



## COUNCIL MATTERS

As usual the Saturday morning at the conference (see overleaf and separate mailing) will be taken up by the Annual General Meeting, which will include the election of Council Officers and Members. Three places are vacant on Council for which nominations are welcomed.

Our current AAI&S Chair, Amanda Patton, has sadly had to retire from her post after only one year for personal reasons. We wish her well for the future and thank her for the contribution she has made both as a Council member over many years and for her time as Chair.

The Membership Secretary Mike Rouillard retires by rotation and will not be seeking re-election. Phil Newman is standing down as Newsletter Editor and from Council. If any member feels they would like to take on either of these posts please write to Central Mailing. Membership of Council is open to all Licentiate and Full Members. We meet approximately three times per year at the British Museum for which travel expenses are paid. If you would like to nominate anyone for a General Council place, please seek the nominee's agreement first, before contacting Central Mailing.

We now have a Secretary. At a meeting of Council held on 7th February, John Hodgson was coopted as Secretary of the the Association.

## GRAPHIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Seán Goddard, the Editor of *Graphic Archaeology*, has asked me to inform members that there will, sadly, be no issue of the journal this year. This is due to the complete lack of any suitable articles submitted for publication. If you have material which you would like to publish in this, the showpiece of our Association, then do please get in touch with Seán via

Central Mailing. Hopefully, this is only a temporary lull and things will be back to normal next year.

## ASSESSMENTS

David Williams, Assessments Officer writes: 'At a membership assessment in February, Rupert Ford (the sole candidate) was passed as a full member of the AAI&S. Rupert presently works for Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants in Exeter, in whose employ he has prepared surveys of the remains of 19th-century mining buildings on Dartmoor and other buildings in Devon and Kent. He is now working on surveys of houses in Clovelly and Totnes, both in Devon'. Council would like to remind all Licentiate Members of the benefits of Full Membership status, which gives you professional recognition and the joint membership with AOI which is now available to us. If you are considering assessment and are in any way unsure about how to go about it, please contact David Williams through Central Mailing.

## THE USE OF SUFFIXES

It has been brought to our attention that a number of Licentiate Members may be using the suffix LAAIS. Only Full Members of the Association, that is those who have attended and passed the Assessment procedure, and Fellows, are entitled to a suffix, MAAIS or FAAIS. Any other forms of suffix or use of the letters AAIS after the name are strictly forbidden.

## News in Brief

• Graham Sumner MAAI&S has written and illustrated the latest issue of Brassey's History of Uniforms, titled *Roman Army: Wars of the Empire* (published by Brassey's, hardback, 1444pp, 150 b&w illus) Price £18.95.

• One of the standard works for aspiring archaeological illustrators and students, *Archaeological Illustration* by Lesley and Roy Adkins, has now gone out of print with no immediate plans for a further edition. This will leave a major gap in the literature of our discipline with no other general introduction currently available.

• The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) will soon be launching a book on archaeological fieldwork and survey techniques. The book, which has been written by members of staff of the archaeological field section, will cover a broad variety of survey, mapping and graphical techniques, from investigation through to publication.

• The Institute of Field Archaeologists have relocated from Manchester to Reading, their new address is:

*Institute of Field Archaeologists,  
University of Reading,  
2 Earley Gate,  
PO BOX 239,  
Reading RG6 6AU*

• Two new archaeological journals are to be launched. One is a joint venture between the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) which is to cover archaeology theory and practice. The other, to be published by SAGE Publications will be entitled the *European Journal of Archaeology* and '...seeks to promote open debate among archaeologists committed to a new idea of Europe in which there is communication across national frontiers.'

• Meanwhile, *Internet Archaeology* has received a £100,000 grant from the CBA and the British Academy, spread over 3 years to ensure its continued publication.

