

Roman remains in Danish peat bogs

August 22, 1860: HIGHLY REMARKABLE ROMAN REMAINS FOUND IN DANISH PEA BOWLS.

[p. 297, ALGEMEENE KONST- EN LETTERBODE.]

5 "You have been asking to hear from time to time about the discoveries in the peat bogs at Sönder-Brarup, which I have mentioned several times before. Several important objects were found there in July and August; but the most important find is a round bronze plaque, the size of a dinner plate, with a wide rim, decorated with raised gold and silver sculptures. The sculptures depict alternately birds and dolphins, and 10 some Roman warriors in a resting position, with helmets on their heads, holding a lance in one hand, while the other hand rests on a shield. Within this rim, one sees several Medusa heads, with helmets on their heads, all surrounding a single Medusa head in the center. All this points to a Roman origin; but it is noteworthy that in 15 some places on that plaque small silver plates adorned with monstrous animal figures, similar to those found on gold bractes struck in Scandinavia and on two silver cups found in Himlingori, Zealand. It is evident that foreigners added these ornaments of their own making to this plaque, which had previously been adorned solely with Roman art. Remains of three coats of armor made of rings were also found; on two, the rings are bronze, on the third, iron. Subsequently, a mass of shield navels, spear points, 20 arrows, and the remains of broadswords were found, all of iron, as well as the remains of sword scabbards. Everything points to a fierce battle. Furthermore, a complete riding horse bridle and a snaffle (bridon) were found, with buckles, rings, and ornaments of bronze; the long leather bridles were completely preserved. Two silver coins of Commodus and Nero. The (wooden) shafts of the lances The javelins and 25 spears are mostly broken, but we were fortunate enough to find two that were completely preserved: one 9 feet (Danish) long, the other a little longer. A shaft of 2 feet 6 inches belonged to a javelin. The shields are made of wood and have a rim; only the middle section is bronze. However, one shield is made of maple, with an oak rim attached to it with small pieces of bronze, shaped like an S. This is 30 the first time that shields made of different woods have been found. A leather sandal and several pieces of linen with rims were also found. Among the glass beads, one is hollow, and this must therefore have been made with a glass-blowing pipe; the other beads are hollow. Not a day goes by without finding pottery of various shapes, 35 usually broken; meanwhile, six pots have been found that were intact. Four pieces of gold, shaped like rings, were found. currency was used (ring money). It remains a mystery how all these objects ended up in the peatlands, formerly lakes. Some shields and lance shafts have also been found under a thick layer of beams and brushwood (the same as previously in Funen). These are the discoveries of 1860; I have already reported those of last year to you. 1).

40 For two or three years now, I have been sharing our archaeological explorations with you. In the absence of a French summary of these, a Swiss who spent the winter of 1859 here published geological-archaeological studies in which he reports on everything discovered in our country, on our system, etc. 2).

Taarbaek, near Copenhagen,

45 22 August 1860. DR. BURMAN BECKER. (Excerpt from a letter to MR. EYCK VAN ZUILICHEM).

1) We hope to be able to include this soon. Ed.

2) This is Professor Morlot of Lausanne, the publisher of whose important work we already 50 mentioned in No. 20, dated May 21, of this weekly, and about which the Revue archéologique of August 1 has begun to give a very favorable report. We will return to this subject as soon as possible, space permitting.

Ed.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thorsberg_moor

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Iron_Age_weapon_deposits

55 <http://en.natmus.dk/>

November 10, 1860 HIGHLY REMARKABLE ROMAN REMAINS FOUND IN DANISH PEATHERS. 1) [p. 360]

In recent years, during the excavation of the numerous peat bogs, which were

60 undoubtedly lakes or marshes in the past, mainly in southern Jutland, and also in some burial places and sand dunes, in more than 60 locations, remains of Roman origin have been found, such as coins from the imperial period, pots, vases, cups, decorations with Roman inscriptions, and works of Roman art.

The factories usually bear the hallmarks of originating from the first four centuries AD.

Especially remarkable is the multitude of weapons (several hundred) found in the peat

70 bogs at five or six locations, namely: iron arrowheads and lanceheads, copper shield fittings, mixed with buckles, combs, dice, hammers, etc. All these weapons are very well-made, even beautifully crafted, but bear many signs of having been damaged and bent in battle. - The large peat bog of Allesö, on the island of Funen, not far from Odensee, is especially rich in such objects, and more are still found there annually. - During the last two years, a large number have also been found in a bog or swamp near Brarup, in southern Jutland.

