

# Roman Finds from Skeldergate and Bishophill

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## Introduction

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Excavations took place in Skeldergate and Bishophill in advance of the construction of an electricity sub-station and a car park. The sites lie within the area of the Roman *colonia* at the foot and the top, respectively, of a terrace overlooking the River Ouse. This report deals with the small finds from the sites; a full discussion of the excavations is contained in *AY* 4/1, while a synopsis of the results is included below.

At Skeldergate (Fig. 16) a section was cut by machine through the long axis of the site within which various Roman features were observed but not excavated. An old ground surface was located and there was evidence that the land had been terraced in the late 1st or early 2nd century. At the north-east end of this trench, excavation revealed a sequence of seven Roman roads of the late 1st to the late 4th centuries. These probably represented a riverside road. A trial trench produced evidence substantiating Roman occupation in the western area of the site and there was some investigation of various other Roman features. The limited areas of the excavation prevented definitive interpretations. The features ranged in date from the 2nd to the 4th century. Amongst them was a timber-lined well. The well back-filling was excavated and the well lining and shoring partially dismantled. There was also a limited investigation of associated features within the area surrounding the well top. The well was constructed in the late 2nd or 3rd century and continued in use until the late 4th century. It was back-filled at some time in the 4th century and perhaps later, and was eventually covered by the levels associated with the construction of an Anglian timber building.

The sequence at Bishophill (Fig. 16) may be divided broadly into three periods. In the first period, three ditches, probably for drainage and enclosure, and scattered post-holes suggested the beginnings of sporadic settlement along the hillside during the 2nd century AD. The second period was marked by the construction of a terrace, probably during the late 2nd century. No retaining wall was located, but this would probably have lain outside the limit of the excavation. Three ranges of masonry buildings represent the third period: the chronological relationships between the three ranges could not be determined, but it seems that the buildings were no longer standing by the later Roman period. Range 1 was probably the *caldarium* of a bath suite. It had an apse at one end. A side apse may have belonged to an earlier version of the building. Adjacent drains presumably serviced the bath suite. It was not apparent whether Ranges 2 and 3 were fully roofed; both may have had floors of slabs. The dimensions and position of Range 3 suggest that it might have been a portico, perhaps fronting a building to its south-east:

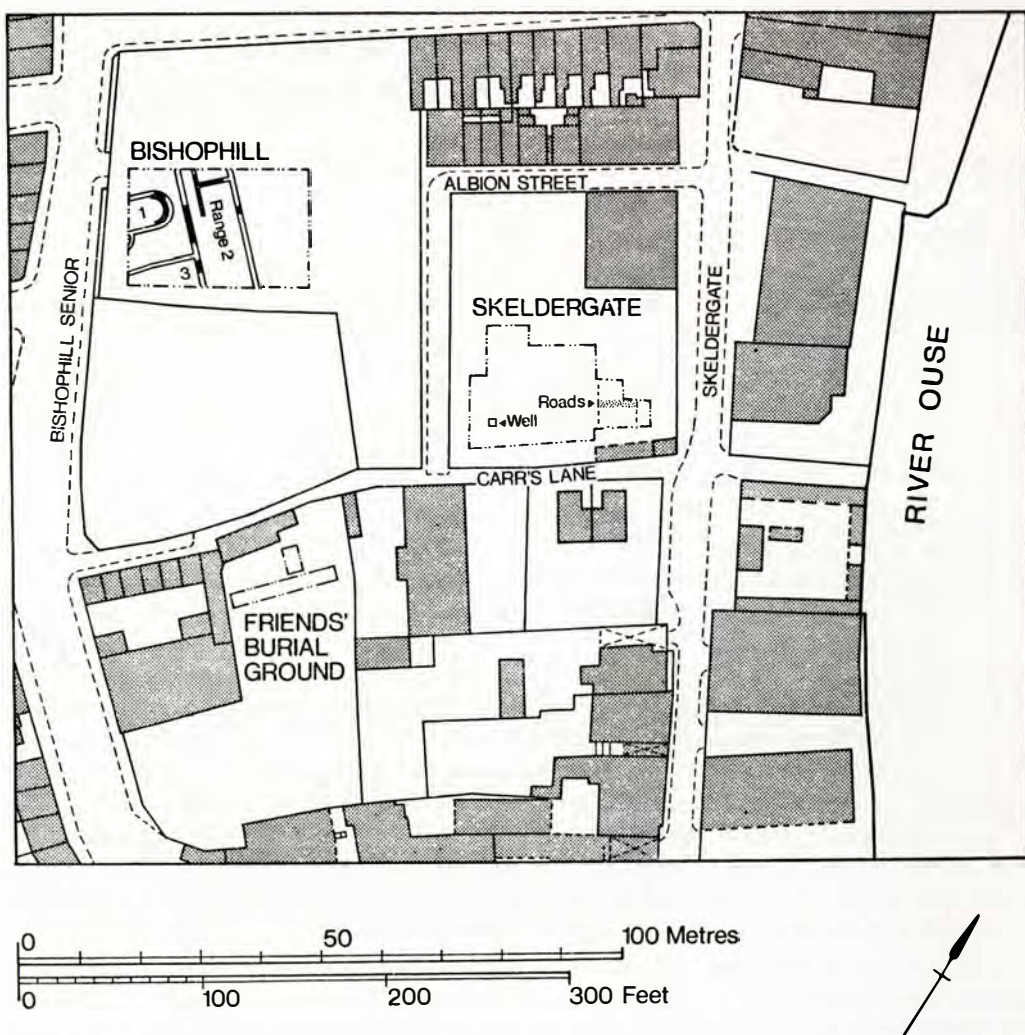


Fig. 16 Location plan and principal features of the sites at Bishophill and Skeldergate. Scale 1: 1250. (Based upon the Ordnance Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved)

this would be consistent with the possibility of a paved court between Ranges 1 and 3. Several isolated fragments of drains may have been associated with the buildings. The scale of the building and of the terracing on this site would be appropriate either for private or public undertakings. The structures on the terrace may have been substantial town houses or part of an extensive public bath house.

Eight of the finds discussed below (154–61) are from an earlier excavation carried out by the Trust in the Bishophill area. In advance of the building of a block of flats in the former Friends'

Burial Ground, adjacent to the Bishophill site, a brief examination was made on the lines of the new foundation trenches. While clear traces of Roman occupation were discovered, the areas investigated were so limited in size that interpretation was rendered virtually impossible.

Finds from each of these excavations are catalogued below (pp. 59–61). The catalogues are arranged first by *site* and then by *material*, while objects from all three sites are discussed together in the text according to their *class* or *function*. Concordance lists arranged by *context* follow the catalogues on pp. 61–2. Finds from Skeldergate bear the accession numbers 1973.14, 1974.14 and 1975.14, Bishophill finds, 1973.15 and finds from the Friends' Burial Ground 1973.6; all are now deposited in the Yorkshire Museum.

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## The Finds

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### Gaming Counters (Fig. 17)

Three of the large stone discs (269–71) from the 4th century fill of the well at Skeldergate may have been used together as gaming counters; another (272) is of the same type. The game involved may simply have been an outdoor version of one of those described before (p. 2ff., AY 17/1), or it may have taken quite a different form; in view of the size and coarseness of the pieces concerned, we may assume that it was played on the ground or on some paved surface. Alternatively, these may be diminutive examples of the series of larger discs sometimes interpreted as tallies or pot lids, represented here by 162 from Bishophill (see also AY 4/1, 41, fig. 18, 4).

Some smaller and more conventional counters were also found, including examples reworked from potsherds (166–7, 278) and others manufactured from glass (182–3) and bone 160, 345). The two glass counters are well matched in size and, being coloured black and white respectively, would have been from opposing sets; they may be compared with three smaller examples from the sewer in Church Street (59–61, p. 3, AY 17/1). Of the two bone counters, 345, from a 4th century road surface at Skeldergate, is an interesting precursor of the many similar plano-convex pieces of Anglo-Saxon date and differs from the more conventional Roman form with a slightly concave obverse surface as displayed by 160 (cf. also 79–99 from Church Street).

### Bracelets (Fig. 18)

Of four jet bracelets recovered, three plain examples (163–5) have cross-sections varying from D-shaped to ovate, while a fourth (274) has a wide rectangular section. The opposed V-notch decoration on either side of the outer periphery of 274 may be paralleled elsewhere in York (RCHMY 1, 144); it also occurs in shale from Clausentum (Cotton and Gathercole, 1958, 45, fig. 13, 7) and in shale and jet from Verulamium (Frere, 1972, 152, fig. 56, 216, fig. 57, 220); a similar motif appears on what is probably a piece of decorative inlay from Bishophill (275, see Fig. 31). Two bracelets of green glass with blue and white spiral cordons (184, 281) belong to Kilbride-Jones's Type 2, dated to the late 1st or 2nd century (Kilbride-Jones, 1938, 372ff.), and may be compared with 65, again from Church Street (p. 6, AY 17/1).



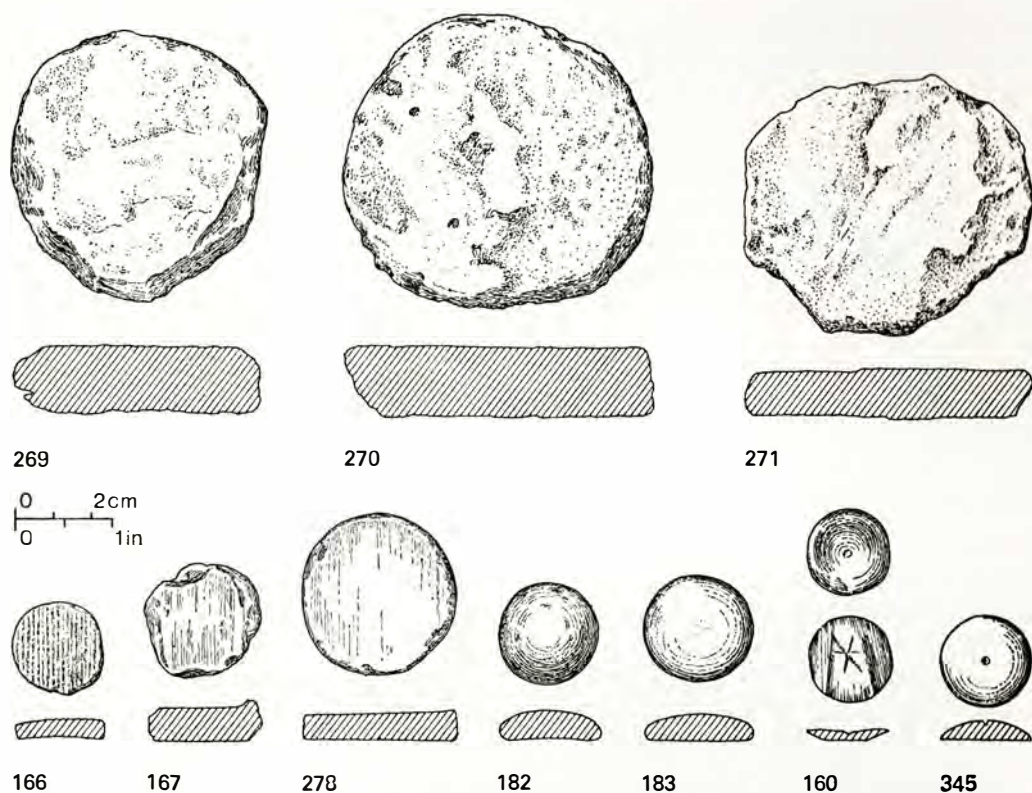


Fig. 17 Gaming counters of stone (269–71), pottery (166–7, 278), glass (182–3) and bone (160, 345). Scale 1:2

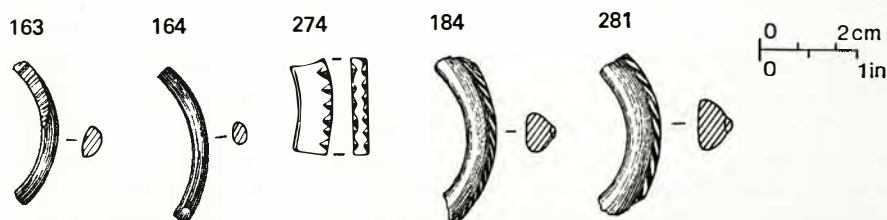


Fig. 18 Bracelets of jet (163–4, 274) and glass (184, 281). Scale 1:2

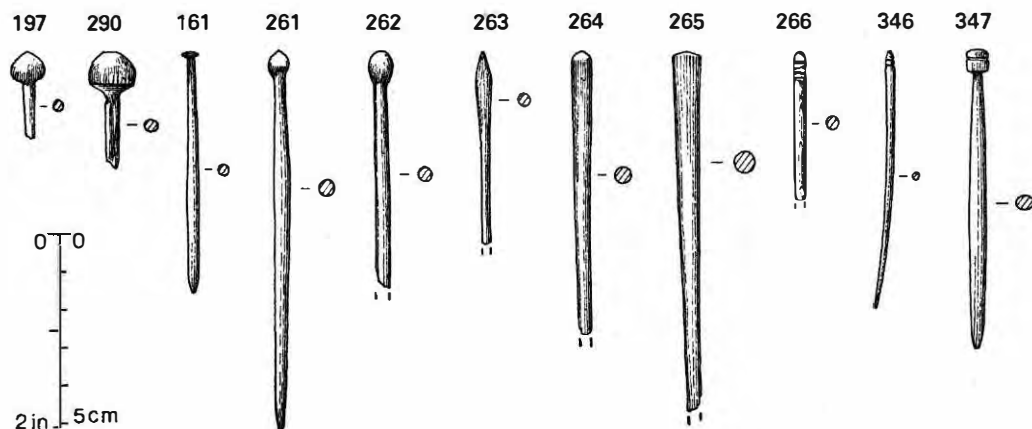


Fig. 19 Pins of silver (197), copper alloy (290) and bone (161, 261–6, 346–7). Scale 1:2

## Pins (Fig. 19)

All the pins encountered fall within the normal range of Roman types. Some (161, 261–2) have swelling shanks while the others (263–6, 346) have straight sides tapering towards the tip. No. 197 is of silver, now largely converted to sulphides, while one of the bone pins (266) is noteworthy in that it is evenly stained over its entire surviving length to a pale green colour. Decorative staining of bone and ivory was common in later periods, green being particularly favoured, and the practice has already been noted during the Roman period (Harrison, 1972, 155),<sup>1</sup> so that it seems likely that the staining in this instance was deliberate and not caused accidentally by contact with copper salts.

