

Roman Society Student Placement: Gregory Edmund's Testimonial

I was fortunate enough to be selected for one of the two Roman Society's Student Placements posted to the Coins and Medals Department in the British Museum for several weeks in the late summer of 2016. My prior familiarity with one of their online databases system known as the 'Portable Antiquities Scheme' ('PAS') was especially useful during my tenure as the majority of the work conducted in the department revolves around the filing and management of this online archive.

My particular efforts were devoted to the cataloguing of a significant 3rd Century AD hoard of Roman coins discovered in Cheshire in the first months of 2015. Over the course of my two weeks, I was able to sort, identify and classify around 2,000 of the nearly 7,000 coins present within the hoard, thereby recording some vital dating information for the British Museum and consequently national hoard archives. This will also enable the hoard to progress forward the valuation stage of the treasure process, and ultimately assist local museums in acquiring the collection.

During sorting, I happened upon four previously unrecorded coin varieties that certainly made the effort and the occasional bleary eyes worthwhile! The consistently friendly and relaxed atmosphere also ensured that I felt most welcome and valued throughout my stay, ensuring that the work there was as entertaining as it was educational. I would therefore thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone keen in the field of ancient numismatics as well as anyone simply intrigued to learn more about how heritage is recorded in 21st Century Britain.

Thank you once again to the Roman Society for giving me the opportunity to explore this important and fascinating world of heritage preservation and academic research.