75 75 Among the objects unearthed there is a piece of a shield with the words AEL: AELIANVS, in pointed letters 2); A fragment of a Roman helmet with engraved brass ornaments; a whole multitude of round wooden shields, about 3 feet in diameter, with brass centers; also wooden bows, and a multitude of staves for arrows and lances, but without the points, which are presumed to have sunk and will be found at the bottom 80 of the peat, as are the swords, for which the remains of the scabbards and their fittings have been found, but not the swords themselves. 3) Furthermore, brass fittings from belts or slings, horse harnesses, and pieces of a tunic consisting of rings. 4) All of this bears evidence of having been damaged by use and in combat. A silver head ornament was also found, broken by three saber slashes. It is impossible 85 to list everything; but among the most remarkable objects certainly belongs a bronze plaque with gold and silver ornaments and nine engraved female heads on it. as well as coins of Trajan, Hadrian, and Commodus.

90 The most remarkable thing of all is a large quantity of clothing, folded or packed together; underneath, trousers with stockings attached, in one piece (I have no 90 information about the material of these garments). Similar objects are still found in other bogs in Jutland, and also on the Danish islands, though in much smaller numbers.

95 The property of high bogs for preserving objects that would otherwise be subject to decay is well known; therefore, one is not surprised that these remains have been preserved, but rather how such a large number could have gathered in that bog (ancient swamp or lake), and in so many places. It has been thought that entire war bands would have fallen through the ice on a winter expedition and been suffocated, but it is difficult to imagine that this would have happened in so many places. One would also have had to find a multitude of human and horse skeletons, which is by no 100 means the case, but is limited to a very few.

100 Another suggestion is that these objects must have been hidden by some tribe in the Brarup swamp; this seems to be indicated by the collected articles of clothing and stacked shields, as well as the wooden hooks found, which seem intended to hold objects that would otherwise have floated on the water.

105 105 However uncertain the manner in which these objects came together may be, the more certain is the period from which they originate, and the influence that Roman civilization must have exerted on the customs and practices of the Norse peoples. Nordic antiquarians assume that three periods occurred in Northern Europe during which weapons and tools were made of stone, bronze, and iron. The last and most 110 recent period there would have begun roughly with the influence of Roman rule, and one of the effects of that influence was probably that the use of mixed copper (bronze) was gradually lost and that objects that were not preferred to be made of iron were made of yellow copper.

115 115 Since it is known that the Romans themselves never crossed the River Elve during their campaigns, one must conclude from all the artifacts found that the ancient Jutes or Danes, through war or trade, came into contact with the Romans more than previously thought and must have shared in their civilization. I have taken these reports from some letters from my cousin J. G. Burman Becker in Copenhagen, who has a great predilection for the antiquities of his remarkable fatherland and, among other things, also owns a large collection of sketches, mostly drawn by himself, of old churches, etc., including, according to his letter, some 120 old baptismal fonts, which, along with many other curiosities and ornaments, are located in or near many village churches.

120 125 Maartensdijk,
Jan. 1860. EYCK VAN ZUYLICHEM.

130 The above communication, in connection with the earlier one (in No. 37), regarding Roman remains in Danish peat bogs, is all the more important to us because it provides new evidence for the feeling we already expressed last year: that in assessing the beautifully worked metals, especially bronze, implements, and tools, found among ancient remains in Northern Europe and elsewhere outside Italy, too little attention has been paid to ancient Italian factories. We, at least, are convinced that these bronze and iron remains, especially weapons, originate from

135 ancient Italian factories and were brought there in high antiquity as well as in the later Roman Imperial period, primarily through barter. It strikes us as somewhat odd that Nordic antiquarians, who published so many important works on the antiquities of their country, have not yet published a work (at least as far as we know) depicting and describing these Roman remains from the peat bogs. Even the most recent author on the Danish peat bogs, although comparing the remains found there with those found in 140 pile dwellings in Switzerland (Morlot, *Etudes géologico-archéologiques en Danemark et en Suisse*), has not mentioned any Roman remains found in the Danish peat bogs, although he does so on p. 291 writes: "The Danish antique mills are rich in antiques of all kinds and ages, as are the museums in the past. M. Steenstrup estimates that there is no such thing as a vertical pillar of a meter square at the base, placed or otherwise, in the same country's antique mills, where one finds less of an antique 145 object." We hope to be able to devote more space to this important topic soon.

