Cingulum from the Roman burial of Haltern am See, Münster LWL

This is a relatively new archaeology from 2019 and although there are many uncertainties and lack of scientific publications with details about it, thanks to my long experience and my connections in Germany, I managed to achieved an excellent result.

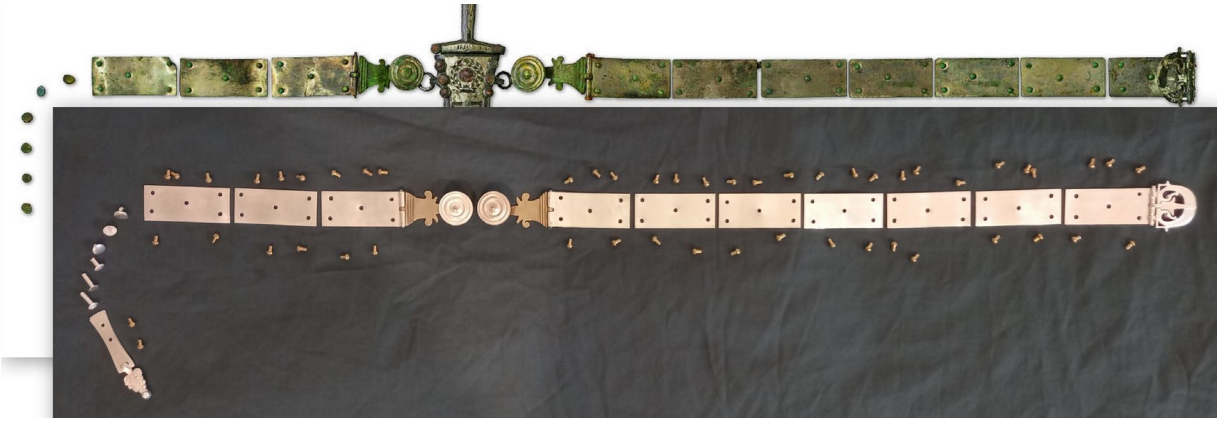
https://www.archaeologie-online.de/nachrichten/einzigartiger-roemischer-waffenfund-in-haltern-am-see-4548/?fbclid=IwAR0wTec7r0kglbOLOITFYYhngFyTy-dS2fdgx9N8i_WeX2mrNLzXuIY8q6M

The important thing is that this cingulum is attributed to the classical late Augustan period connected with the tragic period of the Teutoburg battle and the subsequent events!

The publications and videos on the subject: Roman burial ground of Haltern am See, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL)- are mostly in German, but in general things are clear!

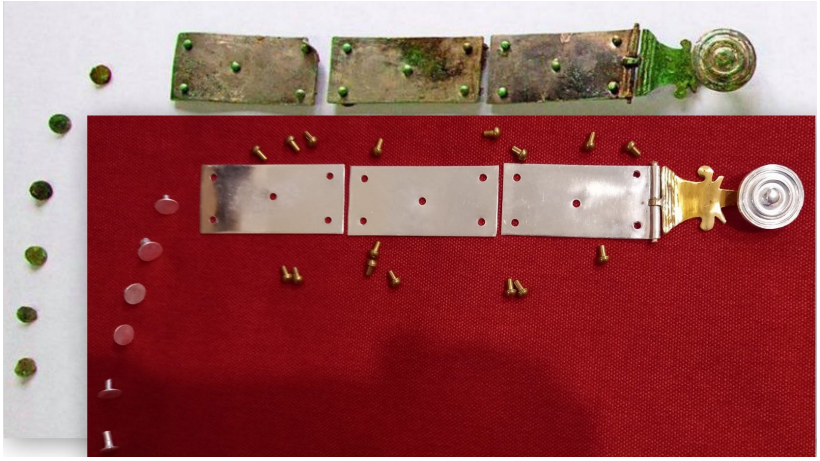
This is the English publication on the subject, but it also does not differ in large details other than the published by the German source.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8014577/Silver-Roman-dagger-restored-former-glory-nine-months-restoration.html?fbclid=IwAR0t_QnO0kGkEurZSwsenPvSTysai86fdj9v88WxGw3OBRxaoSZmij73ryg

