

These critical remarks concern mainly the final two parts of the volume, deliberately separated by the editor from its basic contents, they cannot detract in any way from the significance of this publication of the Martynovka "hoard" or reduce the value of the reviewed work as a whole. Apart from Ljudmyla Pekar'ska and Dafydd Kidd, the authors of this excellent work, the readers' gratitude must also be directed to Falko Daim who undertook the time-consuming and ungrateful work of translating large parts of the text and editorial work. To the Universitätsverlung Wagner of Innsbruck we also should be grateful for an especially carefully produced and attractive book.

Translated by Paul Barford

Egon Wamers, *Die frühmittelalterlichen Lesefunde aus der Lohrstrasse (Baustelle Hilton) in Mainz*. Mainz 1994, 267 pp., 115 figs. in text, appendices. *Mainzer Archäologische Schriften* vol. 1.

Reviewed by Helena Zoll-Adamikowa

This volume begins a new series of archaeological monographs, published by the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Rheinland-Pfalz. It contains a catalogue and analysis of artefacts found by collectors on the spoilheaps of an archaeological site destroyed by redevelopment. In 1981–1982 in the course of the construction of the Hilton hotel near the banks of the Rhine, bulldozers tore through a depth of archaeological stratigraphy from the early and late Middle Ages, and the soil was taken to a landfill site outside the town. Only the discovery in the lower layers of nine well-preserved Late Roman ships caused the end of the unrecorded destruction of this site and systematic excavations were begun, the remains of the ships were removed and conserved and now form a show-piece in the newly-opened ship-museum in Mainz.

Unfortunately, due to the earlier building work and the incomprehensible passivity of those responsible for the preservation of ancient remains, the possibility of recovering information from the layers above the ships was completely lost. Many of the finds were also lost, the spoil heaps were examined only by collectors armed with metal-detectors who only collected the most interesting finds. Due to a careful search lasting almost ten years, Egon Wamers was able to trace 25 private collections of artefacts from this site, catalogue them, and photograph more than 600 artefacts. Most of these are the basis for the reviewed book. This is supplemented by other material (mainly coins) from this site and two others in the town, recovered from antiquity dealers or which by other means reached the museums in Mainz, Trier and Frankfurt.

After a short introduction (p. 1–4) in which the writer describes the construction of the Hilton and the circumstances surrounding the unrecorded destruction of the archaeological stratigraphy, and also the attempts to catalogue the material from the spoilheaps. Here as in the concluding chapter Wamers attempts to characterise the post-Roman history of this part of the town. This area was outside the Roman town, but about 900 AD the fortifications were shifted 25–30 m in the direction of the Rhine. It is thought that there was a road between the waterfront and the town wall, and that the area between the road and wall was divided into narrow parcels containing warehouses, shops and workshops. The building of the Late Carolingian fortifications divided this craftsmens' quarter from the port, transport of goods between the two now had to pass through the town gates and be subject to custom dues.

The catalogue and analysis of the finds (pp. 5–193) is arranged chronologically and by function and typology of the items arranged in a single numbered series within the sites discussed. There are 322 items from the Hilton II site discussed, 42 Carolingian and Ottonian finds from earlier finds from

the area, and 11 items from two other recently examined sites are also included. The exception are the 143 coins which are numbered separately. After the description of items of a specific type, they are discussed, often – as in the case of the fibulae – in great detail. These discussions are illustrated by 27 distribution maps of analogies to particular types discussed. These maps are accompanied by 35 lists (pp. 199–246) of the mapped finds.

The size of different chapters is dependent on the number of finds of different chronological periods discussed. There are 14 Late Roman items discussed (mostly ornamented belt-ends), they were redeposited in the early Medieval layers. Merovingian objects (pp. 11–19) are represented by 27 items, mostly strap fittings, scabbard buttons, combs, fibulae and a fragment of a signet-ring. Apart from a quadripartite fibula of the 6th century, most of the finds discussed can be dated to the seventh century – mostly the middle and second half of that century, suggesting intensification of settlement in this part of the town in that period. Most of the discussed finds (246 items) can be dated to the 8th century and beginning of the ninth century, and represents so-called Carolingian-Ottonian culture. These items are discussed in two chapters: 141 fibulae are discussed separately (pp. 50–151), while the other 105 items (strap fittings and strapends, ornaments, knives, ceramics and tools for textile production) are analysed in a separate section (pp. 20–49). This is followed by 18 objects classified as Late Medieval and 11 as modern (pp. 152–158), while 14 are of uncertain chronology (pp. 190–3). Three further chapters present material of similar function of different periods; metalworking debris (pp. 158–173), weights (pp. 174–176) and coins (written by Ch. Stoess, pp. 177–189). The volume is closed by an historical summary of the site, finds lists and a bibliography of over 550 items.

