuation for them depending on their weight. At the same meeting, the Committee considered an ingot from Worldham, Hampshire (2017 T166; HAMP-726C8B) which weighed three grams more and which it valued at £100. The Cundall with Leckby ingot, however, was felt to be of slightly more interest, given the presence of the test marks on it. The Committee recommended £120.

18. 2017 T29 Early Medieval gold wire ring from Bampton, Oxfordshire (BERK-E3536B)

The provisional valuer suggested £150-180. The Committee examined the ring in light of this. It observed that the ring was small and very light, so felt that a figure at the bottom of the suggested range was appropriate. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £150. Oxfordshire Museums Service hopes to acquire.

19. 2017 T520 Early Medieval gold, garnet and glass buckle plate from Chislet, Kent (KENT-7FA24B)

The provisional valuer suggested £180-200. The Committee viewed the buckle plate in light of this. Though small in size and damaged, the presence of the green glass was felt to contribute to the item's appeal. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £190. Canterbury Museum hopes to acquire.

20. 2017 T874 Early Medieval silver strap-end from Staple Fitzpaine, Somerset (DEV-60981B) -2nd viewing

The provisional valuer suggested £400-500. The Committee had seen the strap-end at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and recommended £400. The finder submitted a challenge to the recommended valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee took account of this as it viewed the strap-end again. It thanked the valuer for his letter and explained that it did not disagree

with the provisional valuer's observations and that its previous recommendation had fallen within the range suggested by the valuer, albeit at the lower end. This was because the parallels cited, which the Committee accepted were inferior had sold (or not sold) at values equal to or less than the bottom end of the suggested range (£400). For these reasons the Committee felt that its previous recommendation was still valid, and finding nothing further in the finder's submission to cause it to amend that decision, confirmed a figure of £400. Somerset Museum hopes to acquire.

21. 2018 T333 Early Medieval gold finger-ring from Wighill, North Yorkshire (YORYM-EA5D0E)

The provisional valuer suggested £900-990. The Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this and noted that it had an interesting decoration on the bezel but that the ring was damaged and distorted. The suggested range was felt to be slightly high, and the Committee recommended £850. Harrogate Museum hopes to acquire.

22. 2017 T289 Early Medieval silver mount from Leasingham, Lincolnshire (LANCUM-A21744)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,000-5,000. The finder supplied comments on the provisional valuation. The Committee took these into account as it inspected the mount and found it to be an attractive piece displaying fine workmanship. In agreement with the higher end of the valuer's suggested range, the Committee recommended £5,000. The Collection, Lincoln, hopes to acquire.

23. 2017 T906 Early Medieval gold ring from Stragglethorpe, Nottinghamshire (DENO-B9A90A)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,500-3,850. The finder supplied comments on the provisional valuation and the Committee took these into account as it viewed the arm ring. The Committee noted that the provisional valuer's 'Example 1', which was sold at Timeline Auctions in December 2016 (Lot 776) for £3,550 was the closest parallel among those suggested by her or the finder. Her other examples were observed to be two prehistoric items and a Viking finger-ring, and the finder's examples were also much heavier prehistoric artefacts, which made them ineffective guides for the market value of the piece in question. The Committee felt that the Stragglethorpe piece, though damaged, was an appealing item and would be worth slightly more than the upper-end of the valuer's suggested range. The Committee recommended £4,000. Newark Museum hopes to acquire.

24. 2018 T183 Early Medieval copper-alloy figurine (w/silver rivet) from Oxborough, Norfolk (NMS-D6704B)

Consideration of this item was deferred to a subsequent meeting at the request of the museum. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

25. 2016 T953 Early Medieval silver brooch hoard from Marbury, Cheshire (LVPL-590EDA)

The provisional valuer suggested £48,000. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation. The Committee took account of these as it examined the hoard. It noted that in the provisional valuer's report he made reference to the valuation of two brooches from the Galloway Hoard, which was discovered in Scotland in 2014 and subject the Scottish Treasure Trove regime. For clarity's sake the Committee pointed out that the values for the brooches were those that the valuer himself suggested, and that there was no available figure for the official amount put on them by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, nor any explanation of how any such figure would relate to the theoretical 'auction hammer price' that the Treasure Valuation Committee seeks to estimate.

