

INTERPRETING MEDIEVAL DRESS ACCESSORIES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE

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Medieval dress accessories (buckles, brooches, belt mounts, strap ends, dress fasteners, temple rings, finger rings etc.) are usually neglected archaeological finds. However, it's worth to note that they are usually the only preserved, archaeological evidence of fashion. Moreover, this category of artefacts is strongly related to the way how humans function in the society and to their strategies of manifesting identity, status, goals and aspirations.

In this paper I would like to discuss the possibilities of interpreting those type of objects from Central European medieval cities, with a special focus on Prague (Czech Republic) and Wroclaw (Po-land). I will focus on problems of interpreting dress accessories at different scale perspective (Harris, 2017) and using different methods. I would like to discuss how new (at least in archaeology) methods of analyses and thinking about the past, such as Actor-Network Theory (Latour, 2005), Assemblage Theory (De Landa, 2016) or generally speaking 'relational archaeology' approach (Jervis, 2014), can benefit such studies, to hopefully get better understanding how activities reflected in material culture are also visible in consumption patterns and the social life.

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