

# NEW BRONZE AGE FINDS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

[July 29, 2011](#)[Steven Matthews](#)[Day of Archaeology](#), [Day of Archaeology 2011](#),[Education](#), [Finds](#), [Museum Archaeology](#), [Prehistory](#)[Ben Roberts](#), [British Columbia](#), [British Isles](#),[British Museum](#), [Bronze Age](#), [curator](#), [Department of Prehistory and Europe](#), [doctoral researcher](#),[Europe](#), [Finds Liaison Officer](#), [Groningen Institute of Archaeology](#), [Hoard](#), [hoards](#), [http](#), [local Finds Liaison Officer](#), [London](#), [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#), [specialist](#), [The Netherlands](#), [UK](#), [United Kingdom](#), [University of Groningen](#)

We have a morning mystery. I have no idea what to expect when I get to the British Museum at 10am, other than there will be two hoards, both from the Late Bronze Age, c. 950-800 cal. BC., that have recently been found, and I have to identify the contents and write a specialist report.

If any of you have ever watched Time Team, you'll know that archaeologists come in all shapes and sizes, and do numerous different jobs. So, we don't all dig. At least not all the time. Rather than putting trowel to dirt, I spend most of my time routing around in museum archives looking through collections of artefacts.

I'm a doctoral researcher at the Groningen Institute of Archaeology, University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. I am doing my PhD on the use of bronze weapons, that is rapiers and swords, of the Later Bronze Age in southern England, c. 1400-950 cal. BC.

I'm what they call a metalwork expert, specialised in the bronze artefacts of the Bronze Age, in my case covering what is known as the Atlantic Bronze Age, being the British Isles, coastal and Channel France, the southern Low Countries, and Iberia. I currently live in London, and am in the last 6 weeks of writing up my thesis.

However, I was asked on Wednesday evening by the British Museum's Curator of European Bronze Age archaeology in the Department of Prehistory and Europe, Dr. Ben Roberts, if I would stop by the British Museum and have a look at two new Late Bronze Age hoards that have just been discovered. Upon discovery they were reported to their local museum,

where a Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme would have reported and listed the objects. They have subsequently come to the British Museum to be studied and a short, specialist report produced on them.

It's these specialist reports, known as treasury Reports, that I'm going to be working on today, and blogging about.

I have no idea what to expect when I get to the British Museum, other than there will be two hoards, both from the Late Bronze Age, c. 950-800 cal. BC, and that there are fragments of sword and socketed axe in them...

Further details about the Portable Antiquities Scheme, your local Finds Liaison Officer and what to do if you find something that you may believe to be of historical and archaeological significance can be found on the Portable Antiquities Website. Elsewhere on the Day of Archaeology site you'll also find members of the Portable Antiquities Scheme blogging about their days too.