

## Toilet-spoons

### *Copper alloy*

Bliss preferred the term toilet-spoon to names such as ear spoons or scoops, unguent spoons or *ligulae* because of the confusion in the literature over these names and the fact that they are too functionally prescriptive. She noted that Riha (1986) and Crummy (1983) had produced schemes for classification. Whilst the material from Wroxeter could be placed within these, neither draws attention to the differences within them. The Wroxeter toilet-spoons were classified using a scheme based on the collection only

In total twenty were recovered and there were also eight possible handles which might have been from other examples. These were classified under 'handles from medical instruments of uncertain or unknown use'.

The classification used was between plain spoons which were equivalent to Riha's *Ohrloffrichen variante E* (Riha 1986, Tafn. 28-36) and decorated spoons, the equivalent to her *Ohrloffrichen variante A* (Riha 1986, Tafn. 25-6).

#### *Type 1a – Plain spoon with flat bowl set at an angle to the shaft*

There are seven examples of this type (3466-72), one of which is complete. 3467 has a suspension loop and was probably used in a set. It has a short shaft and the end is looped over and lies parallel with the shaft before being wound around the shaft. It has an unusual bowl which is only just wider than the shaft and has minimal shaping. Although the bowl of 3471 compares quite closely with an object from South Shields described as a stylus (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, no. 3.435), and another from Gadebride Park described as a stylus or an unguent spoon (Neal 1974, fig. 63 no. 209), its edges are broken and it seems more likely to have functioned as a spoon.

The shafts are circular in section, though 3467 has a thin rectangular section and 3469, a polygonal one owing to the heavy chamfering of the shaft. The shafts are straight (3471), curved (3469) or angled (3467). They are irregular in diameter and widen towards the bowl or are swollen waited (3469, 3472).

The bowls are about 6mm wide. The smallest is 3467 which is 3.5mm wide. Their lengths range from 5mm (3467) to 6.5mm (3469). The complete example 3467 is 45mm long.

#### *Type 1b – Plain spoon with flat bowl in the same plane as the shaft*

Bliss discusses four examples in this sub-group but in the database only 3473-5 are so described. The fourth, 3558, is just classified as a toilet instrument. One complete example may be from a toilet set. The shaft of 3473 tapers into wire which may originally have been looped for suspension. The bowls vary in shape from egg-shaped (3473, 3475) to circular (3474). The shafts also vary and are square-sectioned (3474), flat rectangular-sectioned (3558), chamfered circular-sectioned (3473) and oval-sectioned (3475). Only the bowl of 3475 is complete. It is the largest and measures 9 x 5mm. The overall length of 3473 is 45mm.

The manufacturing methods of the rods may vary. 3473 is cast, whereas 3474 may be from a wrought rod with its end hammered flat.

#### *Type 2a – Decorated spoon with flat bowl set at an angle to the shaft*

There are four examples (3476-9) and one is complete. Two, 3478-9, are very similar to each other and have a spiral of grooves at the handle/bowl junction with ovoid-shaped bowls and with flattened oval-shaped shaft sections. The decoration of 3476 is more elaborate and consists of a circular-sectioned shaft with a short, square-sectioned part before a twisted strip at the bowl/handle junction. The bowl is small and square-shaped. Finally, 3477, is a more robust spoon with a thick rod shaft

which expands and is decorated on one side with beads and reels with the other side plain and flattened. The bowl is circular-shaped. **3479** is 110mm in length overall.