The Committee felt that it would benefit from receiving a second provisional valuation for both the coins and the objects from this hoard, and will consider the case again when those are received. Nantwich Museum hopes to acquire.

NB: [REDACTED] for valuation of the coin. The Committee felt the value of the brooches was probably overestimated.

Medieval

26. 2016 T738 Medieval silver brooch from Orston, Nottinghamshire (LEIC-11F389)

The provisional valuer suggested £20-30. The Committee inspected the brooch in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £30. Newark Museum hopes to acquire

27. 2017 T264 Medieval silver brooch from Leigh, Gloucestershire (GLO-BA8417)

The provisional valuer suggested £40-60. The finder and landowner waived their rewards so that it could be passed to Gloucester Museum at no expense.

28. 2015 T757 Medieval silver finger-ring fragment from Burlescombe, Devon (DEV-CFD13A)

The provisional valuer suggested £40-60. The finder and landowner waived their rewards so that it could be passed to Tiverton Museum at no expense.

29. 2017 T43 Medieval gold finger-ring from Tarring Neville, East Sussex (SUSS-1F8499) -

The provisional valuer suggested £180-220. The finder and landowner waived their rewards so that it could be passed to Barbican House/Lewes Castle Museum at no expense.

30. 2016 T30 Medieval silver-gilt bird finial from Mount Bures, Essex (SF-4F9ABA)

The provisional valuer suggested £200-300. The Committee examined the piece in light of this, noting its pleasing heft and design, but acknowledging that its incomplete state would hinder its appeal on the market. In agreement with the lower end of the valuer's suggested range, the Committee recommended £200. Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service hopes to acquire.

31. 2016 T718 Medieval silver crucifix fragment from Rowston, Cheshire & West Chester (LVPL-80DE19)

The provisional valuer suggested £200-300. The Committee inspected the item in light of this. It felt that the provisional valuer's estimate was much too high for such an incomplete artefact. The Committee recommended £100. Grosvenor Museum hopes to acquire.

32. 2015 T167 Medieval gold finger-ring from Combe Martin, Devon (DEV-6018C5)

The provisional valuer suggested £600-700. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and noted, as the valuer had, that it was very thin and the band distorted. Finding itself in agreement with the lower end of the provisional valuer's suggested range, the Committee recommended £600. Barnstaple Museum hopes to acquire.

33. 2017 T959 Medieval silver seal matrix from Wymondham, Norfolk (NMS-43995A)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,200. The Committee viewed the seal matrix in light of this. It commented that it was a nicely engraved, handsome piece, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £1,200. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

34. 2017 T1223 Medieval gold reliquary cross from Petersfield area, Hampshire (SUSS-8FB621)

The provisional valuer suggested £4,000-6,000. The Committee examined the reliquary cross in light of this. It noted that the item was incomplete, and missing its back plate. It was observed to be quite small but with an attractive image engraved on the front. The Committee felt that the parallel suggested by the valuer was not instructive, as it was doubtful of that item's authenticity, but it compared the piece to another gold reliquary pendant that it was considering at the same meeting, from Farnham, Essex (2017 T287; ESS-8F991E – valued at £6,000). The Farnham piece was larger and more complete, but less skilfully crafted and on balance the Committee felt it was only marginally more valuable than the Petersfield area reliquary. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £5,500. Petersfield Museum hopes to acquire.

[Beverley Nenk entered the room]

35. 2017 T287 Medieval gold reliquary pendant from Farnham area, Essex (ESS-8F991E) – 3rd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £3,500-3,000; the second provisional valuer suggested £5,000-7,000. The Committee has last seen the reliquary pendant at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and at that time had asked for more information on the suspected date of manufacture of the item from the relevant curator at the British Museum. Subsequently the Committee felt it appropriate to invite Beverley Nenk, Curator of Later Medieval Collections in the Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory, to attend its next meeting to speak on the matter.