Ed.

1) Comp. No. 37, p. 297.

150 2) In the manner, for example, of the Roman inscription from the Linge, near Hemmen, handed down in antiquity and communicated by Dr. Janssen, Pl. V. Fig. 4.

3) These were also discovered later, see Letterbode, t.a., pl.

4) Of three coats of arms; two with bronze rings and one with iron ones; see Letterbode, t.a., pl. https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frans_Nicolaas_Marius_Eyck_van_Zuylichem
<http://www.delpher.nl/nl/boeken1/qview?query=laat-Romeinsch&coll=boeken1&identifier=y3ZdAAAAcAAJ>

ANTITIES IN DANISH PEATS. 1)

160 The following, taken from a special letter written by a very authoritative hand, may perhaps, even after the information on this subject in the Bode of November 10th, page 360, not be considered unworthy of publication in the same weekly. We are making it available to the editors for this purpose. "Nothing, however, was as important to me as the rich yield of the excavations near South-Brarup. These are not just a few objects, but an entire war booty buried in the peat. The coins found there point to the time when this occurred; the most recent were Commodus's. There is much Roman 165 artefact among them, much of it also of barbarian origin or associated with barbarian work. The most remarkable thing is that wood, leather, and woven fabrics have been preserved, but everything made of iron has been lost. We found a magnificent bronze horse harness, with the straps and everything else, except the iron bits, preserved in its entirety: bows, even remnants of the cords, and 60 arrows, but whose iron 170 points had decayed. This would be even more regrettable if two other discoveries in the peat hadn't come to our aid, belonging to the same period and yielding relatively well-preserved iron objects. Among the most important curiosities, I bring... I found a silver mask that served as a helmet visor; bronze breastplates decorated with 175 silver and gold ornaments; trousers, a cloak, and a coat of mail, the latter of which was hidden in a jar. Later, fragments of a highly elaborately crafted coat of mail were also found; they are partly iron, partly brass; the iron here, for one reason or another, is of a higher quality and better preserved than elsewhere. The purely Roman objects are often provided with barbaric additions, such as, for example, a 180 breastplate with barbaric ornaments of thinly beaten gold. They are busy arranging and displaying everything in Flensburg properly, and identifying the most important objects. A great deal is among them that had previously only been found severely damaged or in unrecognizable remains; in addition to the horse harness and clothing, we also include, for example, wooden shields. "In the past, ancient objects were 185 found in greater numbers here in Denmark than in most other countries, and also iron objects from the 8th-10th century, which had a great resemblance to Frankish and Burgundian objects; now we have objects from the 2nd and 3rd century in abundance, and consequently two endpoints; only the definition of the intermediate point and the transitions between the two are still unclear and uncertain to us.

190 L.

1) Comp. No. 45.

April 3, 1861 REPORTS FROM MR. CONFERENZ-RATH THOMSEN,

195 IN COPENHAGEN, ON THE LATEST DISCOVERIES OF ANTIQUITIES IN DENMARK. 1).

I have noticed that antiquarians in France, and partly also in England and other countries, know very little about the new discoveries made in the North, which nevertheless expand and further confirm our knowledge of antiquity. For example, I have not yet found anything in foreign works about the large find at Allersø on Funen.

