Tiberius cingulum

Musee Nationale Saint-Germain-en-Laye France

The project are realized with courtesy of Jean-Luc Féraud.

Tiberius cingulum model from Chassenard Allier tomb France. Musee d'Archeologie Nationale Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

https://en.musee-archeologienationale.fr/node/90

The belt is exposed in France Chassenard (Allier). Musee d'Archeologie Nationale Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Information on these subjects is very limited!
publication: Cingulum Militare Studien zum römischen Soldatengürdel

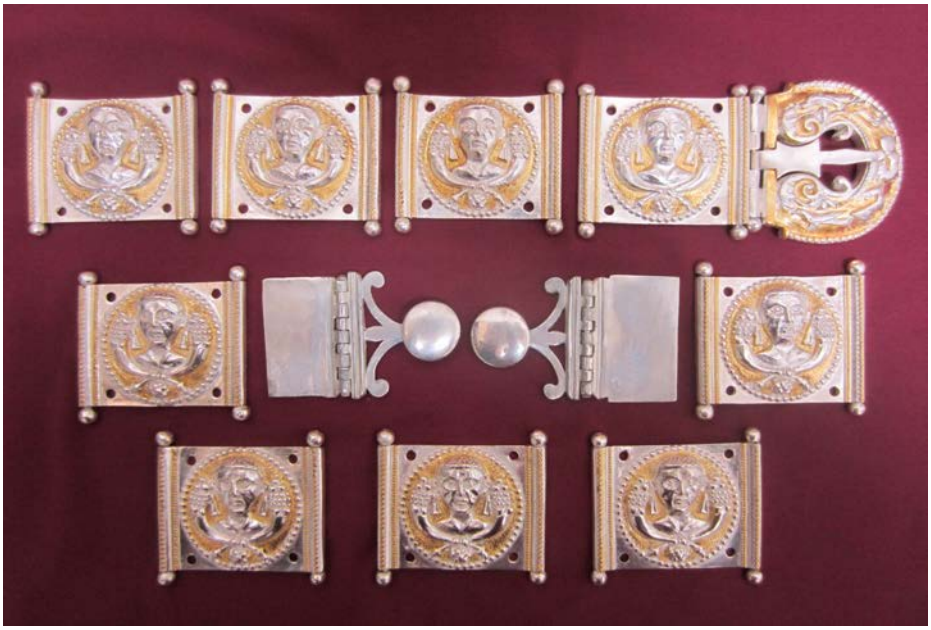
In the Roman burial besides many objects like a cavalry mask, parts of lorica hamta, Strigile,Torque we see in addition the unique cingulum parts 3 plates and one buckle! Very rare objects are placed in this funeral! Two pairs of iron matrices for coins, intended to strike gold coins of emperor Tiberius, from 14 to 37 A.D.. This indisputably proves the historical period of the find!These instruments are monopolies of the Roman empire, were

severely controlled! The sole owner of these Aureus matrices in the Gallic province can only be owned by a Prefectus or Legatus!

These are the typical aureus ,products of these matrices: Tiberius (14-37), Aureus, Lugdunum, AD 14-37-AV (7,75; mm 18; h 1) TI CAESAR DIVI - AVG F AVGVSTVS, laureate head r., Rv. PONTIF - MAXIM, Livia-Pax seated on throne r., holding sceptre and branch.

The buckle is highly fragmented on one side and I have to interpret during my reconstruction. I guess the buckle is made of several parts and then glued with tin and gilded. It is obvious that the hinges have come off the buckle over the centuries. Tin has this function as it oxidizes over the centuries to just decompose. The buckle was most likely hammered into various elements and then glued with tin. Tin have this bad characteristic to disintegrate after a few hundred years. But until I will not look at the artifact, I can't give an exact explanation. The photos are in poor quality and very small to give a clear idea.

The buckle and plates is described in the publication as bronze-gilded. Whether they are partially gilded or completely it is not described in the publication and I cannot understand from the photos I have. The only post is in: “Cingulum Militare Studien zum römischen Soldatengürdel”. This is my ready to be mount a leather belt replicas.



The sizes of my buckle are: length 55 mm., width 60 mm. (without the hinges)

My plate sizes are: length 64 mm. width 47 mm. (without including balls)

The buckle is highly fragmented in the image area and I have to interpret during my reconstruction.

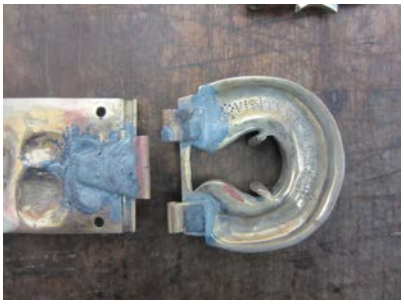
Thanks to my extensive experience in reading such puzzles. I was able to see faint images preserved there and I tried to recreate the idea of the ancient master. The ancient master, in addition to floral elements, also depicted on the buckle animals popular at that time. Here it's about (most likely) wild animals.

2 peacocks on the left and right!? Eagle in flight!? Bull or buffalo in the middle! Deer between them! This is my interpretation of this roman buckle.

Most likely 2 peacocks, an eagle holding an indefinite object in its claws (most likely a snake) and 2 cloven-hoofed animals. One chapter is clearer and I understand that the ancient master wanted to depict a deer. Of the entire figure on the buckle on the left, only the head, ear and toga are preserved. Of course, this cost me a lot of time to observe and think over the still not so clear photos that I have. But overall, I think I got a good interpretation on this strong ruined object!

Pugio hangers are missing from the archeological publication. But there are many interpretations that can be made on the subject. In this version I use the Vindonissa model.

