

Roman Middlewich Teachers' Pack

Contents of loans box (in detail)

Silver denarii (19 assorted)

Soldiers would carry coins in a leather or bronze money purse on their wrist. There are copies of silver *denarii* that were minted for the following emperors:

Domitian

- reverse shows Minerva holding a javelin
- reverse shows Minerva holding a spear
- reverse shows Domitian as Augustus

Trajan

- reverse shows Genius with an altar at his feet
- reverse shows Mars

Hadrian

- reverse shows Concordia seated

Septimius Severus

- reverse shows Fortuna
- reverse shows Severus
- reverse shows the emperor performing a sacrifice

Dice

A popular portable game used with board games such as *tabula*. Often the dice were made of glass or bone.

Fibula

A brooch used to fix cloaks. This design is based on a crossbow. It is a reproduction of the remains of a silver one and would have been worn by someone of high status.

Penannular brooch

A common type of brooch worn to fix cloaks.

Bird ring

Rings were commonly worn by men or women. This is the reproduction of a find.

Razor handle

This is the reproduction of a find. It was the handle of a razor. The razor, which is missing, would have been attached at the dolphin's nose. The dolphin is a common decorative motif for the Romans. Being clean-shaven was fashionable although the emperor Hadrian changed that when he grew a beard.

Slide key

This is a reproduction of a find. It was a bronze key used in a tumbler lock used in a door. The Romans had quite intricate lock mechanisms for use on doors and strong-boxes to deter burglars.