*Type 2b – Decorated spoon with flat bowl in the same plane as the shaft*

There are two examples of this group, **3480-81**, and they form the most elaborate spoons in the collection in some ways. Both are probably from toilet sets owing to their short shafts and perforated expanding ends. They are of different forms. **3480** consists of a flat-sectioned rod which widens towards each end. At one end it is perforated whereas at the other there is a punched bowl which is not truly cupped. The other side of the shaft is decorated with an incised zig-zag line for about 15mm below the perforated end. **3481** is more elaborate. It has a thick rectangular-sectioned shaft with a flatter sectioned, disc head which has a small central perforation with an iron rivet still *in situ*. Half of the length of the shaft is pared on only one side and ends in a neat circular bowl. The spoon is thus flat-backed and this surface clearly shows file marks. The front and the sides have ridge and spool mouldings at the top, and in the centre and the edges are notched. The spoons are 52mm and 49mm long. Although **3481** is most certainly cast, the irregularity of the width of **3480** suggests it was made from a hammered-out strip.

*Uncertain*

**3483-4** are toilet spoons which cannot be assigned to sub-type. One belongs to Type 1 as it has a plain handle but the bowl is missing. The other was too heavily corroded whilst Bliss was doing her work to assign it to either the plain or decorated categories, though it did have a bowl of probably sub-type b.

## *Bone*

Bliss followed Greep's (1983) typology for all the bone spoons whilst acknowledging that the attribution of the Wroxeter spoons to type was frequently tentative. The toilet-spoons formed his Type B and there were four examples belonging to three different types.

*B1.1 – flat round bowl carved at an angle to the stem.*

There is one example with a waisted stem (**463**). Normally the stems taper.

*B2 – bowl same width or just wider than stem, bowls frequently with groove; stem plain and tapering.*

Bliss observed that no certain examples of the type were recovered though two pieces categorised as miscellaneous uncertain may represent this type of spoon or a stylus. No. **293** consists of a spatulate-shaped and rectangular-sectioned piece of bone which is 27mm long. No. **290** is complete with a slight spatulate end with a rod shaft. It is 63.5mm long. Neither example shows any evidence of grooves.

*B3 – double-ended instruments*

No. **459** may represent an unguent spoon from a double-ended instrument, or may be of a type B2 spoon. It is very similar to a 'bowl' from a double-ended instrument from York (Greep 1983, 814 no. 10.776). Both have willow leaf-shaped bowls with U-shaped sections. At York the other end consists of a narrow elongated bowl (type B2) and an oval-sectioned probe. This type of implement is paralleled in copper alloy at Wroxeter and was probably a medical instrument of some very defined form.

## Tweezers

Thirty-one pairs and fragments of copper alloy tweezers are represented, of which 17 were complete (3435-65). They consist of a folded strip of copper alloy with a loop made at the fold, and with the ends turned inwards like pincers. In some cases the ends remained flat and in those circumstances their use as tweezers might be questioned.

No examples of forms that were most likely to have been used within a surgical milieu were noted, and it is likely that the Wroxeter examples were for toilet or household purposes. Some may have been single items but the shorter examples (3435-8) may have been from toilet sets. These commonly consisted of a pair of tweezers, a nail cleaner and an ear pick held together on a loop, bar or chatelaine. No intact sets were recovered from Wroxeter but objects 3555 and 3554 may represent such a loop and possibly a chatelaine respectively.

The dimensions of the tweezers vary considerable and this may influence their type of use. Some examples are more robust than others. The thickness of the blades is as much as 1.75mm in the case of 3436 and 1.5mm in the case of 3450-1 and 3453-4. The last mentioned examples are all of the longest group. Their longer blades mean that they are less 'springy' than short examples. They are also more likely to be broken or bent. 3447 and 3452 have rings around their blades which could be slid up or down to open or close the blades. This may have been used as a way to protect the blades from damage and / or to clamp the blades together during their use.

At the time of writing Bliss noted that the only typology that had been developed for tweezers was that of Kenyon for the Jewry Wall examples (Kenyon 1948, fig.86). She did not feel this was appropriate for the Wroxeter examples but did observe that when the lengths of the tweezers at Wroxeter were measured and plotted on a scattergram, three groupings were observable. The length was taken from the top of the loop to the end of the blade and was measured in one plane only.

