

December, 1980

Barton-on-Humber1168. (Lab.no.801860) Chalice

On the largest fragment of the bowl, textile remains scattered over area of c.10.0-11.0 cm, along the length of edge present and down to the curve of the base. In the clearest area, on the side, c.1.8 X 1.0 cm, the fibres, slightly brown, are very deteriorated, but the fabric clear, Z spinning both systems, tabby weave, count c.19/16-18 threads per cm (latter count taken 8-9 on 5 mm). Tiny detached fragment, 5 X 3 mm, 8/6 threads. On detached fragment, and on foot of chalice, traces and deteriorated fragments of the same cloth.

1186. (Lab.no.801861) Paten

Over most of upper surface, particularly in an area c.5.0 X 3.0 cm, fragments of deteriorated textile, as on the chalice, Z spinning, tabby weave, count c.20/20 threads per cm, taken as 10/10 on 5 mm clear.

Although the textile is not replaced, but has remains of threads, the fibres are too brittle and deteriorated for identification, though from their appearance they were almost certainly flax. The remains suggest a fine linen cloth, either a purificator, or a larger piece of cloth used to wrap the vessels for interment. Similar flax tabby weave, Z spun, slightly finer and less even, count 12/9 threads per 5 mm, was preserved inside the bowl of a pewter chalice from Cathedral Green, Winchester, of medieval date, ?12th-13th century, but possibly later. (1)

1. E.Crowfoot, "The Textiles" in M.Biddle & S.Keene, Winchester Studies 7. ii. Textile no.1049, CG 219.