

## PIN HR-3071 - TIN BRONZE - LATE BRONZE AGE - SWITZERLAND

Artefact name Pin HR-3071

Authors Naima. Gutknecht (HE-Arc CR, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland) & Rémy. Léopold (HE-Arc CR, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland) & Domon Beuret. Emmanuelle (Laténium, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

Url /artefacts/1366/

### ∨ The object



Credit Laténium, C.Cevey.

Fig 1: Pin with decorated head and round section,



Credit HE-Arc CR, N.Gutknecht/L.Rémy

Fig. 2: Green corrosion products (detail) around the head of the pin,

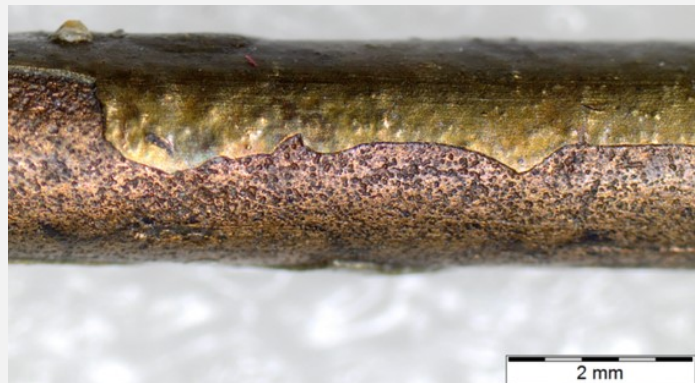


Fig. 3: Dense and smooth olive green corrosion products (detail) on the middle of the pin with lacunas showing the underlying metal,

Description and visual observation

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Description of the artefact</b>     | Pin with decorated head and round section. Locally a dense and smooth olive green stratum is preserved, while green corrosion products develop on the underlying metal (Figs. 1-3). Dimensions: L = 19.0cm; WT = 12.4g. |
| <b>Type of artefact</b>                | Jewellery   |
| <b>Origin</b>                          | Hauterive - Champréveyres, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland  |
| <b>Recovering date</b>                 | Excavation 1983-1985, object from layer 1   |
| <b>Chronology category</b>             | Late Bronze Age   |
| <b>chronology tpq</b>                  | <input type="text" value="1050"/> B.C. ▾  |
| <b>chronology taq</b>                  | <input type="text" value="800"/> B.C. ▾   |
| <b>Chronology comment</b>              |   |
| <b>Burial conditions / environment</b> | Lake  |
| <b>Artefact location</b>               | Laténium, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel  |
| <b>Owner</b>                           | Laténium, Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel  |
| <b>Inv. number</b>                     | HR-3071   |
| <b>Recorded conservation data</b>      | None.   |

Complementary information

The object was analyzed in 1987 by Schweizer. Documentation of the strata in binocular mode of the object was performed in 2022.

Study area(s)

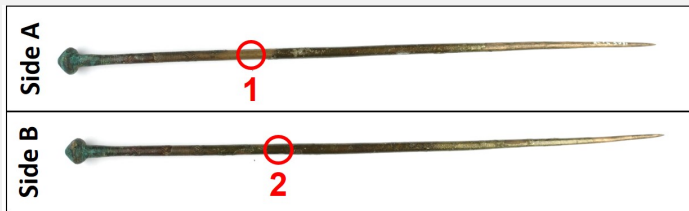


Fig. 4: Sides A and B (opposite sides) of the pin showing the XRF analysis areas (red circles),

Credit HE-Arc CR, N.Gutknecht/L.Rémy

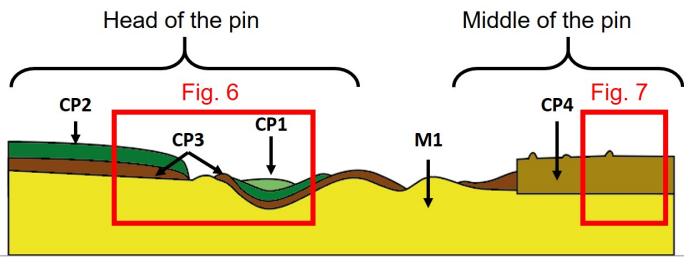
Binocular observation and representation of the corrosion structure

