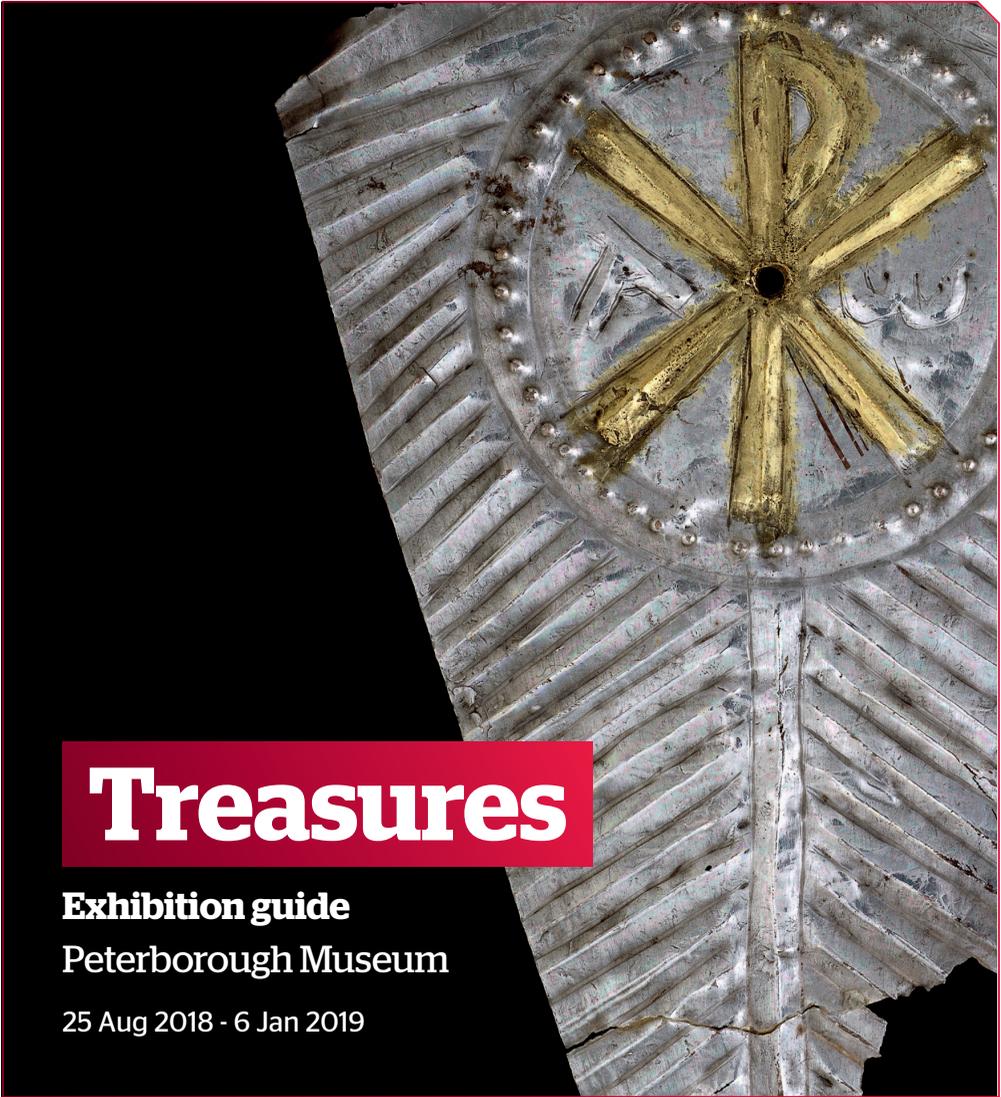


Vivacity
presents



Treasures

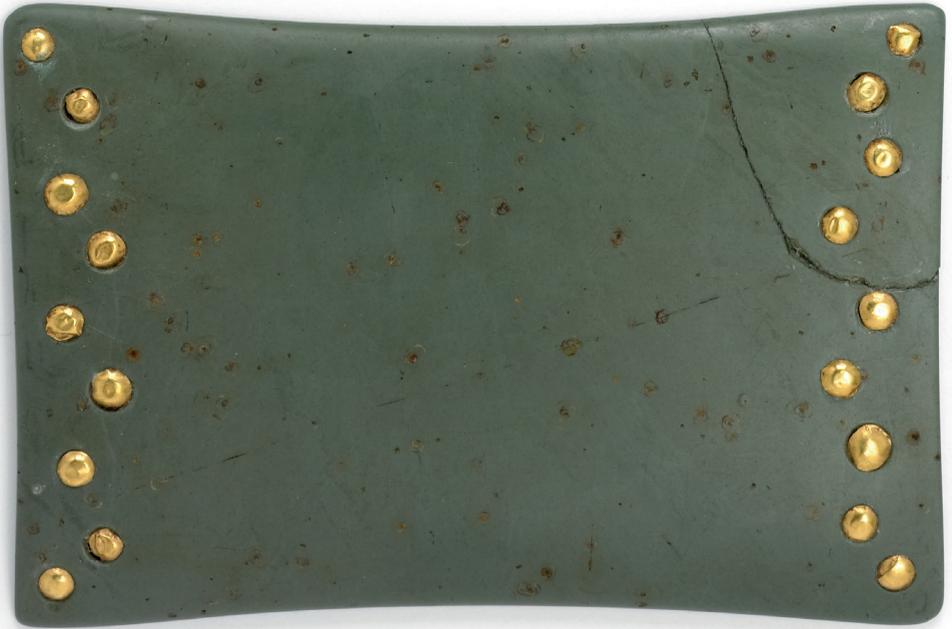
Exhibition guide
Peterborough Museum

25 Aug 2018 - 6 Jan 2019

Visit vivacity.org/treasures

Weston Loan Programme_
with Art Fund





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Treasures

25 Aug 2018 - 6 Jan 2019

This exhibition features important objects that represent great treasures of Peterborough's past. They are borrowed from well-known museums such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum, as well as other significant collections.

These nationally and internationally renowned treasures are on display for the first time ever, here in Peterborough.

“The Beaker burial from Barnack is one of the most important examples of a burial from this period (the first age of metal) in Britain and North West Europe. Among the grave goods given to this man was a stone and gold archer's wristguard. It is the largest and most spectacular of its kind, marking him as an important and highly regarded individual who commanded a place within a national and international networks of trade and exchange - of objects and ideas, over 4,000 years ago.”

Neil Wilkin

Curator Bronze Age Collection, British Museum

A fascinating talk will be given by Neil Wilkin on 6 Nov 2018 at Peterborough Museum.

For more details about our series of expert talks visit our website.

Visit vivacity.org/treasures



© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

The Becket Casket About 1180

Made in France, Limoges.
Gilded copper and enamel on a wooden core

Purchased with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, with contributions from the Po Shing Woo Foundation, The Art Fund, the Friends of the V&A, the estate of T.S. Eliot, the Headley Trust and many private donations

It is possible that Abbot Benedict had the impressive casket made to house the Becket relics he brought with him from Canterbury.

He built the Becket Chapel next to the gate at Peterborough Abbey, inviting pilgrims to drink a glass of water mixed with a drop of Becket's blood in return for money.

Pilgrims believed that drinking the water would cure illnesses.



The Barnack Burial Grave Goods
2330-2130 BC

1. Pottery 'Beaker'
2. Bone pendant
3. Copper dagger
4. Stone wristguard with gold studs

Copper Age (early Bronze Age)

This group of items was buried with the crouched body of a tall adult male about 45 years old.

The items placed in his grave are typical of the richer graves of the early 'Beaker' period. Copper daggers, wristguards, dress fittings and beakers were the usual burial goods of powerful people.

The Water Newton Treasure
4th century AD

(7 out of 28 pieces)

Found in 1975 at Water Newton, the Roman town of Durobrivae, Peterborough.

It is the earliest-known group of Christian church silver from the whole of the Roman Empire and its discovery is of international importance.