It was not proposed that the three groups were significant in terms of function or in any other way. Length had been used as a convenient criterion upon which to divide the large collection. There was a variety of form and detail within each of the groups, they contained examples of parallel-sided and splayed blades, as well as decorated and undecorated examples. There was also a large range in the standard of workmanship and of finishing within the group,

### *Group A – lengths from 39 to 45mm*

There were four complete examples in this group (3435-8). Their forms are very different. Two, 3435-6, have straight blades whereas those of 3438 are more curved and those of 3437 are more curved still (i.e. the angle between the blades increases). The blades of 3435 and 3437 are slightly splayed. 3438 has parallel-sided blades but the edges are not straight. All of the tweezers are undecorated. Their widths range from 4mm (3438) to 1.75mm (3436). The small dimensions may suggest they are from toilet sets.

### *Group B – lengths from 51 to 60mm*

There are 11 examples in this group (3439-49), eight of which are complete. Five are distorted. The group includes one very simply made pair (3443) which consists of a folded narrow strip only but with rounded ends rather than squared ones.

Of the undistorted pairs, five have straight blades although the angle between the blades varies. 3447 has slightly more curved blades. Ten examples have parallel-sided blades and only one, 3445, has definitely splayed ends. 3439 is decorated with an incised margin along the edges of the blades only. 3441 is a particularly fine example with parallel-sided and ? slightly splayed blades which are decorated with incised marginal lines and a central line of rings. Further, its suspension loop is narrower than the blades. A band remains coiled around the blades of 3447. File marks are clearly visible on the blades of 3445.

The widths are about 4mm or 5mm although that of **3443** is only 2.5mm and the blades of **3445** widen from 5mm to 6mm. The thickness ranges from 1mm (**3446, 3449**) to 1.25mm (**3439, 3442, 3444**).

*Group C – length from 64 to 71mm*

There are five complete examples of this group including two distorted pairs (**3450-4**). Three (**3451-3**) have straight blades. The blades of **3450** are asymmetrical, one being curved and the other straight. Four pairs have almost parallel-sided blades although **3450-51** taper by 0.5mm to the ends. The blades of **3453** are splayed at their ends. This example appears to be particularly well made with shaped ends with a bevelled inner edge. It is also decorated with a pair of marginal incised lines. **3454** is very crudely made and the ends are not turned inwards. It remains possible that this is not a pair of tweezers but a possible split pin.

The widths range from 4mm (**3451**) to 6mm (**3450, 3453**). The thicknesses are greater than those of the other groups being 1.5mm in four cases and 1.25mm in the case of **3452**.

*Fragments.*

Eleven examples are too fragmentary to be certain of their original length (**3455-65**). The group includes **3460** with its unusually wide blades at 6mm and **3464** with its particularly thick blade at 2mm. Both of the ends of **3456** are missing but the loop appears to be too well made for it to be a split pin. It is, however, particularly thick at 2.75mm which may argue for the latter function.

In addition to the copper alloy tweezers the database print-out records **6721** as a pair of iron tweezers.

## Nail cleaners

Bliss identified seven items as being copper alloy nail cleaners. In the database print-out only six are so described (**3485-90**). A seventh (identified as Box 50 Context E126 small find 59) has no entry in the database and it is not possible to identify any item that might correspond, allowing for any mistakes or mistyping in the discussion.

Bliss considered that Crummy's (1983) typology based on the Colchester material could not be helpfully applied to the Wroxeter material and so the latter was merely divided into two groups – simple and elaborate.

*Simple nail cleaners*

Four examples were included, all of different forms. Three consist of flat strips of varying thicknesses with notched ends. **3490** may be a beaten strip. It narrows to the neck and then flattens and expands to form a perforated spatulate end which is set at right angles to the shaft. **3489** consists of a shaft only. **3488** has a pin form with a flattened split end. The cleaners are about 50-55mm in length except **3489** which is 22mm in length. They vary in width from 2-4mm.