200 For ten years already, during peat cutting in a bog near this village, iron weapons,

particularly lances and javelin points of very fine workmanship, were found annually. It was also noticed that the wood in the peat had been preserved to some extent; it still had its original shape, but had softened like a sponge; the water could be squeezed out, and if it was left to dry without preparation, it shrank. As attention was now focused on that location, remarkable items emerged, such as: a silver fitting from the scabbard of a sword, on which an inscription had been scratched. belonging to the oldest type of runic script 2), ivory knobs of... and swords, and these made us eager to examine the site closely. In 1857, we had a very dry summer; a 205 distinguished and experienced official of our museum, the Kammerrath and archivist Herbst, was sent there. He set up his residence in a tent on this bog and, for three weeks, had investigations carried out in various directions, which yielded us 210 brilliant results. They consisted of more than 500 objects, which, together with those obtained earlier, complement an important but previously little-known or 215 overlooked section of our museum 1). It is this section that shows us what was in use immediately after the Bronze Age and what it supplanted, approximately at the time of Christ and shortly thereafter. Among the most remarkable pieces are: exquisitely 220 crafted iron spearheads with inlaid silver ornaments, entirely of the same kind as on the Bronze Age artifacts, namely, double circles with a dot in the center; a bronze griffin's head, presumably an ornament on a helmet; long, exquisitely crafted, 225 double-edged swords; several swords shaped like swords; scabbard fittings of silver bronze, ivory, and bone; twenty bone combs (each warrior must have carried his own comb); the tools of a field smith: anvil, tongs, hammer, and file, but these (the latter) only with proper marks, as modern ones usually are; other tools such as bore, ... sickles, and wedges (celts), all of iron; unfortunately, we did not find the 230 wooden handles of the latter; riding implements, traces of a peculiar kind, fragments of wooden shields, and many shield bosses (umbones) of iron, along with fittings from the crossbar that was attached over the stirrup and served as a handle; even remnants of A boat has been found. The remarkable thing about this find is also a long bow and 235 a number of arrows, entirely similar to those of the Tartar peoples. 1) Some of these arrows have iron points, others bone points; iron must have been too valuable at the time to be shot. At least half of the arrows have bone points, and these are far larger and stronger than those of the savages, and generally triangular or 240 quadrangular. Another curiosity consists of glass and other pebbles, which served as board games, and bone dice, two of which have the usual shape. 2) Two others, 245 however, are entirely similar to those we obtained from India for the Ethnographic Museum; these are small, elongated, square rods. These latter dice have not two, but only one point or eye at each end. I find another similarity to Indian objects in the shafts of the lances; some of these are 8 to 9 ell long; these wooden handles are sometimes hammered into one side, towards the point, with small silver nails, usually 250 several of them, with rounded heads. In the Indies, there is an old custom that when an enemy is killed with a lance, a silver nail is hammered into it, and when several nails are seen, it is considered a badge of honor for the holder. We and the Ethnographic Museum have examples of these customs. The same pear-shaped decoration seen on objects from Suder Brarup can also be found on some belt coverings. 255 Many pieces also bear a strong resemblance to the one of Suder Brarup, but none with the later, Allemannish, Burgundian, and Merovingian artifacts, which correspond to the artifacts of our younger Iron Age. In general, the aforementioned artifacts are much more noble and finely crafted than 260 the later ones. If there is something barbaric here and there, it is an appendage or addition to the original. There is no trace of serpent- or dragon-shaped ornaments. In one respect, this find is very similar to the two Schleswig artifacts, namely that the artifacts bear the hallmarks of a fierce battle, as they have been hewn, pierced by arrowheads, bent by enemy hands, and rendered useless. The wood here, as at Suder Brarup, was also preserved, and after many trials and effort, we have succeeded in 265 making it strong again and, I hope, durable. But in one respect, this find differs significantly from the Brarupschen finds: the iron, which had completely decayed there, has been preserved. Only the tank shirts, which had been coated with a kind of varnish, were preserved. It was clearly visible that it had been present, but even thick axes could only be seen, not recorded, because the iron had completely decayed, while we were able to preserve the (wooden) handles. The Ny Dam find is entirely different; there, the iron has been preserved; among them, 30 swords were found, elaborately crafted spear and javelin points, etc., the swords often made of elaborately damascened work. Generally, there is no great 270 diversity in the forms of this and the other two finds, but the objects in these are not quite as tasteful. The youngest of the coins found here is of Emperor Macrinus, from the year 217 AD. Since these three major finds clarified our view of this type

