

Textile fragments on grave goodsGrave 638. Buckle

Fragments replaced textile on top, Z,Z,twill, count 6/5 on 5 mm.

Grave 799. Pin

Traces Z spun textile, fine, probably plain weave.

Grave 814727058. Small squareheaded brooch

(correction, report Feb.1973,p.3) Under braid, area twill, count 5/4 on 0.5 cm. The braid, which would obviously have been in several colours, must have been sewn as a border on the neck of the garment, as in two places holes in the edge of it, left by stitches, 4 mm apart, have corresponding holes in the twill, though the sewing thread has gone (see p. 5).

Grave 871731280. Iron object

Fragment 1.2 x 1.3 cm, replaced Z₂Z, twill, surface deteriorated.

Similar smaller replacement on 731282, Tweezers.

Grave 883731316. Buckle

Underneath, folds of replaced fine Z₂Z, twill, count 6/6 on 5 mm, very even spinning and weaving. Leather belt remains inside plate.

Grave 906731418. A. Disc brooch

Front, traces deteriorated textile, dark brown, and underneath against bronze, semi-replaced Z,Z, twill, finer, count 7/6 on 5 mm, even. Back, coarser Z,Z, replaced textile, on pin, surface poor, insect cases.

731421. Brooch

All over front, replaced by iron, Z,Z, twill, and impression of same, count estimated c.7/6 on 5 mm. Back, fragments cord under pin against brooch (?bead string), and rather coarse Z spun textile replaced. Detached fragment, very fine deteriorated Z,Sply threads 1.0 x 0.35 cm, replaced by bronze, c.8-9 to width preserved, probably from fine tablet-weave (see Gr.935); two heavier Zply threads.

Grave 924731300. Iron pin

Pinhead, area 1.3 x 1.5 cm, (a) fine Z,S, twill replaced, count 7-8/6 on 5 mm. (b) on other bits of pin, Z,Z, twill, more deteriorated, count c.7/7 per 5 mm, possibly stripe (see Gr.975) on (a) but appearance suggests a different fabric.

Grave 933731438. Bronze buckle: 731439. Buckle plate

All over front, traces fine twill, Z,S; lumps of fibrous matter, ?wood and leather, on buckle plate, and leather belt remains.

731441. Bronze ring

Z spun fibres, probably flax.

731449. Bronze strap end

Tiny fragment leather inside. Top surface of best plate, scattered over area 2.5 x 2.5 cm, Z,Z, twill, count 6-7/5 on 5 mm, too crushed to say if simple diagonal or diamond.

731450. Bronze plate

Underneath. Leather. Front small patches of Z,Z twill.

Grave 935

early to mid-5th century.

731297. Iron buckle

Z spun textile, replaced, deteriorated.

731406. Bronze strip

One side, leather; on other, several places, fine Z,Z, twill, count 8/6 on 5 mm, chevron or diamond.

731407. RB coin etc. (by hip)

From under coin, fragment tablet weave, 2.2 X 1.0 cm, one edge preserved; colours still visible, three purple or red twists at edge, Z spun, ?gold and blue 4-hole twists S,Z,S, followed by diagonal pattern weave, very fine, and blue weft count, c.10 on 5 mm, Z spun (see p. 5). The fragment is either fastened to or lying on leather, area preserved 2.5 X 1.8 cm; under this is a deteriorated weave, Z,Z, count c.8/6 per 5 mm. (Photo HMW fibre Animal & Skin fragments, probably leather.)

731408. Fragments from ?box

Deteriorated scraps of the fine braid on 731407 and leather layers on wood fragments, scrap of replaced twill, replacement probably of the braid on iron. One braid fragment has twists Z,S,Z,S, 3.5 mm. wide, perhaps from the other edge of the braid. Fragments of string replaced on iron, two Z,Sply threads plyed S. Coarse fibres that appear loosely woven, perhaps basket, mixed with the weaves. Lab.fibre

Grave 936

731409. Miniature squarehead brooch, no.1

Back, replaced braid on pin, two fragments, lying together behind the brooch, opening slightly at one side; here a Zply thread appears to join the two edges (fig.1); the fibres at the end of this thread are broken, but spread as if caught by a stitch or pin. One braid fragment 1.4 cm long shows complete width, 1.25 cm; the other has one edge missing, width preserved 8-9 mm. On the broken braid the edge shows clear 4-hole tablet twists, Z,S,S,Z,Z,S, and start of centre pattern; the complete braid shows same border, c.5 mm, centre 4-hole pattern, c.4.5 mm, and narrow border, S,Z,Z,S, 3.8 mm (fig.2); wefts Sply, 8 on 5 mm. Patch deteriorated Z,Z textile lying above the braids.