This is from the back (early stage of work):



The hinge system of this buckle is unusual by Roman standards of this period. The classic hinges are cast together with the buckle itself are missing here. In this case hinges are made of bronze sheet and then gluing tin to the buckle on the underside. In my opinion, many parts of this belt are missing maybe are not carefully collected by that peasant who has found himself or other reasons but certainly not all parts are here.

This is my prototype of the Tiberius plate from Chassenard Allier tomb

,based on this model I hope to get a good result with my creative work. The image of the emperor Tiberius was recreated by the ancient master between two horns of plenty or crossed cornuacopiae and the head of the divine emperor in the middle.

The publication in German “Cingulum Militare Studien zum römischen Soldatengürdel” clearly states that although some of the images are damaged by time and stay in the ground

or missing .The scene depicted on the buckle is associated with hunting scenery as a different wildlife scene.

An interesting coincidence in iconography! Tiberius have such a sestertius with similar storyline: AE Sestertius minted at Rome by Tiberius, AD 22-23. Confronting heads of the sons of Drusus atop crossed cornuacopiae; between, winged caduceus. Reverse: DRVSVS CAESAR TI AVG F DIVI AVG N PONT TR POT II around large SC.

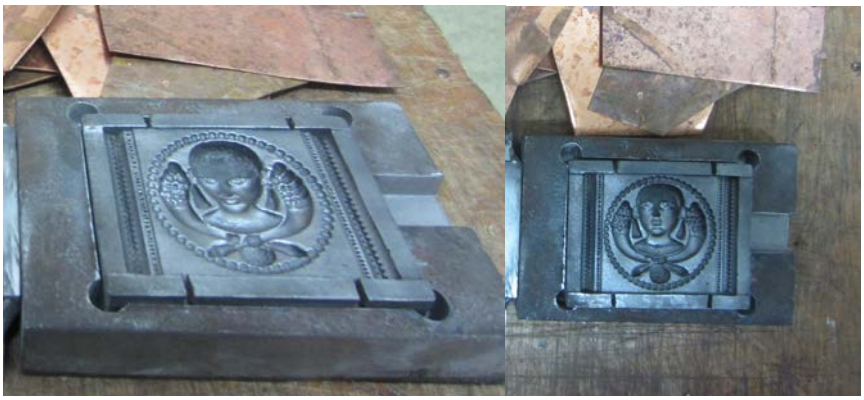
……

Here I show the stages of my wax work.

Of course, the end result I achieved after many changes -cutting, chipping, gluing and stretching!The different wax colors make it difficult to get a real look at the final version, the wax relief model is with high enough.

……

Having studied carefully with scarce information of the two sole publications I managed to create in a few years an iron matrix for this plate.



Publications in French and German mention that the image is an emperor Tiberius. I made a matrix deep enough. The ancient master for these plates used an iron matrix engraved in the mint of Rome. I have detailed photos which show that the plates are almost identical ,provided to me by a colleague who visited the museum . The antique original matrix was made in the same place where the matrices for the gold aureus coins and are engraved. They (aureus matrix) were discovered along with all these items (find the publication in French).

https://musee-archeologienationale.fr/collection/objet/mobilier-funeraire-dune-sepulture-dofficier-romain

This is a wax model of the plate, the wax model made by me on which the engraver makes the steel die. In general, the wax model is much closer to the original because I, as an artist, can best recreate the image the engraving matrix is also very good but not as good as my wax plates. In this case, I will make a option with a thin cast Tiberius plates. Balls on the edges of the plate and the holes for the rivets I will do later.

In the publication from Musee d'Archeologie France the findings are described as „ …bronze, silver-plated and partially gilded …”.

It is not clear whether the buckle is mounted on the left of the plate or on the right. So on the topic can be interpreted. I make them for both the left and the right, anyway, the antique frescoes clearly show legionnaires with buckle belts in the direction of the buckle on both the left and right.

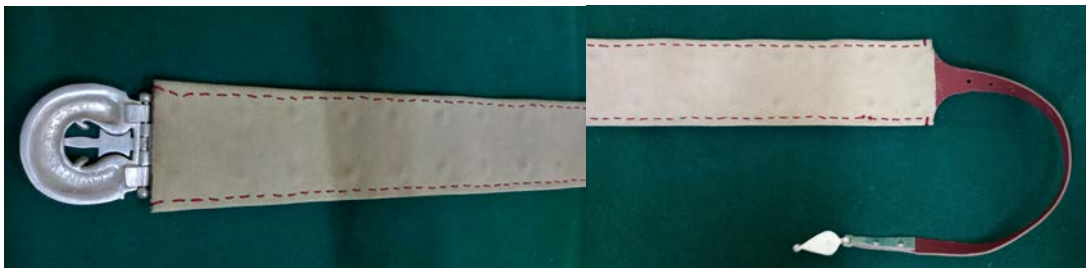
……

In the archeological find are lacks of pugio or gladius hangers. So this gives me the opportunity when I make kits for modern reconstructions (whole kits), to interpret and combine with different archeology suitable for the period with pugio or gladius hangers.

Ready assembled cingulum/belt Tiberius Chassenard-Alliers, designed for for a nobility ,prefect or legate (no pugio hangers are not provided). It is also suitable for Primus Pilus.

Belt ends with a spear imagery pendant with the image of Cupid, length 5 cm.

This is borrowed from such archeology by Tekije silver belts model:

http://legio-iiii-scythica.com/images/roman_pdf/Tekije_silver_belts_from_Belgrade_Narodni_Muzej.pdf

Made with double stitched leather to prevent scratching the armor with the rivets from behind.