## Pipeclay figurines (Fig. 20)

**Dr Frank Jenkins** contributes the following report:

The more complete of these moulded white clay figurines (277) belongs to a type of so-called 'portrait' bust made during the 2nd century AD in central Gaul, where a number of *officinae* specializing in the production of moulded clay statuettes, busts, etc., were established in the Allier region, with Toulon-sur-Allier as one of the principal centres of the industry. These busts were produced in moulds, one for the front and one for the back, and the resultant casts were then luted together, the joints being obscured by trimming with a knife or spatula. A demi-mould for a bust of this type found in the Allier region is illustrated by Tudot (1860, 26, pls. 7–8, text fig. XXXII). Several versions were evidently made in different moulds — compare the series from various sites in the museum at St Germain-en-Laye (Rouvier-Jeanlin, 1972, 262 ff.).

The subject portrayed is a round-faced, bald-headed, bare-shouldered, youthful male personage, who has rather prominently projecting ears and a simpering smile. The bust is mounted on a small plinth which takes the form of a hollow truncated cone, to the front of which a small flat disc of clay is attached.

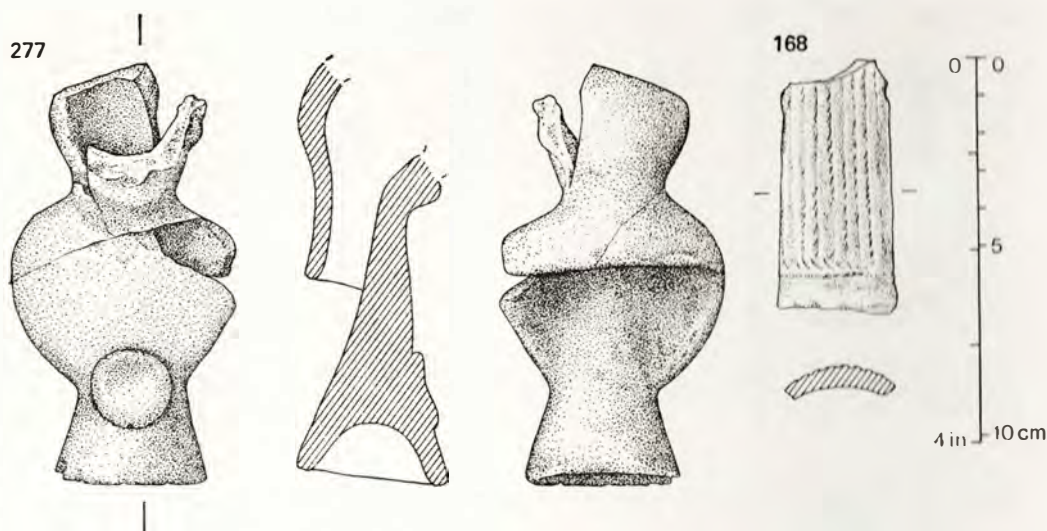


Fig. 20 Pipeclay figurines. Scale 1:2

These busts had a widespread distribution, either as a result of trade or from being carried in the personal possessions of travellers. Two examples have been found in Britain — in London (Guildhall Museum, 1908, pl. XV.1, 2106; Jenkins, 1969, 322ff., pl. CXXVII, fig. 4, 51) and in York (RCHMY 1, 69, pl. 31)<sup>2</sup> respectively. The example under discussion is therefore the second found in York.

The true identity of the youthful figure is quite unknown. Tudot asserted that the smiling expression signified that a god named Risus, i.e. 'the smiling one', was intended, but there is not a scrap of evidence to support this highly fanciful identification. Blanchet (1891, 199) firmly rejected it, and remarked that the name Risus could be used only as a convenient archaeological label for identifying this type of bust in future publications.

It seems that these busts had some role to play in Romano-Gaulish religious cults. One example was found in the precincts of a temple of Romano-Celtic type at Gusenburg (Hunsrück), where it had been proffered as an *ex voto* (Hettner, 1901, 92, Taf. XIII, 45, 18696). The example found in London accompanied a cremation burial (Jenkins, 1969, 322ff.), and a similar context is suspected in the case of the earlier find from York for, although it was a stray find, the find-place was in the Fishergate area, occupied in the 1st and 2nd century by a small cremation cemetery (RCHMY 1, 69).

The reason for the curious custom of placing busts of this type in graves is quite unknown. It is very obvious that we cannot regard them as actual portraits (*imagines*) of either the dead person or one of his ancestors, for being mass-produced mechanical copies there are far too many identical or closely similar versions found elsewhere. Being of a very low order of provincial plastic art, it is impossible to identify the personage as a member of one of the imperial families; nor can we say with certainty that these busts were copies of an original fine-art type, cheaply produced to meet a popular demand, as expressions of the loyalty of certain individuals to the Emperor of the time. Without stressing the point here, it could be that the smiling youth may have been regarded as a benign semi-divine spirit who was supposed to ward off evil influences from the living and, equally, from the dead on their last journey into the underworld.



A fragment from a second piece (168) is of similar hard, fine white clay and clearly depicts the back of a wickerwork chair, for it displays the weave of the basketry. Made by the mould technique, the statuette to which it belonged would have portrayed a matron, evidently a mother-goddess, seated on a basket chair in the act of suckling either one or two infants. For that reason, although her true identity is unknown, she is usually referred to as the *dea nutrix* (Jenkins, 1957, pl. I, a-b, pl. II; *Current Archaeology*, 3 (1967), 78).

The basket chair is a characteristic feature of the numerous clay statuettes of the goddess. It has a high rounded back which supports the matron up to the level of her shoulders, and the sides are curved round to form the arm-rests. All these chairs apparently stand on the ground on semicircular bases without any feet. Although the definition varies from statuette to statuette depending on the quality of the moulding, the woven wickerwork and the outlines of the vertical canes which supported it are always discernible. There is also a band of plaited design outlining the edges of the back and the sides of the chair, but on the present example this is absent due to breakage. With only one exception, from Canterbury,<sup>3</sup> all the examples of this type of statuette at present known to have been found in Britain, including that from York, have the pattern of the weave indicated rather sketchily by short obliquely incised lines arranged in herringbone formation in vertical bands up the sides and the backs of the chairs. This is common to the majority of the statuettes of the *dea nutrix* type which do not bear the names of the makers, but were certainly a speciality of the potters who worked in the *officinae* centred on Toulon-sur-Allier in Central Gaul (Tudot, 1860, 26, pl. 29; Rouvier-Jeanlin, 1972, pls. 306-81). The date at which the basket chair first appeared in Western Europe is uncertain, but the type had become firmly established on the carved stone and marble reliefs of the West by the second century of our era, to which time these statuettes of the *dea nutrix* belong (Liversidge, 1955, 16ff.).<sup>4</sup>

The *dea nutrix* was either a native Gaulish goddess in Roman guise, or was purely Roman in origin. She was a member of a circle of female deities who owed their origin to the belief in the universal mother-goddess. As such she would have been concerned with fertility, by analogy that of human beings. It would, therefore, be natural for her worshippers to proffer her clay images as thank offerings for the bestowal of that quality, or to invoke her aid in acquiring it. As a representative of the divine earth mother from whence all life was believed to spring, and to return at death, she seems to have assumed at times the role of an underworld goddess, for a number of examples can be cited where her statuettes have been found in graves.<sup>5</sup>

The distribution pattern of her statuettes in Britain, as based on the Roman framework of administration in the province, is instructive. This shows that they are most numerous in the areas which were under civilian administration, including that part of the *civitas* of the Brigantes which was not in the military zone of the northern frontier, and also the civilian settlements attached to the forts at Caerleon and Chesterholm. It is perhaps significant that despite the popularity in military circles of the *matronae* as expressed by the many stone monuments, the *dea nutrix* does not appear to have achieved the same measure of esteem with the Roman army. The inference is, therefore, that the cult of the *dea nutrix* as represented by these statuettes was popular with certain sections of the civilian population in Britain and, in view of her strong maternal character, her worshippers were probably women.

In conclusion, it can be stated with confidence that the statuette to which the fragment found at York belonged was of the *dea nutrix* type, and was a product of one of the several *officinae* which were involved in the manufacture of clay statuettes along the valley of the river Allier in Central Gaul. The date, as suggested by the evidence derived from other sites in Britain where statuettes of this type have been adequately recorded, lies somewhere within the period c. 150-90.

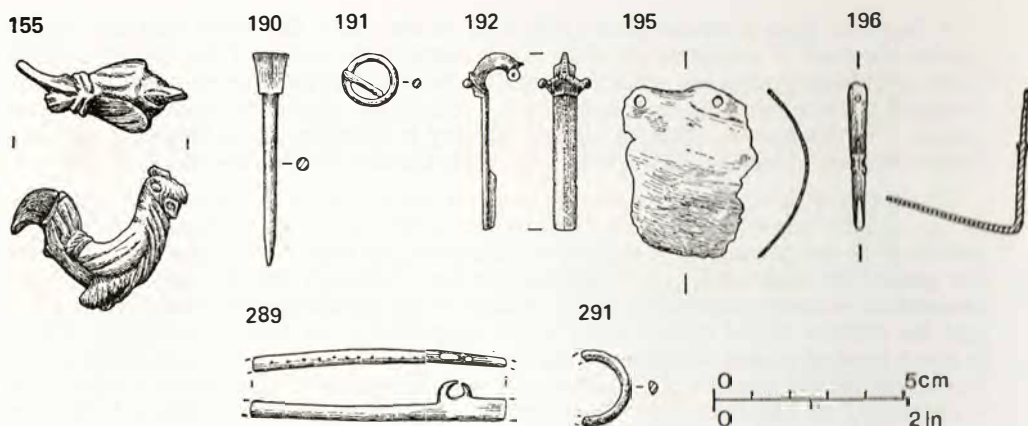


Fig. 21 Objects of copper alloy. Scale 1:2

### Copper-alloy cockerel (Fig. 21)

A small bronze cockerel (155) from the Friends' Burial Ground is of particular interest. The comb, wattles, eye and beak are all clearly defined on the best-preserved side, while the breast is marked with lines converging in chevron form towards the centre. Some attempt has been made at a stylized representation of the wing feathers but the detail is blurred, while the wing-tips appear to be pinioned by two strands of twisted cord. The double tail springs from beneath these cords, with some indication of the feathers on each outer surface.

Two brooches in the form of cockerels have already been found in York (RCHMY 1, 91, pl. 34) and are not uncommon elsewhere (see Bushe-Fox, 1916, 25, pl. XVI, 13 for another example and a list of references). Figures of cockerels are occasionally found surmounting bronze pins<sup>6</sup> and, in one instance, supporting the legs of (perhaps) a casket (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1932, 86, fig. 20, 98); free-standing figures with circular bases are also known in bronze from Verulamium (Frere, 1972, 144, fig. 49, 159) and Vindolanda (Birley, 1973, 122, pl. XXI), and in pipeclay from Silchester (Boon, 1974, 168, pl. 34b) and London (Wheeler, 1930, 49, pl. XXI, 7). A close parallel for the York piece comes from Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox, 1914, 14, fig. 5, 18) but this also is broken off at the legs and its original function is equally obscure. Both may be compared with the small bronze figures of dogs found at Lydney (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1932, 41, 89, pls. XXV-XXVI), thought to be votive offerings at a shrine. Bird figures of various sorts are not uncommon finds on sacred sites (Cunliffe, 1968, 97); this particular site does not seem to have had any religious connotations, however, but since cockerels are particularly associated with Mercury, it seems possible that this piece may once have stood, perhaps as part of a group, in a small domestic shrine dedicated to the god. It is interesting to note that a similar cockerel was discovered along with five bronze statuettes, two of them representing Mercury, in a hoard found in Exeter in 1778 (Milles, 17827, 4, pl. I).<sup>7</sup>

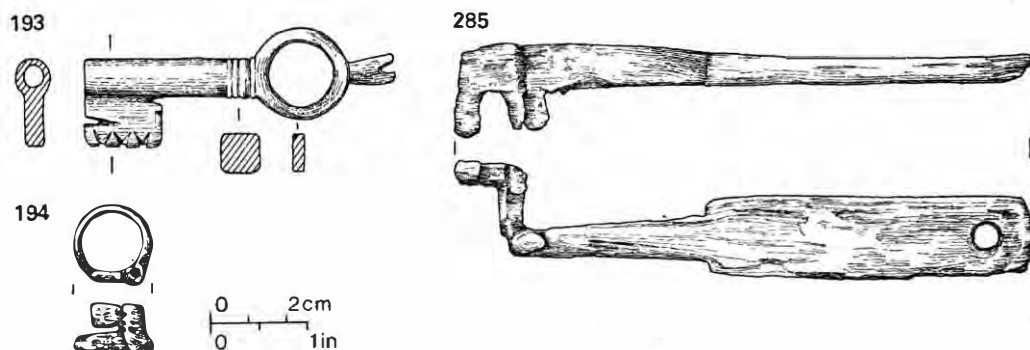


Fig. 22 Keys of copper alloy (193-4) and iron (285). Scale 1:2

### Other items of metalwork (Figs. 21-4)

Other items of copper-alloy (Fig. 21) of particular interest include a small stilus with sharply cut-away spatulate head (190), a diminutive annular buckle or brooch (191) and a fibula (192). The latter has proved difficult to parallel, but the following points may be noted<sup>8</sup>: the profile of the brooch, with its short curved upper bow and long straight foot, together with the knobbed moulding at the base of the upper bow, strongly suggest a 1st century date; although differing in other features, some correspondence with certain of the Pannonian *Flügelfibeln* may be noted (see, for example, von Patek, 1942, Taf. II, 2), and somewhat similar profiles occur on British finds from Hod Hill (Brailsford, 1962, fig. 8, C43) and Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl. XCVI, 120-4).

