

A note on the second batch of leather from Crossrail Central – Farringdon Station, Eastern Ticket Hall evaluation (XSF10)

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A second batch of bulk leather from XSF10 [27] has also been examined while wet. Like the first batch, also from [27], it consists of several mid 16th-century shoe parts, three of which (a high vamp, quarters and a sole) form part of one shoe (the tread sole is missing) and have been bagged for accessioning. A shoe-or clothing-strap decorated with oblique slashes has also been bagged for accessioning.

The shoe parts consist of three vamps, three quarters and two soles. A high straight-throated vamp, high slightly peaked quarters and a natural-shaped insole form one shoe (to be accessioned), comparable to Mould in Gardiner 2005, 66, Shoe Type 1, a shoe characterised by its straight-throated vamp without wings). Another vamp is similar, with a deep cut V-shaped notch in the centre, while the third vamp is lower (the rough cut may be secondary) and has low wings for attachment to (missing) quarters. One of the two quarters has a broken tab above its butt seam; the other is plain (with no tab) but incomplete. A complete sole has a very narrow waist; there are also pieces of two others. The slash-decorated strap tapers to a rounded point and has edge/flesh stitching on two edges.

Potential for further work

Sixteenth-century shoes and other leather items are comparatively rare finds in London. With other leather of the same date from the Crossrail sites (eg XRV10) the leather from XSK10 should be catalogued, analysed and published.

Bibliography

Gardiner, J, ed, 2005 *Before the Mast Life and Death aboard the Mary Rose*