731410. Pair to 731409, no.2

Back, remains of two widths of braid edge to edge, probably exactly as on brooch 1, but not so clear; a solid Zply thread c.3 mm circumference goes from one braid to the other.

Grave 939

731318. Iron buckle

Underneath, leather. Top, mass of deteriorated replaced textile, some Z threads, probably twill.

Grave 941

731295. Iron buckle

Under pin (detached) patch Z,Z, twill, replaced, threads deteriorated.

Grave 944

731400. Bronze penannular brooch no.1

Deteriorated replaced Z,Z threads on broken pin.

731401. Pennanular brooch no.2

(a) on piece of pin, Z,Z, twill, very deteriorated and open, replaced.
(b) fragment 0.3 X 0.3, Z,Z, plain weave, 6/4 threads; lying across it, coarse Zply thread; detached knot of this thread preserved, replaced.
Replacement lump 1.5 Z 2.0 cm, Z spun weave, confused and deteriorated.

731402. Tweezers

Fragments leather, and possibly crushed textile.

Grave 947731428. Bronze buckle

Part of leather belt. Tiny fragments very powdery replaced fine Z,Z, twill.

Grave 952.731343. Iron buckle

Very deteriorated replaced textile, Z threads.

Grave 954731287. Shield boss grip

On wood and ?leather, twisted ?thong passing through it possibly in stitches; no spinning direction, and the thong seems to be composed of same matter as surface it lies on, probably both leather. Fragments replaced Z,S twill, regular broken diamond (lozenge), with same centre as that in Grave 533, count 14/12 per cm; best pieces preserved measure 1.2 X 1.3 and 1.3 X 1.5 cm; leather adhering to one.

Grave 959731326. Buckle and plate

Underneath plate, and in patches under buckle, fine replaced Z,Z, twill, area 3.5 X 2.2 cm, count 13/13 per cm; as far as can be seen simple 2/2 diagonal, appearance and regular count suggests flax.

731431. Pin

Patches leather; some traces deteriorated ?plain weave.

Grave 961731452. Spear

Five small fragments replaced textile, (a) 1.9 X 1.5, (b) 1.4 X 1.0, (c) 1.5 X 0.8 cm, the other two very small. Piece (b) shows clearly plain weave, count 7-8/5-6 per cm, ?warp coarse very lightly spun S or probably Sply, ?weft coarse Z spun; ?pattern weft finer Z,Sply threads, looping round one weft and passing over probably 5 warps and under the 6th (fig.3), probably a surface brocading; the pattern weft may have returned, but is broken. Piece (a) shows the back of a similar brocading; the plain weave is broken in the middle and the plyed pattern threads can be seen lying below, one loop and another broken one being visible on the surface uppermost. Piece (c) is also this way up. One of the tiny fragments shows 4 ?warps and 4 very deteriorated threads lying across them; the other (Photo) shows a series of short loops of the pattern thread with ends sticking out suggesting a row of pile tufts. (See p.5)

Grave 964731448. Applied brooch 2

Corded or plyed Z spun threads lying across under pin, replaced. Replaced fragment, c.1.1 X 1.1 cm, in folds, from pin, Z,Z, plain weave, count 7/7 on 5mm; small scraps similar.

Grave 965731352. Iron buckle

Some of the buckle fragments show fine replaced Z,Z, plain weave, count 7/7 on 5 mm.

Grave 967731362. Iron brooch no.2

Small patches very deteriorated Z,Z weave, replaced.

Grave 975

731333. A.Knife. B.Ring

Fragments Z,S textile, small, deteriorated (see below, pin and brooches).

731334. Iron pin

All fragments are covered both sides with replaced textile, plain weave, (a) count 9/9 per cm, one system S, the other stripes of S and Z, 4S and 2Z in only clear area preserved. (fig.4)

731425. Applied brooch 1.

From cup of brooch, two layers preserved c.3.2 X 2.5 cm in area, (a) plain weave, count 9/10 per cm, same as on pin 731334, one system S, the other mixed S and Z; layer next to brooch, 3Z,2S,4Z,3S,2Z,1S; layer above, 1S,4Z,3S,4Z (fig.4; see p.5). HMA fibre, S warp, fine, pigmented: 5 wefts, fine to medium. Probably from pin, replaced fragment 1.0 X 0.5 cm, tablet weave edge, (b) five 4-hole twists, S,Z,S,S,S, Z spun thread, with tiny scrap of twill,Z,Z, preserved, 8 threads on 5 mm (wefts of tablet weave) (fig.5.a).