Fragments from two sets of scales were found during the excavations. 196 is a pointer from a pair of balances, rather finer than those generally encountered. The pointer, which centred when the weights on either arm were in equilibrium, is flattened into a spatulate end, pierced by a transverse pin and perforated near the base; the beam would have been secured by a rivet through the terminal perforation and the entire assembly suspended within a stirrup, attached by and balancing on the transverse pin. 289, a steelyard fragment found in a 4th century context, consists of a circular-section beam, flattened at one end and provided with a suspension



Fig. 23 Heavy iron bar. Scale 1:4

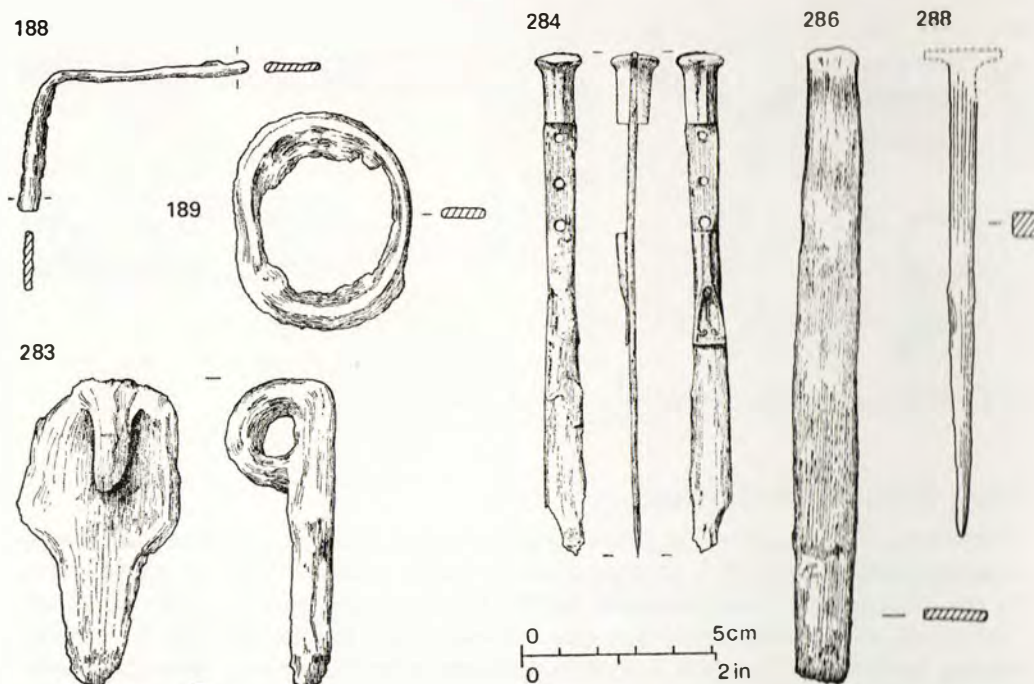


Fig. 24 Objects of iron. Scale 1:2

loop which has worn through from prolonged use. The beam is broken at both ends; originally, there would have been a finial at the narrower end, while the flattened portion would have had a ring terminal from which the object being weighed would have been suspended, perhaps in a pan, and probably a second suspension point on the opposite face to the surviving loop, an arrangement which can be seen on numerous more complete examples.<sup>9</sup> Because the alternative suspension loops are offset rather than opposite one another, the relative force exerted by the counterpoise weight (which slid along the beam and was used to determine the weight of the object suspended from the ring terminal) would have varied for any given position, depending on which loop was being used. For this reason, many steelyard beams are graduated with two differing sets of scales, one on either side, but since the graduations (in the form of punched dots) are limited in this instance to the side of the surviving loop, it may be concluded that this was the one in everyday use. A steelyard from Richborough (Bushe-Fox, 1949, 131), comparable in size with the example considered here, was interpreted as a druggist's scale, perhaps an appropriate function for that from Skeldergate.

An interesting variety of keys from the excavations is shown in Fig. 22. No. 193 is a heavy lever key with a wide circular loop surmounted by a split finial; at the junction of the loop and the hollow stem is a square moulding, while the bit is slotted at the front and rear and toothed and longitudinally grooved at its extremity. Somewhat similar keys may be noted from Chesters

(Budge, 1903) and from Richborough (Cunliffe, 1968, 104, pl. XLV, 196). Unlike 193, which is of a size appropriate to a door lock, 194 (from a late 2nd or early 3rd century layer), is mounted on a lady's finger-ring and would have secured little more than a small box or casket. The ring is undecorated and is ovate in section, while the stem of the key is hollow and the bit plain. A larger version of a ring-key formed on the same principles came from Richborough (Cunliffe, 1968, 104, pl. XLV, 198), while smaller versions for use with barrel locks were found at Leicester (Kenyon, 1948, 258, fig. 86, 12) and Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox, 1914, 14, fig. 5, 20). A third type is represented by 285, a large iron slide key. With this type, the tumblers in the lock were disengaged by the projecting levers on the key and, with the levers still engaged in the tumbler seatings, the bolt was then slid aside. Closely comparable iron keys have been found at London (Wheeler, 1930, 70ff., pl. XXX A, 7-8) and Verulamium (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1936, 219f., pl. LXV, 25; Manning in Frere, 1972, 182, fig. 68, 75).

A heavy iron bar (282, Fig. 23), partly circular and partly square in section, may be compared with a more complete object from Silchester which, it has been noted (Evans, 1895, 141), bears some resemblance to an axle. Too little survives of 282 to permit definite identification.

Part of an iron linch pin (283, Fig. 24), although found in a post-Roman context, is included here as its spatulate head and turned-over loop conform to the standard Roman type (cf. Manning in Frere, 1972, 174, fig. 64, 33-5).

Of particular interest is a small iron knife with gilt-bronze handle mounts (284, Fig. 24), found in the well deposits at Skeldergate. The flat strip tang and the blade of the knife merge smoothly, the backs of the blade and the tang being in the same line and of the same thickness as each other, while the width of the blade expands towards the tip as a result of the beating out of the cutting edge. Mounts clad with gilt-bronze have been applied to either end and either side of the handle, the sheet bronze covering a core of iron. The terminal mounts have a plain expanded shape, while those at the opposite end have a more complex form and are ornamented with a simple tendril motif in relief. The intervening space has three rivet-holes for the attachment of handle plates which, to judge from the striated impression they have created in the iron corrosion products, were probably of cattle or sheep horn.

## Coins

Mr P. J. Casey of the University of Durham provides the following report.

The coins from the Bishophill site are largely residual. Two coins are derived from late pits: no. 202 from context 10168 and no. 214 from feature 10708. A single coin is derived from a non-residual context, no. 205, a plated counterfeit of a *denarius* of Septimius Severus. This was contained in the fill (10773) at the intersection of the three early ditches, 10984, 10986 and 10990, which was too homogeneous to distinguish between the ditches. A date for the filling of the feature later than the first quarter of the 3rd century would seem to be compatible with the coin evidence. The dating of counterfeits of the Severan period is a little speculative but is best seen in the context of an enhanced valuation being placed on the *denarius* during the circulation period of the early overvalued *antoninianus*, perhaps in the 240s.

Taken as a whole, the substantial numbers of 4th century coins are in pattern with an occupation of undiminished intensity in the 4th century. As is usual in a relatively small list, the scarce issues of the House of Theodosius are absent (with the exception noted



<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Condition*</i>	<i>Context</i>	
<b>Coins from Friends Burial Ground</b>							
156	Tetricus II	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. [CPIVESVTETRICVS] CAES Rev. SPES [PVBICA]	E 769	272–73	SW/SW	31
157	Tetricus II	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Illegible		271–73	Corroded	F23
158	'Constantius II'		Obv. [DNCONSTAN]–TIVSPFAVG Rev. [FELTEMPRE–PARATIO]	copy of <i>LRBC</i> 2, 72	353+	UW/UW	F10
159	'Constantius II'		Obv. [DNCO]NSTAN–TIVS[PFAVG] Rev. FELTEM[PRE–PARATIO]	copy of <i>LRBC</i> 2, 252	353+	UW/SW	F67
<b>Coins from Bishophill</b>							
198	Antigonas Gonatas of Macedon <sup>10</sup>		Obv. Helmeted head of Athena Rev. Pan erecting trophy	<i>SNG</i> (Cop) 1205/13	277–39BC	W/W	10000
199	Trajan	<i>Denarius</i>	Obv. IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TR P COS VII PP Rev. SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI	<i>RIC</i> 270	112–17	W/VW	10134
200	Faustina II	<i>Sestertius</i>	Obv. [FAVSTINA AVGVSTA] Rev. [AVGVSTI PII FIL]–SC	<i>RIC</i> (Pius) 1371	c.147–61	VW/VW	10692
201	Faustina II	<i>As</i>	Illegible	—	146–75	Corroded	10488
202	Faustina I or II	<i>Denarius</i>	Illegible	—	138–75	Corroded	10168
203	Commodus, Caesar	<i>Sestertius</i>	Illegible	—	175–61	VW/VW	10127
204	Severus	<i>Denarius</i>	Obv. L SEPT SEV AVG IMP XI PART MAX Rev. IOVI CONSERVATORI	<i>RIC</i> 130	198–200	UW/SW	10977
205	'Severus'	plated <i>Denarius</i>	Obv. [L SEPT] SEV P[ERT AVG IM]P V Rev. PM TR P V COS III (sic)	as <i>RIC</i> 61	195+	UW/UW	10773
206	Gallienus	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. [GAL]LIENVS AVG Rev. [SALV]S AVG	<i>RIC</i> 512a	258–68	UW/UW	10728
207	Postumus	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. [IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG] Rev. [VICTORIA] AVG	E 132	260	SW/SW	10003
208	Victorinus	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG Rev. [VIRTUS] AVG	E 699	270	SW/UW	10786
209	Tetricus I	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. IMP C TETRICVS PF AVG Rev. [HILAR]ITASAVGG	E 790	273	SW/SW	10554
210	Radiate copy	<i>'Antoninianus'</i>	Obv. IMP TETRICVS PF AVG Rev. VIRTVS AVG	copy of E 780	274+	SW/UW	10000
211	Illegible 3rd century radiate						10428
212	Constantine I		Obv. IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG Rev. SOLI INVIC–TOCOMITI	<i>RIC</i> VI (Lon) 121a	310	UW/UW	10637
213	Constantine I		Obv. CONSTANTINVS AVG Rev. SOLIINVIC–TOCOMITI	<i>RIC</i> VII (Lon) 17	313–14	UW/UW	10676
214	Licinius I		Obv. IMP LICINIVS PF AVG Rev. SOLIINVIC–TOCOMITI	<i>RIC</i> VI (Lon) 35	315	UW/UW	10708
215	Constantine I		Obv. CONSTANTINVS PF AVG Rev. SOLIINVIC–TOCOMITI	<i>RIC</i> VII (Lon) 109	317	UW/UW	10082
216	Constantine I		Obv. [CONST]A–NT[INVS AVG] Rev. DN C[ONSTANTINI MAX AVG VOT] [xx]	<i>RIC</i> VII (Rome) 318	329	Corroded	10000

<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Context</i>
217	Constantine I	Obv. [CONSTANTI-NVSMAX AVG] Rev. [GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS]	LRBC 1, 48a	330-35	SW/SW	10084
218	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTANTI-NVSMAXAVG Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC 1, 747	330-35	SW/UW	10724
219	Constantine I	Obv. VRBS ROMA Rev. Lupa romana	LRBC 1, 190	330-35	W/SW	10592
220	Constantine I	Obv. VRBS ROMA Rev. Lupa romana	LRBC 1, 190	330-35	UW/UW	10437
221	Constantine I	Obv. VRBS ROMA Rev. Lupa romana	LRBC 1, 195	330-35	UW/UW	10838
222	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLI Rev. Victory on prow	as LRBC 1, 903	330-35	SW/UW	10502
223	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	as LRBC 1, 52	330-35	Corroded	10502
224	'Constantine II', Caesar	Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	copy of LRBC 1, 49	330+	UW/UW	10141
225	'Constantine II', Caesar	Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	copy of LRBC 1, 50	330+	UW/SW	10437
226	Constantine II, Caesar	Obv. [CONSTANTI-NVS] IVNNC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC 1, 88	335-37	UW/UW	10084
227	Constans, Caesar	Obv. FLIVLCONSTANSNOBCAES Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC 1, 95	335-37	UW/UW	10430
228	Constans	Obv. CONSTAN-SPFAVG Rev. —	—	337-48	VW/EW	10084
229	Constantius II	Obv. CONSTANTIVS AVG Rev. GLORI-AEXERC-ITVS	LRBC 1, 242	337-41	UW/UW	10693
230	'Constantius II'	Obv. [CONSTANTI]-VSPFAVG Rev. GLORI-AEXERC-ITVS	copy of LRBC 1, 250	337-41 +	UW/UW	10074
231	House of Constantine	Obv. — Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	—	335-41	Corroded	10469
232	Theodora	Obv. FLMAXTHEO-DORAEAVG Rev. PIETAS ROMANA	LRBC 1, 105	337-41	SW/SW	10502
233	Theodora	Obv. FLMAXTHEO-DORAEAVG Rev. PIETAS ROMANA	LRBC 1, 129	337-41	UW/UW	10405
234	Theodora	Obv. [FLMAXTHEO-DORAEAVG] Rev. [PIETAS ROMANA]	as LRBC 1, 105	337-41	Corroded	10568
235	Constans	Obv. CONSTAN-SPFAVG Rev. VICTORIAEDDAVGGQNN	LRBC 1, 139	341-48	UW/UW	10927
236	Constantius II or Constans	Obv. — Rev. [VICTORIAEDDAVGGQNN]	as LRBC 1, 137	341-48	Corroded	10068
237	Constans	Obv. DNCONSTAN-SPFAVG Rev. PELTEMPRE-PARATIO	LRBC 2, 185	348-50	SW/SW	10628
238	Constantius II	Obv. DNCONSTAN-TIVSPFAVG Rev. PELTEMPRE-PARATIO	LRBC 2, 253	353-60	UW/UW	10155
239	'Constantius II'	Obv. — Rev. [PELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy as LRBC 2, 72	353+	UW/UW	10075

<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Context</i>
240 'Constantius II'	plated <i>Siliqua</i>	Obv. — Rev. [FELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 72	353+	SW/UW	10166
241 'Constantius II'		Obv. — Rev. [FELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 72	353+	SW/SW	10428
242 'Constantius' II		Obv. — Rev. [FELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy of <i>LRBC</i> 2, 457	354+	UW/UW	10596
243 'Constantius II'		Obv. — Rev. [FELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 252	353+	Corroded	10563
244 'Constantius II'		Obv. — Rev. [FELTEMPRE-PARATIO]	copy as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 252	353+	Corroded	10816
245 'Constantius II'		Obv. — Rev. FELTEMPRE-PARATIO	copy as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 252	353+	W/W	10339
246 'Julian', Caesar		Obv. [FLCLIVLIVLIANVSNOBC] Rev. VOTIS/V/MULTIS/X	as C 154	355-60	Corroded	10932
247 Valentinian I		Obv. DNVALENTINI-ANVSPPFAVG Rev. SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 528	375-78	UW/UW	10417
248 Valentinian I		Obv. DNVALENTINI-ANVSPPFAVG Rev. GLORIARO-MANORVM	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 313	364-67	UW/SW	10000
249 Valentinian I		Obv. DNVALENTINI-ANVSPPFAVG Rev. GLORIARO-MANORVM	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 965	364-67	UW/UW	10000
250 Valens		Obv. DNVALEN-SPFAVG Rev. SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 302	367-75	SW/SW	10716
251 Valens or Gratian		Obv. — Rev. SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	as <i>LRBC</i> 2, 299	367-75	Corroded	10766
252 Gratian		Obv. DNGRATIANVS AVGGAVG Rev. GLORIANO-VISAECVLI	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 511	367-75	UW/UW	10663
253 Gratian		Obv. DNGRATIANVS AVGGAVG Rev. GLORIANO-VISAECVLI	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 529	367-75	SW/UW	10486
254 Valentinian II		Obv. DNVALENTINI-ANVSPPFAVG Rev. SALVSREI-PVBLICAE	<i>LRBC</i> 2, 1105	388-92	UW/UW	10257
255 Arcadius <sup>11</sup>		Obv. [DNAR]CA[DI]-VSPFAVG Rev. —		393+	VW/EW	10000
256 Illegible 4th century Æ				330+		10257
257 Illegible 4th century Æ				330+		10043
258 Illegible 4th century Æ				330+		10491
259 Illegible 4th century Æ				330+		10637
260 Illegible 4th century Æ				330+		10491

