

Fragment de statuette en argent de Visan (Vaucluse, F)

M. Feugère

Il y a quatre ans, L. Guyard et moi-même faisions connaître dans ces pages un fragment de statuette panthée en bronze provenant des fouilles récentes de Lutèce. Les parallèles cités mentionnaient les figurines de Vienne (Isère) et d'Anost-en-Morvan (Saône-et-Loire), en rappelant surtout l'existence de la spectaculaire statuette en argent du trésor de Mâcon, aujourd'hui conservée au British Museum (Feugère, Guyard 1999, fig. 2).

Les hasards des dépouillages me permettent aujourd'hui d'ajouter à cette petite série une découverte effectuée en 1997 à Visan (Vaucluse), mais passée inaperçue depuis, malgré la publication d'une photographie en couleur dans une revue de détectoristes (Dét.-Passion n° 13, nov.-déc. 1997, 37). L'objet, coulé en argent d'un seul tenant, haut de 6 cm, se présente sous la forme d'une tige effilée vers le bas et surmontée d'un buste dont le vêtement et la coiffe (coiffure ?) sont dorés (fig. 1). Aucun attribut ne permet de préciser la nature de ce personnage, mais un trou sous l'oreille gauche a pu servir à fixer un élément qui pouvait aider à cette identification. Il faut noter que, sur les statuettes panthées comme, d'une manière plus générale, sur les regroupements d'images mythologiques pouvant recouvrir une signification collective (calendriers, zodiaques, *dodekathēia* ...), les figurines ne sont pas nécessairement identifiées à titre individuel. C'est de leur agencement, de leur nombre ou encore de l'alternance de quelques figures typiques que résulte la reconnaissance de l'ensemble. On peut néanmoins supposer que la lecture de ces images nous est plus difficile qu'elle ne l'était pour les spectateurs de l'époque.

Le mouvement latéral de la pointe ne résulte pas d'un choc, comme le pensait l'inventeur : c'est la forme normale des cornes d'abondance qui, sur les statuettes de divinités panthées, sont souvent effilées pour permettre leur juxtaposition.



Fig. 1 —

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Bibliographie :

- Boucher 1976 : Boucher (S.), *Recherches sur les bronzes figurés de la Gaule préromaine et romaine*. Paris-Rome 1976.
Feugère, Guyard 1999 : Feugère (M.), Guyard (L.), *Une statuette de divinité panthée à Lutèce*. *Instrumentum* 10, déc. 1999, 22.
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REVIEW

EARLY ANGLO-SAXON BELT BUCKLES

(Late Fifth Century to Early Eighth Century A.D.) Their Classification and Context

S. Marzinkik

This corpus of 1379 buckles looks at a type of artefact not previously studied systematically. It is an Oxford D. Phil. thesis, with classification, discussion, catalogue and drawings. Most users will want the last, as a quick guide to identification, and they can use the book in this way once the route from illustration back to type-list and then forward to cemetery catalogue has been found, though their time would have been saved if the data in the type-list had been put in the illustration captions, where there is quite enough space.

The basic classification is two-fold, buckles without (I) and with (II) a plate, which can be integrally cast, hinged or folded sheet – the last having a disturbing ability to turn themselves into a I by divorce. The shape of the frame (I was taught so long ago that I have forgotten the reason that buckles have frames, not loops, but that is also Geoff Egan's terminology for London) then produces twelve Typegroups in Class I and twenty-six in Class II ; many Typegroups have characteristics distinctive enough to merit being subgroups. Anyone who has tried to construct this sort of categorisation, as I once did with pins, will be very sympathetic to the problems of trying to make it both comprehensive and meaningful, but I would have expected the double-tongued buckles studied by Helen Geake in Medieval Archaeology, 38

(1994), 164-6 to have merited some sort of special subtyping.

Much of Marzinkik's discussion is a search for useful associations of any one Typegroup with any one geographical area, gender, status group or overseas connection. Probably unsurprisingly, all but the most exotic – and therefore the best-known – defy anything clear-cut. Indeed, I thought that the most interesting point related to the materials rather than to the typology. Marzinkik has established that the majority of silver or gilt buckles are in the south coast zone ; this is not a matter of wealth, as so many gilt brooches are found inland, so must show a different concept of the importance of the buckle, and with it presumably the belt, as a status indicator.

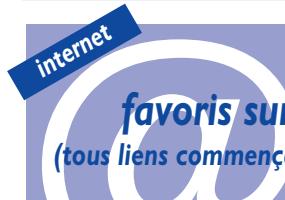
Discussion of ideas like that, and of particular brooches, can only be found by direct searching of the opening chapters, as there is no index, a failing that will reduce the amount of use that the book will get. The small font size did not make me eager to read those chapters straight through, and lines like "The latest grave is Morning Thorpe 367B, with a group 6 shield boss and an E2/E3 spearhead" are perfectly comprehensible but nevertheless make heavy going. There are some useful comparisons with continental examples, and I would like to have had more on why some types are found less than others, if necessary in lieu of rather dutiful sections

COLLOQUE Octobre 2004

Dans la suite des rencontres de 1999 et de 2001 consacrées à l'artisanat romain, le Séminaire d'Études Anciennes de l'Université du Luxembourg organisera à Erpeldange (Luxembourg), du jeudi 14 au samedi 16 octobre 2004, un colloque international intitulé :

Artisanat Artisanat et économie romaine : Italie et provinces occidentales de l'Empire

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on energy expenditure and the depths in the ground in which buckles have been found. The late sixth century is seen as something of a turning-point, with less copying and more refashioning into something more English than north Germanic/ Frankish, which is consistent with the fading out of such brooches as those in John Hines's great Corpus of Square-Headed Brooches – sorry, that should have been Corpus of Great Sq.-H. B. – and adoption of new Mediterranean modes. Here Marzinkik does not agree with Helen Geake that seventh-century modes were inspired directly from Byzantium and by adoption from late Roman Britain, but views them as mediated through Francia, which would probably be the consensus view.

The catalogue illustrations are clear enough for use, and there are two useful reproductions of continental sequences, one of which has either been over-inked or over-reduced. Reproductions of manuscript illuminations and other representations and reconstructions are also useful.

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- Geake 1994 : Geake (H.), Anglo-Saxon double-tongued buckles, *Medieval Archaeology* 38, 164-167.
Hines 1997 : Hines (J.), *A New Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-headed Brooches*. London, 1997.

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