

Riverview,
Big Row,
Geldeston,
Beccles,
Suffolk NR34 OLY
July 20th, 1984

Miss Karen Wardley,
Castle museum,
Norwich

Dear Karen,

I am so sorry, I thought as soon as Cathy had gone that I ought to have given you a few words to tell Ipswich when returning or enquiring about the piece: I will do a short note with drawing of the weave (which I showed Cathy in one of Flanagan's articles) when they have decided what the object is.

IAS 4801 0250

Tiny fragment caught under the plate and stud, which must have been of silk. The weave is samite, i.e. compound silk twill with main inner warps, sometimes called the Byzantine or Alexandrian silk weave. The piece shows a section with the twill wefts preserved, and on either side parts where these have been destroyed, exposing the main warps (singles), though their surface is damaged, and the back wefts just discernible here and there between them. These silks range from 3rd-5th century (Sassanian, found in Egypt) to c.14th-15th century; originally Sassanian and Byzantine, later most popular weave for vestments etc., produced in Italy and Spain as well as the near east.

In this case, covering a box — reliquary ?

All best wishes,

Elizabeth Crowfoot



Norfolk Museums Service

**Castle Museum Norwich NR1 3JU
Telephone Norwich (0603) 611277**

**Director
Francis W Cheetham OBE BA FMA**

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Your reference:

5/9/84

SUFFOLK C.C PLANNING DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED 7 SEP 1984

Dear Keith,

Enclosed is a photocopy of the letter from Elisabeth Crowfoot about the silk, and two slides of IAS 4801 0250. If you are able to identify the object any more closely, or date it, I'm sure Miss Crowfoot would be interested to hear.

Still no word from York about the cost of treating the well lining. I'll let you know when I hear.

Hope you haven't found any more lead coffins!

Karen