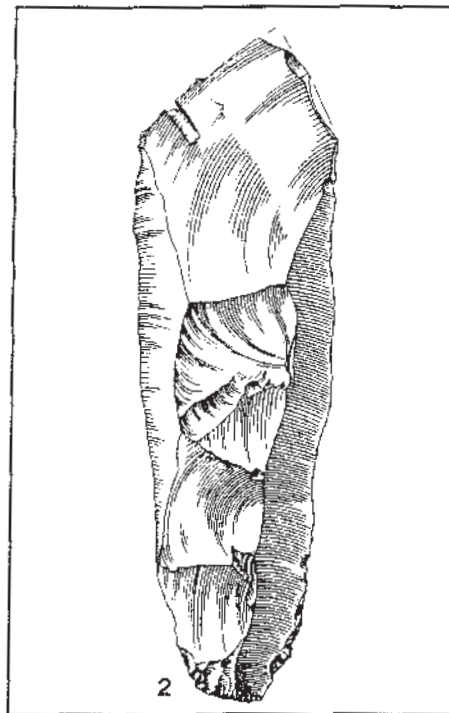
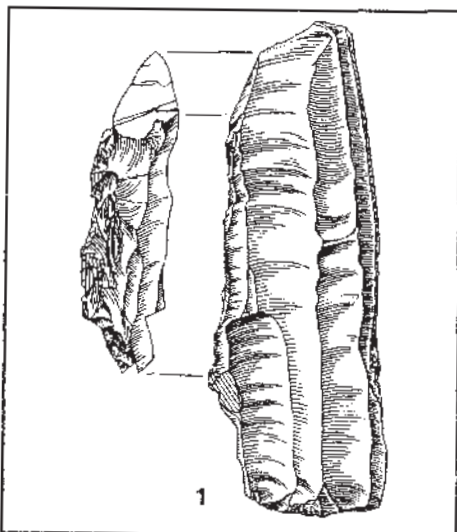
## Recognising Edge-Wear and Damage on Heavy-Duty Blade Tools

*Hazel Martingell*

Drawing prehistoric stone tools can be an uninteresting, even boring, part of an archaeological illustrator's work, but, like many tasks, I think they become more interesting the more you know about them.

As time goes by, new stone tool types are recognised in the collections and some become 'type fossils'. That is, they are nearly always found within a specific period and suggest that where they are found in primary contexts, they date the site. For example, all typical hand-axes belong with the Middle and Lower Palaeolithic periods and were made in Britain at a time between about 500,000 - 30,000 BP. Hand-axes are 'heavy duty' tools, today's equivalents are butchers' meat cleavers and also the axes used for chopping kindling for fires.

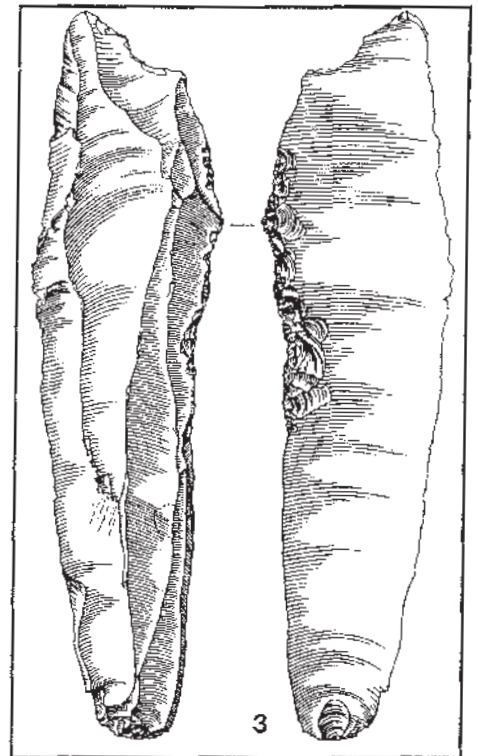
In the period beginning with what is called the Late Glacial to the start of the Mesolithic, these bifacial, heavy-duty tools appear hardly at all (A biface is another term for a hand-axe and emphasises that it is flaked over both surfaces). About 20 years ago lithic researchers going through assemblages of stone artefacts began to recognise a different type of heavy-duty tool. These were unifacial



large blades and flakes with heavily battered edges and it is these pieces that are now considered to represent the heavy-duty part of stone tool kits from a period called the Late Glacial and Early Post-glacial; roughly 13,000 -10,000 BP. The large blades and core illustrated here are from Swaffam in Norfolk. The blades will have been struck from cores such as that in Fig. 1. The blade in Fig. 2 has the remains of 'cresting' on this, the dorsal view. That is the area of flake removals running horizontally rather than those of the blade removals that run vertically here. This cresting originates from the first preparatory blade removal of a core, the object of which was to make sure the blades ran straight, and as far as possible down the full length of the core. Originally the core would have been over 20 cm long. The blade in Fig. 3 shows the characteristic edge flaking and crushing caused by damage while chopping. Experimental work has shown that this pattern of edge damage can be caused by working

with wood or antler. It is important therefore, when illustrating these pieces, to get accurate information from the lithic specialist. This edge flaking and grinding, for instance, might be confused with retouch and backing which is a deliberately made feature of some blade tools.