It is likely to have been used for Christian ceremony, probably communion, in a church of some description.

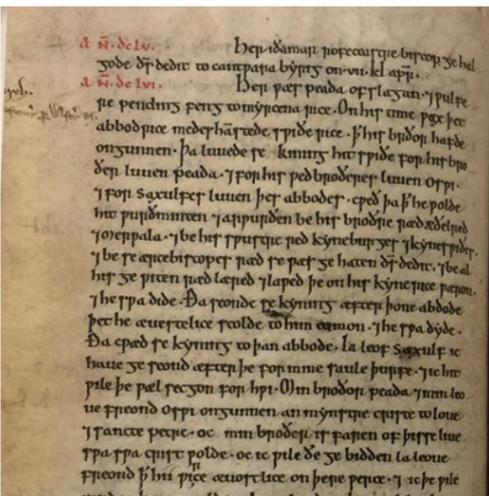


© The British Museum



Medieval manuscripts from Peterborough Abbey.

The medieval manuscripts on display were precious books for monks to use at Peterborough Abbey, one of the wealthiest monasteries in England. The Peterborough Chronicle and The Black Book of Peterborough were written by monks in the scriptorium at the abbey. However, The Lindsay Psalter and possibly the Peterborough Bestiary were commissioned by the abbey, and specialist illustrators made them to order at workshops elsewhere.



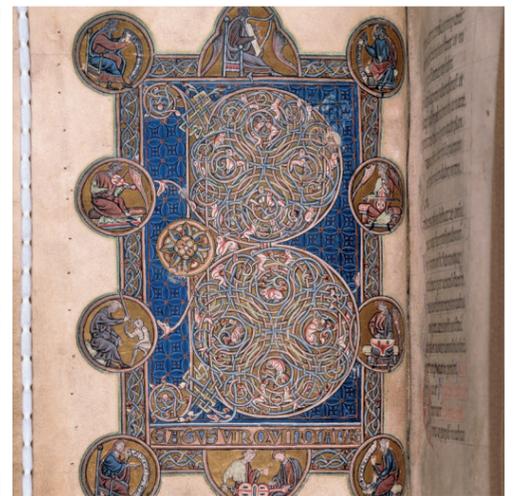
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The Peterborough Chronicle
Written 1120-1154



The latest of the surviving Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, the Peterborough Chronicle was made to replace a copy burned in a fire at Peterborough Abbey in 1116.

The updates in Early Middle English are of the highest importance for their historical value. For example, the pronoun 'she' (as 'scae') is first recorded in this manuscript.

The Peterborough Psalter and Bestiary
About 1300



The Peterborough Bestiary is amongst the most sumptuously decorated examples from this era. With a total of 104 miniatures that adorn all the pages, it is a collection of descriptions of many animals.

During Medieval times the purpose of the Bestiary was not the teaching of natural history but instead to instruct Christian morals.

The Black Book of Peterborough
12th - 14th century



A copy of the Magna Carta, possibly a discarded draft, was sent to Peterborough Abbey in 1215. Although the original document does not survive, its text was reproduced in this book later in the 13th century.

Known as a cartulary, The Black Book of Peterborough contains a variety of other documents all relating to the abbey's lands.

The Lindsey Psalter
About 1220



This book of prayers was owned by Robert de Lindsey, Abbot of Peterborough. It carries three full-page, outstanding illustrations including two depictions of Christ and the initial 'B'; 'Beatus ...' or 'Blessed is the man ...' - the opening of Psalm 1.



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Vivacity would also like to thank the following institutions for the loan of these objects:

Water Newton Treasure & Barnack Burial Assemblage - On loan from the Trustees of The British Museum

The Casket of Thomas Becket - Victoria and Albert Museum.

Lindsey Psalter & Black Book of Peterborough - By kind permission of The Society of Antiquaries of London

Peterborough Chronicle - The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford

Peterborough Psalter & Bestiary - The Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

The Treasures exhibition is part of the 'Peterborough Celebrates' project which marks the 900th anniversary of Peterborough Cathedral.