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### The Staffordshire Hoard

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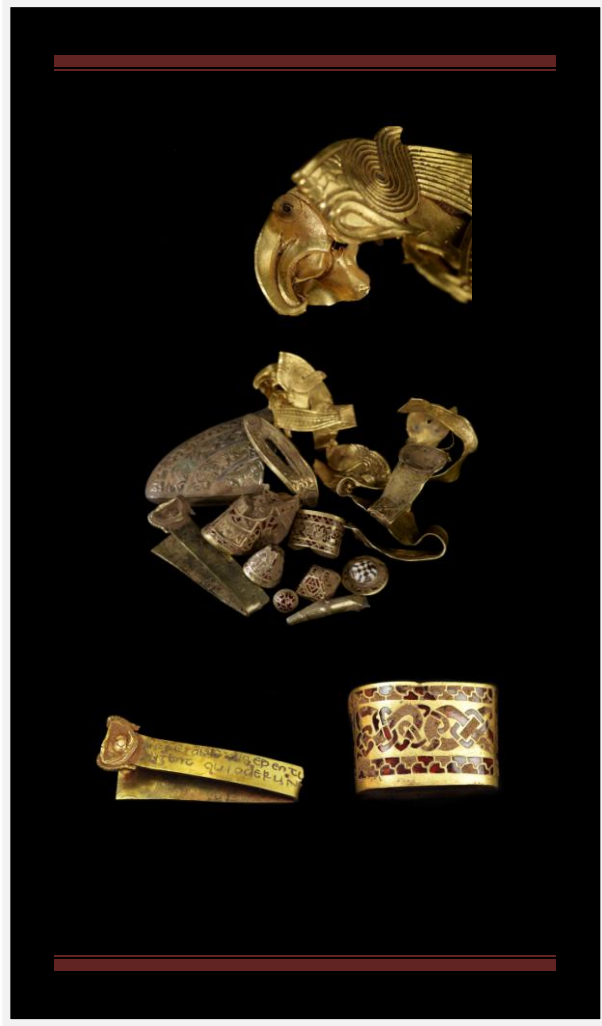
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## *The Staffordshire Hoard*

In July of 2009, a hoard of Anglo-Saxon artifacts was discovered in what had been the Kingdom of Mercia in Staffordshire, by Terry Herbert an amateur metal detector, in a field on the farm of Fred Johnson. More than 1500 artifacts were found, mostly of gold or silver, many adorned with Migration Period motifs such as animal interlace, or inlaid with stones or other materials. The objects, likely 7<sup>th</sup>-century work, are largely military in character – weapons, helmets, and other such equipment – although some few are religious in nature, such as crosses and metal strips with biblical inscriptions. Historian David Starkey has labelled the contents of the find as "gangland bling," for the medieval warlords. "This is by far the most important archaeological discovery in Britain since WWII, and beyond that this is a find – of the most extraordinary beauty, brilliance and technical sophistication – which has really caught the imagination of the public."



A Heritage Memorial Fund grant will facilitate its remaining in the custody of the Midlands Museums at Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent. A great plethora of reporting has been done on this remarkable discovery in the British press and among the helpful sites to explore the details are these (each with links to additional information)

<http://www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2010/mar/23/staffordshire-hoard-anglo-saxon-grant>