<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Context</i>
<b>Coins from Skeldergate</b>						
293 Domitian	<i>As</i>	Obv. Illegible Rev. [MONETA AVGUST-SC]	as RIC 242A	84-96	SW/SW	1413
294 Antoninus Pius	<i>Denarius</i>	Obv. ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TRP XII Rev. COS IIII	RIC 175	148-49	W/W	2350
295 Antoninus Pius	<i>Sestertius</i>	Illegible	—	138-61	EW/EW	2408
296 Severus Alexander	<i>Denarius</i>	Illegible	—	222-35	Corroded	1659
297 Gordian III/ Philip I Plated	'Antoninianus'	Obv. IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG  Rev. ANNONA AVGG	RIC 231	244+	UW/UW	2410
this coin is a mule between the latest issue obverse type of Gordian III and RIC 28 of Philip I.						
298	<i>Denarius</i>	Illegible	—	2nd or 3rd cent.	Corroded	1474
299 Gallienus	'Antoninianus'	Obv. GALLIENVS AVG Rev. Illegible	—	258-68	Corroded	1338
300 Radiate copy	<i>Victorinus</i>	Obv. [IMPC VICTORINVS PF AVG] Rev. [LAETIA AVG]	copy of RIC 51	267-70		1908
301 Radiate copy	'Antoninianus'	Obv. [IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG] Rev. LAETITIA AVG	copy of RIC 51	267-70	UW/UW	1908
302 Radiate copy	'Antoninianus'	Obv. [C PIV BSV TETRICVS CAES] Rev. Illegible	—	270+	Corroded	Unstrat.
303 Radiate copy	'Antoninianus'	Obv. IMP C [TETRICVS PF AVG] Rev. PAX AVG	copy of E 771	270+	SW/UW	2342
304 Radiate copy	'Antoninianus'	Obv. IMP C TETRICVS PF AVG Rev. Illegible	—	270+	UW/ Corroded	1130
305 —	'Antoninianus'	Illegible	—	260-73	Corroded	2028
306 —	'Antoninianus'	Illegible	—	270-86	Corroded	1824
307 Diocletian	'Follis'	Obv. [IMP C] DIOCLETIANVS PF AVG Rev. [GENIO POPV]-L[ROMANI]	RIC VI (London) 6a	c.300	Corroded	2337
308 Constantius/ Galerius, Caesar	'Follis'	Obv. [ . . . ] VS NOB CAES Rev. [GENIO POPVLI ROMANI]	RIC VI (Lugdunum) 39a/b	c. 298	Corroded	2337
309 Constantine II, Caesar		Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. CAESARVM NOSTRORVM VOT/X	RIC VII (Trier) 433	323-24	W/W	1711
310 Crispus		Obv. CRISPVS-NOB CAES Rev. PROVIDEN-TIAECAESS	as RIC VII (Arles) 270	324-25	Corroded	1527
311 Constantine II, Caesar		Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC I, 49	330-35	UW/UW	1592
312 Constantine II, Caesar		Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC I, 49	330-35	UW/UW	1395
313 Constantine II, Caesar		Obv. CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC I, 63	330-35	UW/UW	491
314 Constantine I		Obv. VRBS ROMA Rev. Lupa Romana	as LRBC I, 76	330-35	SW/SW	1635

<i>Issuer</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Context</i>
315	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	LRBC I, 52	330-35	Corroded	1935
316	Constantine I	Obv. [CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS] Rev. Victory on prow	LRBC I, 52	330-35	Corroded	1740
317	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	LRBC I, 66	330-35	UW/UW	2028
318	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	LRBC I, 191	330-35	UW/UW	2013
319	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	LRBC I, 351c	330-35	SW/SW	1420
320	Constantine I	Obv. CONSTAN-TINOPOLIS Rev. Victory on prow	as LRBC I, 52	330-35	Corroded	1285
321	Constantius II or Constans	Obv. Illegible Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	LRBC I, 132/3	330-35	SW/SW	2050
322	House of Constantine	Obv. Illegible Rev. GLOR-IAEXERC-ITVS	as LRBC I, 239	335-41	Corroded	2000
323	Constantius II	Obv. DNFLCONSTANTIVSAVG Rev. SECVRTASREIP	LRBC I, 591	337-41	UW/UW	1395
324	Helena	Obv. [FLIVLHE-LENAEAVG] Rev. [PA-XPV-BLICA]	as LRBC I, 104	337-41	Corroded	1740
325	Helena	Obv. [FLIVLHE-LENAEAVG] Rev. [PA-XPV-BLICA]	as LRBC I, 104	337-41	Corroded	1974
326	Constantius II or Constans	Obv. Illegible Rev. [VICTORIAEDDAVGGQNN]	as LRBC I, 137	341-48	Corroded	479
327	Constans	Obv. CONSTA-SPFAVG Rev. VICTORIAEDDAVGGQNN	as LRBC I, 138	341-48	Corroded	Ua strat.
328	Constantius II or Constans	Obv. Illegible Rev. FEL TEMP REPAR-ATIO	as LRBC 2, 28	348	VW/VW	1227
329	Constantius II	Obv. Illegible Rev. [FEL TEMP REPARATIO]	as LRBC 2, 72	353-60	Corroded	499
330	Gratian	Obv. DN GRATIAN-VSAVGGAVG Rev. GLORIARO-MANORVM	as LRBC 2, 297	367-75	W/W	Un strat.
331	—	Illegible 4th century Æ	—	330+	Corroded	1745
332	Illegible					1624
333	Illegible					1946

\* The condition of the coins at the moment of loss, where it can be ascertained, has been indicated by the following notation:

- UW/UW — Unworn obverse, unworn reverse. A virtually uncirculated coin.  
 SW — Slightly worn. The highest parts of the design a little flattened by wear.  
 W — Worn. The design abraded but legends quite visible.  
 VW — Very worn. Considerable abrasion.  
 EW — Extremely worn. The coin and its design virtually eradicated by wear.



below). This absence may simply represent a sampling problem as easily as an absence of site activity. However, the virtual absence of 'radiate copies', the imitations of the coinage of the Gallic Empire so prolific on sites occupied in the last quarter of the 3rd century, may indicate an hiatus at that period.

Two coins call for individual comment. Both 198 and 255 are coins of eastern provenance derived from the topsoil level of the site and it seems likely that these are modern imports. It is not uncommon for such items to be found in modern urban contexts; they are mostly derived from souvenirs brought back to Britain after the two World Wars.

At Skeldergate only three coins, nos. 295, 297 and 321, were found in stratified Roman contexts. Their chronological significance is discussed in *AY* 4/1, 25. The residue of the coins derive from medieval features and may have reached the Skeldergate site by erosion from the slopes above or be derived from a Roman context adjacent to the well which was disturbed in the medieval period. In any event, the bulk of the coins form a consistent group perhaps dating to the middle of the 4th century. It is significant that copies of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO series, so prolific at the Bishophill site, are absent at Skeldergate. Their absence strongly suggests that activity, as represented by coins, ceased shortly after 353. This chronology is reinforced by the virtual absence of coins of the House of Valentinian, a series once again well represented at Bishophill.

## Wooden objects (Figs. 25–6)

Amongst the wooden objects recovered from Skeldergate, mostly from the 4th century deposits in the well, the majority (335–44) are fragmentary and difficult to interpret. No. 335 has the appearance of a bung or stopper with a shaped finger-grip, although equally it could be the morticed end of a structural member. A small tapering peg (336) may have been used to plug a hole or perhaps to secure two jointed timbers, while a third fragment (337), perforated at its broader end, may have been a wedge-shaped peg; too little survives to be certain. The function of 338 is unknown: its circular-section shaft expands at one end to form three fins with concave sides; it appears to be broken at one end. The remaining plank fragments (339–43) show various perforations, those on 343 being filled by pegs; conceivably some of these fragments may have formed parts of the well-head structure. A collection of miscellaneous pieces (344) includes some fragments of oak, thinly cut and averaging only c. 4mm in thickness, but without structural features.

The bucket (Fig. 26, 334) from the bottom of the well deserves special mention. It is stave-built, tapering towards the rim, and has a composite base set in a slot running continuously around the bottom of the staves; two iron hoops which held the entire assembly together still survive in fragmentary condition but the details of the handle arrangement have been lost, although the position of the attachment points can be identified from the iron studs arranged on either side. A set of iron fittings from a much larger everted bucket was found at Gadebridge Park Villa (Neal, 1974, 187, fig. 79), but the method of suspension (and indeed the whole shape of the bucket, which tapered towards the base) was quite different. The handle and some iron bands from another large bucket came from Woodcutts (Pitt Rivers, 1887, 85, pl. XXVIII).

**Mr Dorian Williams** formerly of the University of York Environmental Archaeology Unit contributes the following note on the identity and the significance of the wood used in the construction of the bucket.

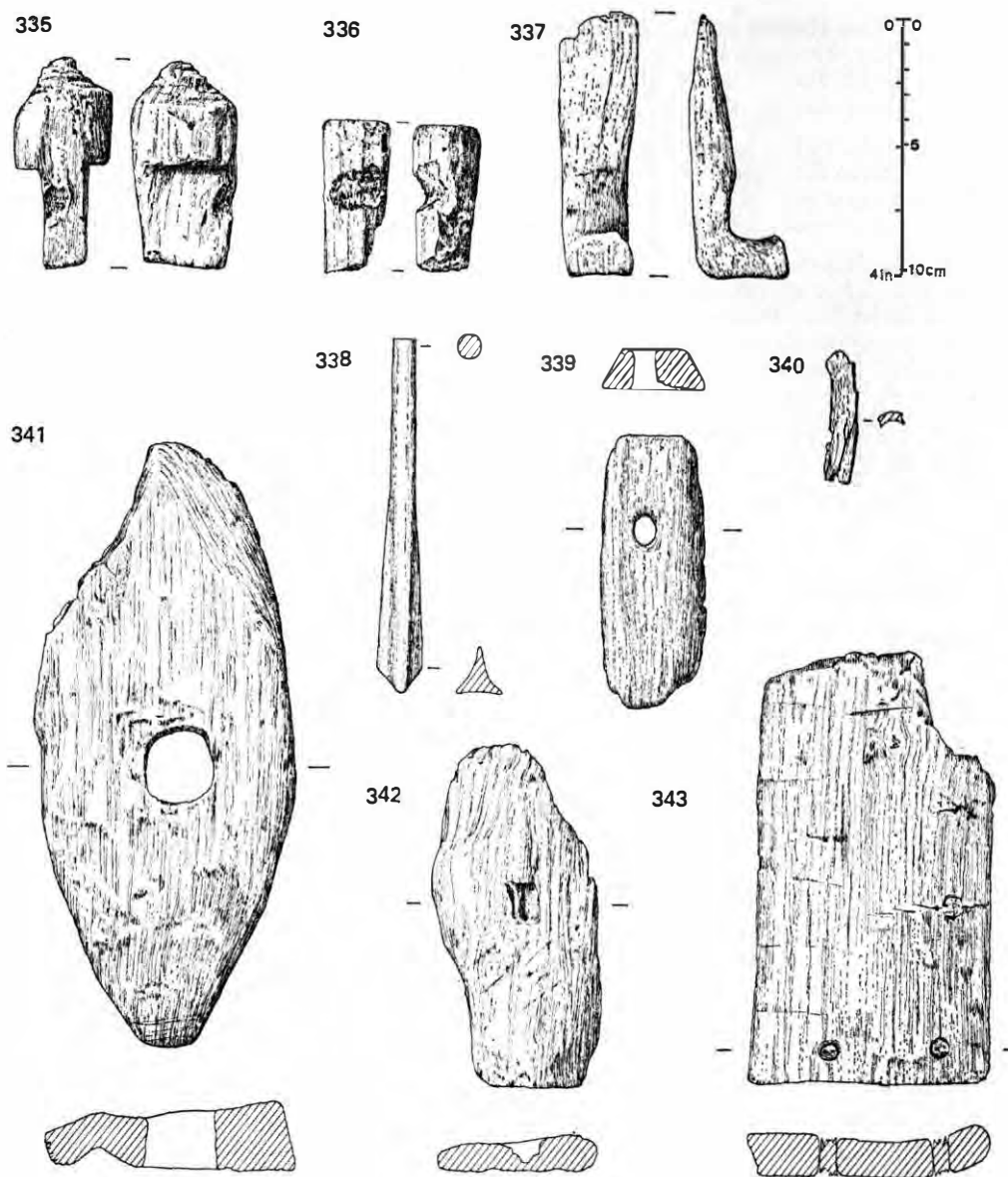
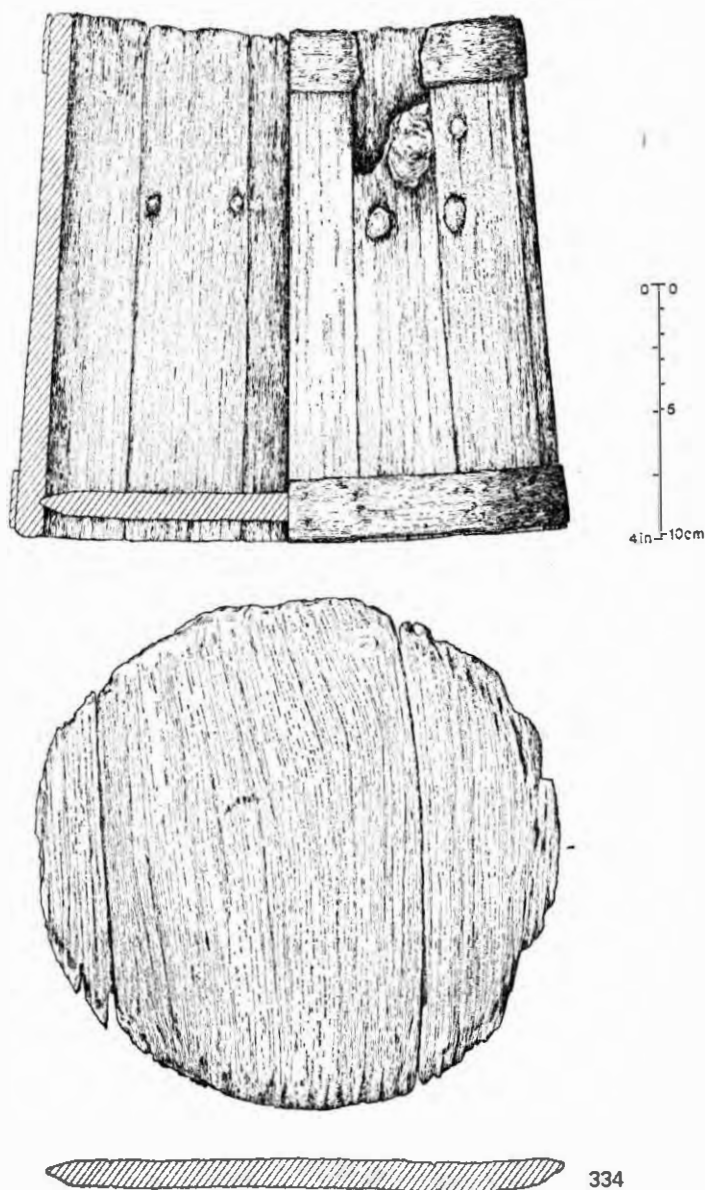


