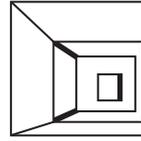




175 Jahre  
Archäologisches  
Landesmuseum

2011



ZBSA

# “Workshop Workshop”

THE ELUSIVE GOLD SMITHIES OF THE NORTH

October, 20th/21st 2011

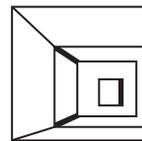
Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie (ZBSA)

Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology

Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig



Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG



## “Workshop Workshop”

THE ELUSIVE GOLD SMITHIES OF THE NORTH

20./21. October 2011. ZBSA, Schloß Gottorf, Schleswig

The first millennium AD and especially the Migration period is known as a time of metal products of high quality. With precious objects like e.g. brooches, sword pommels, bracteates or rings, members of the social elites of the Germanic peoples demonstrated their status and their common political and religious connections. For the more or less illiterate inhabitants of the North the specialised and standardised art, in particular the animal styles, were indeed substantial and embodied representatives of their culture.

However, gold smithies are almost completely unknown in the archaeological record, as only a small amount of finds of raw materials, moulds, tools, etc., provide evidence for the actual sites of production. The “workshop workshop” wishes to look for these elusive smithies. Where were they located, how did they look like and who were the ones working inside them: slaves, craftsmen or elites? An interdisciplinary approach with the consideration of archaeological remains, written sources as well as pictorial evidence shall encourage the discussion; perspectives into the Roman world and the Middle Ages are to complete the lectures. The relation between Roman and Germanic products, the transfers of techniques and technology and the transformation of classical images into the Germanic pictorial language will also be set into focus.

When the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in Schleswig was founded in 2009, one of the explicit intentions of its Iron Age department was to launch interdisciplinary and goal-oriented research in an international perspective. Therefore, the ZBSA takes the initiative to invite scholars and young academics to discuss subjects which yet seem to lack summarizing considerations.

### **Workshop workshop’s key questions:**

Where do all the high-quality finds from the time come from: What essentially is a workshop, and where have these assumed workshops been located?

How does such a workshop look like in practice and theory? What is thought to remain in the ground as archaeologically detectable features? What is it that archaeologists should look for while excavating sites? Is it actually possible to locate a gold smithy?

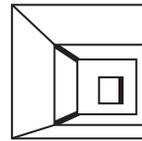
Do workshops producing objects of high quality and value necessarily have to be located at “central places”/“productive sites”, or is it possible that they were situated in liminal areas or even somewhere in the hinterland, like the dwarfs’ smithies in the literary sources?

How many of such smithies can or must have existed at the same time? What was their range and procedures in distributing their products? What about the concept of itinerant craftsmen? And what about mobile and less sedentary people and their processes of manufacturing?

Since when must specialised workshops have existed in the Barbaricum, and for how long did they last? What inspired and influenced the smiths, what were their traditions and their innovations?

Who were the masters of the smithies, how do we conceive their skills, education and social position?

And last but not least: Why are smiths and smithies so elusive?



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## Thursday 20th October 2011

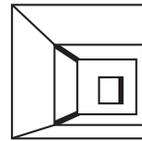
- 09.00      Arrival at the registration desk
- 09.30      **Claus von Carnap-Bornheim** (Schleswig)  
Welcome of the workshops participants
- 09.45      **Alexandra Pesch und Ruth Blankenfeldt** (Schleswig)  
A brief welcome, purpose and conduct of the workshop

### Session I: The elusive smithies (Chair: Karen Høilund Nielsen)

- 10.00      **Torsten Capelle** (Münster)  
Werkstatteinblicke
- 10.30      **Nancy Wicker** (Oxford, Mississippi)  
The elusive goldsmith
- 11.00      *Coffee break*

### Session II: Workshops in theory and cultural anthropology

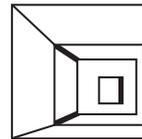
- 11.30      **Barbara Armbruster** (Toulouse)  
Goldschmieden von der Bronzezeit bis ins Frühmittelalter
- 12.00      **Iris Aufderhaar** (Wilhelmshaven)  
How does a gold smithy theoretically look like?
- 12.30      **Charlotte Behr** (London)  
Symbolisch-religiöse Fragen der Verarbeitung von Gold
- 13.00      *Lunch break with snacks*



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**Session III: Archaeological sources: Roman period to Vendel Period** (Chair: Andreas Rau)