Despite the accidental appearance of the splintery and shallow flake removals, combined with blunting and often smoothing of some well worn pieces, this is all important information to include on an illustration. Edge use and wear is becoming much more of a recognisable feature on stone tools in general. The lithic specialist should be able to point out the difference



between this and plough damage and those pieces modified by horses hooves.

For recommended reading see p.4 (Illustrations reduced to 50% actual size)

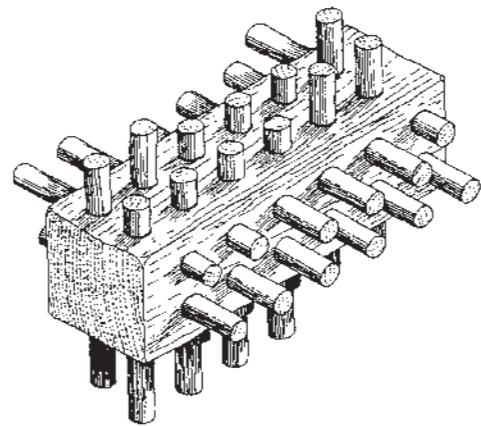
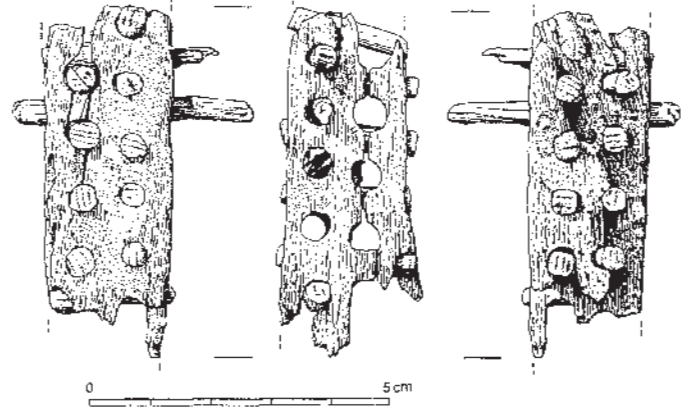


## Mystery Object

Following Brenda Craddock's mysterious clay objects in the last Newsletter, I would like to present some more unknown artefacts for your consideration. From the excavations of the Roman Imperial quarry settlement of Mons Claudianus in the Red Sea Mountains of Egypt's Eastern Desert come some remarkable finds. Because of the dry climate organic material survives in abundance, such as: fabric, leather, wood, seeds, bone (with skin and other soft tissue intact), feathers and even a spider's web. The 'window' onto this material which would decay in more temperate climates is very valuable.

Amongst the finds from the site is a square section wooden block with pairs of pegs arranged in rows (see illustration and reconstruction) with no known use or function. Among ideas for its use are as a tally or some form of abacus/calculating device (which I favour). There are fragments of other similar but simpler objects and I rather like the idea of officials calculating the volumes of rock for various orders with them. But what do you think? Your ideas would be most welcome before we go to press.

Seán Goddard



## 'NEW' AAI&S

The AAI&S now has a new range of printed material aimed at presenting the association as a more professional and coordinated body. After a lengthy period of design, consultation and discussion, a revised logo and new layout for a number of items of the Association's stationary and leaflets have been agreed upon and produced. The proposals were explained in some detail by Mike Pringle in the July 1997 *Newsletter*, and members at last year's AGM were shown the shortlist of designs from which the final selection was made. In addition to day-to-day stationery, we shall shortly also have leaflets and an information pack which will provide a unified image of the association to the wider world who may be seeking information about the Association and its work. We also now have new cover designs for *Graphic Archaeology* and the *Technical Paper* volumes. All this has yet to be fully implemented and the observant among you will notice that the *Newsletter* is not yet up-to-date and using the new corporate identity. Fear

not though: this will hopefully change soon when the new Editor becomes established. Complimentary to our paper image is the Association's set of mobile exhibition panels which is currently being refurbished and will be going on display at a number of prestigious venues. We still need much more material to make this into a really comprehensive window into the profession of archaeological illustration and survey, so if you have any material which you think might be suitable and would be willing for the Association to use, please contact Mike Pringle at Central Mailing. We

are interested in interpretive and educational material, reconstructions, and computer graphics such as DGMs, as well as the more usual artefact drawings, surveys and maps.

