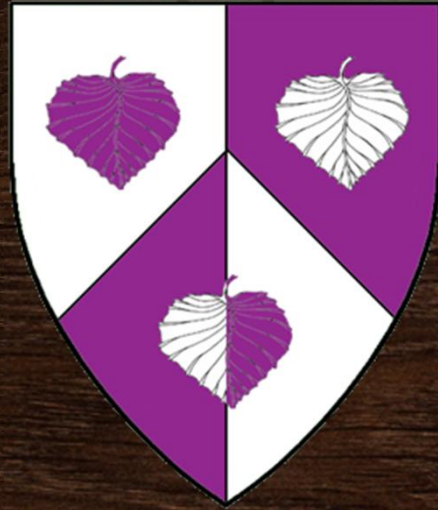


Posament: An Overview of my Trip to Historiska Museet

MISTRESS DISA I BIRKILUNDI

Who am I?



- Mistress Disa i Birkilundi
- Researching Posament for six years
- Researching tetrad creation for five years
- Traveled to Stockholm earlier this year to see extant Posament pieces in the archives at Historiska Museet.

What is Posament?



- Wire coiled around a fiber core
- Used to adorn fabric
- Found primarily in Birka, Sweden in the 9th and 10th centuries

Who Wore Posament?



- Found almost always in graves of men
- With the recent recategorization of graves all types now found in men and women's graves
- Usually seen in head and belt area
- Found on scabbards and purses
- Likely used in headpieces and hats

Where is Posament found on Birka?

- 1,103 graves on Birka
 - Only 44 contain Posament
 - 3.99%
- Four types of graves
 - Chamber
 - Coffin
 - Non Coffin
 - Cremation
- 55% of posament found in Chamber graves
 - Chamber graves are only 10% of total graves

