

The (non-ceramic) accessioned finds and nails

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Summary of accessioned finds by material and period

Material	Roman	Medieval	Post-med	Not known	Total	Comment
Copper alloy	0	4	2	0	6	
Stone				1	1	
Totals		4	2	1	7	

1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

There are seven non-ceramic accessioned finds, six made from brass or copper-alloy and one stone. The finds have been accessioned in accordance with MOLA procedures and the digitised records are held on the Oracle database. All objects were examined individually, with the aid of x-rays where appropriate and archive catalogue entries entered on to the database.

1.1.1.2 Categories by dating and materials

1.1.1.2.1 MEDIEVAL

Copper alloy

Four copper-alloy finds, a pin (<1> [145]), two short lengths of wire (<2> [148], <6> [155]) and a corroded possible brooch fragment which may be Roman and residual (<3>, [148]) were found in medieval grave contexts. The pin is a plain dress pin, 32mm long, with a shank made from fine brass wire and a twisted flattened wound wire head. It is a type common throughout the medieval period, often used to fasten female veils and linen headdresses (Pritchard in Egan and Pritchard 2002, 297) as well as for other purposes. In this instance it was found between the knees of an adult skeleton (fill [146]) and is likely to be a shroud pin (cf Egan in Bull et al 2011, 121). The lengths of wire were also found between the knees of adult skeletons (fills [148], [155]). One (<2>) has a pointed end, is 42mm long, with a thin flattened gauge of c. 0.5mm. The other (<6>) (length 22mm) is much thicker (c 1.5mm) with a round gauge. Their function is not known, although it is just possible that the thin piece with a pointed end (<2>) could have functioned as a pin.

Iron

There are pieces from up to 14 large flat-headed iron nails from five grave cuts ([175], [181], [184], [188], [196]). No coffins survived but they are likely to be coffin nails, although it is surprising that there are not more of them.

1.1.1.2.2 POST-MEDIEVAL

Copper alloy

Two short broken lengths of brass wire (<4>, [122], <5>, [122]) and part of a possible stone hone were found in the dumped soil overlying the cemetery. The soapstone hone (possibly a touchstone) (<12>, [95]) was found in a context with 18th-century pottery and pipes. It flat and petal-shaped, tapering to a fine point pierced with two small suspension-holes, one of

which is broken, the other probably a replacement. This may be an imported item, possibly Indian; the smooth highly micaceous soapstone is not of British origin and the shape is highly unusual.

Functional analysis

1.1.1.2.3 MEDIEVAL

Three of the four finds from medieval grave cuts (a pin and two lengths of wire) may be shroud or clothing-related.

1.1.1.3 *Provenance of objects*

Four finds were found in medieval grave cuts, though one of these may be residual. The other two finds (lengths of wire) were found in the post-medieval dumping.

1.1.1.4 *The Assessment work outstanding*

None

1.1.1.4.1 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR INVESTIGATIVE CONSERVATION

None

1.1.1.4.2 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR ILLUSTRATION

Possibly pin <1>

2 Analysis of potential

2.1 Accessioned finds

The medieval accessioned finds were associated with skeletons in grave cuts and have potential to provide information about the circumstances of burial. A pin, found between a skeleton's knees, is probably a shroud pin. The two short lengths of wire were also found in this position but their function is unknown although one, with a pointed end might also have been used as a fastening.

3 Significance of the data

The medieval finds are significant because of their association with the bodies in the grave cuts. Finds from medieval (and post-medieval) graves are relatively rare.

4 Revised Research aims

None

5 Method statements

Basically you can use what I've written above (*Categories by date and materials*)

Bibliography

Bull, R, Davis, S, Lewis, H and Phillpotts, C 2011 *Holywell Priory and the development of Shoreditch to c 1600* MOLA Monog. 53

Egan, G and Pritchard, F 2002 (reprint) *Dress Accessories 1150–1450* Museum of London