



Materials Culture and Heritage

SLAVIC AND SCANDINAVIAN INTERACTIONS BETWEEN AD 700 AND 1300

Thursday 15th November 2018
Moesgård Lecture Hall
Building 4206

Programme:

1315-1330 **Rainer Atzbach:** *Introduction*

1330-1400 **Mats Roslund:** *Tacit knowing of ambátts – how Polabian women created Baltic ware*

1400-1430 Coffee

1430-1500 **Felix Biermann:** *Cultural Exchange, conflicts, migrations – Polabic-Scandinavian contacts at the south-western shores of the Baltic Sea*

1500-1530 **Jakub Jagodziński:** *Close strangers. Slavic-Scandinavian contacts in the Early Middle Ages*

1530-... Discussion, followed by a reception



Abstracts:

Mats Roslund, Lund University

Tacit knowing of ambátts- how Polabian women created Baltic ware

Two of the most common artefact groups used to study Polabian-Scandinavian interaction are jewellery and ceramics. Similar treatment of coins and hack silver on both sides of the Baltic sea may indicate economic transactions, while pottery transmission have other socio-economic reasons. In my contribution, I return to the discussion on the Late Slavic ware and Baltic ware to explore if the high-resolution style analysis and historical interpretation proposed have contributed to the understanding of social processes between the two culture groups. Dwelling on the critique of earlier results, I will argue that the connection between slavery, interregional hostilities and style transmission lies behind the emergence of Baltic ware in southern Scandinavia. Instead of a one-to-one relationship between ethnic identity and pottery, a more elaborate social process concerning the establishment, consolidation and distribution of the new ware is stated. Case studies from Scania, Halland and Östergötland are used to illustrate the change.

PD Dr. Felix Biermann, Greifswald University

Cultural Exchange, Conflicts, Migrations – Polabian-Scandinavian Contacts at south-western Shores of the Baltic

The Polabian Slavs in the South-West of the Baltic – nowadays North-Eastern Germany – kept manifold contacts with Scandinavians from 7th-12th centuries and participated since an early stage in the Baltic communication network, which had its central points in the sea trading places (*emporion*) and castle towns (*Burgstädte*). Peaceful trade alternated with warlike conflicts, élitist exchange with Slave trade, and moreover there were Slavic settlers

in the North, Scandinavian settlers in South of the Sea. Ongoing archaeological research provides new and exciting insights into these conditions and their changes over time. The paper gives an overview to this issue, focusing on the Slavic ceramics and its expansion in the Baltic, the meaning of Slavic-Scandinavian contacts for the social and economic development of Polabian tribal society – especially for the famous Liutician league between 983 and c. 1150 – and the progress of trade and early urban centres.

Jakub Jagodziński, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Slavic-Scandinavian contacts in the Early Middle Ages

Relations between Slavic and Scandinavian peoples across Baltic Sea in the Early Middle Ages recently is a subject of strong studies. Notwithstanding this research treats the problem as often as not in very particular field, e.g. only ceramic or jewellery. In my studies I would like to stress the multifaceted meaning of contacts between this two, different ethnic group. According to toponymy, material culture, written sources and other traces of presence Scandinavians in Slavic territory and Slavs in Scandinavia we have a clear picture of complex relations based on economy. The structure of central places and its hinterland, located across Baltic Sea, was inspired by Scandinavian peoples, but its character was strictly economic and non-ethnic. That may explain the presence of different cultures and their willingly cooperation. I believe that the Wallerstein's World-System theory and the so-called *globalization* may be the key to explicate this issue.