*Elaborate nail cleaners*

Three examples are included in this group. **3487** may represent Crummy's Type 3. All are cast but again each is of a very different form. **3485** consists of a strip decorated for its length with chip carving, silvering and possibly with gilding. **3486** has a plain square-sectioned shaft with a very unusual head form. This is a large rectangular block which decreases in width towards the rod shaft. On top is a small thick disc with burred edges. **3487** most closely resembles common types and has a straight rod with a suspension ring, a cross hatched collar and a plain biconical moulding below. This example is the longest in the collection, measuring 60mm in length; the other two are about 45mm in length.

## Spoon-probes and probes

Copper alloy spoon-probes (*Cyasthiscomeles*) are double-ended instruments usually consisting of a long shaft with an olivary enlargement at one end and a long cupped narrow blade at the other. Olivary probes (*spatomele*) could also be combined with spatulae where there was a flat oar-shaped blade.

There is one complete spoon-probe from Wroxeter (**3491**). It has a thick rod shaft with an olivary enlargement set at an angle at one end and a long shallow cupped spoon in the same plain at the other. It is a very simple example of this type of instrument and also a relatively small one being only 105mm long whereas those from Colchester (Crummy 1983) are 115-155mm. The probe end is 5mm in diameter and 21mm in length, and the spoon 6mm in width and 15mm in length.

There are also six instruments where only the olivary probe end is preserved (3492-7). The identification of **3492** as a probe is uncertain. It lacks any remains of a shaft and has a split end. Some are worn with a flattened end (**3492-4**). All of the shafts are circular-sectioned and are straight. The olivaries are set in the same plane as the shaft. In most cases the probe gradually graduates from the shaft, but in the case of **3497** the probe is well defined from a slender shaft.

The dimensions vary. The lengths range from 16mm (**3495**) to 22mm (**3493**); the diameters from 3.5mm (**3492**) to 5mm (**3494**). The diameters of the shaft range from 4mm (**3494**) to 1.5mm (**3493**).

## Other medical implements

Thirteen copper alloy items were assigned to this category by Bliss.

### *Scalpel*

Two parts of a scalpel handle that fitted together were found. (**3534/5**), consisting of a double-edged spatula (blunt dissector). It has a thin diamond-shaped section thinning towards each long edge on both sides. Both of the terminal points are broken. The handle is octagonal-sectioned and is sharply tapered to form a long neck at one end. At the other it is flattened and slightly pared with a wide slot (10mm long) to take the blade. The handle and dissector are 112mm long overall, the rod is 5.25mm in diameter and the maximum width of the blunt dissector is 8.5mm.

### *Spatulas*

Two objects (**3536** and **3537**) may be candidates for crude forms of the spatula as they are similar to Riha's Variant J (Riha 1986, 72-8, Tafn. 50-55). This is a primitive instrument made of sheet bronze with one end hammered flat to form a spatula and the other folded over to form a short shaft. No. **3537** is 29mm long overall.

### *Miscellaneous surgical instrument*

A sheet cone with a small hook at its apex and with the remains of ?wood in the socket (**3538**) may represent a surgical tool used in association with the sewing of wounds. It is 30mm long and 6mm wide. Of the two forms of this tool recognised by Riha, **3538** may be an example of her dull tool form consisting of a curved double hook on a conical hollow shaft which may have been attached to a shaft of bone. It is very similar in appearance and size to an example from Augst although the latter has rivet holes (Riha 1986, Taf. 58 nos. 644-7).

### *Handles*

Eight items were classified as handles for medical instruments. This was done by reference to their similarity to those in the collections of Augst and Kaiseraugst (Riha 1986). Obviously as the functional end is missing, certainty of identification is not possible, but in some cases the handle type

is associated with a single instrument type. They take a similar form: a rod with a tripartite division consisting of a pointed end, a swollen mid part decorated with punches or flutes, and a head form. The divisions are separated by collars or by more elaborate mouldings.

