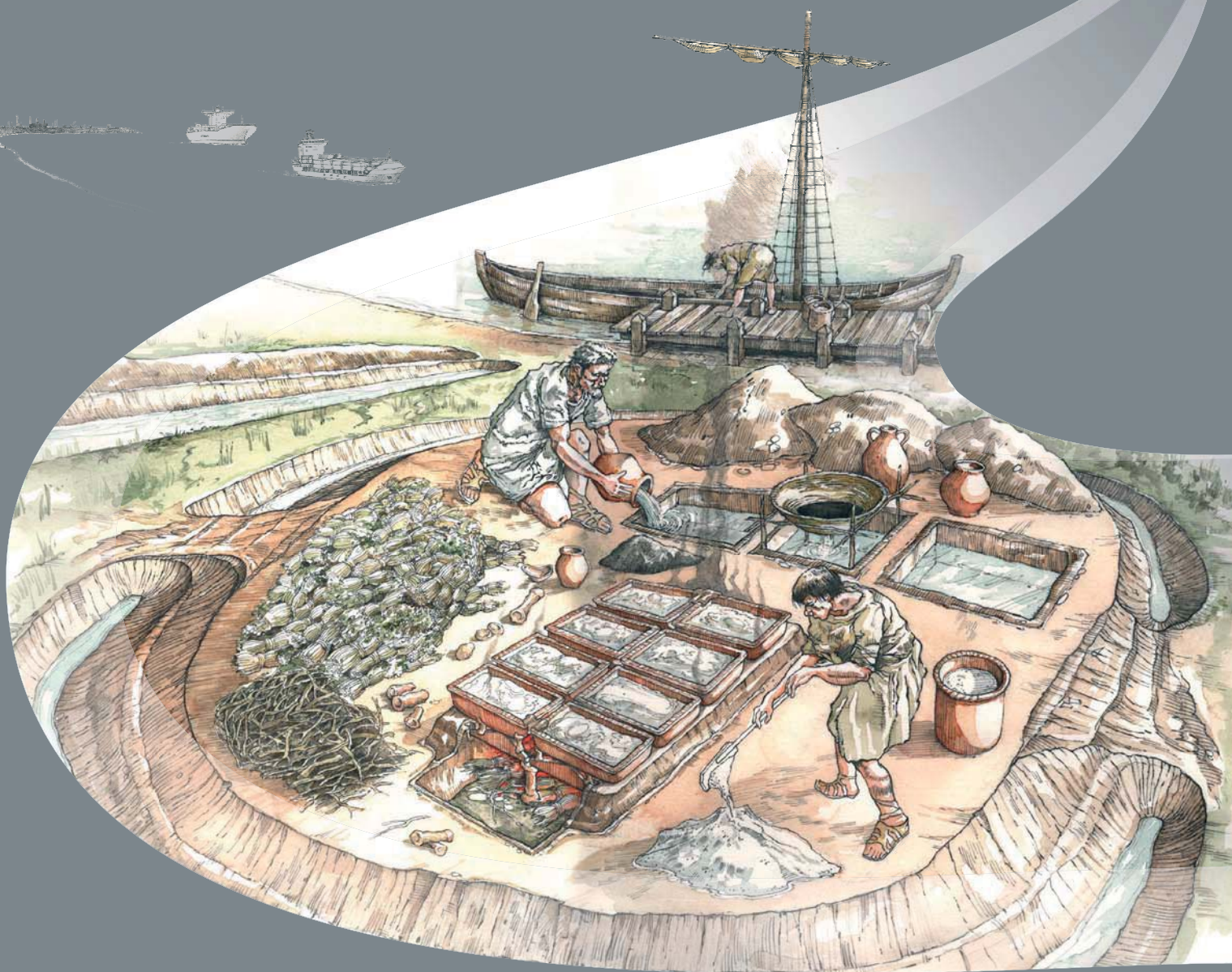


LONDON GATEWAY

IRON AGE AND ROMAN SALT MAKING IN THE THAMES ESTUARY

EXCAVATION AT STANFORD WHARF
NATURE RESERVE, ESSEX



SPECIALIST REPORT 4

COINS

BY PAUL BOOTH

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Six Roman coins were recovered during the excavation and are summarised in Table 4.1, with further details contained in the project archive. They range in date from the later 2nd century to at least the mid 4th century, but all were in poor condition, most being encrusted and several incomplete, and cleaning by a conservator resulted in only minimal refinement of provisional identifications. No fully referenced identifications were possible.

The earliest coin is a small *as* of the later 2nd century, having a bearded obverse bust, most probably of Marcus Aurelius or Commodus. One of the two fragmentary *antoniniani* was probably an irregular issue, while the status of the other is uncertain. The SOLI INVICTO COMITI issue of London (*c* AD 313-317), unfortunately incomplete, is the only coin whose original condition can be assessed; as so often with these coins it was only slightly worn when lost. Nevertheless, encrustation of the surviving obverse legend still precludes close identification. A completely encrusted AE3 is perhaps most likely to date to the second quarter of the 4th century, and the latest closely datable piece is an issue of Magnentius or Decentius, apparently from Trier, but again with other legends completely lost or obscured.

The coins are broadly characteristic of the range of pieces that can occur on rural sites, but their general scarcity does not permit any meaningful generalisation about the nature of the assemblage, a problem exacerbated by their poor condition.

Table

TABLE 4.1: SUMMARY LIST OF COINS IN APPROXIMATE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF ISSUE

Context	SF	Est. Date	Denomination	Reverse	Mint	Obverse	Comment
1637	1489	161-192?	as	standing figure		bearded head r	encrusted, minimal improvement after cleaning
5279	1522	260-296?	antoninianus? 17-20mm	standing figure	-	radiate head r	fragmented, no legends etc
4090	4011	260-296?	antoninianus frag 14mm	female figure 1 - eg Pax etc		radiate head r	irregular, broken
1534	1496	313-317	nummus AE2 20mm	SOLI INVI[CTO COMITI	S[over PLN London	IMP [head r	encrusted and broken (c one third missing)
4225	4031	351-353	nummus AE2 21mm	(Salus DD NN Aug et Caes) Chi-rho	TRP Trier	head r, possibly with pearled diadem?	legends encrusted/lost, not clear if mm is complete
1817	1495	4C?	nummus AE3 14mm	?		?	encrusted and broken, illegible

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