

‘Moving beyond the Frontier –Romans and Natives beyond the Wall’: an object led exploration of perceptions of a non-Imperial, Northern Scottish identity



Join Cait McCullagh from Inverness Museum and Gallery on **Tuesday 2 February 2016, 11.00-12.00** for a seminar exploring society and relationships between the people of the North of Scotland and the Roman Empire through objects held in the collections at Inverness Museum

Venue: Executive Office, University of the Highlands and Islands or online

Please email Dr Jim MacPherson to book your place:

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In recent years Inverness Museum & Art Gallery has been the recipient of support from, amongst others, The Art Fund, enabling the purchase of various ornate and informative Iron Age objects acquired through the Treasure Trove system. These have included items that, due to their conservation and interpretation requirements, have not been displayed. Amongst these, and central to this project, are a decorated Roman Wine Dipper from Auldearn (INVMG.2004.026), a Roman Iron Age Copper alloy Dolphin-type Brooch from the Iron Age settlement at Seafield, Inverness (INVMG.2012.006) and a 2nd Century Silver Denarii Coin Hoard from Belladrum, Inverness-shire ((INVMG.2013.004.001-011 and INVMG.2015.046.001 – 026). Each is at the forefront of object led research that widens our understanding of the impact of Highland inhabitants' direct diplomatic relations with the Roman Empire. Their discovery and research into their contexts is stretching our perception of the imperial reach further into the Inner Moray Firth than previous evidence has allowed.

The recent acquisitions have served to more fully substantiate IMAG's core collection of iconic Iron Age objects. This includes the Achavrail Massive Armlet (INVMG.1987.050). This magnificent, personal decoration reflects a local knowledge of the techniques of the wider European, Celtic art tradition and participation in sophisticated tin trading networks throughout the south-western littoral of the British Isles and the Mediterranean. Redolent with the iconography of wealth and power it is one of only a small number of known examples from this north-eastern Scottish tradition and is recognised as one of the finest of this type.

The webinar will give participants an opportunity to explore the themes of identity formation, 'otherness', individuation and invention of tradition, through the medium of archaeological evidence for personal adornment and display ware.