**3545** - the handle consists of an irregular sub-circular sectioned and tapering shaft which shows all three parts. One end tapers and is finely pointed and may have had a probe attached. It is separated from a middle section by a wide collar. The middle section is decorated by punched, possibly circular depressions to form a grip. The upper section consists of a reel and baluster mouldings. It is 180mm long and about 2.5mm in diameter. Similar handles are associated with spoon probes especially Riha's variant F (*cf* Riha 1986, Tafn. 42.452 and 46.503) and this handle may have had a spoon attached.

**3548** – this is similar to **3545** but less is extant. It is thicker with a diameter of 4 x 3.5mm. Only two parts survive, the lower end consisting of a tapering point and the middle section consisting of a grip of punched/cut ovals to give a roughened surface. Again a collar separates the two sections. The middle part is broken and the piece measures 37mm. It can be likened to the same objects as **3545** and to the handle of a sharp tool which Riha suggests may represent a surgeon's tool for sewing together wounds (Riha 1986, 84, Taf. 58.636)

**3549** – The handle again shows a tripartite division but instead of a punched grip has a fluted middle section. The end point is very sharp and it remains possible that this represents either a single-ended instrument or a broken and re-used double ended instrument with a re-sharpened point. Two collars created by incised lines separate the plain point from the fluted section. A casting ridge is also very prominent. It has a single disc collar at its broken end. It is 94mm long and 3mm in diameter.

Fluted and collared shafts are associated with spoon probes of variant C with winged necks and variant D with grooved shafts and cordons around the neck (Riha 1986, Tafn 40-43). They are also associated with spatula probes of variant E.

**3551** – Both ends of the handle are broken. One consists of a thin, plain, conical shape that may form the neck to a spoon, or perhaps more likely to the shaft of a probe. This is separate from a fluted straight and swollen shaft by two collars and a baluster moulding. The other end is also broken. The shaft diameter is 2.5mm and the broken length 70.5mm. At Augst this form is associated with spoon-probes of variant D (Riha 1986, Taf. 41-3).

**3547** - The handle is very corroded but may represent a third example of a handle with a fluted shaft which is divided into three sections. Two may exist here. The end is pointed and bears little evidence of having been broken, it may thus represent a point. There is very slight evidence of a collar and the middle portion appears to be flutes. A casting ridge is visible. The other end is broken and split. The diameter is 3.5mm and its broken length is 78mm.

**3550** – Although it is quite corroded, the handle is again divided into three sections and has a fluted shaft. The end tapers and is broken. A groove separates this section from the fluted centre, although the grooves may result from corrosion. The shaft is swollen and tapers to a trapezoidal plate with little wings projecting from the mid-point. At the plate/shaft junction there is a rectangular-sectioned moulding. The plate forms the neck of a spoon (now missing) and a probe is usually attached at the other end. The broken length is 72mm, the shaft is 2.5mm in diameter and the spoon neck is 18,25mm long and 7.5mm in width at its centre. Similar handles are classified as spoon-probe variant C and spatula probe variant A, though fewer of the latter have a fluted shaft. None of the Augst examples provide an exact parallel for this piece.

**3546** – This consists of the very end of at least a two-, and most probably a three-, sectioned handle. The shaft is finely tapered to a broken point. At the broken end there is a fine collar with possibly a very small part of a fluted shaft above, but this is not clear. The diameter of this point is 1.5mm.

## Mirrors

The copper alloy mirror fragments were classified according to Lloyd-Morgan's 1981 typology. As most of the pieces were without intact edges, most had to be assigned to her Group Z – fragments.

### *Group A – rectangular mirrors*

There is only one certain example of this type (**3498**). The piece has two straight edges which may be bevelled. Both surfaces are covered by light and dark green corrosion and so their finish, or lack of it, cannot be observed. The piece measures 27 x 23 x 2.5mm. **3507** has one intact edge and is assigned in the database as A/ZA so may also have been a rectangular mirror.

