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LOAN NO.	L1870.8
SPOON TYPE	Roman
LENGTH	22.6cm/8.9in
WEIGHT	46gm/1.48oz
MAKER	Unscribed
MAKER'S MARK	None
DATE	c.350
PERIOD	Roman
TOWN	Unknown
HOW REFERENCE	None
CONDITION	Excellent



DESCRIPTION This spoon is in a fine state of preservation, showing little wear. It is of heavy gauge for such an early piece, and is larger than most known Roman spoons. The long octagonal stem, with indents on each facet, tapers over its entire length from bowl to tip. Towards the bowl the stem becomes circular in cross-section, and on it is engraved a Christian cross filled with *niello*. It joins the bowl with a long *rat-tail*. The bowl is long and narrow, and fig shaped. Radiating from the edge of the bowl where the stem joins it are eight rayed sections that are visible only from the underside.

Many spoons of this type are considered to be Christian because they are *engraved* or scratched with Christian symbols, particularly in the bowl. This one has two more crosses, which are engraved on both sides of the disc between the stem and the bowl.

These spoons often survive in pairs, one of which has a hole in the bowl. In Christian baptism there were two stages of anointing: the first with water and the second with oil. It seems likely that water was applied by pouring it through the spoon with the hole, and the other spoon held the oil.

See Jackson, *Illustrated History* (1911), Volume II, p. 478.



PROVENANCE Col. Ralph Clarke, a descendant of the late Harvey Clarke. The latter formed a collection of spoons in the decade preceding the First World War. They remained in the family until the sale at Christie's on 13 July 1953 Lot 92. Mrs How bought the lot for £60, thereby acquiring this spoon and another Roman specimen.



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LOAN NO. L1870.1
SPOON TYPE Diamond Point
LENGTH 15.9cm/6.26in
WEIGHT 26gm/0.84oz
MAKER Unascribed
MAKER'S MARK None
DATE c.1350
PERIOD Medieval
TOWN London
HOW REFERENCE Volume I, p. 100
CONDITION Excellent

DESCRIPTION This Diamond Point Spoon is of fine quality. It has been left for many years without being cleaned and therefore one can see traces of *sulphurisation* – the hard black deposit visible in the bowl. There is a particularly fine *Indian leopard's head mark* struck in the fig-shaped bowl. The hexagonal tapering *stem* terminates in a finely forged *finial* with traces of original *gilding*.

HOW'S COMMENTS This spoon with its fully faceted hexagonal stem and fig-shaped bowl appears to antedate the *Whittington* group. The leopard's head in the bowl is the same as that found on a very similar spoon in the Victoria and Albert Museum.





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LOAN NO. L1870.45
 SPOON TYPE Acorn Knop
 LENGTH 15.2cm/6in
 WEIGHT 22gm/0.71oz
 MAKER Unscribed
 MAKER'S MARK None
 DATE c.1300
 PERIOD Medieval
 TOWN London
 HOW REFERENCE Volume III, p. 13, for mark
 CONDITION Poor



DESCRIPTION A very worn Acorn Knop. The *finial* is completely void of detail, with a hexagonal tapering *stem*. Overall a light spoon with a bowl that is very worn at the tip. A *Grecian leopard's head* is struck in the bowl; this is the earliest form of leopard's head and is without pellets around the head and is without pellets around the mark. Under the leopard's head is a possible merchant's or owner's mark, and on the reverse of the bowl there is another possible merchant's mark.

The dating of this spoon is quite speculative as How gives two date references. It seems likely that this bears the earliest type of leopard's head as there are no pellets around the head of the animal.