Ms Nenk acknowledged that there had been concerns raised by some who had seen the reliquary cross, including the Committee itself, over the likely date of manufacture of the artefact. A large reason for this was, as the report for the Coroner had pointed out, its close similarity to another

gold reliquary cross submitted under the Treasure Act from Fressingfield, Suffolk (2013 T778; SF-C86BF6) which the British Museum's Department of Scientific Research had felt was unlikely to date from the Late Medieval period, as it first appeared. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Further, the British Museum's Department of Scientific Research had found no reason why the Farnham cross could not be Late Medieval, and CT scans showed that the interior of the piece displayed a construction that would be expected in such a piece. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Finally, Ms Nenk commented that the number of Late Medieval gold reliquary crosses from Britain that have survived are small in number, and are not uniform in design. In conclusion, Ms Nenk was of the view that the Farnham piece was likely Late Medieval in date, though acknowledged that it was impossible to totally discount its modern manufacture.

The Committee thanked Ms Nenk for her insights and agreed to consider the piece as a genuine Late Medieval antiquity, while noting for the record that it was ultimately impossible to be certain of that. Ms Nenk did not take part in the discussion as the Committee moved towards valuing the piece. The Committee noted that the two valuations it had received disagreed on the suggested value. It commented that the workmanship of the piece was not of the finest quality, as evidenced by the garbled inscription, but nonetheless it felt that the second valuer's suggested range was closer to the true value of the piece. In agreement with the second valuer, the Committee recommended £6,000.

Saffron Walden Museum hopes to acquire.

[Beverley Nenk left the room]

Post-Medieval

36. 2016 T895 Post-Medieval silver-gilt object from Colyton, Devon (DEV-9CBF5E)

The provisional valuer suggested £30-40. The Committee examined the item in light of this. It noted that it had earlier valued a similar object from High Melton, Doncaster (2018 T24; SWYOR-8C2395) at £20. In agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £30. Royal Albert Memorial Museum hopes to acquire.

37. 2015 T621 Post-Medieval gold button from Greenwich West, Greater London (WILT-003891)

The provisional valuer suggested £40-60. The Committee viewed the button in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £40. The Museum of London hopes to acquire.

38. 2016 T154 Post-Medieval gold aglet from Greenwich West, Greater London (LON-A11C64)

The provisional valuer suggested £100-140. The Committee examined the aglet in light of this. It noted that it had valued a similar item from the same location (2015 T939; LON-5E0F81) at £40, and felt this was a more appropriate figure, especially given the damage to the piece in consideration. The Committee recommended £40. The Museum of London hopes to acquire.

39. 2015 T845 Post-Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Burlescombe, Devon (DEV-B553D1)

The provisional valuer suggested £120-150. The Committee examined the finger-ring in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £130. Tiverton Museum hopes to acquire.

40. 2016 T868 Post-Medieval silver seal matrix from Wanborough, Swindon (BERK-F2BBDD)

The provisional valuer suggested £200. The Committee examined the seal matrix in light of this and noted that it was slightly distorted and damaged, and that the provisional valuer had adequately

appreciated its worth. In agreement with the valuer, the Committee recommended £200. Swindon Museum hopes to acquire.

41. 2018 T237 Post-Medieval silver vervel from King's Lynn area, Norfolk (NMS-5C4634)

The provisional valuer suggested £300-350. The Committee saw the vervel at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and recommended £300. The finder challenged the valuation and supplied examples from the market. The Committee took account of these as it examined the piece again. It also referred back to a number of vervels that it had previously valued, and noted that the market price of these pieces was affected by how identifiable they were with specific individuals from the past, and how important those individuals were. In this case the vervel was associated with the Bedingfield family, which was felt to add to its appeal, but it was also noted that the vervel could not be definitively linked to a specific Henry Bedingfield. Of the various examples cited, the Committee felt that the vervel described as 'A Jacobean Hawk ring for George Ashton of Minting' in the provisional valuer's report was the most comparable in terms of market appeal. That vervel had sold at Timeline Auctions (22/05/18, lot 478) for a hammer price of £420, and so the previous recommendation of the Committee was observed to be too low. It recommended £400. Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

42. 2016 T843 Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Aston by Budsworth, Cheshire (LVPL-25CDE6)

The provisional valuer suggested £350-400. The Committee viewed the finger-ring in light of this. It noted the comment about the ring being straightened prior to deposition, and reminded the finder that this should not have been done. Nonetheless it was still not completely straight, and the Committee felt that the lower end of the suggested range was accurate. The Committee also pointed to a similar Post-Medieval gold posy ring from Heather, Leicestershire (2017 T936; LEIC-76632D) that it had valued at £300, and felt this provided useful context. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £350. Congleton Museum hopes to acquire.

