AR3065  Material Culture in Historical Archaeology

Academic Year: 2009-2010
Semester: 2
Time and location: 11.00-13.00 Monday
ATT SB1.05

First meeting: 25/01/10
Module coordinator: Alasdair Brooks
e-mail: amb72@le.ac.uk
Room: SAAH 106
Office hours: 14:00 – 16:00 Wednesday

Your individual appointments (e.g. tutorials, seminars):


document prepared by: Alasdair Brooks Jan. 2010
**AR3065 Material Culture in Historical Archaeology**

**Aims:** This third year module is designed to show students how artefact analysis contributes to archaeological interpretations of the post-1500 world. Students will be introduced to the distinctive material culture of the post-medieval period, and the major changes therein brought about by the industrial revolution; attention will also be given to issues of meaning, interpretation and ideology in artefact analysis. The course is the same as, and is taught alongside, the MA-level course AR7365, except that MA students are assessed differently.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

Having completed this module, students should have a better understanding of the transition from medieval to modern in material culture; be able to identify major characteristics of post-medieval ceramics and glass; be able to turn a seminar presentation into an effective

**Method(s) of teaching:** A series of lectures and seminars. The module is assessed on the basis of an essay (25%), an oral presentation based on research on a relevant topic (25%), and an exam (50%).
## Teaching schedule

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<th>Week</th>
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| Week 14 | 25/1/09 | Introduction; the transition from medieval to modern.  
Seminars – ceramics |
| Week 15 | 01/2/09 | Identification & typologies  
Seminars – cataloguing in the field [OUT; short of a life-threatening February blizzard, we will not cancel; wear sensible clothing!] |
| Week 16 | 08/2/09 | Quantifying post-medieval finds  
Seminars – glass |
| Week 17 | 15/2/09 | Interpretation part 1; economy  
Seminars – Shaw, Grogan, Johnson |
| Week 18 | 22/2/09 | Interpretation part 2; status  
Seminars – Draey, McGraw, Loth |
| Week 19 | 01/3/09 | **Reading week - no seminar** |
| Week 20 | 08/3/09 | Interpretation part 3; function  
Seminars – Hargreaves, Boothroyd, Christopher |
| Week 21 | 15/3/09 | Interpretation part 4; meaning  
Seminars – McGuckin, Storey; MA1 |
| Week 22 | 22/3/09 | Modern material culture – artefacts of now.  
Seminars – MA2; MA3 |
| Week 23 | Date tbc | Field trip to Gladstone Museum, Stoke on Trent |
Assignments and Deadlines

The assignments for this course are designed to maximise student participation in seminars while also testing your ability to undertake independent research on a topic related to the course and providing you with practical experience of how academic conference papers are turned into published papers.

Half of your assessment for this course takes the form of a seminar and essay. These will be on the same topic. You must come to me no later than two weeks before your seminar to discuss – and have me approve (if only to avoid overlap) – the topic for your seminar presentation. A schedule of presentations (the order has been randomly selected) may be found under the teaching schedule on the previous page.

Each seminar will consist of a 15 minute talk on a topic relevant to the course subject (ie, post-1500 material culture/artefacts) followed by a 5 minute question and answer session involving the whole class.

You will then expand this presentation into a 3000 word essay which follows usual University of Leicester essay conventions. Essays are to be submitted on 4th May 2010.

An exam in the May examination period will test your skills in the areas covered in the course.
Reading List
(with grateful and sincere thanks to Claire Coulter for her assistance with some areas of this bibliography)

Particularly useful or relevant works may be found in bold. Where possible I have tried to make sure that the latter are either in the library or accessible on-line. Please let me know if you have a problem accessing these! In some cases I may be able to download a copy for you, or lend you my own copy (in extremis). This bibliography isn’t even close to being comprehensive, and students are encouraged to explore other readings you may come across during your research.

I have added some annotation to the general books to get you on your way. You’ll find out why there are no British works in the general section in Week 1!

General

(There is only one copy of this in the library. However, note that it is a compilation of papers previously published in the journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology; all of the papers in the volume can also be separately downloaded for free from:
http://www.sha.org/publications/onlinepubs_html/default.cfm
In fact, you can download all journal papers published prior to 2002 via that link!)

(More or less indispensible for this course – and with loads of copies in the library. Try to use the 1996 2nd edition if possible)

(This important book – which has papers on metal objects, cutlery, door hardware, smoking pipes, bottles, electrical objects, and tableware – is now out of print and is not in the library, though it remains available from the SHA as a print on demand volume. I have a copy that you are free to borrow, though priority will be given to those who have an impending seminar presentation on a relevant topic in the next week. The smoking pipe chapter is particularly important for anyone interested in that area of research)

(An insightful different perspective from the other side of the world!)

(Now quite dated in parts, but still important as one of the founding books of historical archaeology, and still packed with useful information on both American and British material culture)

Yentsch, Anne 1994, A Chesapeake Family and Their Slaves: a Study in Historical Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. (Of the many volumes out there that feature an insightful integration of artefact analysis across an entire historical archaeology assemblage, this is one of the more immediately accessible; a classic)

Buttons, Beads and Personal Adornment


Classen, Cheryl 1994, Washboards, Pigtoes, and Muckets: Historic Musseling in the Mississippi watershed, Historical Archaeology 28(2).


Sprague, Roderick 2003, China or Prosser Button Identification and Dating, Historical Archaeology 36(2): 111-127.

Lindbergh, Jenny 1999, Buttoning Down Archaeology. Australasian Historical Archaeology 17: 50-57.


Ceramics


Barker, David 2001, The Usual Classes of Useful Articles, Ceramics in America 1: 72-93.


(an early pre-publication proof copy to be posted on Blackboard site)


Carpentier, Donald and Johnathan Rickard 2001, Slip Decoration in the Age of Industrialization, Ceramics in America 1:115-134.


Goodwin J. and David Barker 2009, Small Pieces of History – Archaeological Ceramics from Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent Museums, Stoke-on-Trent.


**Ceramic Building Materials**


**Coins & Tokens**


**Cutlery**


Unwin, J & Hawley, K (2003) A cut above the rest: a heritage of Sheffield’s blade manufacture. Sheffield: The Hawley Collection Trust

Glass


Hurst Vose, Ruth 1994, Excavations at the 17th century glasshouse at Haughton Green, Denton, near Manchester Post Medieval Archaeology 28.


Gravestones & Burial


Deetz, James and Edwin Dethlefson 1967, Death’s Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow. Natural History 76(3): 29-37
http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/deathshead.html


Metal and Nails


Harrison, Rodney 2002, Australia’s Iron Age: Aboriginal Post-Contact Metal Artefacts From Old Lamboo Station, Southeast Kimberley, Western Australia. Australasian Historical Archaeology 20: 67-76.


Smoking Pipes


**Miscellaneous Other**
