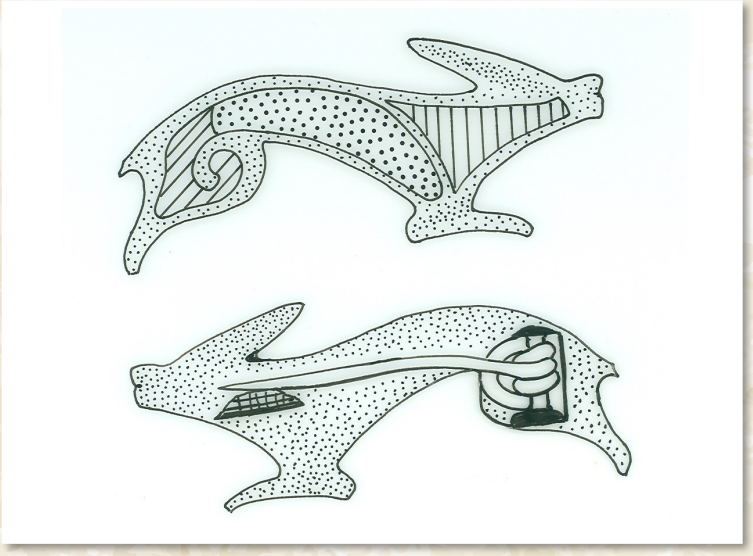
TOP TREASURE



Find this at

NEWPORT ROMAN VILLA

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Questions

- What do you think it is? Can you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Hare Brooch

What is it?

A brooch (to rhyme with coach) in the shape of a hare.

What is it made from?

It is made from bronze with green, blue and red enamel.

Basic facts

Size: length 3.6cm

How old is it?

It was made in Roman times in the 2nd century AD (about 1900 years ago). Hare brooches were popular at this time.

Significance

Although it is a Roman Brooch it was found in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Bowcombe Down near Carisbrooke.

It was found mysteriously with a headless skeleton that had been buried around 300 years after the brooch was made!

It is in very good condition.

Was it a precious family heirloom that had been handed down through the generations? Was it accidentally dropped in Roman times and then found three hundred years late and treasured? What do you think?

Other facts

Brown hares have very long ears and are larger than rabbits with stronger back legs.

Research done by Exeter University suggests hares were brought to Britain from Europe in the Iron Age between 2300 and 2500 years ago.

In the Iron Age hares were buried carefully and not imported for people to eat. Caesar wrote that in the Iron Age Britons 'consider it contrary to divine law to eat the hare'. They seem to have thought that hares were too special to eat. They may have associated them with an unknown goddess that carried on being worshipped in Roman times.

Why don't you?

- Do you have any family heirlooms that have been passed down through the family?
- What are your five most treasured things? Write them down and explain why they are so important to you.
- Search online for **zoomorphic** brooches from Roman Britain. Zoomorphic means in the shape of an animal. Make your own animal brooch. You could make it out of foil or recycled materials. Let your imagination run riot! Tape a large safety pin on the back and you can wear it.
- Create a fact-file about hares.
- Watch the Time Team that looks for evidence from Roman times at Yaverland on the Isle of Wight. They show how the hare brooch was made and make a beautiful replica. Visit: tiny.cc/timeteam-9-12

TOP TREASURE

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