Fig. 25 Objects of wood. Scale 1:3

From a microscopic thin section of one of the bucket staves it was possible to identify the timber as silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.), a species not indigenous to the British Isles. The natural habitat of this tree is the mountains of central and southern Europe, where



*Fig. 26 Wooden bucket with iron fittings. Scale 1:3*

it grows at altitudes of up to 6,000 feet (1800m). It has a wide but irregular distribution and can often form pure stands over large areas. Documentary evidence suggests that the silver fir was not introduced to Britain until c. 1603 (Wood, 1957, 32) and there can be no doubt that the timber in this instance must have been imported. It is possible that the

bucket or its constituent staves were purposely brought from the Continent, where such items frequently prove to have been made from fir or larch (Boon, 1975, 55). Other articles of timber are known to have been imported by the Romans, such as the writing tablets found at Chew Stoke, Somerset (Biek, 1956, 146) and at Vindolanda (J. Turner, personal communication). There is, however, ample evidence (Hopf, 1967, 212ff.; Boon, 1975, 54 note 9) of Roman preference for silver fir timber in the construction of barrels, particularly for the transport of wine; one of the best-known examples comes from Silchester, where Reid (1901, 253) found a number of wells lined with barrel staves. An alternative explanation, therefore, might be that this particular bucket was made up from re-worked barrel staves. Evidence of similar re-working of staves for the construction of a tub was found at Segontium (Boon, 1975, 53f.). The precise source of the wood must remain speculative. Reid (op. cit.) stated that the Silchester barrels were derived from the Pyrenees. There is epigraphic evidence of trade between Bordeaux and York in the 3rd century (Courteault, 1921, 104), and similar evidence suggesting trade between Britain and Bordeaux as early as the 1st century (ibid.). Wine would probably have been the major export of this region of France and there are inscriptions which demonstrate the presence of coopers at Bordeaux and Nantes (Boon, 1975, 56; *GIL* XIII, 744, 3104). However, in view of the large numbers of barrels found in the Rhineland (see Boon, 1975, 56, fig. 3), another area with well-attested trade links with the British Isles, an origin in that region seems equally possible.

## Shoes (Figs. 27–9)

From the fill of the Skeldergate well came a group of shoes of exceptional interest. Most are of the type generally equated with the *calceus* of the written sources, a form which quickly became established in northern Europe as the normal style of outdoor footwear, both for the auxiliary soldier (Robertson et al., 1975, 78ff.) and also the private citizen, whether man, woman or child (Robertson et al., 1975, 78ff.; Gansser-Burckhardt, 1942, 59).

Two basic methods of forming the upper are represented here. Nos. 350–1 are vamp-seamed shoes such as are commonly found elsewhere (see, for example, Charlesworth and Thornton, 1973, 141 ff., figs. 1–4; Robertson et al., 1975, 68 ff., figs. 22–5). The more complete example (350) may have been constructed on the open shoe principle, the upper being laid down initially as a middle sole and the outer edges brought up and stitched together at the vamp. The stitching is rather fine over the toe, but changes to coarse thonging as the vamp gives way to an instep strap. Stitch-holes indicate further seams around the bottom of the vamp and at the instep.

The remainder of the surviving uppers are mostly whole-cut and, where detectable, are side-seamed at the instep (cf. Ambrose in Cunliffe, 1975, 248 f., fig. 133, 266); an exception is provided by 363, which has a thonged back-seam at the heel. The method of construction illustrated by the material considered here and by several larger samples from elsewhere<sup>12</sup> was as follows: two or more thicknesses of insole were cut out and, sometimes, thonged together at various points along a medial line; this composite insole was then placed upside down on a last and the upper (often incorporating a 'counter' or heel stiffener) was placed in position; the lower edges of the upper overlapped the insole all around its periphery and, to judge from the indentations sometimes observed on this 'lasting margin', were braced in this position with strings; a number of packing strips, sometimes thonged to the insole, filled out the space within the lasting margin; finally, one or more thicknesses of outer sole were applied and heavily

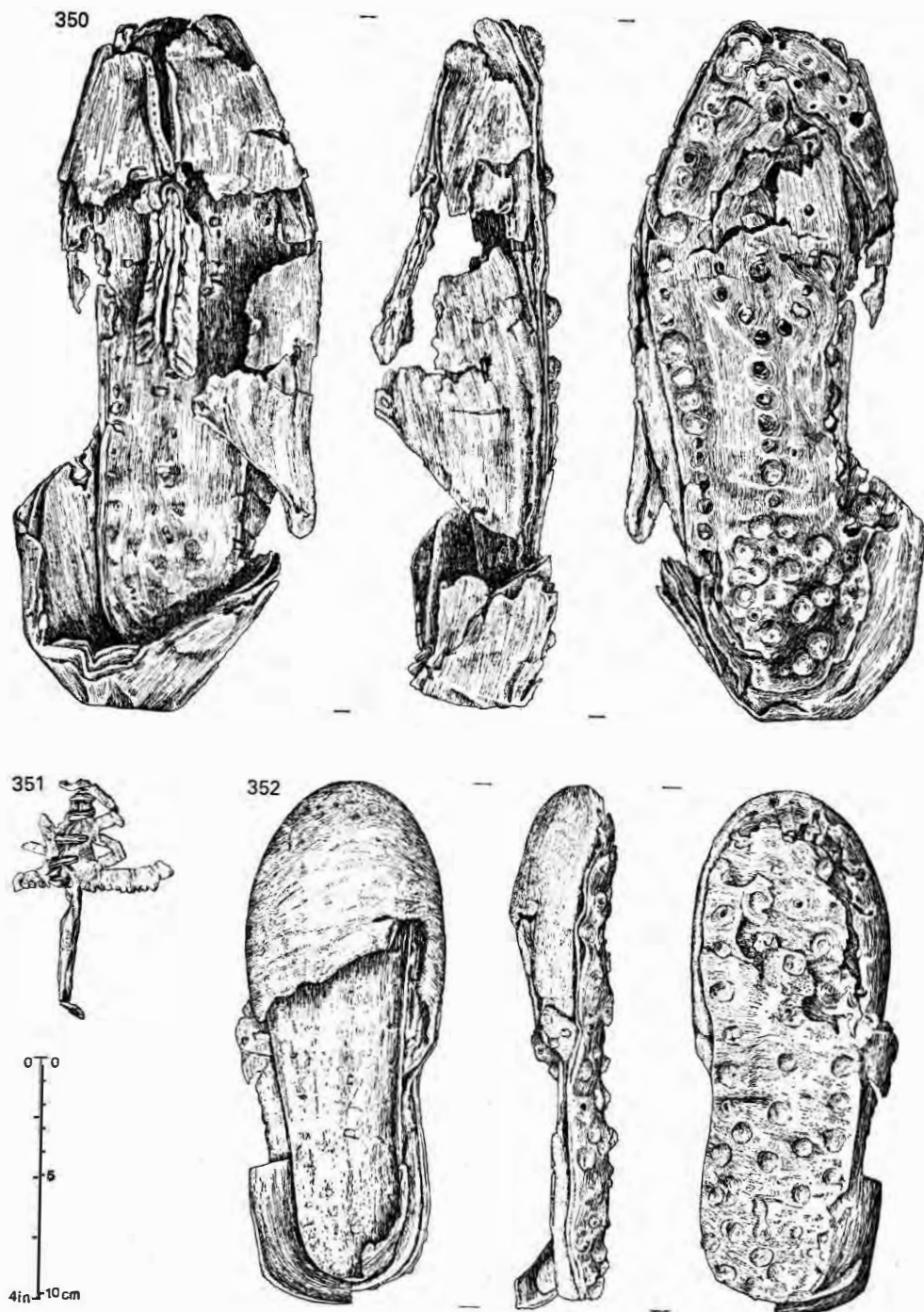


Fig. 27 Leather shoes. Scale 1:3



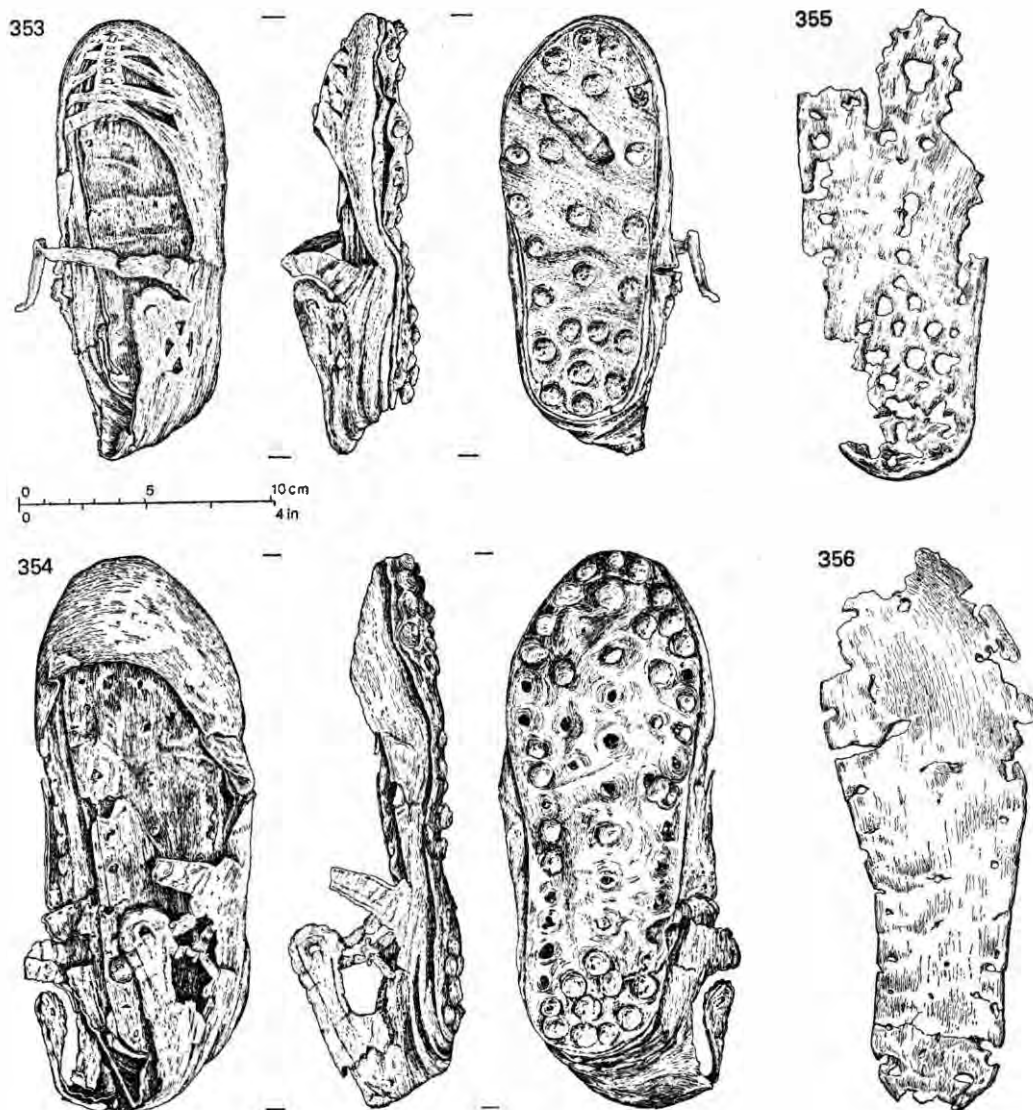


Fig. 28 Leather shoes. Scale 1:3

studded with nails which penetrated the lower layers of the insole, those around the periphery passing through the lasting margin and holding the entire assembly firmly together.

Fastenings were generally in the form of pairs of perforated straps or latches, integral parts of the upper but sometimes (e.g. 362) with additional reinforcing, which met above the instep and were secured by thongs; depending on the degree of elaboration, there might be several pairs of straps per shoe or one only, as is the case with nearly all those noted here.

