

ROMAN FINDS GROUP
NEWSLETTER VIII

Roman Finds Group

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Grave-goods from the Cemetery at Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields

In the summer of 1993 excavations were carried out by Tyne and Wear Museums on behalf of South Tyneside MBC, at Morton Walk, South Shields. Excavation on a small site, prior to development, identified three phases of cemetery use, ranging in date from the second century to the late fourth and including both cremations and unhumations. No unburnt bone had survived in the acid soil, and the single deposit of grave-goods was in very poor condition, but proved to be interesting.

This consisted of a collection of personal ornaments which had clearly belonged to a female. The group of objects placed at the right-hand side of the head included nine bracelets, six finger-rings, a string of glass beads, an iron chain, and a knife; impressions in the iron corrosion suggest they were contained in a wooden box. The finger-rings had been threaded on to one of the bracelets. The chain was unusual, of circular rings, some of which had been riveted, and there was a copper alloy loop at one end. The knife, although not physically joined to the chain, lay close beside it, and it is possible that the knife had been suspended from the waist by the chain in the form of a *châtelaine*. Iron corrosion on the top of the chain contained impressions of textile and leather or skin, which could be interpreted as a covering for the objects or possibly a leather purse or a girdle associated with a *châtelaine*. Parallels for the bracelets and the beads date the grave to the fourth century, possibly to the second half of it. Close to this group lay a decorated jet spindle whorl.

In the opposite corner of the grave lay an unusual object, also in fine-quality jet, probably from Whitby. It consists of two elements, both of which have been modified after manufacture.

The shank, 120mm long, has an octagonal cross-section and widens at the mid-point in a shape suggesting a handle. The sides are polished, but the top is unfinished and pierced by a hole only 2mm in diameter and c.7mm deep. The second element is a disc, 25mm in diameter, which has had a jagged, roughly oval hole cut through it in order to fit it onto the shank. The upper surface of the disc is finely-worked, but the flat lower surface is unpolished.

The most likely interpretation is that this object is a distaff, even though it is shorter than known complete examples. Possibly it was not usable in the condition in which it was found, but the separate elements may have been adapted to represent a distaff in the grave, which already contained a spindle.

In another grave, probably that of an adult male, the pattern of decayed wood suggested that a bier had been put into the grave as well as the wooden coffin.

The report on the excavations, including full details of the finds, has been completed and publication is forthcoming.

Bibliography

Hagen W. 1937 *Kaiserzeitliche Gagarbeiten aus dem rheinischen Germanien*, *Bonner Jahrbucher* 142, 77-144.

Alex Croom and Margaret Snape
Tyne and Wear Museums

Figure 1

Jet object from Morton Walk,
South Shields, as found.

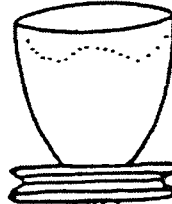
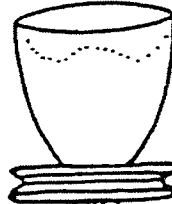
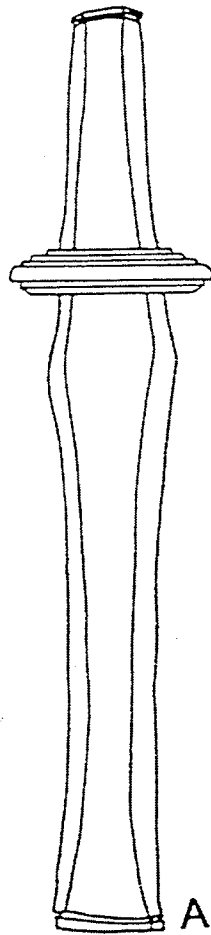


Figure 2

Jet distaff from Germany with similarly
shaped shank, a circular collar and a vase
terminal made from a separate piece of jet
(after Hagen 1937, Taf. 34, G11). Drawn
by R Oram.