The above account is insufficient to represent the rich contents of this book, and its significance for reconstructing life and activities of the inhabitants of the waterfront at Mainz, but also the material culture of western Europe in the Carolingian and Ottonian periods. The reader obtains a handbook, the first compendium of knowledge of the typology and chronology of the finds of this period. This may be supplemented by two articles recently published by the same author on Carolingian fibulae (*Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, Berlin–New York 1994, vol. 8, fasc. 5/6: 586–608) and Carolingian fingerrings (*Ibid* vol. 9, fasc. 1/2: 65–67). It is an especially valuable work if we consider the extremely few monographic treatments of material of eighth and ninth century date from this part of Europe. In the 8th century, as a result of the increasing spread of the influence of Christianity on the burial rite in the majority of the Carolingian hegemony, burials were more generally made without gravegoods, and the archaeologist loses one of his principle sources of information about western European dress, ornament and weaponry of the period. These elements of material culture are known from so-called loose finds, sometimes from the excavation of the layers of early towns, or from frontier areas of the Carolingian Empire which were converted to Christianity later (for example Frisia or Saxony) or from the territory of neighbouring peoples (Scandinavia or Slavs). Information on these finds is scattered in the literature of many countries, often in little-known local publications. Often this material is unpublished, lying in museum storerooms, arousing less interest among investigators than more spectacular finds of the Merovingian period, made of more valuable raw materials. E. Wamers has not only produced a useful catalogue of private collections of a maximal number of artefacts recovered by collectors from the destruction of an archaeological site, but above all accumulated presently available information about their analogies, discussing the question of their dating, distribution, place of manufacture, and also – in a number of cases – their genesis.

Of course the range of objects discussed by Wamers is restricted to the spectrum of finds recovered from the Hilton II site (and the others discussed) in Mainz. Finds of materials other than metal are severely underrepresented, only 10 items of bone, wood and leather were collected (and none of these can be dated to the Carolingian-Ottonian periods), only 20 pieces of pottery are discussed (mainly Pingsdorf-type ware). From among 141 fibulae (the largest assemblage of this date from any one site), there are no equal-armed fibulae. This type is usually found on the North Sea coast and is thus often

considered to be a type characteristic of Frisian dress. The lack of these items from the Hilton II site suggests to Wamers that the Frisian quarter mentioned in 9th century sources in Mainz was not in the region of Lohrstrasse.

It would be difficult here to summarise fully the contents of the analysis by Wamers of the many aspects of the objects he discusses, which often has a fundamental significance to the study of artefacts of the period. A good example is his discussion of early Carolingian objects with ornament in so-called Insular style. In his discussion of three strapends with this type of ornament (pp. 30–37) he makes an important contribution to our knowledge of this ornamental horizon (which he justifies calling *Tassilokelchstil* in opposition to other existing terms – such as “Anglo-Carolingian animal style”, “Continental variant of Insular animal ornament”, “Continental Animal Ornament of Style III”). He presents the fullest available list of 93 items in the style of the ornament on the Tassilo Chalice (findlist 2 and map fig. 21 – to which should be added four new finds from the Middle Danube region and one newly-recognized from Cracow-Wawel). In his discussion he re-examines existing views that this animal art – deriving ultimately from 7th and 8th century Northern English styles – was introduced to the Continent together with Insular missionaries and from monastic centres located in freshly-converted territories. This was to explain the rarity of objects of this style west of the Rhine. The analysis by Wamers of the new distribution maps in the light of the extent of the Carolingian monarchy about AD 800 and the boundaries of the Romance and German languages however prompt the revision of such views. He shows that these finds occur equally in territories converted to Christianity (such as Westphalia), and they are also absent from territories which were areas of strong missionary activity (e.g., they are absent from large Frisian cemeteries of the 7th and 8th centuries). Objects connected with sacral use (chalices, pyxes, reliquaries) account only for about 10% of the listed items, the rest are mostly harness and weapon-fittings, only 8% are personal ornaments. He observes that the distribution of objects decorated in the same style as the Tassilo Chalice corresponds to the extent of the area of the Carolingian Reich which was settled by Germanic peoples. These factors lead Wamers to the conclusion that the iconography of this type, while deeply-rooted in Christian tradition (symbolism of Paradise – vine-scrolls inhabited by stylised animals and birds), but on the other hand in interregional Old Germanic Animal Ornament. This was the artistic expression of the tastes and beliefs of that part of the social elite of the new Carolingian monarchy which developed from the Frankish conquerors of the region. The lack of finds of this type from areas to the west (modern France) is only partially explicable as a result of the state of knowledge, but sees the main reason as “*daß dieser neue Zierstil mit dem paradiesischen Heilsversprechen vornehmlich den Germanischen-fränkischen Adel und weniger alten gallischen Adel ansprach, der fest in mediterranen Traditionen verwurzelt war*”. Wamers also reconsiders the chronology of this style, which he sees as beginning about 750, with a floruit about the second half of the eighth century, with a high possibility that it lasted into the first quarter of the ninth, which is shown by the appearance of 9th century items of this style in Scandinavia, the Danube basin and Dalmatian coast.