## New Course at Southampton

Members may be interested in a new MA course currently being advertised by Southampton University. **Archaeology of Art and Representation** is a full- or part-time PG course run by the Faculty of Arts School of Research and Graduate Studies. For further details contact the secretary of the school on 01703 593406.

## Association of Archaeological Illustrators & Surveyors Conference and AGM 1998

To be held at

University of Leicester

From **Friday 4th** until **Sunday 6th September 1998**

A booking form and full details will follow shortly in a separate mailing

## Book Review

**Late Saxon Stirrup Mounts: a classification and catalogue A contribution to the study of late Saxon ornamental metalwork.** David Williams (CBA Research Report 111, 1997). 121 pp. 65 figs. Price not stated.

This finely produced volume offers a corpus of some 500 copper alloy items, mostly hitherto unpublished, which are demonstrably or arguably late Saxon stirrup mounts. It brings together pieces not only from a variety of museum collections but also from a wide array of discoveries made by metal detectorists, originally publicised through the latter's own literature. This in itself is an interesting point and one which provides food for thought in the on-going debate about archaeology's relationship with metal detecting.

The bulk of the volume consists of its beautifully illustrated catalogue. Another basic point of interest is that whereas most archaeology publications are illustrated on behalf of an author, in this case author and illustrator are one and the same. Here, the illustrations are the archaeology, not just a depiction of it. The catalogue contains a descriptive entry for each item, with an illustration for most. Drawings are reproduced at 1.1 scale and are of outstanding quality, conveying every nuance of these frequently intricate items. The drawings have been achieved through a number of routes, some direct from the objects themselves, others re-drawn from earlier illustrations, others drawn from photographs. Details of drawing techniques, of particular interest to readers of this Newsletter, are also provided.

The catalogue is preceded by a series of discussion sections on identification and function, dating, decoration and distribution. Many such items had hitherto been interpreted as book-clasps or fittings for wooden boxes. But in recent years their identification as stirrup pieces (specifically, fixed at the junction of stirrup and stirrup leathers) has been more widely accepted. The apex and lower flange of each was perforated for rivets, of which occasionally evidence survives. Comparable pieces are known from Scandinavia (and are illustrated at the end of the volume). Finds of the stirrups themselves (of iron) are actually rare. Dating the pieces concerned is dependent on the art-styles with which they are decorated, mainly the Ringerike and Urnes styles, placing them in the 11th century when Scandinavian culture was influential in the

upper parts of English society who are the presumed users of horses with stirrups.

Distribution is general throughout many parts of England, except the far north and far west. Their characteristics suggest (together with some of uncertain identification) three broad classes: A, the most numerous, of sub-triangular shape, with 17 types; B, less numerous, of trapezoidal shape, with 4 types; C, with projecting side-plates, of which there are only a handful. Decorative techniques encountered include punched or engraved designs, niello, silver wire, inlaid grooves, a gilded example and ambiguous evidence for enamel. The details of the art-motifs employed make fascinating reading but lie outside the scope of this brief review.

The volume concludes with a useful bibliography, a gazetteer of provenances arranged county by county and a list of those items to be found in museum collections. All in all, this is a very valuable contribution to the study of medieval material culture. It amasses a body of otherwise scattered data and addresses its interpretation. Historians also please take note: this evidence has considerable bearing on the long-standing debate about the extent of horse riding in the late Old English army.

R.A Higham. University of Exeter

**Flintknapping - making and understanding stone tools.** John C. Whittaker, (Oxbow Books, 1995) 2nd edition, 341pp £18.95 paperback (ISBN 0292 79083 X).

This book of 341 pages is a good read and particularly useful for those who wish to understand stone tools in order to illustrate them. John Whittaker is one of many North American knappers who demonstrates the art at knapping conferences. The illustrations vary from very good to schematic but are always clear and concise. Personally I am a little uncomfortable about the lines used to convey 'ripples' on the flake surfaces but this is purely a matter of preferred style on my part. The best aspect of the book is its very readable text that includes much unusual and unexpected general information. Almost the only book you need to really enjoy learning about stone tools.

Hazel Martingell



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Edited by Phil Newman.