731426. Applied brooch 2

On pin head (b) replaced textile with tablet-weave edge preserved, two pieces of border, underneath and round pin head, probably a fold of neck-edge of garment caught by pin, both similar weave, 4-hole tablet twists, Z,S,Z,Z,Z, with fragments Z,Z, twill lying under and above them, broken and not attached to border. Two detached scraps of same border, one 1.3 cm long, one probably adjoining fragment on brooch, both have scraps of twill preserved (fig.5.b) on one threads showing reverse, i.e. chevron or diamond twill. From the different arrangement of the twists (b) must be the border of a different edge of the cloth from (c). Twill count, 8/7 on 5 mm on pieces on brooch.

(a) Detached fragments textile, one 1.8 X 1.3 cm overall, as on brooch 1, plain weave, count 8/9 per cm, S one system, other 3S,2Z,4S,2Z,2S preserved.

Grave 983

731380. Applied brooch.

On part of spring, replaced Z,S threads; near pin, fragment replaced twill, Z,S, c.1.3 X 1.3 cm, count 6/5 on 5 mm, showing reverse.

731382. Brooch, pair to above

Deteriorated fragments round pin, parts seem to be Z,Z, so perhaps two twills present, on these as well as below, 731389.

731389. Equal armed brooch

(a) front, coarse Z,Z, twill fragment, 0.8 X 0.7 cm, count 4/4 on 5 mm. HMA, fibre probably wool, fine, some fibres pigmented.

(b) on back, replaced round pin head, and still fibrous across arm under pin, finer Z,Z twill (see detached piece), and scrap coarse thread. Detached lump, replaced areas of both twills, with Z spun, Sply cord lying between them.

Detached unreplaced fragments, (a) 0.7 X 0.7 cm, count 5/5 on 5 mm, Z,Z.

(b) Areas 4.2 X 1.8, 2.2 X 1.7, 1.8 X 0.9, Z,Z, 2/2 broken diamond (lozenge) twill, count 13/10 per cm, weave as in Grave 553.

HMA fibre probably wool, some fibres pigmented, some dyed & stained, fine to medium.

Grave 985

731413. Applied brooch

From back of plate, mass deteriorated Z spun textile.

Grave 992

731397. Applied brooch

Replaced length 2.3 cm string, of two Zspun, Sply strands plied Z, circ. c.0.9 cm. Fragment 1.3 X 1.1 cm, very deteriorated, Z,Z, twill with diamond of same centre as Gr.553 and others. Back of pinhead, folds deteriorated replaced Z textile, including area of long Z threads, either a tablet weave edge, or possibly loosely plaited fringe, threads 1.5 cm long, c.4 mm deep, if tablet 4 twists before weave.

Grave 993

731385 Bronze buckle

Grave 998

731381. Bronze buckle

Traces and fragments very deteriorated Z,Z twill, count 5/6 on 5 mm, replaced on leather (a). (b) Tiny fragments, 0.8 X 0.9 best area, replaced on iron from pin, Z,Z, plain weave, count 8/6 on 5 mm.

Grave 1000

731359, 731360. Iron brooches

Very deteriorated Z,Z textile, replaced.

Further cleaning by Glynis Edwards on the squareheaded brooch from Grave 814 revealed sewing-thread holes, showing that this diagonal patterned tablet-weave braid was certainly sewn to the edge of the twill weave, as suggested above (Feb.1973,p.6); cf. a patterned replaced braid from Finglesham (Grave 203.5,c.55-560 A.D.), and a number of 6th century Norwegian examples (1).

Another fine tablet-woven braid (Grave 935) showed colours, red or purple for the edge, possibly gold background in the diagonal centre, with three or four parallel lines containing blue threads, only visible in certain lights, at right angles to the border. This braid, associated with wood and leather fragments, may have been used to fasten or decorate a box, or perhaps is part of the woman's belt that lay against it, though all the identifiable belt fragments from Mucking have been leather. Fine plied threads in Grave 906 may come from a similar braid weave.

