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TITLE

Examination and analysis of some
brooches from Nor-Nour, Isles of Scilly

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EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS OF SOME BROOCHES FROM NORNOUR, ISLES OF SCILLY

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All the brooches were analysed qualitatively by energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence. The results are given in the table. Some of these brooches will also be sampled for atomic absorption analysis which will give quantitative results. The brooches have not been conserved so details of the decoration are difficult to see; further information should become available after conservation.

620615 The paired enamel fields are alternately translucent turquoise and opaque red. Cleaning may reveal parcel tinning.

620620 The surviving enamel includes some that is turquoise/green; cleaning is needed to show the design.

620635 Enamel is opaque turquoise. The red spots are probably just due to corrosion of the underlying metal.

620636 Conservation would show whether the brooch is enamelled.

620703 Some of the enamel is red; some looks pale coloured but this could just be a weathering crust over further red enamel.

620713 Lozenge on bow are blue. The rest of the enamel needs cleaning - ring and spot on headstud and triangles bordering the lozenges.

620717 Disc on bow contains enamel of unknown colour. There may be traces of silver foils, or the solder that held them on, on the trumpet head, around the enamel and/or on the lower bow, over the catchplate. XRF did detect silver, but very weakly.

621088 Enamel in 6-pointed star looks "black" on top of red. The fields between the points contain turquoise enamel.

621111 A small fragment of the applied (embossed) plate survives but is covered by a layer of consolidating tissue.

621126 Most of the enamel is now lost. What survives appears pale green, probably not its original colour.

Brooch 297 Two triangles on the bow contain enamel. That nearer the head is translucent turquoise. The lower one is badly corroded; no colour can be made out at present.

Brooch 242 The upper triangular field contains turquoise enamel while the lower one is orange.

Together with the brooches were a number of other objects. One of them (AM 620604), a circular seal box lid, was enamelled. The outer band of enamel was of alternating blocks of 'black' (actually olive-brown) and turquoise; both colours being translucent. The inner band was of opaque orange enamel and no enamel survived in the centre spot.

TABLE - X-RAY FLUORESCENCE ANALYSES

<u>AML No.</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>Bulk Metal</u>	<u>Decoration</u>
620602	296	Low tin bronze	Mercury gilding
620615	133	Gunmetal	Enamel and ? tinning
620620	199	Gunmetal	Enamel
620635	171	Leaded gunmetal	Enamel
620636	172	Leaded bronze	? Enamel
620703	2	Leaded gunmetal	Enamel
620713	105	(Leaded) gunmetal	Enamel
620717	111	Leaded bronze/gunmetal	Enamel and? applied silver foils
621088	-	Bronze	Enamel
621111	184	Leaded bronze	Applied plate of ? brass held on with lead-tin solder
621126	168	Leaded bronze	Enamel
-	297	Leaded bronze	Enamel
-	243	(Leaded) bronze/gunmetal	-
-	242	Leaded bronze	Enamel