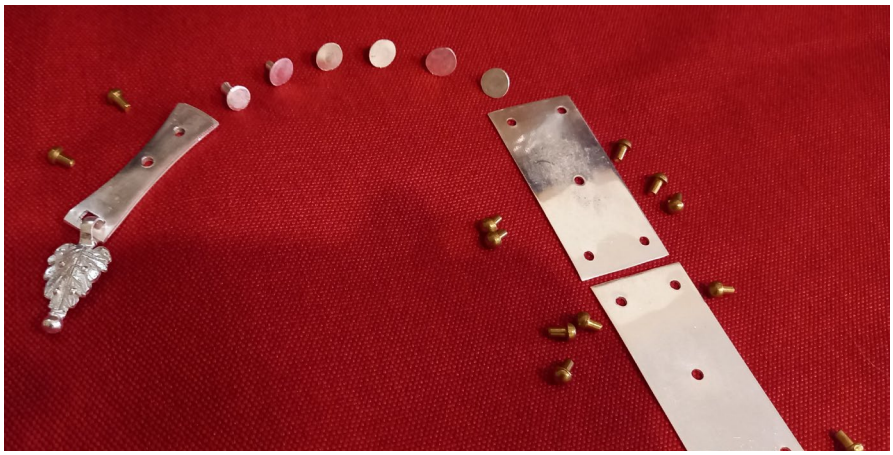


There are no sizeable publications on the topic! But due to my extensive experience with similar archeology from Augusta Rauruca and Vindonissa this Augustan period where there are published sizes in scientific publications,I have chosen these dimensions, size of the plates: 70/30 mm. The buckle, hangers for the pugio are designed to be proportional to the plates.

It never became clear to me (because of difficulties in the German language)if these parts were silver plated or tinned!But I will make them in my replicas silver plated or partially silver plated as far as the pugio hangers are concerned.



In the belt tongue also have rivets with flat heads for decoration but larger in size from the ordinary plate rivets! I see that they are also silver -plated or tinned!



It can be clearly seen that on the originals plates rivets have a patina! Whether they were originally made of bronze, or have they been silvering or tinned , or these rivets have lost the white metal coating while using, maybe we'll never know! So I will prefer brass or copper rivets for the plates !

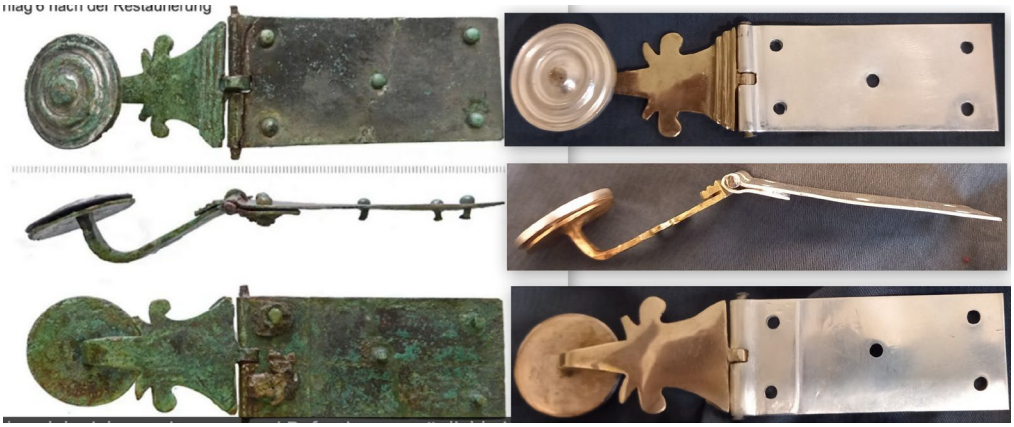
The rivets are not located symmetrically on the plates! The craftsman mainly considered the function of the hinges, and for this can be see something like not symmetrical drilling of the holes for the rivets!

There is a lot of ambiguity around the buckle, but from my experience with these August period buckles, I have chosen this model with classic dimensions, buckle width around 42 mm.

