

## **The Risley Park Lanx - short history**

This silver plate was found by a ploughman on the hillside near Wood Hall in 1729.

Initially broken up and distributed among the finders, some six pieces were later reassembled, modelled in plaster board, drawn and sent to the antiquarian William Stukeley. It was his opinion that this was a Roman Plate. He presented his findings to the Antiquarian Society of London at their meeting in 1736. What happened next to the pieces is not known, though some were thought to have been in the possession of Jane, dowager Lady Aston.

In 1991 what appeared to be the whole Lanx consisting of 26 pieces soldered together reappeared at a gallery in London and was subsequently sold to two American buyers and then donated to the British Museum. The metal tested as mostly roman silver. There followed much discussion as to what may have happened in the intervening two and a half centuries.

Suspicious about its authenticity arose in 2005 when George Greehalgh took in a piece of supposedly Assyrian stone frieze which was not "right". Investigations into the family uncovered years of the making of fake artefacts, including the Risley Lanx, which had fooled experts.

It was subsequently removed from the Museum

An information board has been placed at the site.

*Information put together by Pat Ancliff from various sources:*

*William Stukeley's account found in Sandiacre Library*

*Minerva magazine c1991 "Rediscovery" by C. Johns and K. Painter*

*An introduction to the Risley Lanx Mystery by M. Constantine, Erewash Museum*

*Art Quarterly 2007 and The Guardian 2008*