- 14.00**     **Hans-Ulrich Voß** (Frankfurt)  
Die Suche nach den namenlosen Meistern des germanischen Feinschmiedehandwerks:  
Alleskönner, Kunsthandwerker, „importierte“ Spezialisten?
- 14.30**     **Thomas Fischer** (Bonn)  
Römische Feinschmiede(n) in Befund, Text und Bild
- 15.00**     **Morten Axboe**  
Late Roman and Migration period sites in Scandinavia with archaeological evidence  
for gold and silver smithing activities
- 15.30*     *Coffee break*
- 16.00**     **Kristina Lamm, Eva Hjärthner-Holdar** (Stockholm/Uppsala)  
Helgö, Bäckby and other Swedish areas with traces of smithies
- 17.00**     **Siv Kristoffersen** (Stavanger)  
Der Tu-Hügel, ein Beispiel für die Zusammengehörigkeit von Machtzentrum  
und Goldschmieden in Norwegen
- 17.30**     **Summary and discussion of the workshop's first day**
- 19.30*     *Buffet at the Lapidarium (Schloss Gottorf)*



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## Friday 21st October 2011

Session IV: Archaeological and historical sources: Merovingian period to the High middle Ages  
(Chair: Michael Müller-Wille)

- 09.00     **Heidmarie Eilbracht** (Berlin)  
Edelmetall in der Wikingerzeit – die Werkstätten und ihr archäologisches Fundgut
- 09.30     **Volker Hilberg** (Schleswig)  
Haithabus Feinschmiedewerkstätten
- 10.00     **Matthias Hardt** (Leipzig)  
Schmiede in lateinischen Quellen des frühen Mittelalters
- 10.30     **Klaus Gereon Beuckers** (Kiel)  
Archäologisch-historische Probleme von Klosterwerkstätten im frühen und hohen Mittelalter
- 11.00     *Coffee break*

Session V: Literary sources and pictures (Chair: Edith Marold)

- 11.30     **Lydia Carstens** (Schleswig)  
The smith in Scandinavian written sources
- 12.00     **Sigmund Oehrl** (Göttingen)  
Wieland der Schmied und seine Kollegen in Bildquellen des Nordens
- 12.30     **Summary and Discussion of the workshop's main questions and outcomes**  
(Chair: Torsten Capelle)

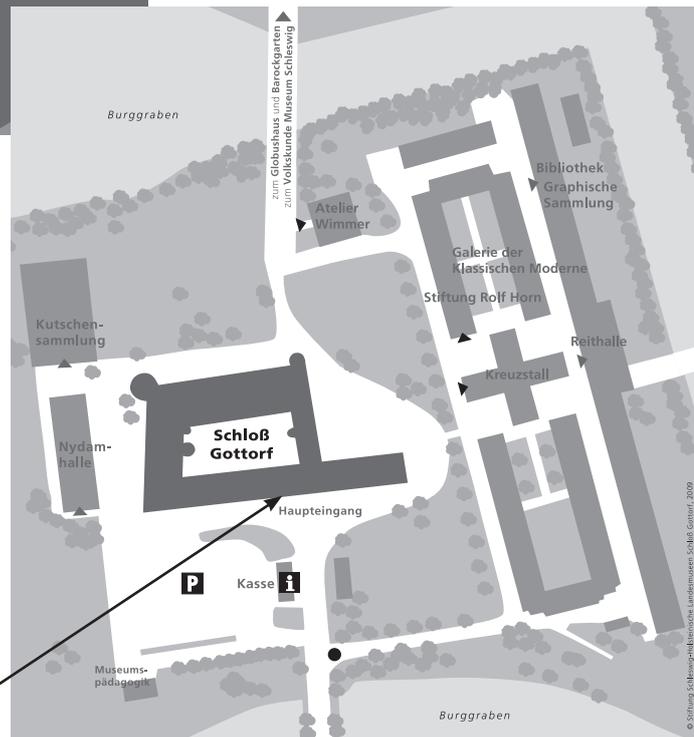
*Snacks*

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To enable exiting discussions the papers will be sent to all participants four weeks before the meeting. During the workshop we will just have relatively short lectures of about 20 minutes to provide a forum for discussions and debate of approx. 10 minutes. After the workshop the papers can be revised by the authors and then they will be published in Schleswig as a new volume of Schriften des Archäologischen Landesmuseums, Ergänzungsreihe / Papers from a workshop of the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA).



railway station / Bahnhof



Where do we meet? / Wo treffen wir uns?

### Johanna-Mestorf-Kolleg

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Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie  
Schloß Gottorf

D-24837 Schleswig