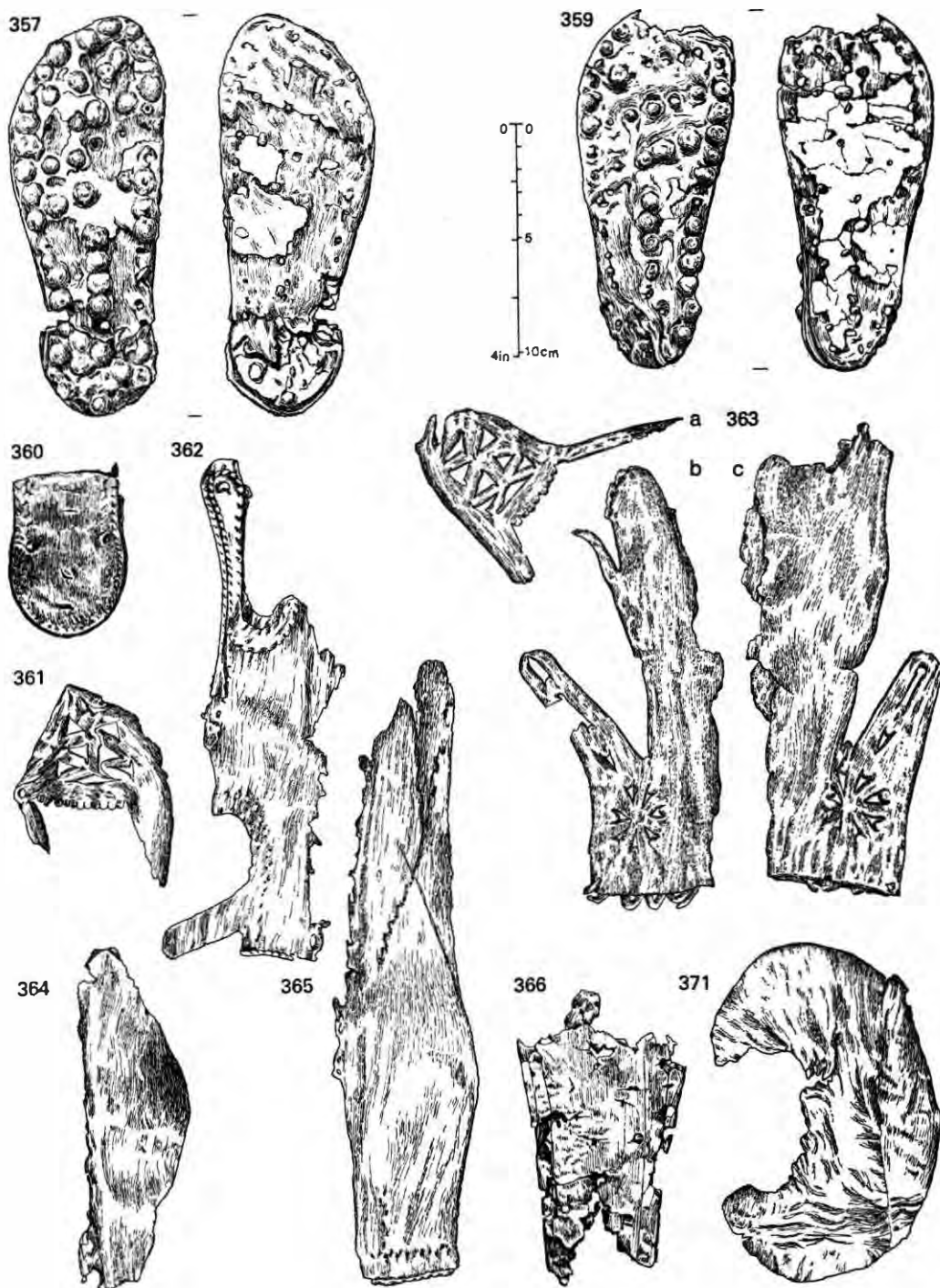


Fig. 29 Leather shoes. Scale 1:3

No. 353 is exceptional in having a strap reaching right across the instep and, just behind the strap, a perforated tab. There may once have been a corresponding arrangement on the other side, the straps passing through the opposite loops and returning to tie in the middle, but this seems a very wasteful method of cutting the hide.

Several nailed soles with little or no trace of any uppers (e.g. 357, 360) may be compared with a large number of such finds from Balmuildy (Miller, 1922, 99) which were thought perhaps to represent a distinct class of footwear; it seems more reasonable to assume that these are simply shoes, probably *calcei*, from which the uppers have disintegrated (cf. Robertson et al., 1975, 78); this is certainly true of 358, in which part of the heel stiffener protrudes slightly. The remainder of the soles are either too well-preserved for their internal structure to be examined for traces of lasting margins, or else they have disintegrated to such an extent that it is impossible to establish their original form.

The normal nailing pattern demonstrated by the soles in this sample is a single row of nails around the periphery, a line along the middle of the sole and a number of additional studs at the heel and under the ball of the foot, the latter sometimes arranged in diagonal rows (cf. Robertson et al., 1975, fig. 25, 51, 53).

Decoration is limited on the Bishophill shoes, there being little rouletting and no embossed ornament. Some (351, 353-4, 361, 363) have openwork patterns of chisel-cut triangles, combined in 353, 354 and 363 to form a wheel motif (cf. Hald, 1972, 66). No. 353 also has a narrow thong threaded through the toe in a decorative manner and is one of several shoes displaying gimped edges to the vamp.

No. 360 is of interest in having a border, possibly rouletted, made up of multiple incisions around the edge of the inner sole. This feature has been noted on a number of true sandals from Cologne (Fremersdorf, 1926, 49 ff., Abb. 8-9). Only on sandals of this type, which were secured merely by thongs between the toes and had no enclosing uppers, would there have been any point in decorating the insole. Despite the fact that only the heel survives on the example in question, therefore, it may be justifiable on these grounds to identify it as a *solea* rather than a *calceus*.

## Glass vessels (Fig. 30)

Miss Dorothy Charlesworth of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment, contributes the following report:

Fragments of between 30 and 35 vessels, mostly too featureless to identify, were found, including one piece of engraved glass of outstanding interest. The pieces are of 2nd to 4th century date.

### *Vessels with cut decoration*

- 154 Fragment of a bowl or flask decorated with circular facets; good, colourless glass. 2nd or 3rd century. It is impossible to identify the type of vessel with any certainty from such a small piece. Beakers normally have oval or hexagonal facets, more suited to their taller shape, but a fragment from Corbridge has circular facets (Charlesworth, 1959, 42, fig. 3, 8). Context 27.

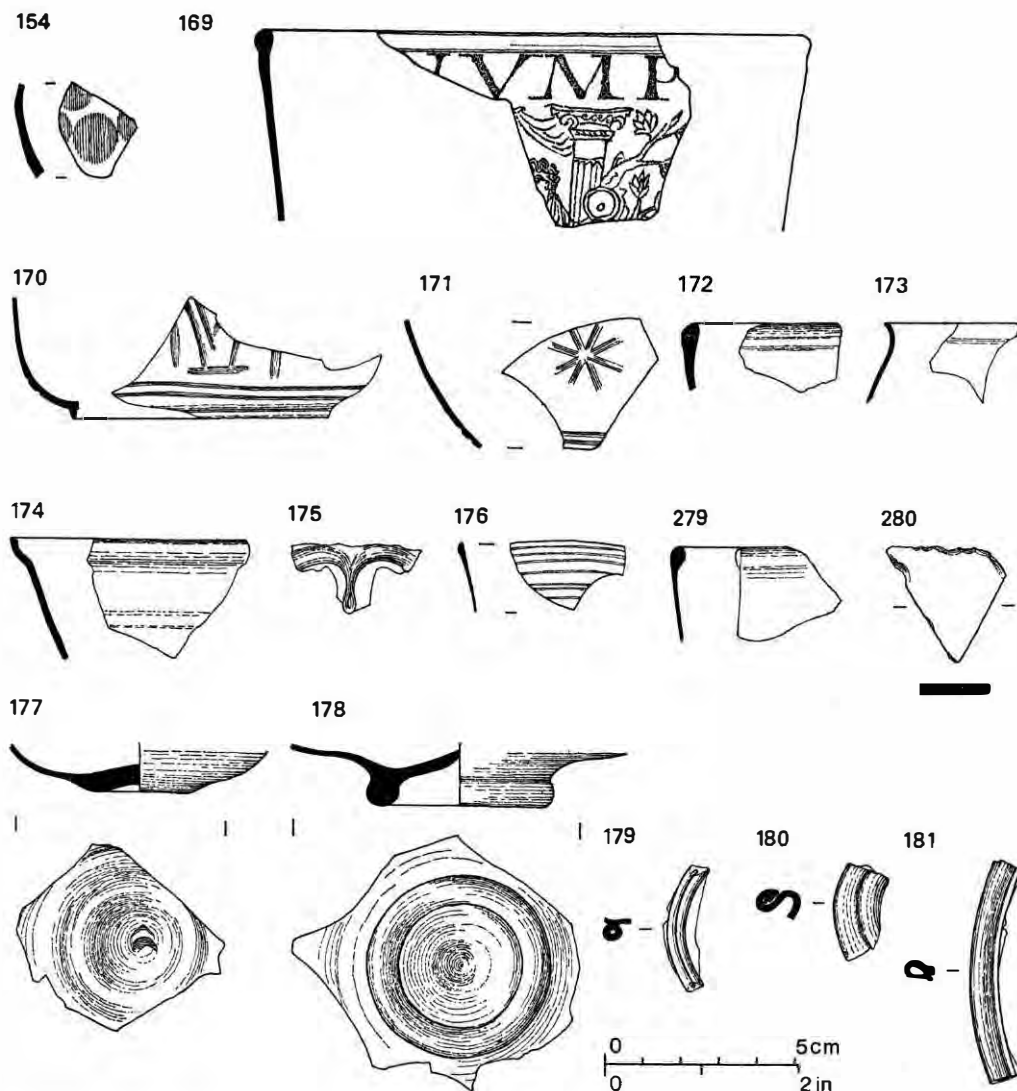


Fig. 30 Glass vessels. Scale 1:2

169 Fragment of a straight-sided bowl with a rounded, thickened rim; good, colourless glass. Below the rim is part of an inscription, [L(?)VMP], in wheel-abraded unpolished letters; below this, a figure with curly hair stands to the left of a fluted Ionic column, behind which a festooned drapery forms one side of a canopy. The left arm is extended in front of the column and the hand holds a cymbal or small circular shield shoulder high. In the background, to the right of the column, are the branches of a tree. Context 10849.

The interpretation of the fragment presents a problem as few cut scenes on cylindrical bowls are known. Mr R. P. Wright, in consultation with Professor J. M. C. Toynbee, now considers that the figure is the goddess Rhea who is depicted playing a tambourine in her left hand in scenes of the Apollo and Marsyas legend when Olumpus, pupil of Marsyas, entreated Apollo to spare his master. A possible alternative, that this is a Bacchic scene with a figure holding a cymbal and the inscription TRIVMP[E], has been considered and rejected.<sup>13</sup>

The type of vessel (Isings form 85b) is frequently found in the north-west provinces in 2nd and 3rd century contexts, for example at Fishbourne (Harden and Price in Cunliffe, 1971, 353, nos. 74-5), Housesteads (Charlesworth, 1971, 34, no. 5), Rapsley (Harden in Hanworth, 1968, 65, fig. 28a) and Airlie (Thorpe, 1949, 39f., pl. VI, b); two further plain fragments are noted below (172, 279).

Decorated examples are less common and seem to date from the 3rd century (Fremersdorf, 1970, 59 ff.). Only five of those considered by Fremersdorf bear any close comparison with the York fragment and none throws any light on the scene depicted nor on the interpretation of the inscription. The decoration here could be a single scene running round the side with the figure under a canopy as its central feature or there could be several different elements. A nearly complete bowl from Trier (*ibid.*, no. 18) has the word BIBAMUS in monumental lettering under the rim and four figures labelled in inferior sans serif letters in the field — two gladiators, PVLCHER ET AVRIGA, and a statue group labelled on the pedestal, HERCVLES ET ANTEVS. The general tendency on engraved glass with mythological scenes is to use lettering in the field by the figure for identification and to inscribe a motto below the rim. This York bowl, however, seems to be an exception. Bonn Museum has a variant of the type, the same shape but with two loop-handles on the rim, with cut decoration, four medallions each containing a bust, one of Bacchus, with a conventional pattern surrounding them (*ibid.*, 63, no. 20, pl. 6). There is also a group of fifteen fragments of these bowls with motto and fish, sometimes also a palm branch, engraved below the rim, suggesting a Christian connotation (*ibid.*, nos. 1-12).

- 170 Fragment of a bowl or flask in colourless glass, probably from near the base, with trail round the lower edge; above this on the angle, two wheel-cut lines and part of the main cut decoration. 3rd or 4th century.

The vessel has not been polished after cutting. The decoration appears to be a conventional pattern perhaps divided into narrow vertical panels by slender oval facets, two of which can be seen, one either side of the main design. No parallel has been found. The shape must either be a deep bowl or a bulbous bodied flask. Context 10983.

- 171 Convex fragment of a bowl in colourless glass; two cut grooves at the top may be just below the rim of the vessel; 8-point star cut with firm, broad lines. 3rd or 4th century.

The shape is probably a deep bowl and the star used as infilling, possibly between medallions, in the general design, as on two bowls illustrated by Fremersdorf (1967, Taf. 246, 255). Context 10068.

- 172 Rim fragment in colourless glass, tip of the rim rounded and slightly thickened in the flame, cut groove below; from a small straight-sided bowl. 2nd century. Context 10132.

- 173 Rim fragment in colourless glass, everted rim with the edge ground smooth, faint wheel-cut lines below, straight side. 2nd century. Shape could be either a carinated beaker with a foot, as from Hardknott, or the straight side curving in to a plain flat base (Charlesworth, 1959, 49, pl. II, fig. 76; see also a fragment from Fishbourne, Harden and Price in Cunliffe, 1971, 347, no. 56). Context 10334.



- 174 Fragment of a conical beaker, slightly everted; tip lightly ground to smooth it, two faint wheel-cut lines below. Heavy scratching and some iridescence; piece possibly residual or re-deposited. Second half of 4th century. This is one of the most common shapes of the late Roman period, plain or variously decorated (Isings form 106c). Context 10635.

*Vessels with trailed decoration*

- 175 Colourless fragment with a slightly arched broad horizontal trail with a short vertical tooled trail running like a drip from it. Second half of 4th century. This piece also comes from a late Roman conical beaker. The form of decoration is unusual, but is paralleled at Porchester (Harden in Cunliffe, 1975, 390, nos. 13, 19). Context 10538.
- 176 Fragment of a rim, either distorted or from a spouted vessel in colourless glass; tip rounded and the piece decorated with a thin white trail. 2nd or 3rd century. This is probably from a small spouted jug (Isings form 88). Context 10773.

*Undecorated fragments* Few of these are identifiable, but it seems worth publishing some examples of bases and rims even though the shape of the vessel to which they belong cannot be determined.

- 177 Slightly thickened concave base and part of the side; colourless glass; probably a bowl. Context 10678.
- 178 Base of a shallow bowl in greenish glass; pad base-ring with pontil mark. Context 10980.
- 179 Fragment of a colourless base with an applied hollow tubular ring. Context 10566.
- 180 Rim of a small jar, outspayed and infolded at the tip; green glass. Probably Isings form 68. Context 10634.
- 181 Hollow tubular rim from a bowl; green glass. Context 10708.
- 279 Rim fragment in colourless glass, tip of the rim rounded and slightly thickened; from a small straight-sided bowl. Context 2415.

*Window glass* Several small fragments of blown window glass were found on the site. One piece (280, from context 2409) may be a complete triangular pane: two sides are sharply cut and the third might be grozed rather than broken. Similar pieces were found at the Gadebridge villa (Charlesworth in Neal, 1974, 203f.).