### *Group Z – fragments*

Nine fragments are included here and can be grouped according to the sub-groups Lloyd-Morgan assigned on the basis of the finish.

Sub-group a consists of fragments which are highly polished on one side and left rough on the other. It includes fragments of rectangular and disc mirrors. Eight pieces were placed here (**3499-3505**, and possibly **3507**). Only **3499**, **3501** and **3507** may have an intact bevelled edge. All the pieces are tinned, though **3503** may be silvered. One piece is put in Sub-group Zc (**3506**) which includes fragments which are so badly preserved that their full identification is not possible. It has punched depressions and so may not represent a mirror at all. On the database **3508** is described as uncertain and is not assigned a Lloyd-Morgan group number.

The thickness of the pieces divides the collection into two groups; one containing pieces about 1-2.5mm (five examples), and the other containing pieces of about 4-5mm thickness (6 examples).

## Combs and comb-cases

### *Combs*

Fourteen components of an unknown number of composite antler combs were recovered. Bliss stated they consisted of three end segments, four pieces of connection plates and seven single teeth. There are some problems with identifying precisely which entry in the database print-out ties up with the discussion as few finds numbers were given in the latter. The print-out clearly says that **469**, **472-3**, **475**, **478-9** and **481** are teeth or probably teeth. The teeth vary in length from 32mm (**481**) to 20mm (**479** and **473**). The illustrations and print-out allow two of the end-plates to be identified. One (**470**) is concave and decorated with ring and dot motifs. A second (**471**) has a sinuous outline and is decorated with ring and dot motifs on both sides. The third example is described as being plain with a straight edge. It is also stated to be the most complete example with two teeth still attached. This cannot be identified. She stated that are three connection plates decorated with grooves and one plain one. The database print-out states that **468**, **472**, **475**, **477** and **480** are connecting plates. The illustration of **472** clearly shows that it is a tooth plate and Bliss correctly identified the latter in her discussion. **468** is clearly a grooved connecting plate and retains three notches from the cutting of the teeth on one side. It is possible that there might have been some confusion in the coding and that this is the missing piece identified as a terminal.

### *Comb Case*

Greep (1983) suggested that **235** represented a comb case. It consists of two bone strips riveted together with copper alloy rivets and decorated with ring and dot motifs and with grooves along the

margins. It is 86mm long and 18mm wide. It is possible that **237** may represent half of a similar object.

The case from Wroxeter may have been for either a single-sided comb or is part of a case for a double-sided comb although there are not any clear signs of breakage. Single sided cases consist of a pair of rectangular-sided plates which were deep enough to enclose the whole length of the teeth and are separated by a pair of vertically orientated spacer plates. The whole structure is fastened by iron rivets at the end (MacGregor 1985, 96-8). Comb cases are known from Saxon contexts and in 1986 Bliss noted that none of the combs from Roman graves had been associated with a single comb case<sup>1</sup>, and went on to point out that **235** could be paralleled by examples from Saxon contexts, e.g. the case from Linton, Cambs. (Archaeology and Anthropology Museum, University of Cambridge).

## Palette

Fragments of seven stone palettes were catalogued in the database print-out (**8336-42**) though in one case the entry suggested it could have been a counter. (**8341**)

## Stirring-rods

Three fragments of twisted rods in blue/green glass (**9137-9**) were tentatively identified as stirring rods of Isings (1957 Form 79). Bliss was cautious about identifying them as stirring rods especially given the small diameter (4mm) of **9139** but they all fall within the variation seen in the type.

## *Pyxides*

The small finds appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 251) states that there were two examples in bone. Neither Bliss's reports on the bone etc artefacts, nor the database print-out record any such artefact. Nor is there any obvious entries for such items which might have been given another name.

