

Liz Glynn: *Lost and Found*



Liz Glynn
Lost and Found (Snettisham Jeweler's Hoard), 2012
Pit-fired ceramic and painted plywood
48 x 28 x 16 inches
LG12068

Jeweler's Hoard
c AD 155
Snettisham, Norfolk
Collection of the British Museum

This hoard, found during construction in 1985, represents part of the stock of a jeweler working in the area in the second century AD.

Pot: The container for the hoard is a grey-ware vessel made locally. Though it looks small, its spherical shape gives it a surprisingly large capacity of slightly over one and a half liters, and it easily contained all the objects. The bracelets, however, had to be bent or broken to pass through its narrow mouth.

Coins: There are 110 coins in the hoard, 83 silver and 27 bronze. A high proportion of the silver coins are of the Emperor Domitian (reigned AD 81-96), and were already around 70 years old when the hoard was assembled; they were almost certainly being melted down for conversion into jewelry.

Gems: All the engraved gems (117) are of carnelian, and most of them (110) are unmounted, awaiting setting in suitable rings. The style of engraving is very simple, and there is no reason to doubt that the gem-engravers worked within, or in association with, the jewelry workshop.

Jewelry: Because this is a manufacturer's hoard that can be closely dated, the large series of similar rings are particularly interesting. They show the range of variation possible in a single type at one time and place. There is a series of standard Roman gem-set rings, and an even larger group of snake-rings of a simple type which were mass-produced using hammer and dies. The chains, necklace-clasps and pendants belong to standard early-Roman types, but the snake-bracelets are of a stylized form best known in Britain.

Scrap metal: The hoard contains scrap silver in the form of fragments and offcuts of jewelry and roughly shaped bar ingots. The six pieces of scrap gold in the pot suggest that the workshop may also have made gold jewelry.

Excerpted from <http://www.britishmuseum.org>





Liz Glynn
Lost and Found (Vale of York Hoard), 2012
Pit-fired ceramic and painted plywood
41 x 23 x 20 inches
LG12070

Vale of York
927 – 298 AD
Collection of the British Museum

This is the most fabulous Viking treasure discovered in the UK in 150 years. The most spectacular single object in the hoard is a gilt silver cup or bowl, made in mainland Europe around the middle of the ninth century. The cup is decorated with running animals; two lions and four beasts of prey each looking rather startled. It was apparently intended for use in church services, and was probably either looted from a monastery by Vikings or given to them in tribute. Most of the smaller objects were hidden inside this vessel, which was itself protected by some form of lead container. As a result, the hoard is extremely well preserved. Other star objects include a rare gold arm-ring and 617 coins, including several new or rare types. The evidence of the coins allows us to date the hoard very closely to the period 927-928. The Vikings conquered Northumbria and took York as its capital in AD 869. The area remained under Viking control until it was conquered by Athelstan in AD 927. Athelstan destroyed York's fortifications and distributed the wealth of the city amongst his followers. He demanded tributes in silver from the other northern leaders. The hoard was probably buried for safety during this unrest. This hoard shows the range of cultural contacts in Viking Yorkshire, with objects coming from as far apart as Afghanistan in the East and Ireland in the West, as well as Russia, Scandinavia and continental Europe. There are coins relating to Islam and to the pre-Christian religion of the Vikings, as well as to Christianity.

The hoard was discovered in North Yorkshire in January 2007 by two metal detectorists, who thankfully kept the find intact and promptly reported it. It was jointly purchased for more than £1m by the British Museum and York Museums Trust in 2009.

Excerpted from <http://www.britishmuseum.org>





Liz Glynn
Lost and Found (Dorchester Hoard), 2012
Pit-fired ceramic and painted plywood
51 x 36 x 21 inches
LG12069

Dorchester Hoard
251 – 253 AD
Collection of the British Museum

On May 11th 1936 a workman engaged in construction in South Street, Dorchester, uncovered two bronze vessels and the remains of a wooden keg containing 22,121 silver coins from the third century. The coins were subsequently declared a treasure trove and taken to the British Museum where they were cleaned and recorded. The British Museum retained 3000 coins and a further 1500 went to the Dorchester Museum. The remainders were disposed of by the finder. The Dorchester Hoard was deposited c.260 AD and comprises almost entirely silver Antoniniani with the earliest of Julia Domna and the latest of Valerian II. In total the hoard contained 8890 coins of Gordian III and nearly 5,000 of Philip I but with over 600 of Volusian and about 120 of Elagabalus, plus fewer examples of other emperors.

Excerpted from <http://www.hadriancoins.com>





Liz Glynn
Lost and Found (El-Amarna Hoard), 2012
Pit-fired ceramic and painted plywood
30 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 40 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
LG12072

El-Amarna Hoard
18th Dynasty, 14th century BC
Egypt
Collection of the British Museum

Egypt's earliest money, these ingots and metal rings date from the fourteenth century BC and were found at el-Amarna. They give us rare archaeological evidence for Egypt's earliest money system. Before coins started to circulate in ancient Egypt around 500 BC, there was a system of values based on weights of gold, silver and copper. Metal measured in units of weight known as *deben* (around 90 g) could be used to settle bills and to trade.

Records from the Eighteenth Dynasty (1550-1295 BC) show that often the actual metal did not change hands; instead it was used to value goods for exchange. Egypt had no easily accessible source of silver, but the Egyptian word for silver, *hedj*, came to mean something close to 'money'. The complete ingots from el-Amarna weigh around 3 *deben* (265-286 g) and the rings seem to be fractions of the *deben*.

Excerpted from <http://www.britishmuseum.org>





Liz Glynn
Lost and Found (Salisbury Hoard), 2012
Pit-fired ceramic and painted plywood
24 x 21 x 18 inches
LG12067

Salisbury Hoard
Bronze Age and Iron Age, 2400-200 BC
Netherhampton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, England
Collection of the British Museum

An archaeological detective story, the Salisbury Hoard is the largest group of prehistoric metal objects ever found in Britain. It first came to light in 1988, when archaeologist Dr. Ian Stead was shown a collection of bronze miniature shields. He realized that they were unusual Iron Age artifacts, but did not know who found them or where they came from. As he investigated, Dr. Stead heard rumors that they were among hundreds of objects found in the Salisbury area. It then took years of detective work, including secret meetings in a pub, to uncover the story.

Two metal detectorists had discovered the hoard during an illegal search and had sold the objects to dealers. Proper excavations in 1993 established that over 600 objects had been deposited in a large pit close to a settlement. Most were miniature versions of objects such as shields, tools, daggers and spearheads. They were probably buried as offerings to ancient gods. The shields, for example, may have been intended to bring good luck in warfare. They were buried about 2000 years ago, at which time some of the objects were already 2000 years old. These were possibly Bronze Age objects dug up in the Iron Age and reburied with the other items.

Excerpted from <http://www.britishmuseum.org>