0 5cm

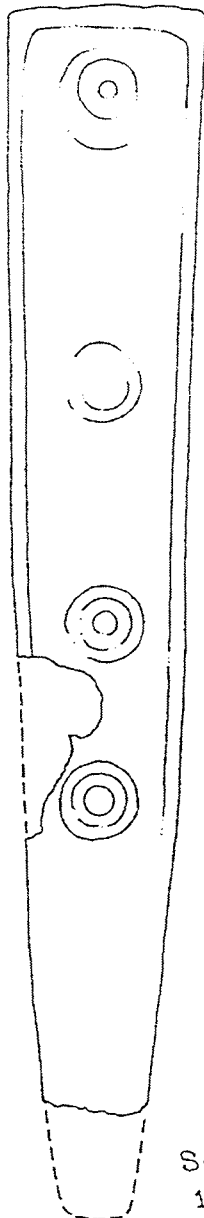
Has anyone any ideas?

I am looking for help in identifying the object in the accompanying illustration.

It comes from a site in the Roman small town of Staines; the context is a floor layer in a phase dated late 1st-early 2nd century. The object was in so poor a condition that it did not survive being lifted; the drawing here was done whilst it was still in situ, I unfortunately never got to see it. It seems to have been of sheet copper alloy, with four circular bosses running down its length and a groove around the edge.

It was tentatively identified on site as a dagger scabbard. Mark Hassall has kindly commented on a copy of the drawing and finds it untypical of a scabbard but has suggested it may be a (rather large) strap end. Any other suggestions or comments would be most welcome.

Suzanne Huson
Finds Officer
Surrey County Archaeological Unit
Planning Department
County Hall
Kingston-on-Thames
KT1 2DT



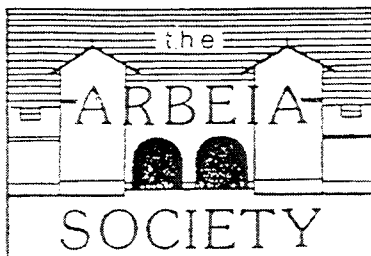
Scale
1:1

Conference

The Arbeia Society, based at South Shields Roman fort, has organised a one-day conference on '*Supply and demand on the northern frontiers*'. This will be held at the Hancock Museum, University of Newcastle, on Saturday 7th May 1994. The fee of £8 (£6 for Society members and concessions) includes tea and coffee, and entry to the conference will be through the newly opened Egyptian Gallery 'Land of the Pharaohs'. This will be the third annual Arbeia Society conference and early booking is advised as the previous two were fully booked.

Details from:

The Secretary
The Arbeia Society
Arbeia Roman Fort
Baring Street, South Shields
Tyne and Wear, NE33 2BB
Tel: (091) 4544093



presents

SUPPLY AND DEMAND ON HADRIAN'S WALL



He says have we ever considered investing in double glazing?

SUPPLY AND DEMAND ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIERS
Saturday 7th May 1994

Chairman: Charles Daniels (Dept. of Archaeology, University of Newcastle)
Venue: Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, University of Newcastle.

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 - 10.20 Coffee and Registration
10.20 - 10.35 Dr N. Hodgson (Tyne & Wear Museums): "Arbeia: A Roman Supply Base".
10.35 - 11.20 Dr D.J. Breeze (Historic Scotland): "Supply: The Documentary Evidence".
11.20 - 12.05 J. Casey (University of Durham): "Money at work on the Northern Frontier".
12.05 - 12.50 Dr M.C. Bishop: "Arming the Troops".
12.50 - 2.00 LUNCH
2.00 - 2.45 Dr M. van der Veen (University of Leicester): "Grain Supply on the Northern Frontiers".
2.45 - 3.45 J. Dore & V. Swan (RCHME): "Garrisons and the Interpretation of Pottery in the military north from the first to the third centuries AD".
3.45 - 4.00 TEA
4.00 - 4.45 P.T. Bidwell (Tyne and Wear Museums): "Civilian Potters and the Supply of the Roman Army in Britain".
4.45 - 5.30 Discussion.

Conference Fees: £8
 £6 for Arbeia Society members, Full Time students, UB40s, OAPs.
(Fee includes Tea & Coffee. Lunches are available locally.)

Entry to the conference will be through the newly opened Egyptian Gallery at the Hancock: "Land of the Pharoahs". In the past the Arbeia conferences have been well attended, so please book early to ensure your place.

.....

