



Fig 25. Loom weight: Intermediate near annular form (SF 3) [12] Phase 9

numbers known from several sites between the waterfront and the Strand (17–19 John Adam Street; 18–20 York Buildings; Savoy Steps; Somerset House; Arundel House; Globe House and Hare Court: Cowie 1988, 41–4; Cowie *et al* 2012, 315, 321–2; Sudds 2016). Unfortunately, most of these loom weights are broadly dated, residual or redeposited.

THE COINS

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A total of three stratified coins were recovered from the Adelphi Building (Table 5). While the small size of this assemblage precludes quantitative analysis, the individual coins are of considerable independent interest, and are discussed below.

The earliest coin from the site is a Roman copper-alloy *nummus* of the House of Constantine (SF 21). This specimen belongs to the ‘Constantinopolis’ issue of the early AD 330s, struck in enormous quantities to commemorate the dedication of Constantinople under Constantine the Great; examples are ubiquitous among Romano-British single-find assemblages (*eg* Bowsher 2013, 90), and the coin clearly represents a residual occurrence in a Phase 2 Middle Saxon foreshore deposit.

Table 5. Coin catalogue

Phase	Context no.	Small finds no.	Description
9	89	8	English silver penny/‘sceatta’ (Secondary Phase, Series K, Group E-F/‘Hwiccian’). C.AD 720–35/40. BMC 32a; North 89; Abramson 39.10
5	101	18	English gold shilling (‘Two Emperors’ type), c.AD 645–65/70. BMC 2; Sutherland Class II:V; <i>cf</i> MEC 8, nos. 9–11. Diameter 12.7mm, die axis 280°, weight 1.2g
2	154	21	Roman copper-alloy nummus of the House of Constantine. AD 330–5. Trier mint. As LRBC I 51. Obverse: [CONST]AN [TINOPOLIS], Helmeted bust to left. Reverse: No legend, Victory on prow. Mintmark TRS. Diameter 18.5mm, die axis 180°, weight 1.6g

Foreshore horizon [101] (Phase 5) yielded an Anglo-Saxon pale gold shilling of the Two Emperors type (SF 18), dating to c.AD 645–65/70 (Naismith 2017, 55) (Fig 14). This type belongs to the post-Crondall phase of Anglo-Saxon gold coinage, and is distinguished by the use of obverse and reverse motifs that imitate 4th-century gold *solidi* of Magnus Maximus (AD 383–8) and Valentinian I (AD 364–78); one side of the coin depicts a diademed bust facing right with a blundered legend, while the other shows two busts holding an orb surmounted by a winged head. With fewer than 40 examples known, coins of the Two Emperors type are comparatively uncommon, and the specimen from the Adelphi Building is certainly the first example from a stratified archaeological deposit; in conjunction with a second specimen found on the south bank of the Thames Foreshore near Southwark Bridge (EMC 1993.9080; Cowie *et al* 2012, 206, table 34), it represents one of the earliest post-Roman coin finds known from the London area.

Despite their scarcity as modern finds, the large number of dies represented in the surviving corpus of Two Emperors type shillings suggests that originally quite a large number of these coins were produced (Grierson & Blackburn 1986, 163). The Adelphi Building specimen further supports this thesis, augmenting the known die corpus with wholly new obverse and reverse specimens; distinctive features on the obverse include a barbell-shaped pseudo-character immediately to the right of the bust, while those on the reverse include single pellets flanking the ‘Victory’ and F-shaped drapery folds on the right ‘Emperor’. The location of the mint where this particular coin was produced are uncertain; though it was certainly produced in south-east England, recent metal detector finds - including a large number from Rendlesham, in Suffolk - dispute the traditional attribution of the Two Emperors type to a Kentish mint (Grierson & Blackburn 1986, 163). It is also possible that coins like the Adelphi Building specimen were in fact produced at several different mints within the region during the mid- to late 7th century (Williams 2013, 134).

The function of gold coinage in 7th-century England has been the subject of considered debate since the mid-19th century, and until the late 20th century gold coins of this period were generally understood as a form of ‘special-purpose’ money used for defined social exchanges, like the rendering of tribute or wergild payments or symbolic ritual transactions (Grierson 1959, 131–2; 1970, 16–7). This interpretation was heavily influenced by the nature of the evidence then available, which nearly exclusively consisted of the hoards from Crondall and Sutton Hoo and a body of contemporary English law codes. As Williams (2006, 181–6) and Naismith (2014, 301–2) note, the dramatic growth in the numismatic corpus pursuant on recent metal detector finds means that this reading is no longer sustainable, and it seems more likely that gold coins at this date fulfilled a range of functions, for example, as a means of paying rents or fines, rendering gifts, and of fulfilling commercial transactions. The contextual circumstances of the Adelphi Building shilling offer tentative support to this revised understanding of 7th-century coin use, while we can never know the precise circumstances in which it was lost, its presence in a secure waterfront context suggests an association with maritime commerce.

The latest coin (SF 8) from the site ([89], Phase 9) is a silver penny belonging to the mid to late Secondary Phase of the English *sceatta* coinage, approximately dated to *c.*AD 720–35/40 (Grierson & Blackburn 1986, 188; Naismith 2017, 58). This coin belongs to a subclass of Series K distinguished by the presence of a right-facing whorled serpentine monster on the reverse; although traditionally identified as a wolf (Metcalf & Walker 1967, 21), recent work by Gannon (2003, 131–3) has demonstrated its close stylistic affinities with illustrations of lions in classical and contemporary manuscript art. The evidence suggests that the Adelphi Building penny belongs to the ‘Hwiccian’ subgroup E–F, which was produced in the London and Thames Valley region (Metcalf & Walker 1967, 26; Metcalf 1988, 125); its spatial occurrence is therefore unremarkable, and indeed contemporary examples of Series K pennies are known from excavations in Lundenwic at the National Portrait Gallery (Gaimster 2004, 102) and Royal Opera House (Metcalf 2003, 287). As with the earlier shilling, the presence of this coin in a foreshore deposit almost certainly reflects the significance of the River Thames as a commercial artery in the Middle Saxon period.



Fig 26. Double-ended bone pin beater (SF 12) [96] Phase 7 and pig-fibula needle (SF 17) [101] Phase 5

THE METAL AND OTHER SMALL FINDS

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In total, some 90 small finds were recovered from the Adelphi Building excavation (Gaimster 2015). While a number of the smaller metal fragments are undiagnostic, the majority of finds could be identified and are included here. The ceramic loom weights, the coins and an unusual sherd of Roman