The discussion of this material by the author of the reviewed work is just one of the many topics which he considers. This shows how valuable a source of information even – at first impression – valueless loose finds recovered from a destroyed archaeological site if they are processed by such an investigator such as Wamers, who is not content simply to repeat existing views, but utilises his knowledge and experience from earlier studies (Wamers 1985; 1991), and with respect to each object conducts a penetrating analysis against a wider context.

This is especially visible in the 100-page discussion of the 141 fibulae, representing a dozen or so basic types and varieties (one of which with coin-like plates was discussed by P. Berghaus pp. 106–115). If we are to criticise this section, it would be not so much for the establishment of the chronology or distribution of specific types. Wamers does not however mention examples of *Vogelfibeln*, pp. 104–5 from outside western and northern Europe, but the type is known in the middle Danube basin in Styria, Hungary, and Moravia: Poulik 1963, 45–47, 144 ryc. 16:1–2 tabl. XVII, XXXVI;

Zoll-Adamikowa *Sprawozdania Archeol.* vol. 45, 1993, 241, fn 2 and refs). This reviewer feels however that the basis of classification of the fibulae used by Wamers is too simplistic, probably as a result of a desire to fit existing categories known from other publications. If as a basic feature of differentiation we wish to retain the general shape (disc-form, rectangular, cruciform, lunulate, π -form etc.), then we should subdivide this either according to ornamental motifs or technological features (cast, embossed), or additional features of form (e.g., form of decoration of the edge). It seems vitally important to produce in the near future a better classification of all early Medieval fibulae than that presently existing, and it seems that it is E. Wamers who is especially predestined to be its author.

In conclusion it is worth noting the excellent quality of the illustrative material of this volume, especially the drawings of the artefacts, published at a suitable scale (often 1:1) and the clear distribution maps. The publishers evidently took great care over the presentation of the volume. If we take into account the reader-friendly construction of the volume and especially its valuable meritorial content, one is convinced that the reviewed work will be for a long time one of the basic works in the archaeological literature for studies on the material culture not only of the Carolingian and Ottonian state, but also the whole of contemporary Europe.

Poulik, J. 1963. *Dve velkomoravske rotundy v Mikulcicach*. Praha.

Wamers, E. 1985. *Insularer Metallschmuck in wikingerzeitlichen Gräbern Nordeuropas. Untersuchungen zur Skandinavischen Westekspansion*. Nordmünster.

Wamers, E. 1991. Pyxides imagines – Zur ikonographie und Funktion karolingischer Silberbecher. *Germania* 69: 97–152.

Translated by Paul Barford

Editorial comment: This review is a shortened version of that which has been submitted in Polish to “*Sprawozdania Archeologiczne*” vol. 47 (1995). While in no way detracting from the value of the discussed work and the material it contains, one must express disquiet in regard to the situation mentioned in this review. Valuable material of all types – including organic materials and pottery with well-defined archaeological contexts from large urban excavations is often lying unpublished in museum storerooms all over Europe, while what seems from the review to be a seminal work for future preparation of finds reports – especially of metal objects – consists of an extended catalogue of selected and spectacular artefacts without any fixed context. This is a repeat of the situation in England nearly 60 years ago with the *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, until recently a standard reference work. The full processing and publication of material from European urban excavations of the past few decades is an urgent problem, and this book sets a standard which in an ideal world should perhaps be matched in processing material from multidisciplinary excavations. This book also raises important moral and ethical questions about the relationship between archaeologists, archaeology, and private collectors and especially treasure-hunters. Archaeology should not consist just of a study of things; continental archaeology especially apparently still finds it difficult to escape from the antiquarian model concentrating on source knowledge of “finds” in some cases regardless of their “context”. Finally, one wonders how it happened that this important piece of European cultural heritage was destroyed in building the Hilton hotel in an area of obvious archaeological potential without adequate archaeological provision or financing of mitigation by the investor?

P.M. Barford