To: The Secretary, The Arbeia Society, Arbeia Roman Fort, Baring Street, South Shields, NE33 2BB. Tel (091) 454 4093.

I/We wish to attend the "Supply and Demand....." Conference.

I/We enclose £..... for place(s). (Cheques made payable to "The Arbeia Society")

Name

Address

.....
.....

Day-time Phone No.

(If you require a map/receipt please enclose SAE).

The Arbeia Society and Quinta

The Arbeia Society was formed to promote interest in Roman studies, reconstruction archaeology and fieldwork as well as supporting archaeological work at Arbeia. The Arbeia Journal, published annually, features academic articles on work undertaken through the year, at the fort and elsewhere, and experiments in reconstruction, particularly Roman weapons research. The Arbeia magazine, published twice a year, features lively and informal articles about the Society's activities and work at the fort.

Members of the Society receive all publications free.

Cohors quinta gallorum, the re-enactment branch of the Society, is named after the unit stationed at the fort in the third century. Quinta is involved in research and reconstruction of all aspects of military and civilian life in early third century Britain, and are strongly committed to authenticity in their kit and re-enactments. They appear in public displays throughout the year and have taken part in conferences, filming and educational visits to schools.

Members of Quinta are automatically members of the Arbeia Society.

For full details contact:

The Secretary
The Arbeia Society
Arbeia Roman Fort
Baring Street, South Shields
Tyne and Wear, NE33 2BB
Tel: (091) 4544093

Notification of Forthcoming Seminar

Finds Research Group AD700-1700, who aim to promote the research and study of finds of that period, hold 1-day meetings twice yearly focusing on a variety of themes related to the interpretation of finds.

The Spring meeting for 1994 is on *Anglo-Saxon Finds from Northumbria*, to be held on 10th May 1994 at the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum in Middlesbrough.


A provisional programme and details of membership of the group (annual subscription £3,00) which includes free admission to the biannual seminars, may be obtained from the Secretary,

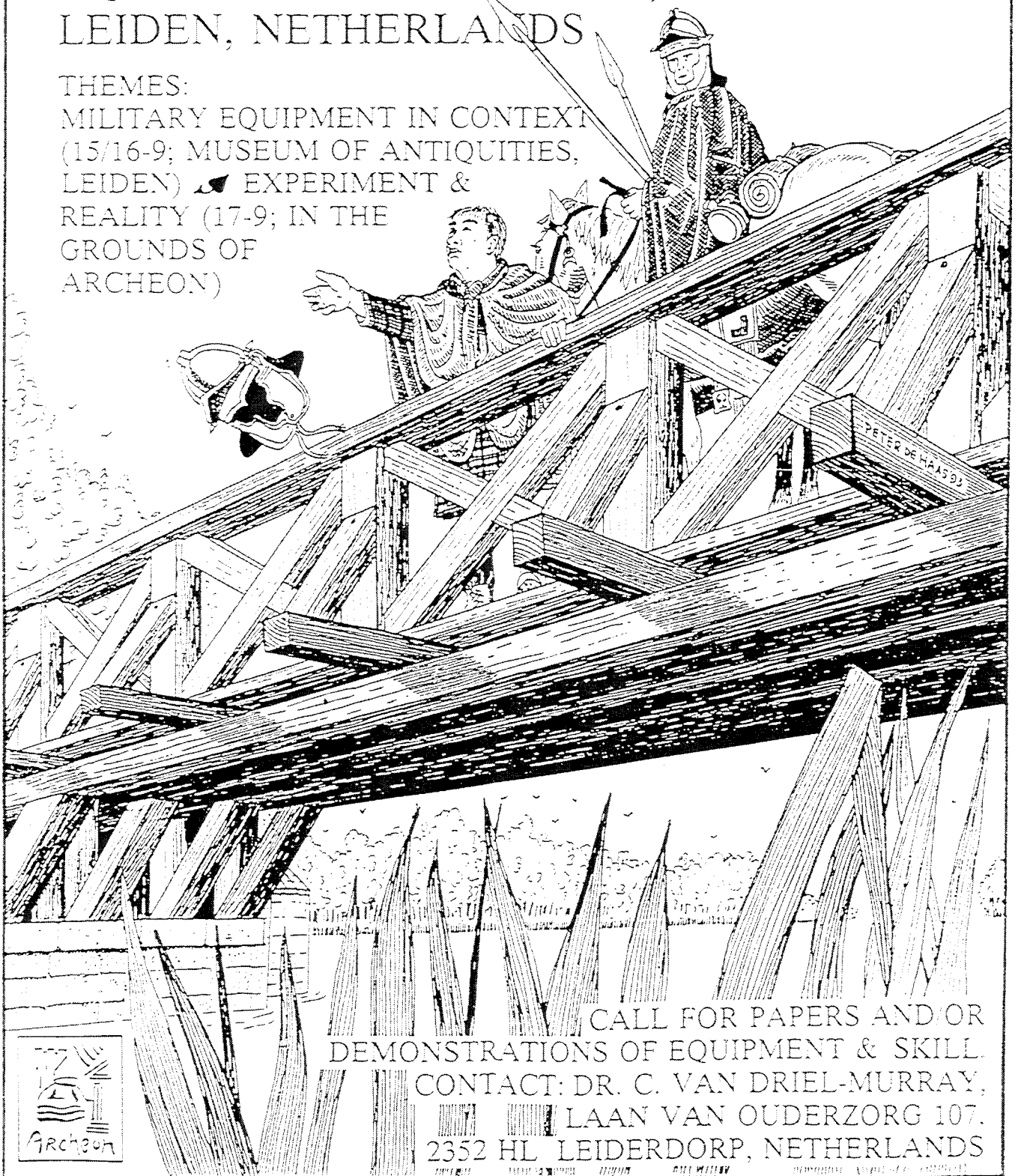
Jane Cowgill
CLAU
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
LN1 3BL

