

Three museums, one pan

The Staffordshire Moorlands Pan is a small, Roman metal pan. It lacks a handle and a base, but has an inscription says much about Hadrian's Wall. The pan was found by metal detectorists and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. There were three claimants to the object – The Potteries Museum (found in Staffordshire), Tullie House (the main repository for items from the western end of Hadrian's Wall) and The British Museum (it is an object of international importance). Also funding was needed to acquire the object. The National Lottery insisted on access to all interested parties. This paper tells the story of the first tri-partite acquisition of an archaeological object.