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## Conclusion

The finds represent a typical sample of what might be expected from the *colonia*. Only the probable ballista ball, (268, Fig. 32) seems out of place in the civil town: all previous discoveries in York of ballista balls have been made in the fortress area (Wenham, 1962, 575f.), but stray finds will inevitably occur in the immediate surroundings and demand no special explanation. The evidence from games, shoes and ornaments illustrates aspects of everyday life in the town; commerce is represented, albeit symbolically, by the presence of the scale and balance beam, and the manufacturing industries by unworked jet (276; cf. RCHMY 1, 142ff.; Ramm, 1976, 58), worked bones (348-9), and part of a copper ingot (292, Fig. 31). Evidence of metalworking during the Roman period was found during earlier excavations on an adjacent site in 1964 (cf. Biek in Ramm, 1976, 68). Figurines of clay and bronze acknowledge the attention paid to the

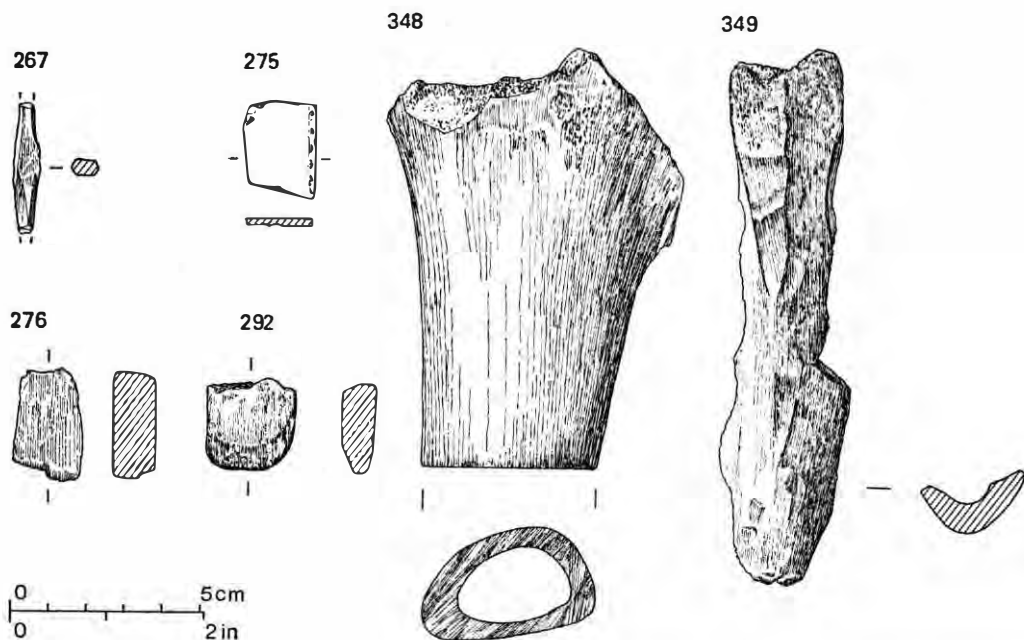


Fig. 31 Fragments of bone (267, 348-9), jet (275-6) and copper alloy (292). Scale 1:2

spiritual side of life. The impression given by the finds is one of moderate prosperity, but from these excavations there is no hint of the opulence which should one day identify the residences of the senior civil servants who staffed the offices of the imperial governor, or the commercial entrepreneurs who formed the core of the middle class population.

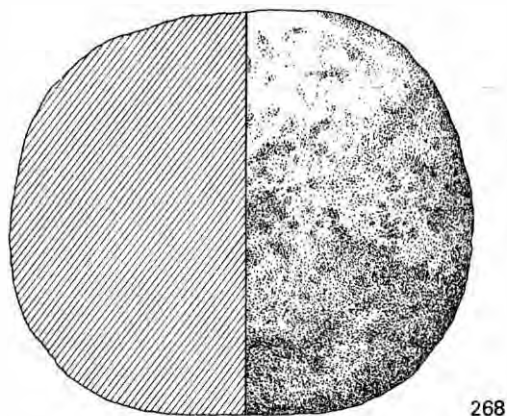


Fig 32 Limestone (?) ballista ball. Scale 1:2

## Catalogue of Finds

The finds numbers follow consecutively those on p. 23 (*AY* 17/1).

### Finds from Friends' Burial Ground<sup>14</sup>

#### Glass

154 Bowl or flask fragment (see p. 54, *Fig. 30*)

#### Metalwork

155 Copper-alloy cockerel figurine, solid-cast; broken at both legs and tail. Ht. 40 mm. L. 29 mm. 29. (*Fig. 21*)

#### Coins

156-9 Coins; see p. 42.

#### Bone

160 Gaming counter, obverse slightly counter-sunk; three intersecting lines scratched on reverse. D. 22 mm. Th. 3.5 mm. Fl. (*Fig. 17*)  
161 Nail-headed pin with swelling shank; point has been broken and recut. L. 64 mm. F10. (*Fig. 19*)

### Finds from Bishophill<sup>15</sup>

#### Stone

162 Disc, chipped from a thin slab of flagstone. D. 200 mm. Th. 15 mm. 10769.

#### Jet

163 Bracelet, D-shaped in section; broken. D. (overall) 50 mm. W. 7.5 mm. 10173. (*Fig. 18*)  
164 Bracelet, ovate in section; broken. D. (overall) 63 mm. W. 6 mm. 10152. (*Fig. 18*)  
165 Bracelet, roughly circular in section; broken. D. (overall) 64 mm. D. (section) 6 mm. 10785.

#### Ceramics

166 Gaming counter, chipped from a grey ware body sherd. D. 25 mm. Th. 5 mm. 10773. (*Fig. 17*)  
167 Gaming counter, chipped from a grey ware base sherd. D. 31 mm. Th. 8.5 mm. 10932. (*Fig. 17*)  
168 Pipeclay figurine: fragment from the back of a chair from a *dea nutrix* figurine. L. 67 mm. Th. 6 mm. 10977. (*Fig. 20*)

#### Glass

169-81 Glass vessels; see pp. 55-7. (*Fig. 30*)  
182 Gaming counter, bun-shaped, of opaque black glass. D. 27 mm. Th. 7 mm. 10442. (*Fig. 17*)  
183 Gaming counter, bun-shaped, of opaque white glass. D. 28 mm. Th. 7 mm. 10849. (*Fig. 17*)  
184 Bracelet of green glass, sub-triangular in section, with applied spiral cordon of blue and white glass; broken. D. (overall) 63 mm. W. 10 mm. 10537. (*Fig. 18*)

#### Metalwork

185 Lead strip, distorted. 85 x 3 x 2 mm. 10173.  
186 Iron nail, corroded. L. 50 mm. 10440.  
187 Iron nail, corroded. L. 65 mm. 10160.  
188 Iron strip with right-angled bend. 85 x 15 x 3 mm. 10440 (*Fig. 24*)  
189 Iron collar, ovoid. D. (max.) 58 mm. W. 11 mm. 10440. (*Fig. 24*)  
190 Copper-alloy stylus with flat spatulate terminal and circular-section shank. L. 56 mm. 10127. (*Fig. 21*)  
191 Copper-alloy annular brooch or buckle with wrap-around pin. D. (overall) 14 mm. D. (section) 1.5 mm. 10402. (*Fig. 21*)  
192 Copper-alloy fibula of 1st century type; pin and catchplate missing. L. 46 mm. 10469. (*Fig. 21*)  
193 Copper-alloy key with circular crested loop, hollow stem and complex bit. L. 82 mm. 10662. (*Fig. 22*)  
194 Copper-alloy ring-key with hollow stem and plain bit. D. 20 mm. Ht. 13 mm. 10773. (*Fig. 22*)  
195 Copper-alloy sheet fragment, curved, with two fixing holes. Th. 0.5 mm. 10171. (*Fig. 21*)  
196 Copper-alloy pointer from a pair of balances. L. 74 mm. 10170. (*Fig. 21*)  
197 Silver pin, heavily oxidized, with pointed ball head; shank broken. L. 40 mm. 10675. (*Fig. 19*)

#### Coins

198-260 Coins; see pp. 42-4.

#### Bone

261 Pin with ball head and swelling shank. L. 100 mm. 10819. (*Fig. 19*)  
262 Pin with ball head and swelling shank; broken. L. 62 mm. 10152. (*Fig. 19*)  
263 Pin with swelling pointed head and tapering shank; broken. L. 50 mm. 10635. (*Fig. 19*)  
264 Pin with low pointed head and tapering shank; broken. L. 75 mm. 11001. (*Fig. 19*)  
265 Pin with flat head and tapering shank; broken. L. 94 mm. 11001. (*Fig. 19*)

- 266 Pin with rounded head and tapering shank; four incised grooves below head; stained green; broken. L. 38 mm. 10980. (Fig. 19)  
 267 Offcut, rectangular in section, tapering towards both ends. L. 34 mm. 10724. (Fig. 31)

## Finds from Skeldergate<sup>16</sup>

### Stone

- 268 Ballista ball?: roughly chipped sphere of limestone. D. 130 mm. Weight 2.04 kg. 2349. (Fig. 32)  
 269 Gaming counter?: disc chipped from a slip of micaceous sandstone. D. 72 mm. Th. 18 mm. 2405. (Fig. 17)  
 270 Gaming counter?: disc chipped from a slip of micaceous sandstone. D. 76 mm. Th. 19 mm. 2405. (Fig. 17)  
 271 Gaming counter?: disc chipped from a slip of micaceous sandstone. D. 78 mm. Th. 12 mm. 2405. (Fig. 17)  
 272 Gaming counter?: disc chipped from a slip of micaceous sandstone. D. 100 mm. Th. 8 mm. 1920.  
 273 Gaming counter?: disc chipped from a slip of micaceous sandstone. D. 44 mm. Th. 5 mm. 2405.

### Jet

- 274 Bracelet, rectangular in section, notched repeatedly on upper and lower outside edges; broken. D. 70 mm. W. 9 mm. Th. 4 mm. 1877. (Fig. 18)  
 275 Inlay fragment, rectangular in section, ornamented with zig-zag decoration along intact edge. 25 x 2 x 2.5 mm. 1413. (Fig. 31)  
 276 Fragment (unworked). 30 x 18 x 11 mm. 2404. (Fig. 31)

### Ceramics

- 277 Pipeclay figurine: bust with applied disc at waist; head broken. Ht. 106 mm. 1797. (Fig. 20)  
 278 Gaming counter: disc chipped from base of a greyware vessel, the edges ground smooth. D. 43 mm. Th. 12 mm. 2350. (Fig. 17)

### Glass

- 279-80 Glass; see p. 57. (Fig. 30)  
 281 Bracelet of green glass, sub-triangular in section, with applied spiral cordon of blue and white glass; broken. D. c. 70 mm. W. 13 mm. 355. (Fig. 18)

### Metalwork

- 282 Iron bar; square in section at one end, round at the other; possibly part of an axle; broken. L. 425 mm. Th. (max.) 33 mm. 2415. (Fig. 23)  
 283 Iron linch pin, with spatulate head and turned-over loop. L. 82 mm. 1479. (Fig. 24)

- 284 Iron knife with strip tang; applied copper-alloy mounts at either end of tang, three central rivet-holes; expanding blade. L. 130 mm. 2410. (Fig. 24)  
 285 Iron slide key, with flattened, perforated handle and three levers. L. 152 mm. 2413. (Fig. 22)  
 286 Iron strip, rectangular; no features. 165 x 16 x 3 mm. 2413. (Fig. 24)  
 287 Iron nail, rectangular in section, head corroded. L. 145 mm. 2401.  
 288 Iron nail, square in section, head missing. L. 125 mm. 2412. (Fig. 24)  
 Six other nails, broken and corroded, from various contexts.  
 289 Copper-alloy steelyard beam, flattened and provided with a suspension ring at one end; broken. L. 67 mm. 2349. (Fig. 21)  
 290 Copper-alloy pin, with large globular head, flattened on underside; shank broken. L. 29 mm. 2352. (Fig. 19)  
 291 Copper-alloy ring, ovate in section; broken. D. 20 mm. Th. 3 mm. 1153. (Fig. 21)  
 292 Copper-alloy ingot fragment. 22 x 22 x 9 mm. 1976. (Fig. 31)

### Coins

293-333 Coins; see pp. 45-6.

### Wood

- 334 Bucket, stave-built of Silver Fir, with tapering profile; iron hoops. Ht. 210 mm. D. (base) 225 mm. 2068. (Fig. 26)  
 335 Bung or plug, sub-circular in section, chopped to a point at one end, cut to form a rectangular finger-hold at the other. L. 76 mm. D. 42 mm. 2451. (Fig. 25)  
 336 Plug or peg, circular in section; broken. L. 57 mm. D. 25 mm. 2066. (Fig. 25)  
 337 Peg, wedge-shaped; originally perforated; broken. L. 105 mm. 2405. (Fig. 25)  
 338 Implement (?) with concave triangular 'blade' and tapering shaft. L. 155 mm. 2405. (Fig. 25)  
 339 Plank fragment with bevelled edges; perforated. 110 x 40 x 17 mm. 2405. (Fig. 25)  
 340 Fragment, with two nail-holes. 52 x 11 x 5 mm. 2405. (Fig. 25)  
 341 Plank, boat-shaped with central perforation of D. 30 mm. 240 x 100 x 27 mm. 2405. (Fig. 25)  
 342 Plank fragment, squared at one end, with central rectangular indentation. 135 x 65 x 15 mm. 2032. (Fig. 25)  
 343 Plank fragment, with three flush-fitting pegs in situ. 170 x 100 x 20 mm. 2402. (Fig. 25)  
 344 Fragments, of cylindrical, rectangular and irregular shape. 2404-5, 2409.

### Bone

- 345 Gaming counter, plano-convex, with central indentation. D. 23.5 mm. Th. 5 mm. 2349. (Fig. 17)

- 346 Pin with pointed head and tapering shank; two incised grooves below head. L. 68 mm. 1141. (Fig. 19)
- 347 Pin with sub-rectangular head and swelling shank; incised circumferential groove on head. L. 79 mm. 2062. (Fig. 19)
- 348 Radius of cow, chopped at articular end, sawn through shaft. L. 110 mm. 2404. (Fig. 31)
- 349 Fragment of limb bone of large ungulate, with multiple chop-marks and breaks. L. 140 mm. 2351. (Fig. 31)

## Leather

- 350 Shoe, undecorated, with vamp seam and heel stiffener; stitch-holes at instep; front of vamp seam stitched, rear part thonged. Thonged insole, nailed sole. L. 280 mm. 2402. (Fig. 27)
- 351 Shoe (upper fragments only); two openwork panels with gimped edges, thonged together, with projecting strap; probably part of vamp, with strap linking to ankle strap. 2304. (Fig. 27)
- 352 Shoe, with plain vamp; rear quarters and fastenings missing; heel stiffener partly survives; double outer sole, nailed; single inner sole secured by central thong. L. 120 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 27)
- 353 Shoe, with openwork toe and rear quarters; decorative thonging on toe; ankle straps; nailed sole. L. 180 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 28)
- 354 Shoe, undecorated toe, openwork wheel pattern on rear quarters; ankle strap, nailed sole. L. 200 mm. 2402. (Fig. 28)
- 355 Shoe (upper and sole fragments only); nailed sole. Nails thin out at instep. L. c. 200 mm. 2066. (Fig. 28)
- 356 Shoe (upper and sole fragments only); nailed sole. L. c. 230 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 28)
- 357 Shoe (sole only), child's size, no upper; six thicknesses of leather, nailed. L. 170 mm. 2403. (Fig. 29)
- 358 Shoe (nailed sole fragment only), with edge of heel stiffener surviving. 2066.
- 359 Shoe (sole only), child's size; no trace of any upper; thonged insole and four thicknesses of leather, nailed. L. c. 160 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 29)
- 360 Shoe or sandal (nailed sole fragment only), with border of multiple incisions and with thong holes in centre. 2404. (Fig. 29)
- 361 Shoe (upper fragment only); vamp with openwork decoration matching that on 363. 2404. (Fig. 29)
- 362 Shoe (upper and sole fragments only); top edge of upper folded over and sewn, seamed at instep; double thickness sewn ankle straps either side with terminal fastening hole; nailed sole. 2404. (Fig. 29)
- 363 Shoe (upper fragments only); openwork vamp with gimped edge; wheel motif on rear quarters, ankle straps with slotted fastening holes and one decorative triangular

- perforation; seamed at heel, thonged. 2404/5. (Fig. 29)
- 364 Heel stiffener with traces of nail-holes on lower edge. Ht. 45 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 29)
- 365 Shoe (upper fragment only); with impression of heel stiffener and with stitch-holes on line of ankle straps; seamed (apparently) at instep. 2404. (Fig. 29)
- 366 Shoe (nailed sole fragments only), with traces of thonging and marking-out lines. 2404. (Fig. 29)
- 367 Shoe (nailed sole fragments only), with thonging. 2404/5.
- 368 Shoe (nailed sole fragment only), with central thonging. 2066.
- 369 Shoe (nailed sole fragments only). 2405.
- 370 Shoe (nailed sole fragments only). 2402.
- 371 Fragment, lunate, with central perforation. L. 145 mm. W. 90 mm. 2404/5. (Fig. 29)

## Contexts

Contexts producing finds have been grouped under the following headings:

### Friends' Burial Ground

Undifferentiated: layers 27, 29, 31; features 1, 10, 23, 67.

