

Not quite pewter, but ... A Platter with a Fish

Wandering through the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York the other day (as one does), I came across this *Platter with a Fish*. Said to have been made 300-500 AD in Gaul, it was identified as late Roman; and was possibly found in Grand, in north-western France.



It is a copper alloy dish with tin overlay.

The legend that accompanies it says:

“In his great encyclopaedia of natural history, the Roman writer Pliny (d. 79 A.D.) reports that tin plating, as seen on this platter, was invented in the western province of Gaul. It was no doubt employed in this

case to emulate silver.

“Numerous Gallic platters, both silver and tinned, with a fish engraved in the centre, still survive. The fish may have had Christian significance, but it is just as likely to have been a strictly decorative motif.”



Alan Williams

Dinner plates with fish design:

[https://www.google.co.uk/search?](https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=dinner+plates+with+fish+design&spell=1&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj21IL2g_bZAhWso1kKHd-ZA7oQBQgkKAA&biw=1440&bih=727)

[q=dinner+plates+with+fish+design&spell=1&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj21IL2g_bZAhWso1kKHd-ZA7oQBQgkKAA&biw=1440&bih=727](https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=dinner+plates+with+fish+design&spell=1&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj21IL2g_bZAhWso1kKHd-ZA7oQBQgkKAA&biw=1440&bih=727)

Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tinning>

Metropolitan Museum of Art:

1000 5th Ave, New York, NY 10028

<https://www.metmuseum.org/>