43. 2016 T1041 Post-Medieval gold finger-ring from Aston, Cote, Shifford and Cimney, Oxfordshire (BERK-12895D)

The provisional valuer suggested £400-500. The Committee inspected the finger-ring in light of this and commented on the unfortunate distorted shape of the band. In agreement with the lower end of the valuer's suggested range, it recommended £400. Oxfordshire Museums Service hopes to acquire.

44. 2016 T264 Post-Medieval silver-gilt finger-ring from Barnham, West Sussex (SUSS-7CE182) – 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £1,200. The Committee saw the ring at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and requested a second valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £700-800. The finder supplied comments and an example from the market. The Committee took account of these as it viewed the ring. It thanked the finder for his email and explained that the report for the Coroner had perhaps led to some confusion in describing the ring as 'gold'; it was gold in colour but composed of gilded-silver. The Committee had been concerned that the first valuer may not have appreciated this, though it was clear that the second did. The Committee noted that the finder and the second provisional valuer had both cited examples of silver-gilt iconographic rings. It pointed out that these were not very close parallels but also highlighted the fact that the finder's example was from a retail site, where the ring was listed for sale. The retail price is much higher than the theoretical 'auction hammer price' which the Committee uses as an approximation for the market value. Taking all of this into account, the Committee felt that the upper end of the second valuer's suggested range was accurate, and it recommended £800. Littlehampton Museum hopes to acquire.

Item 3: COINS

Iron Age

45. 2015 T842 Iron Age gold stater from Linwood, Lincolnshire (LIN-B3CFE5)

The provisional valuer suggested £200-250. The Committee viewed the stater in light of this and felt that the lower end of the suggested range was correct. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £200. The Collection, Lincoln hopes to acquire.

46. 2017 T828 Iron Age gold coin hoard (2) from Dinton, Buckinghamshire (BH-4A1E86)

The provisional valuer suggested £1,100-£1,300. The Committee inspected the coins in light of this; it felt the coins were attractive and in agreement with the higher end of the valuer's suggested range, it recommended £1,300. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

47. 2017 T1021 Iron Age gold coin hoard (2) from Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (BH-E90DFA)

The provisional valuer suggested £3,400-3,600. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee took account of these as it viewed the coins. It agreed that the coins had been slightly undervalued by the provisional valuer, and that in the right auction they could achieve a slightly higher figure, especially the one (#2) with the unusual inscription. The Committee recommended £4,000 for the group. Buckinghamshire County Museum hopes to acquire.

48. 2017 T229 Iron Age gold coin hoard (6) from Piddletrenthide, Dorset (DOR-FF12E5)

The provisional valuer suggested £8,000-10,000. The finder supplied comments on the provisional valuation and the acquiring museum submitted comments of its own. The Committee took account of the comments as it inspected the coins. It agreed with the finder's point that the depression in the value of these coins that might be brought about by the sale of six examples at the same time would largely be balanced by the attractiveness of having provenanced examples. However, the Committee felt that the suggestion that each of the coins would otherwise be worth £2,000 on its own was an overestimate of their appeal. On balance the Committee observed that £1,500 per coin was an accurate assessment, and in agreement with the provisional valuer, it recommended £9,000. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

Roman

49. 2016 T550 Roman copper-alloy coin hoard from Cookley, Worcestershire (WMID-A6414E)

The provisional valuer suggested £30-40. The Committee examined the coins in light of this and, acknowledging their poor condition and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £30. Worcestershire Museum hopes to acquire.

50. 2018 T23 Roman copper-alloy coin hoard (5) from Droxford, Hampshire (HAMP-74824E)

The provisional valuer suggested £70-90. The Committee inspected the coins in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £80. Hampshire Cultural Trust hopes to acquire.