Basically, this early 1st century buckle pattern is most likely from the Augustan period, produced by a similar model, wearing a similar form in pattern most likely they come from several times workshops or workshops by major Roman cities.

I am not sure but the silhouette of buckle on the back is the same as those of Augusta Rauirica and Auerberg-Cingulum currently displayed in Mindelheim the sizes are also very close. Of course with small differences! I have made comparisons from available publications from what is published on the Internet (LWL).

The measurements of these pugio hangers are around 62 mm. length. I have tried to be symmetrical to the size I have chosen for the buckle, and I also try to make the plates symmetrical to the whole ensemble.I have tried to make the pugio hangers similar to the original, as the horns of the curves are visibly NOT SYMMETRICAL! The antique master cut them by hand not symmetrically, and now I am trying to imitate him in his not symmetrical!



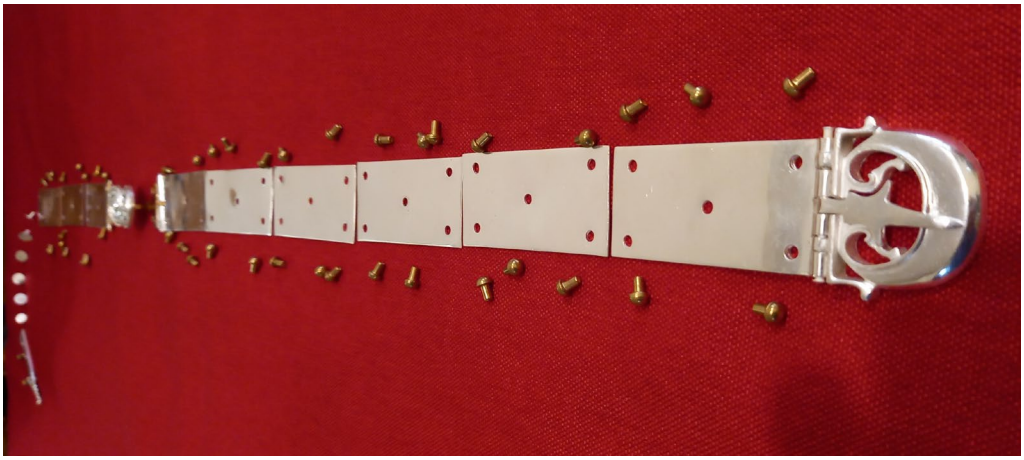
The hangers plates with 3-rails plates I mad in the first stage partially open! Later,in the second brass phase, I close (hammer) them to look like the original. The channel in the pugio disk are also clearly visible,on brass. It is not clear from the museum's publications how the two disks were attached!? With tin or hammering!

I watched very carefully the published photos of the hinges of the pugio hangers and the buckle, and since there was no publication on the subject, I came to my conclusions that the pin in the hinges were iron! The few photos that are published show the restoration at different stages and there, in my opinion,can be see that at different stages the axes have a serious iron oxide (rust)! So we can accept that these are ordinary iron axes.Of course, after conservation events and serious chemistry, rust is already removed and remains only inside in the hinges. Not by chance! Notice that it is no accident that the buckle is not on the move and the restorers cannot return it to its natural position! In my opinion, the iron axis inside is so corroded and it is blown up that even after a chemical intervention, which cannot penetrate enough into the hinge, restorers run the risk of breaking the bronze parts if they press the buckle to go back in their natural position! Even pugio hangers are not in their natural position!For the same reasons! There are corroded iron axles in a hangers inside! But this is not unusual for the Roman military equipment! On the Internet and in scientific publications can be found a huge collection of a variety of photographs of bronze hinges of belt or bumpers patrs with iron -axle.

As a model similar hinges are a comparatively simple and effective, but this is characteristic of this early August period.

On the original, a dot of a pin can be seen in the middle of the disc! But is it a guide pin for subsequent tinning or a riveted pin!?! It will remain unknown to us! My goal at the moment is not to make an exact replica of the belt but to make a set close to the publications and reliable for use in action

I did not find published measurements on the subject, but for me, as a reenactor who has dealt with hundreds of belt details, it is extremely clear that the measurements from this Augustus period do not differ from the archeology of belt parts from the Rhine Limes Avgusta Raurica, Vindonissa and the German Museum. As well as hundreds of similar buckles from the British or Danube Limes!