Another interesting tablet-weave, again a braid that would have been sewn to the fabric, comes from Grave 935 (fig.1,2); the position of the two brooches, one above the other, both with two fragments of braid edge to edge on the pin, suggests a garment with front opening, but the threads probably joining the edges look almost as if the tiny brooches were for decoration only, and the opening had already been sewn together. The narrow tablet-weave from Grave 975 (fig.5,a,b) is woven as a border to the twill; the different arrangement of the tablet twists on the pieces from the two brooches shows that we have scraps preserved from two different edges of the woven piece.

Another probable two-colour striped or checked plain weave (Grave 975) can be compared with that from Grave 448 (Feb.1973, p.6). Fragments from a different type of pattern come from the Grave 961 spearhead; these are very tiny, but seem to be from a plain weave fabric with a breccated weft-float pattern (fig.3), possibly a decorated cover laid over the burial. A well-preserved replaced weft-float pattern, though shuttled across, not breccated in limited areas, comes from a shield boss at Wakerley (Grave 85); later Scandinavian examples are from Valsgarde 6 and Birka (2), the former, in wool, with very similar plied pattern threads to these in Grave 961.

Three more broken diamond twills (Graves 954,983,992) and two probable (Graves 935,975) have been identified; all have the same centre as the linen twill from Grave 553, and in the only case where

and here HMA's
for examination
has revealed some
S threads? way
heavily pigmented
& the Z threads
of the other system
lightly pigmented,
while the S are
probably dyed.

Mucking. Feb, 1974. 6

the whole diamond is preserved (Grave 983) it repeats on the same number of threads, though here the twill is woollen.

Notes

- (1) Bjørn Hougen, Snartemofunnene, Norsk Oldfunn VII, Oslo, 1935, pls.XII, XVI-XVIII.
- (2) Greta Arwidsson, Valsgärde 6, Uppsala, 1942, p.89, pl.39.A, 207.f.
Agnes Geijer, Birka III: Die Textilfunde, Uppsala, 1938, pl.11.

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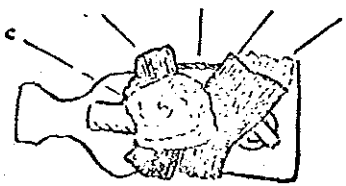


Fig.1. Gr.936. a. tablet braids
b. thread. c. twill.

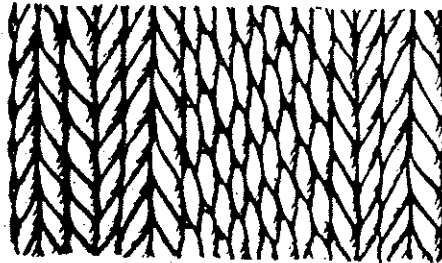


Fig.2. Tablet-weave braid, Gr.936
Suggested reconstruction

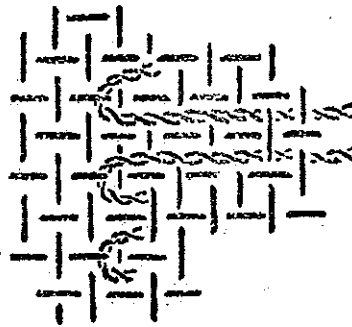


Fig.3. Diagram of pattern
weave, Grave 961

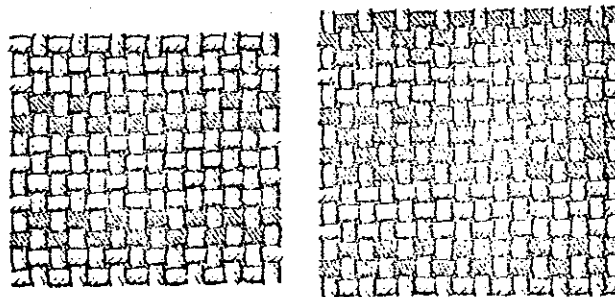
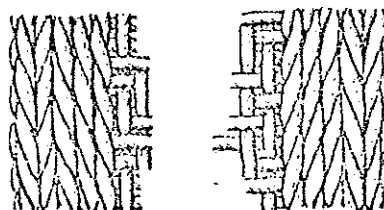


Fig.4. Two-colour weave, Gr.975

after HMA &
analysis,
columns should
be reversed.



(a) (b)

Fig.5. Two tablet-weave borders
a twill weave, Grave 975