The schematic representation below gives an overview of the corrosion structure encountered on the pin from a first visual macroscopic observation.

| Strata | Type of stratum   | Principal characteristics                            |
|--------|-------------------|--|
| CP1    | Corrosion product | Light green, thin, scattered, non compact, very soft |
| CP2    | Corrosion product | Dark green, thin, scattered, compact, very soft      |
| CP3    | Corrosion product | Dark brown, medium, discontinuous, compact, hard     |
| CP4    | Corrosion product | Olive green, medium, discontinuous, compact, hard    |
| M1     | Metal             | Yellow, metallic, compact, hard                      |

Table 1: Description of the principal characteristics of the strata as observed under binocular and described according to Bertholon's method.





Credit HE-Arc CR, N.Gutknecht.

Fig. 5: Stratigraphic representation of the corrosion structure of the pin by macroscopic and binocular observation using the MiCorr application with reference to Figs. 6 and 7,

✖ MiCorr stratigraphy(ies) – Bi

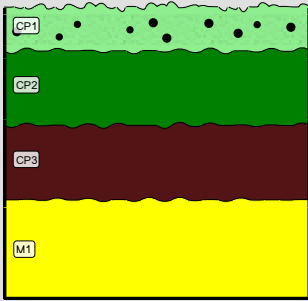


Fig. 6: Stratigraphic representation of the corrosion structure of the head of the pin (Fig. 2) observed macroscopically under binocular microscope using the MiCorr application with reference to Fig. 5. The characteristics of the strata, such as the discontinuity, are accessible by clicking on the drawing that redirects you to the search tool by stratigraphy representation, Credit HE-Arc CR, N.Gutknecht.

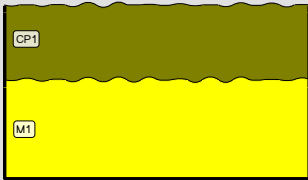


Fig. 7: Stratigraphic representation of the corrosion structure of the middle of the pin (Fig. 3) observed macroscopically under binocular microscope using the MiCorr application with reference to Fig. 5 where CP1 stands for CP4. The characteristics of the strata, such as the discontinuity, are accessible by clicking on the drawing that redirects you to the search tool by stratigraphy representation, Credit HE-Arc CR, N.Gutknecht.

✖ Sample(s)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Description of sample    | No sample has been taken. The observation and analysis were performed directly on the object. |
| Alloy                    | Tin Bronze  |
| Technology               | None  |
| Lab number of sample     | 85-194  |
| Sample location          | None  |
| Responsible institution  | None  |
| Date and aim of sampling |   |

Complementary information

None.

✖ Analyses and results

Analyses performed:

Non-invasive approach

XRF with handheld portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (NITON XL5). General Metal mode, acquisition time 60s (filters: Li20/Lo20/M20).

✖ Non invasive analysis



XRF analysis was carried out on two representative areas of the surface (Fig. 4). Point 1 was performed on a lacuna of the olive green corrosion layer and point 2 on the olive green corrosion layer (CP4 of Fig. 5).

The metal is presumably a tin bronze alloy with probably some Sb and As and traces of Pb and Ag. The other elements detected are: S, Fe, Si, Zn.