of object and the period from which they originate, we noticed that, without knowing it, we had previously made several similar small finds; that we had found rings, pieces of chains, belonging to the same period. Bronze riding implements found on Zealand are entirely identical to the Suder-Brarupsche; even on Schonen and in Norway, objects have been discovered that correspond exactly with those of the three major finds. These three finds demonstrate that in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, connections with the south existed, which had certainly been broken off for a long time previously, and now fill a gap in our knowledge of Nordic antiquities, because we lacked the link between the Bronze Age and the objects from the 6th and 7th centuries (which we can trace back to the 11th century); here it is, and indeed very complete." "I've gone through all our previous inventories and records. Over the years, some remarkable and valuable finds have been made in this country, but rarely more than 20 in total. Of 500 or more pieces lost in battle, skirmish, or as spoils of war in our former seas, now peat bogs, I can find no earlier examples than those mentioned above. It's only in recent times that we've seen such extensive finds. The Norderdorf find was significant, and the Vienna treasures from the Hallstatt burial sites are also substantial, and now the seas in Switzerland – nothing like this was previously known in our country." "Worsaae sent an artist to Flensburg to draw approximately 300 objects, mostly of natural size, for our Museum's archives; that's how important he considered the finds from Brarup and Ny Dam. The actual discoverer, to whom we owe this treasure, is the Inspector of the Collection of Dutch Antiquities in Flensburg, Mr. Engelhard, and he will publish a work on both finds. However, since these mines of discovery are not yet considered exhausted, since highly important objects were found last year and there is every reason to receive many more this year, the publication will not be rushed; but preparations are being made and gathering for a large-scale publication. Among all these finds are some purely Roman objects, mixed with objects from semi-barbarian peoples. I have no doubt that a large portion is indigenous, since we now have at least 20 completely different and far-flung finds. distant locations, only with objects or small finds of the same kind. The quantity of objects is also so great that one is convinced that it must be indigenous, and especially the weapons in general and the tools, for example, those of the blacksmith, demonstrate this. But when I read the Roman inscription AEL.

300 AELIANVS on one shield boss (umbo), which differs slightly from the others, I know that it originally belonged to a Roman. 1), and when I see this lock of the temple of the maker...RICVS, I suspect the smith was a Goth, not from 500 AD, but already from 200 to 300 AD. 2) The finds of captured and exchanged pieces are certainly traceable; naturally, this also includes ivory objects. 1) Private letter from Mr. Thomsen, Copenhagen, dated April 3, 1861. ED.

2) According to a copy of that inscription, kindly sent to us by Dr. Burman Becker from Copenhagen, we would rather attribute it to the North Etruscan. ED.

310 1) This refers to the Royal Museum of Antiquities, not that of the Royal Society of Norwegian Antiquities. ED.

1) Mr. Burman Becker has also kindly sent us copies of this. ED.

2) That is, the square, Roman. ED.

1) Mr. Burman Becker has also provided us with a copy of this. ED.

315 2) Allow us to note that ...RICVS, as the last part of a defective name, does not necessarily suggest a Gothic name ending; it could be a Roman manufacturer's name. e.g., [AP]RICVS, or similar. EDITOR

November 3, 1859 GEOLOGY, INDUSTRY AND COSTUME, CLEARED BY AN ANTIQUE DISCOVERY IN MAINZ.

320 On November 3, 1859, Professor Nöggerath gave a presentation in Bonn, at the meeting of the Lower Rhine Society for Natural and Medical Sciences, on the Roman antiquities excavated in 1857 in Mainz, on the Thiermarkt, in a peat layer at a depth of approximately 30 feet. He declared that this discovery was also important from a geological point of view, while the director of the Association for the Research of Rhine History and Ancient History, Dr. Jos. Wittmann, had demonstrated that in the first centuries AD, a branch of the Rhine flowed through the city of Mainz, in whose swamp the above-mentioned peat layer had formed. Dr. Wittmann briefly reported on this discovery in his important treatises entitled: *Chronik der niedrigsten Wasserstände des Rheines vom Jahre 70 nach Christus bis 1858*, and *Nachrichten über die im Jahre 1857-1858 im Rheinbette von der Schweiz bis nach Holland zu Tage kommen Alterthümer und Merkwürdigkeiten etc.*, included in Th. II Part 1-2 of the *Zeitschrift des Vereins z. E. rhein. History and Altenthümer zu Mainz*. The same scholar had provided Prof. Nöggerath with an extensive manuscript on this subject for use, from which the most important information was communicated by Nöggerath at the aforementioned meeting. Some of those we adopt the information that has come to the

public's attention (Dr. Wittmann himself will soon publish his manuscript), all the more readily because Dr. Wittmann and Lindenschmit, during a visit to the Mainz Museum this summer, shared the same reports verbally with us and presented us with specimens of some of the remains they found. In the aforementioned peat layer, a great deal of leatherwork had been found, most likely originating from a Roman shoemaker's shop—nearly a wagonful of mostly used shoes and sandals, albeit very fragmentary, among which fourteen distinct types could still be recognized. This priceless find for knowledge of Roman industry and costume, illustrated with plates, will soon be published by Lindenschmit. We will therefore only mention here that the manufacturer's or shoemaker's stamp has been stamped on some of the leather fragments, as I could still clearly read the names: L. VALE (i.e. Lucii VALErii) C. VENED (i.e. Caji VENEDi) and MONA.