## Strigil

**6722** is stated to be an iron strigil with a curved blade.

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<sup>1</sup> . To my knowledge this is still a valid observation. Furthermore, it can be noted that the double-sided composite comb from Grave 36 at St Martin's Close Winnal, Winchester was protected by an elaborately inlaid wooden box (Rees *et al* 2008, 108-111), not a more utilitarian comb case. HEMC

## Possible other toilet and medical implements

In addition to the items identified as toilet and medical implements in the small finds appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 251), the archive contains a report by Bliss discussing possible additional items of copper alloy that might belong to this category. The reason for not placing them with the other toilet and medical items was that she had not been able to find close parallels for them, whereas the others could be paralleled.

### *Pestle?*

No. **3539** consists of a swollen, waisted, thick shaft with collars at each end, and with one end terminating in a disc foot with convex section; the other end is broken. It is perhaps made of leaded bronze/. Its broken length is 45mm and the pestle is 13mm in diameter. It may represent a pestle though these are rarely recorded in the literature though see an example from Cologne (Milne 1907, 165-6, pl. LII fig. 1).

### *Spoon or stirrer ?*

No. **3540** consists of a tapering circular-section shaft with one pointed end and the other expanded and flattened into an oval form with a deep central groove on one side. It is 96mm long, 5.5mm wide (max.) and 3mm thick. No parallels were found but it is reminiscent of bone cosmetic spoon of Greep (1983) Type B2 which have grooved bowls of a similar width to the shaft.

### *Long narrow spoon bowl*

No. **3544** consists of a cupped long and narrow spoon bowl of Crummy Type 2 (Crummy 1983, 60). It is 44mm long, 7.5mm wide and 4mm deep. Such bowl were attached to both toilet spoon and spoon-probes.

### *Screw from clamp?*

No. **3541** consists of a thick straight rod with a finely cut continuous thread with a plain section at one end. The thread is so carefully cut that it strongly recommends that it was used with a precision instrument such as the clamps used in a medical capacity (Martin Henig *pers comm*).

### *Forceps terminal ?*

No. **3543** is a wedge-shaped terminal with a thin-sectioned extension set inwards and with the remains of a broken circular-sectioned shaft at the other end. This is very similar to a blade from a pair of forceps (see Künzl 1983, 109. fig. 86 no. 4).

### *Medical instrument handle ?*

**3545** has not been placed in the category 'handles from medical instruments of uncertain or unknown use' as those items include objects with parallels. This is not exactly paralleled although handles with similar baluster terminals are associated with medical instruments from Augst and Kaiseraugst (Riha 1986). It consists of two balusters with a series of collars below. The shaft then thickens markedly and is curved. At the end there is a shallow slot for a ?blade.

### *Nail cleaner ?*

**3556** is a D-sectioned rod with one end flattened and expanded and the other forked and possibly zoomorphic (?beaked head). The presence of a forked end lends to the possibility of the object being used as a nail cleaner. The rod is looped, it is 54mm long, 5.5mm wide at the head and 4.5mm wide at the foot.

### *Chatelaines?*

No. **3555** consists of a half loop of a ? pinched D-shape with a disc end perforated and with a small rivet still *in situ*. The loop is suggested to have been used as a chatelaine owing to a similar hoop from Colchester used to carry a toilet set (Crummy 1983, fig. 67 no. 1941). Bliss observed that similar-shaped loops were used as buckles on body armour. She also noted that in 1989 Dr Martin Henig had

suggested that **3554** might be a chatelaine. The rod has a disc terminal which is grooved around its edge and from which extends a curved moulding.

*Instrument with three pronged fork ends.*

Two objects have a similar functional ends – a flat-sectioned trident fork. No. **3552** has a similarly shaped shaft which expands slightly at the broken end. No. **3553** has a round-sectioned shaft and is a double-ended instrument although the second end is now missing. It is more elaborate than **3552**. The forked end has a moulded neck consisting of a barrel and rectangular shape. A similar-shaped moulding exists at the broken end. The fork has three deep grooves. The diameter of the shaft is 3mm, the forked end is 5mm wide and 17.5mm long. Its broken length is 78mm.