ROME C IX

IXTH INTERNATIONAL ROMAN MILITARY
EQUIPMENT CONFERENCE, 15/17-9-1994
LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS

THEMES:

MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN CONTEXT
(15/16-9; MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES,
LEIDEN)  EXPERIMENT &
REALITY (17-9; IN THE
GROUNDS OF
ARCHEON)



CALL FOR PAPERS AND/OR
DEMONSTRATIONS OF EQUIPMENT & SKILL.
CONTACT: DR. C. VAN DRIEL-MURRAY,
LAAN VAN OUDERZORG 107,
2352 HL LEIDERDORP, NETHERLANDS



IX ROMEC

The IXth ROMEC will be held on 15-17th September 1994 in Leiden, the Netherlands under auspices of the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden and the Institute of Pre and Protohistory, University of Amsterdam.

The third day, specially for demonstrations displays and reenactments will be arranged in conjunction with ARCHEON the newly opened archaeological theme park.

Accommodation will be in hotels in Leiden. Fee about 60 fl. The theme will be "Military Equipment in Context", exploring the significance of military finds in various contexts both within and outside the Empire. In addition, there will be room for reports of recent discoveries, practical subjects and demonstrations

Papers include: Throwing it all away?? Helmets by the dozen, Augustan equipment from Kops Plateau Nijmegen. Military equipment from Slovakia. Imports into Poland. Republican equipment in Gaul. Military equipment from watery contexts. Trade or Politics: the context of Roman imports to Free Germany. Weapons in graves.

Demonstrations will be given by several well known groups as well as some intrepid individuals

=====

please return to
Dr. C. van Driel-Murray, Laan van Ouderzorg 107,
2352 HL Leiderdorp, Netherlands by February 21st 1994.

I am interested in taking part in the IXth Roman Military Equipment Conference and wish to be kept informed of further arrangements.

name:

address

I would like to present a paper or demonstration on the following topic(s):

WHAM!

Women

Heritage

And

Museums



PRESS RELEASE

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY: CURRENT RESEARCH AND THE MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

WHAM! 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

DATE: 20 - 21 May 1994

VENUE: Museum of London

Thirty-five speakers from academic, museum and heritage backgrounds will be presenting current research into the contribution made by women in various fields of industry, and will consider how museums both interpret and display this evidence.

Speakers will cover all periods from pre-history to contemporary collecting and there will also be a session devoted to the role of museum education services.