51. 2017 T720 Roman silver coin hoard (12) from Cookley, Suffolk (SF-1FC3B8)

The provisional valuer suggested £250-300. The Committee viewed the hoard in light of this and felt that the suggested range was correct. In agreement with the provisional valuer, the Committee recommended £275. Halesworth Museum hopes to acquire.

52. 2015 T452 Roman coin hoard (440) from South Warwickshire (WMID-7AECFC) – 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £100,000-150,000. The Committee saw the coins at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and requested a second provisional valuation. The second provisional valuer suggested £105,605. The Committee examined the coins again in light of this. It noted that among the later coins there were several superb examples which justified the high price suggested by the two valuers. Having looked over all of the coins, the Committee was of the view that a figure slightly lower than the middle of the first valuer's range was appropriate. It recommended £124,000. The Committee further understood that the coins were found on an archaeological excavation and that therefore in accordance with paragraph 81 of the Treasure Act Code of Practice, there was no reward payable to the finder. It recommended half of the value of the find, £62,000, as a reward for the landowner. Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

Early Medieval

53. 2014 T791 Early Medieval silver-gilt penny from Headley, Surrey (SUR-8F4A0C)

The provisional valuer suggested £400-600. The finder submitted comments on the provisional valuation, which he felt was too low. The Committee took account of these as it viewed the penny.

It agreed that the piece was an extraordinary and important coin, though damaged, and that the valuer had undervalued it considerably. The Committee was of the view that in a complete state and better condition, the coin might have been worth around £20,000. Any damage to coins reduces their market value greatly, and in this case, the damage was extensive, so the Committee estimated that it would have 10% of the value it would in its undamaged state. Accordingly, the Committee recommended £2,000. The British Museum hopes to acquire.

54. 2017 T929 Early Medieval gold coin pendant from Hoo St Werburgh, Kent (KENT-5E6A92) – 2nd viewing

The first provisional valuer suggested £12,000-15,000. The Committee viewed the coin pendant at its meeting of 26th September 2018, and asked for a second valuation. The second provisional valuation, provided by [REDACTED], suggested £8,000-12,000. The acquiring museum supplied comments on the valuations, which it felt were too high. The finder had also supplied comments on both valuations, though his comments on the second valuation were for an earlier version of that report (since revised).

The Committee took account of all of this as it viewed the item again. It commented that it was a difficult piece to value because it was uncertain how the market would respond to it, and to what degree it would appeal to specialist coin collectors. Before arriving at a recommendation it felt it appropriate to ask the relevant numismatic curator at the British Museum, Gareth Williams, for clarification on two points:

1. If this is a coin, why has it been cast instead of being struck?
2. The pale colour suggests it is made of electrum, rather than a high purity gold. Is that usual for gold coins of the period?

The Committee felt this was important in order to come to a view as to whether the piece was designed from the start as an item of jewellery or whether it had been a coin that was converted into jewellery. It will consider the case again when answers to those points are received.

The British Museum hopes to acquire.

Post-Medieval

55. 2016 T844 Post-Medieval silver coin hoard (10) from Winterborne St Martin, Dorset (DOR-756142)

The provisional valuer suggested £150. The Committee inspected the coins in light of this and in agreement with the provisional valuer, recommended £150. The coins found by [REDACTED] were at £90, and those by Mr Dennis at £60. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire.

56. 2016 T820 Post-Medieval silver coin hoard (1,201) from Ewerby, Lincolnshire (LIN-F454C4) – 3rd viewing

Of the 1,201 coins in this hoard, the Collection Museum in Lincoln had expressed an interest in acquiring 83. It had been hoped that another museum would acquire some or all of the remaining 1,118 coins, but no museum wished to.

The first provisional valuer suggested £4,495 for the coins selected by the Collection; £23,185 for the remainder. The second provisional valuer suggested £8,000-10,000 for the coins selected by the Collection; £30,000-40,000 for remainder.

The Committee had viewed the hoard at previous meetings (13 June 2018 and 26 September 2018) and had provisionally agreed a value of £4,520 for the 83 coins that the Collection had expressed an interest in, inclusive of the Elizabeth sixpence recovered from the USA, and £23,185 for the remainder. These figures were in agreement with the suggestions of the first provisional valuer (with an additional £25 added for the Elizabeth sixpence from the USA).