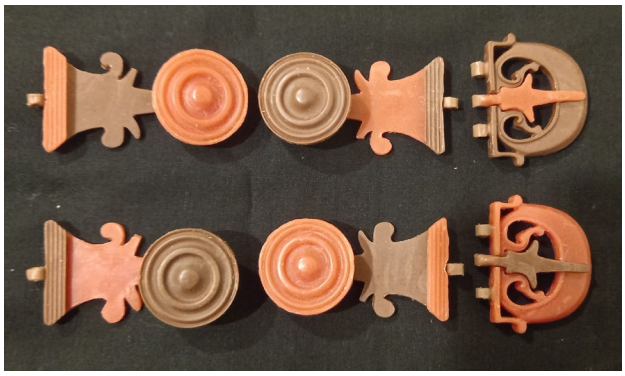


From the dimensions of the objects in the hands of the archaeologists, it can be seen that the objects are small in size, typical of this Augustan legionary standard and because of this, a large percentage of legionary items are small in size!

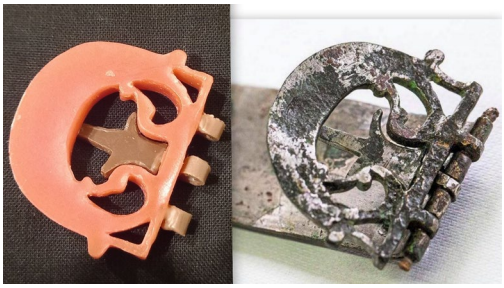
Now there is the acceleration in people size, but nevertheless we reenactors strive to fit into some reasonable framework.

Whether this cingulum and this pugio were owned by a Centurion officer or a legionnaire will remain a mystery to us! The set is very expensive even in antiquity! Even in modern times, making this replica kit would be a challenge in all its specificity and complexity! The incomes of the legionnaires were not particularly high for these expensive items, but they had various side incomes such as gambling, dice for example!

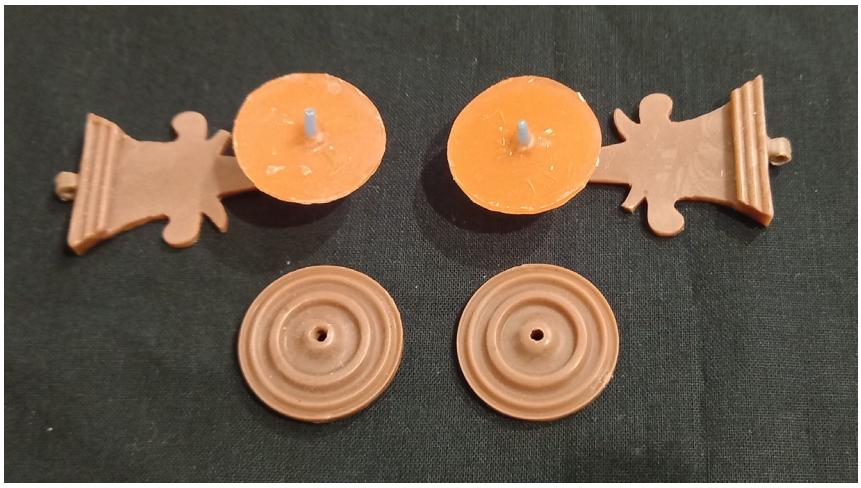
In general, pugio hangers have a high load due to the dagger and its constant pulling, pushing and hanging on various other objects. From my extensive experience as a reenactor, I know that these hangers must be very strong because they break easily in use if they are fragile or not secure riveted.



2 sets parts of my creative wax process.



It is not very clear from scientific publications how the two discs are assembled, but we can see on the upper disc of archeology something like a pin for riveting. This assembly leads to additional complications in the assembly of the pugio hangers.



andelt sich um eine von zwei Befestigungsmöglichkeite