### Bishophill

Information currently incomplete.

Pre-terrace features: 10773, 10849, 10983.

The terrace: 10160, 10171, 11001; building debris on terrace: 10173.

Features on the terrace: Range 1: 10662, 10675; Range 2: 10785; furnace stoke-hole: 10440; drains: 10635, 10693, 10769, 10819; pits and other features: 10068, 10075, 10168, 10442, 10637.

Post-Roman levels: 10003, 10132, 10134, 10141, 10152, 10155, 10257, 10428, 10491, 10502, 10554, 10708.

### Skeldergate

Road sequence: 2349–2352.

Trial trench: 1141, 1153.

The well: back-fill deposits: 2050, 2062, 2066, 2068, 2096, 2401–5, 2407–8, 2410, 2412–13; lining: 2451.

Post-Roman levels: 157, 355, 479, 491, 499, 1130, 1227, 1246, 1285, 1338, 1395, 1413, 1420, 1474, 1527, 1592, 1624, 1635, 1659, 1711, 1740, 1745, 1797, 1824, 1877, 1908, 1920, 1935, 1946, 1974, 1976, 2000, 2013, 2028, 2032, 2304, 2337, 2342.

## Provenances

Finds were recovered from contexts on each site as follows.

Context numbers are given in Roman characters, find numbers in italics.

### Friends' Burial Ground

27: 154; 29: 155; 31: 156; F1: 160; F10: 158, 161; F23: 157; F67: 159.

### Bishophill

10000: 198, 210, 216, 248-9, 255; 10003: 207; 10043: 257; 10068: 171, 236; 10074: 230; 10075: 239; 10082: 215; 10084: 217, 226, 228; 10127: 190, 203; 10132: 172; 10134: 199; 10141: 224; 10152: 164, 262; 10155: 238; 10160: 187; 10166: 240; 10168: 202; 10170: 196; 10171: 195; 10173: 163, 185; 10257: 254, 256; 10334: 173; 10339: 245; 10402: 191; 10405: 233; 10417: 247; 10428: 211, 241; 10430: 227; 10437: 220, 225; 10440: 186, 188-9; 10442: 182; 10469: 192, 231; 10486: 253; 10488: 201; 10491: 258, 260; 10502: 222-3, 232; 10537: 184; 10538: 175; 10554: 209; 10563: 243; 10566: 179; 10568: 234; 10592: 219; 10596: 242; 10628: 237; 10634: 180; 10635: 174, 263; 10637: 212, 259; 10662: 193; 10663: 252; 10675:

197; 10676: 213; 10678: 177; 10692: 200; 10693: 229; 10708: 181, 214; 10716: 250; 10724: 218, 267; 10728: 206; 10766: 251; 10769: 162; 10773: 166, 176, 194, 205; 10785: 165; 10786: 208; 10816: 244; 10819: 261; 10838: 221; 10849: 169, 183; 10927: 235; 10932: 167, 246; 10977: 168, 204; 10980: 178, 266; 10983: 170; 11001: 264-5.

### Skeldergate

355: 281; 479: 326; 491: 313; 499: 329; 1130: 304; 1141: 346; 1153: 291; 1227: 328; 1285: 320; 1338: 299; 1395: 312, 323; 1413: 275, 293; 1420: 319; 1474: 298; 1479: 283; 1527: 310; 1592: 311; 1624: 332; 1635: 314; 1659: 296; 1711: 309; 1740: 316, 324; 1745: 331; 1797: 277; 1824: 306; 1877: 274; 1908: 300-1; 1920: 272; 1935: 315; 1946: 333; 1974: 325; 1976: 292; 2000: 322; 2013: 318; 2028: 305, 317; 2032: 342; 2050: 321; 2062: 347; 2066: 336, 355, 358, 368; 2068: 334; 2304: 351, 362; 2337: 307-8; 2342: 303; 2349: 268, 289, 345; 2350: 278, 294; 2351: 349; 2352: 290; 2401: 287; 2402: 343, 350, 354, 370; 2403: 359; 2404: 276, 344, 348, 360-2, 365-6; 2404/5: 352-3, 356-7, 363-4, 367, 371; 2405: 268-71, 273, 337-41, 344, 369; 2408: 295; 2409: 280, 344; 2410: 284, 297; 2412: 288; 2413: 285-6; 2415: 279, 282; 2451: 335; unstratified: 302, 327, 330.

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## Summary

The finds discussed here are from excavations of Roman levels at Skeldergate and Bishophill and from a more limited investigation carried out within the Friends' Burial Ground. An account of the excavations appears in *AY* 4/1; pottery from these sites is described in *AY* 16/2 and the environmental evidence is published in *AY* 14/3. The principal features encountered at Skeldergate were a timber-lined well and a series of road surfaces, while at Bishophill traces of three ranges of buildings standing on an artificial terrace were uncovered. Unequivocal evidence of structures was lacking in the Friends' Burial Ground, owing to the limited area which was excavated.

Amongst the more notable finds from these excavations were two figurines of the 2nd century in pipeclay (Fig. 20), produced in Central Gaul, and a third in bronze in the form of a cockerel



(Fig. 21). Other metalwork included a selection of keys (Fig. 22) and an unusual iron knife with gilt-bronze mounts (Fig. 24). From the Skeldergate well came an important series of shoes (Figs. 27–9), mostly of the *calceus* type, and a number of wooden objects including a stave-built bucket made of imported timber with iron bindings (Fig. 26). Amongst various glass fragments, the most important find was part of a straight-sided bowl bearing an engraved mythical scene and a legend running around the rim (Fig. 30), probably dating from the 3rd century.

All the finds discussed here are now in the care of the Yorkshire Museum, York.

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## Résumé

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Les découvertes publiées dans ce fascicule proviennent des fouilles des niveaux romains de Bishophill et de Skeldergate et d'une fouille plus limitée effectuée dans le Friends' Burial Ground. Un compte rendu de la fouille est publié dans le fascicule 4/1 de *The Archaeology of York*; la poterie de ces sites est décrite dans le fascicule 16/2 et l'étude de l'environnement est publiée dans le fascicule 14/3. Les principales structures du site de Skeldergate sont un puits revêtu de bois et des surfaces de routes, alors que l'on trouve à Bishophill les traces de trois corps de bâtiments sur une terrasse artificielle. Le Friends' Burial Ground, étant donnée sa faible étendue, manque de structures évidentes.

Parmi les découvertes les plus remarquables provenant de ces fouilles se trouvaient deux figurines en terre blanche, produites au 2<sup>ème</sup> siècle dans le centre de la Gaule (Fig. 20) et une troisième en bronze (Fig. 21) représentant un coquelet. D'autres objets métalliques dont une série de clefs (Fig. 22) et un inhabituel couteau en fer avec des montures en bronze doré (Fig. 24). Du puits de Skeldergate provient une importante série de chaussures (Fig. 27–9), la plupart du type *calceus*, et un bon nombre d'objets en bois comprenant un seau fait de douves en bois importé avec des anneaux de fer (Fig. 26). Parmi de nombreux fragments de verre, la découverte la plus importante est une partie d'un bol à parois droites portant une scène mythique et une légende incisée sous la lèvre (Fig. 30) datant probablement du 3<sup>ème</sup> siècle.

Toutes les découvertes publiées ici sont maintenant confiées aux soins du Yorkshire Museum, York.

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## Zusammenfassung

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Die hier besprochenen Funde sind die Ergebnisse von Ausgrabungen römischer Schichten in Skeldergate und Bishophill und von mehr begrenzten Untersuchungen innerhalb des Geländes des Friends' Burial Ground. Ein Bericht über die Ausgrabungen erscheint in *AY* 4/1; die Keramikfunde aus diesen Grabungen wurden in *AY* 16/2 beschrieben; Daten zur Bodenstruktur und Paläobiologie der Fundstätten wurden in *AY* 14/3 veröffentlicht. Unter den Anlagen, die in Skeldergate freigelegt wurden, sind ein Holzverschalter Brunnen und eine Folge von Straßendecken besonders zu erwähnen. In Bishophill wurden Spuren von drei Gebäudekomplexen, die auf einer angelegten Terrasse standen, ausgegraben. Auf dem Gelände des Friends' Burial Ground fehlten vergleichbare Bauspuren, was jedoch auf den geringen Umfang der Ausgrabungsfläche zurückgeführt werden könnte.

Zu den erwähnenswerten Fundgegenständen aus diesen Ausgrabungen gehören zwei Figurinen aus Pfeifenton (Abb. 20), die ins zweite Jahrhundert datiert werden können und aus Centralgallien stammen, sowie die einen Hahn darstellende Bronzestatuette (Abb. 21). Unter den Metallfunden fallen eine Anzahl Schlüssel (Abb. 22) und ein ungewöhnliches Eisenmesser mit Beschlägen aus Goldbronze (Abb. 24) auf. Die Grabung in Skeldergate erbrachte eine recht aufschlußreiche Schuhserie (Abb. 27-9) meist vom Typ *calceus*, sowie eine Anzahl Holzgegenstände, unter denen sich ein mit eisernen Reifen beschlagener Daubeneimer aus importiertem Holz befand (Abb. 26). Unter den verschiedenen Glassfunden stachen als besonders bemerkenswert die Fragmente einer gradseitigen Schale mit eingravierter mythologischer Scene und Spruchband um den Rand und möglicher Datierung in das dritte Jahrhundert hervor (Abb. 30). Alle hier besprochenen Fundgegenstände befinden sich in der Obhut des Yorkshire Museums, York.

## Notes

- Two further green-stained bone pins from York are in the Bateman Collection, Sheffield City Museum (J93, 599).
- This bust was made in Central Gaul and not, as stated in that report, in the Rhineland.
- The exception from Canterbury shows the weave in a more realistic manner and, as the indistinctly moulded name suggests, was the work of a well-known maker of statuettes in Central Gaul, namely PISTILLVS, who seems to have worked at Autun (Saône-et-Loire) according to Vertet and Vuillemot (1972, 73-6). It is possible that, due to the demand for his statuettes, the unsigned examples which have the weave rather sketchily reproduced may be copies of his work made by potters elsewhere in the Allier region who capitalized on his popularity.
- Two full-scale basket chairs modelled in stone were found in a burial chamber at Weiden, near Cologne (Fremersdorf, 1957; see also Fremersdorf, 1950, Taf. 76).
- For a full discussion see Jenkins, 1957, 38ff. N.B. The distribution map and list of find-places are now out of date.
- E.g. from Jewry Wall, Leicester (Kenyon, 1948, 262, fig. 89, 16) and Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull, 1947, 333, pl. C, 21); another example from Richborough (Cunliffe, 1968, 97, pl. XL, 149) has a socketed base and may have formed the head of a composite pin.
- For a recent discussion of carved stone cockerels see Green, 1974, 381ff.
- This account is based on notes kindly provided by Miss Sarnia Butcher of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment.
- See, for example, those from Canterbury (Frere, 1970, 112, fig. 13), Leicester (Kenyon, 1948, 259, fig. 87, 4), London (British Museum, *Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 78, fig. 40, 11; Merrifield, 1965, 186, pl. 128), Richborough (Bushe-Fox, 1949, 131, pl. XXXVIII, 133; Cunliffe, 1968, 214, pl. XLVII, 214) and Silchester (Boon, 1974, fig. 34, 3-4).
- This coin and no. 255 are surface finds and are almost certainly modern losses.
- Vide supra.
- The principal sources used here are Ambrose in Cunliffe, 1975, 247ff.; Busch, 1965; Gansser-Burckhardt, 1942; Groenman-van Waateringe, 1967; Robertson et al., 1974.
- The inscription was originally published in Wilson et al., 1975, 289, with amendments in *Britannia* 8 (1977). Mr R. P. Wright has kindly made this revised interpretation available in advance of publication.
- The finds from the Friends' Burial Ground have been deposited in the Yorkshire Museum by courtesy of the site owners, the Tuke Housing Association.
- The finds from the Bishophill site have been deposited in the Yorkshire Museum by courtesy of the site owners, the former York Corporation.
- The finds from Skeldergate have been deposited in the Yorkshire Museum by courtesy of the site owners, the North Eastern Electricity Board.

## Abbreviations

Most abbreviations used are those recommended by the Council for British Archaeology but the following are used in addition. Bibliographical brief references used in the text are explained in the bibliography.

AY	<i>The Archaeology of York</i>	LRBC 1/2	R. A. G. Carson, P. V. Hill and J. P. C. Kent, <i>Late Roman Bronze Coinage</i> , parts 1 and 2 (London, 1960)
C	H. Cohen, <i>Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'empire romain</i> , 2nd edn (Paris, 1880-92)	RIC	H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, <i>The Roman Imperial Coinage</i> (London, 1923-67)
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i>	SNG	<i>Sylloge Numorum Graecorum (Copenhagen)</i> , <i>Macedonia</i> part 1 (Copenhagen, 1973)
E	G. Elmer, 'Die Münzprägung der gallischen Kaiser in Köln, Trier und Mailand', <i>Bonner Jahrbuch</i> (1941)		

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# The Archaeology of York

General Editor P. V. Addyman

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