As detailed in the minutes of the meeting of 13th June 2018, this case was complicated by the fact that the finder did not report or hand over all of the coins from this hoard that he discovered, in contravention of his legal requirement under the Treasure Act 1996. The police eventually recovered 26 coins that had been withheld, some of which had been sold to other parties.

The Committee felt that the finder should not profit from the coins that he failed to report, so it recommended that for any of these coins which were to be acquired, the landowner should receive 50% of the value, and the finder should receive nothing.

Further to that, the Committee observed that paragraph 79 of the Treasure Act Code of Practice lists possible reasons for the abatements of rewards to interested parties. It says in part:

79. Finders may expect to receive no rewards at all or abated rewards under the following circumstances:

(i) where the finder has committed an offence under section 8 of the Act by failing to report treasure within 14 days of making a find or 14 days of believing or having reasonable grounds for believing that the find was treasure, without reasonable excuse

(iii) where there is evidence of illegal activity in relation to a find whether or not a prosecution has been mounted

(v) where a finder has failed to deposit a find promptly as directed by the coroner and/or where there is evidence that only part of a find has been handed in

The Committee noted that all of these reasons seemed to be relevant to the circumstances of this case, and that and that by deliberately holding back some items from the hoard there was clear evidence of illegal activity and conduct that the Committee felt it should take into account. It therefore felt that it would also be inappropriate to fully reward the finder for those coins that were deposited, and was minded to recommend that his portion of the reward for those coins be abated by 50%.

- Of the 83 coins selected by The Collection for acquisition, 14 were coins not handed in by the finder and recovered by police. For those coins the Committee apportioned 50% of the value to the landowner and 0% to the finder. For the remaining 69 coins, the landowner was apportioned 50% of their value and the finder 25% of the value (that is, 50% of the normal share). This amounted to £2,260.03 for the landowner, and £622.05 for the finder [itemised list of coins available]. Therefore the total payable by The Collection is £2,882.08

- For the remainder of the coins (1,118), given that no museum wished to acquire them, the normal procedure would be for those coins to be returned to the finder and landowner for them to do with them what they wish. However, this would mean that the finder would incur a much smaller penalty for his wrongdoing than he would have if the whole of the hoard was acquired. Had the remainder of the hoard been acquired, then according to the Committee's recommendation the finder would have been penalised by losing out on 25% of the total value as a reward. Therefore the Committee recommended that a portion of the coins representing 25% of the value of the unclaimed group be retained and passed to The Collection, along with the 83 coins it would be acquiring. This would be a group of coins representing 25% of £23,185, which rounds to £5,800. The remaining unclaimed coins, which represents 75% of the value of £23,185, (which rounds up to £17,385), could then be 'disclaimed' by the Crown and returned to the landowner and finder. The Committee recommended that of this 75%, the landowner keep 2/3 of the coins, and the finder 1/3. Using the first valuer's provisional valuation as a guide, the Secretariat will liaise with The Collection to select groups of coins totalling £5,800. If The Collection is unable to accept the coins, they will be offered to the next most appropriate institution.

Item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2015 T484 Post-Medieval gold pierced coin from Woodbridge area, Suffolk

The provisional valuer suggested £300-500. The Committee saw the coin at its meeting of 26th September 2018 and asked for scientific analysis of the coin to determine whether it was made of solid gold or silver-gilt. The scientific results were received and indicated the coin was silver-gilt. The Committee reconsidered the item and observed that the valuer's report had suggested a figure based on the item being gold, and that as a silver-gilt piece it would have almost no commercial value. The Committee therefore recommended a figure of £10. Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service hopes to acquire.

PAS and Treasure Annual Report Launches: These will take place on Tuesday, 11th December 2018 at the BM from 8:30am, and Committee members are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates in 2019: The following dates have been booked preliminarily for 2019:

23 January

20 March

22 May – this date was felt to be unsuitable because of closeness to May Bank Holiday, so 15 May was suggested.

10 July

28 August – this date was felt to be unsuitable because of closeness to August Bank Holiday, so 4 September was suggested.

16 October

11 December

Item 5: Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on 23 January in the Hartwell/Sloan Room.

Provisional valuations:

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