Results of point 2 are very different from those of point 1, they indicate the enrichment in Fe and in S and depletion in Cu.

| Elements (mass %) | Cu   |        | Sn  |        | S    |        | Fe   |        | Sb  |        | As  |        | Pb  |        | Ag  |        | Si  |        | Zn  |        | Total |
|-------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|------|--------|------|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-------|
|                   | %    | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %    | +/- 2σ | %    | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ | %   | +/- 2σ |       |
| 1                 | 87.0 | 0.2    | 8.5 | 0.05   | 1.5  | 0.04   | 0.2  | 0.01   | 0.9 | 0.02   | 0.7 | 0.03   | 0.4 | 0.02   | 0.3 | 0.01   | 0.2 | 0.06   | 0.1 | 0.03   | 99.8  |
| 2                 | 36.5 | 0.1    | 4.0 | 0.02   | 25.0 | 0.08   | 32.0 | 0.09   | 0.5 | 0.01   | 0.2 | 0.01   | 0.1 | 0.01   | 0.2 | 0.01   | 0.5 | 0.04   | 0.1 | 0.02   | 99.1  |

Table 2: Chemical composition of the surface of the pin at two representative areas shown in Fig. 5. Method of analysis: XRF.

#### ✖ Metal

None.

**Microstructure** None

**First metal element** Cu

**Other metal elements** Sn

#### Complementary information

None.

#### ✖ Corrosion layers

CP4 (dense, smooth olive green stratum) is enriched with Fe and S and depleted in Cu. It seems to correspond to chalcopyrite (CuFeS<sub>2</sub>).

**Corrosion form** Multiform

**Corrosion type** lake patina (Schweizer 1994)

#### Complementary information

In the article "Bronze objects from Lake sites: from patina to bibliography. In: Ancient and historic metals, conservation and scientific research" (Schweizer 1994), the corrosion products of the pin 3071 (LAB MAH 85-194) were analysed with XRD. The results show that the pin contains sulfosalt (sinnerite Cu<sub>6</sub>As<sub>4</sub>S<sub>9</sub>) and copper carbonate (malachite Cu<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)(OH)<sub>2</sub>) as well as copper iron sulfide (chalcopyrite CuFeS<sub>2</sub>). Sinnerite appears as dark crystals, malachite as green crystals and chalcopyrite as a brown smooth layer.

#### ✖ MiCorr stratigraphy(ies) – CS

#### ✖ Synthesis of the binocular / cross-section examination of the corrosion structure

The corrosion structure has only been documented in binocular mode (Figs. 6 & 7).

#### ✖ Conclusion

The pin is made from a tin bronze with possibly some Sb and As. It has been extensively documented by Schweizer to establish the lake and terrestrial patina typologies in his research paper from 1994. Chalcopyrite indicates a lake patina that was generated by the presence of sulfato-reducing bacteria

in the burial environment and copper carbonate refers to a terrestrial patina.

## References

### References on object and sample

#### *Object files in MiCorr*

1. MiCorr\_Pin or needle fragment HR-3031
2. MiCorr\_Tang fragment of a knife HR-6567
3. MiCorr\_Tang fragment of a knife HR-6246
4. MiCorr\_Pin HR-18152
5. MiCorr\_Pin HR-17773
6. MiCorr\_PIN HR-18603
7. MiCorr\_Pin HR-3389

#### *References object*

8. Rychner-Faraggi A-M. (1993) Hauterive – Champréveyres 9. Métal et parure au Bronze final. Archéologie neuchâteloise, 17 (Neuchâtel), pl. 61/65.
9. Hochuli, S. et al. (1988) SPM III Bronzezeit, Verlag Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Basel, 76-77, 379.

#### *References sample*

10. Empa Report 137 695/1991, P.O. Boll.
11. Rapport d'examen, Lab. Musées d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva GE, 87-194 à 87-197.
12. Schweizer, F. (1994) Bronze objects from Lake sites: from patina to bibliography. In: Ancient and historic metals, conservation and scientific research (eds. Scott, D.A., Podany, J. and Considine B.B.), The Getty Conservation Institute, 33-50.

### References on analytic methods and interpretation

13. Robbiola, L., Blengino, J-M., Fiaud, C. (1998) Morphology and mechanisms of formation of natural patinas on archaeological Cu-Sn alloys, Corrosion Science, 40, 12, 2083-2111.