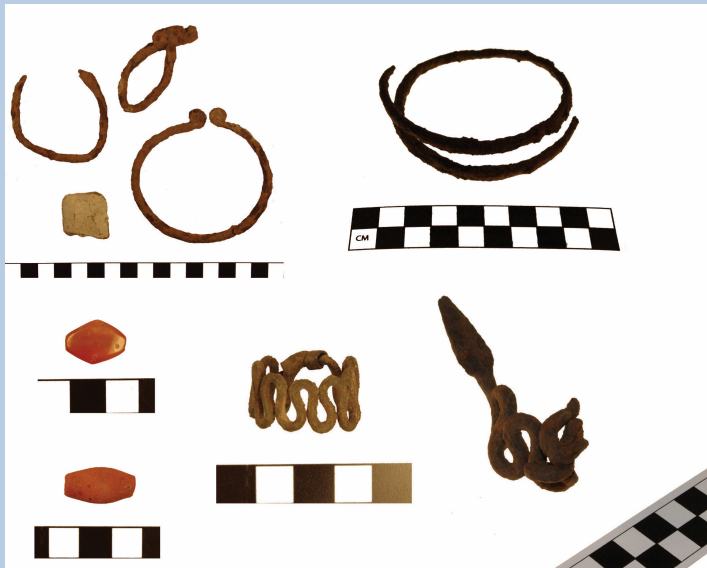


FASA COLLOQUIUM

Efficacious Objects and Improvisational Practice: Exploring “Ornaments” and their Depositional Contexts in Banda, Ghana

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The turn to materiality has encouraged archaeologists to be better attuned to practices of dress and ornamentation as body techniques that dynamically produce subjects. At the same time, conventions of archaeological reporting that present “ornaments” by type and material frustrate understanding of the broader associations and operations of these objects, which included the ongoing negotiation of well-being. By focusing instead on their itineraries, depositional contexts of recovery, and their dynamic associations with other materials, we gain insight into the affordances of

“ornaments” and their operations in relation to—and apart from—bodies. Using a collection of beads, bangles and rings from sites in Banda, Ghana, I explore the dynamic practices surrounding these objects as villagers negotiated a shifting terrain of inter-regional and inter-continental connections over the course of the second millennium CE, gleaning insight into their improvisational if genealogically connected uses.

Friday, September 4, 2015

Turlington 1208, 3:00 pm

Reception to Follow, Turlington 1208H