This conference will be an opportunity for discussion and exchange of information. It will provide rapid access to current research for museum workers; particularly those who individually, cover a wide range of periods in their work; and will look critically at how museums interpret objects. We hope to encourage new ways of using existing collections and to consider how objects and information are interpreted to museum visitors. Contributions from delegates will be welcomed during the discussions which it is hoped will stem from the presentations given.

The conference will be divided into sessions defined by general historical periods. Each session will contain four speakers discussing either specific industries or presenting an overview of women's work in the considered period. At least one speaker in each session will be from a museum and will directly consider the presentation of evidence. Each session will be chaired by a professional with a relevant interest.

ALL WELCOME !

COST: Non member: £35.00 Member: £25.00 Student: £20.00 Unwaged: £15.00

CONTACT: Barbara Wood, Museum of London 071-600 3699

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday 20 May

09.45 Welcome

10.00 'Lifted from Obscurity? The (Re)presentation of Women and Work in Museums'
Gaby Porter, *Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester*

Concurrent Sessions

Roman Women

Chair: Catherine Johns, *British Museum*

- 11.00 The Actress and the Bishop: evidence for working women in Roman Britain, Lindsay Allison-Jones, *Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle*
- 11.30 Granny's Old Bones - A Cottage Industry? Nina Crummy, *Museum of London*
- 11.50 Skeletal Wear Analysis, Stephanie Pinter-Bellows, *University of Birmingham*
- 12.10 Displaying Roman Women, Vivienne Holgate, *Verulamium Museum*

Medieval Women

Chair: John Clark, *Museum of London*

- 2.00 Working Women in Medieval London, Dr Caroline Barron, *Royal Holloway and Bedford College*
- 2.30 Women Blacksmiths, Dr Jane Geddes
- 2.50 The Textile Industry, Frances Pritchard, *Whitworth Art Gallery*
- 3.10 Museum Speaker, Fiona Talbot, *Cuming Museum*

Women, 1500-1800

Chair: Beverley Butler, *Freelance Lecturer and Researcher*

- 4.00 Overview (1500-1800), Katrina Honeyman, *University of Leeds*
- 4.30 Silver Workers, Philippa Glanville, *Victoria & Albert Museum*
- 4.50 Women in Pewter, Rosemary Weinstein, *Museum of London*
- 5.10 Speaker to be confirmed

5.30

Space will be available for discussions, slides etc. Please try and let us know in advance if you want to give a short presentation on your work or museum.

7.00

Meal out. Probably at a reasonably priced Italian Restaurant; pay individually. Please book when you return your conference booking form.

The Industry of War

Chair: Amanda Devonshire, *Chertsey Museum*

- 11.00 Collecting the Evidence: Oral History, Margaret Brooks, *Imperial War Museum*
- 11.30 Women's Work in the First World War, Anita Ballin, *Imperial War Museum*
- 11.50 Scotland's Forgotten 'Lumberjills', Dorothy I Kidd, *National Museums of Scotland*
- 12.10 Presenting the Evidence, Jane Hainsworth, *National Army Museum*

19th/20th Century Women (1)

Chair: Stephen Done, *Cyfartha Castle Museum*

- 2.00 Needlemakers, Speaker from Forge Mill Needle Museum
- 2.20 Women and Wedgwood, Sharon Gates, *The Wedgwood Museum*
- 2.45 The Coal Industry, Rosemary Preece, *Yorkshire Mining Museum*
- 3.10 The Woolen Industry at Trowbridge Museum, Linda Wigley, *Bath Royal Library*

19th/20th Century Women (2)

Chair: Val Bell, *Museum Consultant*

- 4.00 Typists in London 1870-90, Anna Davin
- 4.25 Home Working in the East End of London at the Turn of the Century, Diane Atkinson, *Museum of London*
- 4.50 The Organisation of the Lace Industry in England and Ireland, Dr Pamela Sharpe, *University of Bristol*
- 5.10 Museum Speaker, Caroline Imbah, *Leaving Art Gallery*

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
Application Form

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

I enclose a minimum payment of (please tick):

- Non-member £35 WHAM Member £25
- Student £20 Unwaged £15

Please indicate which of the concurrent sessions on Friday you would prefer to attend (this is not a firm booking, but a guide to numbers):

- Roman Medieval 1500-1800
- War 19/20th C.1 19/20th C.2

Friday evening meal - I would like a place to be booked for me in the restaurant (pay individually on the night)

Creche Facilities will be available at the conference, but due to cost and space, numbers are very limited. Places must be booked and payment received by **18 April 1994**

Number of children

Age(s)

Cost per child for 2 days £25 (actual cost £45)
Please supply children's nappies and lunch.