Furthermore, several remains of Roman clothing made of very fine wool and of excellent weave were found, along with various small Roman objects and coins. The leather and wool goods were relatively well preserved, but the wool had taken on a dark color. The coins were dated no later than 137 AD, from which one can probably conclude that all these objects ended up in the swamp around that time. Common peat plants were easily identified from the peat; in particular, the following were recognized: birch bark, hazelnuts, water lentils (*Lemna major*), and of the moss species: *Hypnum splendens* (Hedwigü), *Hypnum tameriscinum* (Hedw.), *Hypnum latescens* (Hedw.), *Hypnum triquetrum* (Linn.), and *Anomodon. curtipedulum* (Hoockeri and Taylori), *Byrumbinum* (Schreberi), *Mnium roseum* (Hedw.), *Mnium undulatum* (Hedw.). Well-preserved grapevines were also found, evidence of early viticulture on the Rhine; these are now the oldest grapevines known from the Rhine region; finally:

feathers of fowl and pigeons. From some specimens of this discovery, received by the reporter in Mainz as a gift from Dr. Wittmann and Lindenschmit, he has donated the moss species to the National Herbarium, the feathers to the National Museum of Natural History, and the leatherwork to the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The leatherwork, The stone, which had hardened and shrivelled due to severe drying, has been carefully restored to its original softness by an experienced Leiden tanner, Mr. Visser.

[http://www.delpher.nl/nl/boeken1/gview?
query=oudheidkundige+ontdekking+mainz+wittmann&coll=boeken1&identifier=YaFUAAAAcAAJ](http://www.delpher.nl/nl/boeken1/gview?query=oudheidkundige+ontdekking+mainz+wittmann&coll=boeken1&identifier=YaFUAAAAcAAJ)

370 November 23, 2025 **The Thorsberg moor**

(German: Thorsberger Moor, Danish: Thorsberg Mose or Thorsbjerg Mose, South Jutlandic: Tosbarch, Tåsbjerre "Thor's hill") near Süderbrarup in Anglia, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, is a peat bog in which the Angles deposited votive offerings for approximately four centuries. It is the location of important Roman Iron Age finds, including early Elder Futhark runic inscriptions such as the Thorsberg chape, a Roman helmet, a shield buckle, and an early example of socks (attached to trousers). The finds are of similar importance as the contemporaneous finds from Illerup and Vimose in Denmark.

380 Excavation

The moor was excavated in 1858–1861 by a teacher from Flensburg, Helvig Conrad Engelhardt. The objects recovered by Engelhardt are on exhibit in the state museum of archaeology at Gottorf Castle; another 500 finds are on exhibit in the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen.

Discoveries

390 The deposits were made from approximately 100 BC to 500 AD and are clearly votive in nature. However, it is doubtful that they were dedicated specifically to Thor. The placename may reflect worship of Thor there by Danes during the Viking Age rather than by Angles during the Roman Iron Age. And as Engelhardt noted, although the 'Thor's hammer' symbol occurs on several finds from the site, it is a motif that can be found in many non-Germanic contexts, even on Native American artefacts. They include early examples of clothing, both Germanic and Roman, in particular the footed trousers, which are commonly dated to the 4th century but which now appear to be no later than 300 AD; objects of Roman workmanship including two phaleræ, military decorations in the form of richly decorated gold discs 13.2 cm (5.2 in) in diameter made in the 3rd century in the workshop of Saciro, thought to have been near Cologne, which have the image of a seated man with a spear, possibly a representation of Mars; and objects of Germanic workmanship, notably the Thorsberg chape, a piece of a scabbard bearing one of the earliest inscriptions in runes.

Naspeuringen van Paul Theelen: Roman remains in Danish peat bogs

Some of the Germanic fibulæ and shield bosses of ultimately Roman origin appear to be from Germanic tribes in Greater Germania, who were in closer contact with the Romans than the Angles. After approximately 200 AD, the deposition of weapons increased, 405 possibly as a result of conflict between tribes such as the Marcomannic war (166 to 180 AD). Many of the objects deposited, especially the weapons, have been made useless by breaking, bending, etc. It was common practice among Celtic peoples to ritually "kill" such weapons.

410 In addition to the weapons and other man-made objects, the deposits in the bog include isolated bones. Just outside the moor is an Iron Age tumulus with a stone circle.