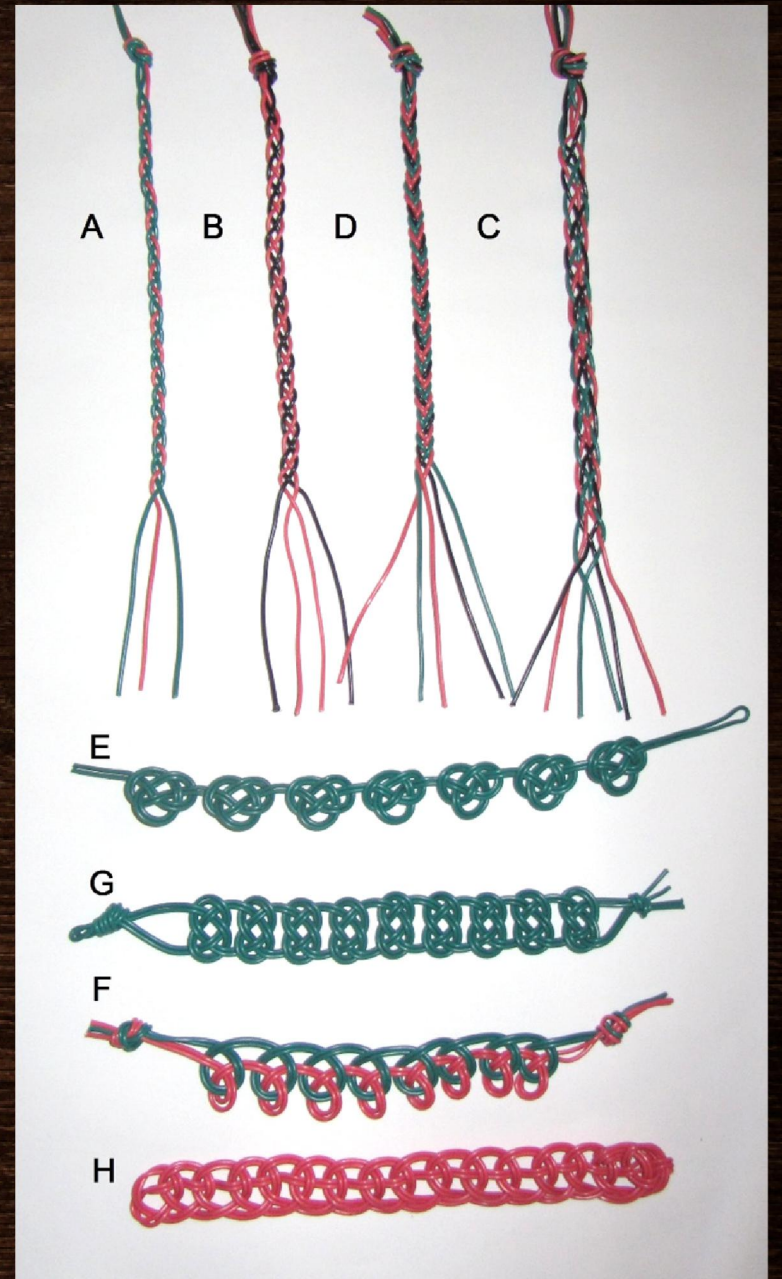


Chamber Graves

- Most commonly used in the 10th century
- Showed high status within the community
- Not necessarily wealthy
- Posament was most likely worn by higher status individuals in the 10th century and in smaller quantities within the rest of the community.

Types of Posament

- Eight types
 - Four braided
 - Four knotted
- Other styles created using these types



Materials

- Silver Wire
- Gold Wire
- Silk Thread
 - Also found backed with silk fabric



Size of Wire and Tentrad

- Size of both wire and tentrad vary
- Tentrad measures from .25mm to 1mm
- Wire size
 - 28 to 36 gauge silver wire
 - 24 to 36 gauge gold wire

Creation of Tentrad

- Drop Spindle Method
- Used by Sami
- Easily Transportable
- Using existing tools
- Can create smaller tentrad than previously assumed needle method

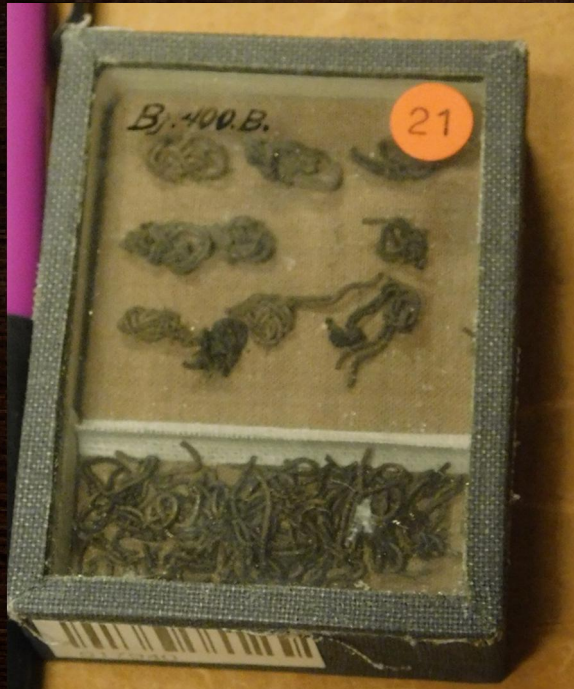


Visiting Historiska Museet



Posament In Person!

- Many pieces are smaller than thought
- A challenge to photograph
 - Exciting changes on the way!



Posament In Person!

- Gold Tentrads!
- Posament attached to possible knife sheath?



Posament In Person!

- Interesting insights on the Birka books
- Posament mislabeled in Birka III found!
 - Grave 944



Observations and Recommendations

- Don't be afraid to contact museums
- Set up appointments ahead of time
- Bring a list of things you want to see and questions you want to ask
- They are as excited about these pieces as you are
- Bring multiple cameras
 - Phone camera attachments are your friend!
- Bring a notebook
- You will get overwhelmed!



Questions?