I enclose a cheque for a total of
Please make cheques payable to 'Women, Heritage and Museums'

Please return forms to Barbara Wood, Early Department, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.

Saturday 21 May

9.00 AGM

Prehistory

Chair: Julie Carr, Museum of London Archaeology Service

- 10.00 Woman, the Inventor, Margaret Ehrenberg, University of Birmingham
- 10.30 Finding and Representing Women in the Old Stone Age, Jill Cook, British Museum
- 10.45 Women and/as Metalworkers in Prehistory, Dr Marie-Louise Sbig-Sorensen, University of Cambridge
- 11.00 Wot, No Dinosaurs?, Barbara Wood, Museum of London

Education

Chair: Joy Price, Grange Museum of Community History

- 12.00 Bringing Women's History into Museums, Sue Wilkinson, South East Museums' Education Unit
- 12.25 Sitting, Knitting and Serving, Andrea M Toziker, University of Birmingham
- 12.40 Chatham Dockyard, Jane Middleton, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust

Contemporary Collecting

Chair: Elaine Sansom, University College London

- 2.00 'Pieces of History' - working outside the museum, to be confirmed
- 2.25 It's a Man's World? - a new Tyneside Gallery, Cathy Ross, Museum of London
- 2.50 Discovering Women's Work in Docklands, Eve Hostetter, Island History Trust
- 3.05 Contemporary and Contextual Collecting, its Importance for Women, Nick Lane, Grange Museum of Community History

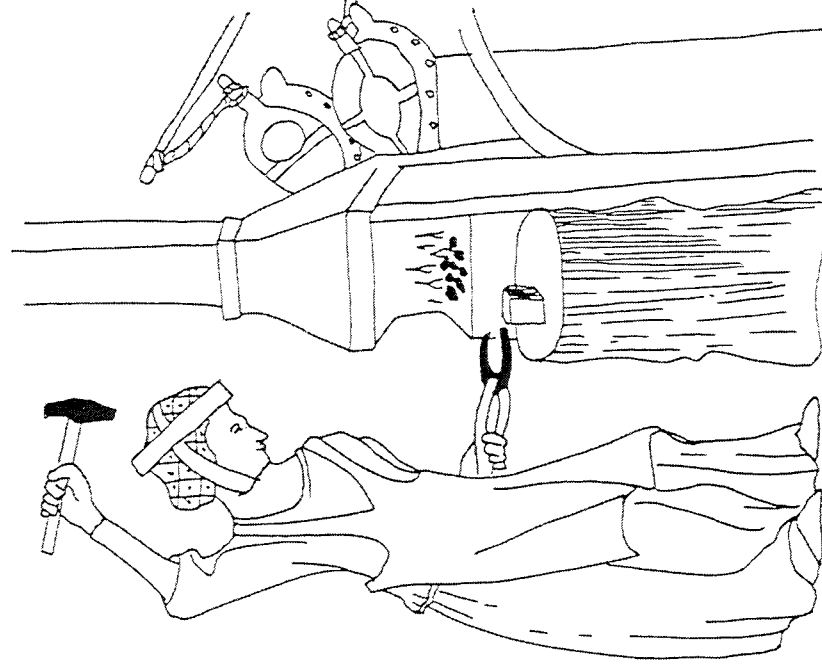
WIAM the First Ten Years

Chair: Sue Kirby, Mill Green Museum

- 3.50 Discussion: Where do we go from Here?
- 4.30 Conference Close and Summing-Up, Sue Kirby, Mill Green Museum

