

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3164

SERIES/No

CONSULTANT

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Examination of leather;
Mary-le-Port, Bristol

MARY LE POST, BRISTOL - LEATHER

Bag (1) NLPS 63 C14 OA1

A small quantity of earth with small leather and wood scrap. Very few of the pieces of leather have any identifiable features.

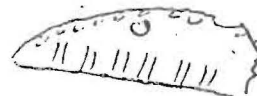
- (a) A strap, L:815^{mm}; W:210mm, widening to 300mm. The long edges are cut and the narrow end is rounded and torn but it would appear to be the original end. The wide end is almost straight and probably cut. The shape and size of the piece suggest it is a shoe tie-strap or latchet but there is no prong or tie-hole at the narrow end. There is a short transverse slot, off-centre, near the wide end but its purpose, if there was one, is not clear. The shrinkage of the grain layer has given the appearance of a folded edge; there is no evidence of stitching. Probably goat.

(draw grain up)



- (b) A crescent-shaped fragment with one end missing, L:57mm; W:22mm. The convex edge has a grain/flesh seam, stitch length 3.5-4.0mm, and this edge is turned inwards (grain on the outside) suggesting a lasting margin, if rather narrow, of a shoe upper, possibly the toe-end of the vamp. Along the concave edge and at right-angles to it, however, there is a series of ^{parallel} slots c. 6.0mm. long and 3.0-4.0mm. apart; the intervening leather is raised and lowered alternately showing that a thong has been passed through and this would not be expected at the toe-end of a shoe upper. There is also a metal (?) rivet near the convex edge which, again, one would not expect at the toe of an upper. These two factors seem to eliminate the possibility, therefore, of the specimen being part of a shoe but it is not obviously part of another artefact such as a purse or a sheath.

(draw to show slots)



- (c) Skin poffal from the shank of a goat or sheep. A curved cut edge shows where an upper (or other section) has been cut.
- (d) Other fragments including triangular cutting scrap, pieces of thong, strips, parings. Goat or sheep.
- (e) Wood scrap.
- (f) Fibre (matted) - not identified.
- (g) Matted fibres and leather (?)

Bag (2) NLPS 63 C14 OB1

Earth and wood scrap with only two or three very small pieces of leather (b) with no identifiable features. A lump (a), c. 57mm. x 25mm. 10mm. is probably wood.

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