Museum of London, nearest tubes: St Paul's; Barbican; Moorgate

WIAM membership information from: Amanda Devonshire, Chertsey Museum, The Cedars, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey KT16 8AT

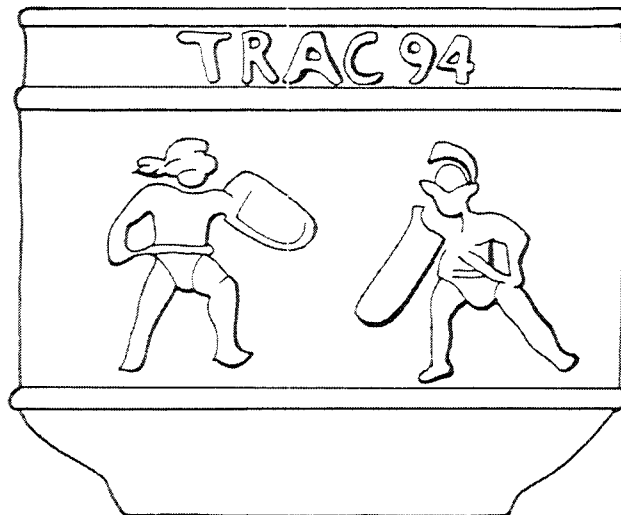


WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY: CURRENT RESEARCH AND THE MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

WOMEN, HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS
10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
20-21 MAY 1994
MUSEUM OF LONDON

TRAC 94

THEORETICAL ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY
CONFERENCE
Department of Archaeology, Durham University
19th & 20th March 1994



Provisional list of speakers:-

J. D. Hill
Michael Fulford
Richard Hingley
Birgitta Hoffmann

Sarah Scott
Tim Williams
Simon Ellis
Mark Grahame
Iain Ferris

Jane Webster
Karen Meadows
Keith Matthews
Christopher Smith
Amy Zoll
Raphael Isserlin

Ray Laurence
Jeremy Taylor
David Woolliscroft

Martin Millett
Simon Clarke

Richard Hobbs
David Dungworth

New Perspectives on the Iron Age/Roman Transition.
Power at the End of Roman Britain.
Time for a change.
Use of Space and Variability of Ground Plans: A Study of Legionary Centurion's Quarters.
The Power of Images in Late Antiquity.
to be confirmed
Lighting in Late Roman Houses.
to be confirmed
Insignificant Others; Images of Barbarians on the Military Art from Roman Britain.
Graeco Roman Text as Colonial Discourse.
Regional Perspectives on Romanisation
Homosexuality in Roman Britain.
Archaeology and Ritual in Early Latium.
Cults of Hadrian's Wall.
Some Monument-dedications in Roman Britain; An Archaeology of Brief Time.
Monuments across the Roman Landscape.
Field Survey and Demography in Roman Britain.
Reading the Tea Leaves: Signalling as a Means of Prophecy on Roman Frontiers.
Treasure!
A Quantitative Analysis of the Find Assemblage from the Roman Fort of Newstead - Some Preliminary Observations.
Inflation in the 3rd Century.
Metallurgy and Romanisation.

If you have any queries please contact :-

David Dungworth,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Durham,
46 Saddler Street,
Durham,
DH1 3 JP.
Tel 091-374-3639.
E-mail D.B.Dungworth@durham.ac.uk

Sally Cottam,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Durham,
46 Saddler Street,
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DH1 3 JP.
097-374-4756.

If you have any suggestions, or letters for this Newsletter please
contact the Editor;

MICHAEL DAWSON
Archaeology Service
Conservation and Archaeology Section
Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department
County Hall, Cauldwell Street
Bedford, MK42 AG

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Under the terms of the 1984 Data Protection Act, The Roman Finds Group is required to ask its members whether they have any objection to personal data about them being held by the Society on computer. The personal data consists of members' names and addresses used in mailing and notices of meetings, and will be released only to archaeological organisations. If members have any objection to personal data about them being held by the RFG, could they please write to the Editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Roman Finds Group Newsletter VIII was designed by Bedfordshire County Council's Planning Department's Drawing Office and printed by Bedfordshire Design & Print Service. The Roman Finds Group are grateful to the Planning Department for publishing this eighth sheet of the series.