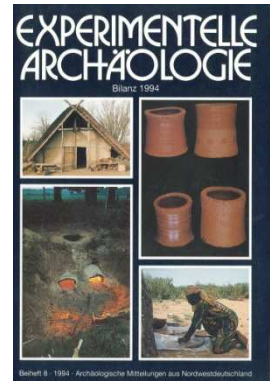


## Experimentelle Archäologie in Deutschland Bilanz 1994

*R. P. Paardekooper, February 2002*

In 1995, the so called Bilanz 1994 appeared, the third volume in the series of proceedings of conferences of the "Arbeitsgruppe (workgroup) experimentelle Archäologie". In this volume, the presentations of the Symposium in Duisburg (August 1993) are collected, together with some specially written for this book.



It is true, each volume is getting thinner, the first two contained 60 respectively 40 articles, this one only 28. later issues up to 14. This is mainly due to the availability of funds to publish. That is why this is the last of the large volumes. All later volumes are restricted to about 160 pages or less.

The enthusiasm of the first few years when starting a new project was still in the air. *Dr. Fansa* describes the successful tour, which the exhibition by which everything started is taking. In five years, it was shown in 17 places and the national archaeological magazine had a special issue on experimental archaeology in 1993. Fellow archaeologists seemed to become interested in experiments and seemed to accept experimental archaeology as well as a means to reach out to the public. However, it is made clear in this issue, that that is not experimental archaeology, but education (*D. Jantzen*: "First the experiment and then.. about the practical use of experimental archaeology"). There are 8 non-German contributions to this book. That is not surprising, as "Bilanz" is the only magazine completely focussed on experiments. After the Bulletin of Experimental Archaeology (also a yearbook) in Great Britain came to an end after ten years in 1990, in fact, 'Bilanz' took over. The problem, however, is the language barrier: German writers do not easily publish in an English magazine and for the English speaking world, this 'Bilanz' series and its great source of information is strictly seen unavailable due to the language barrier.

There are three articles, for which almost one third of space has been reserved:

*Weiner & Pawlik*: "News to an old question. Observations and thoughts on how to connect old Neolithic adze blades and about the reconstruction of band ceramic (LBK) transversal axe handles". To answer questions on the use and hafting of these tools, use wear analysis, both the Low Power as the High Power Analysis were used. Besides finds from Erkelenz, a few other artefacts are involved in the research as well. These investigations were meant as a start, as a model for future programs.

*Nikulka*: "Early iron production and their experimental replication: an analysis of experiments up to now" Using many tables and notes, Nikulka gives a shortened version of his thesis. After giving an overview of the chemical and technical processes involved in 'making iron', he describes the meaning of different materials and expressions in the iron smelting experimenting world. Then he presents a calculating model he developed to estimate the amount of iron made. The principal value to add to this model is the quantity of slag. He clearly describes the different assumptions he uses. After that, a large quantity of experiments are described, executed by very different specialists all over the world.

*Hedegaard*: "The production of Viking Age animal head shaped or can shaped fibulae from Gotland" Gotland is a great place to be for an archaeologist: it has clear limits and since the middle of the Iron Age, large topographical changes are absent. The fibulae as described in the article's title have been researched well in the past. The researches were often either focussed on a two dimensional approach, on the ornaments and chronology on the one hand and technological metallurgical researches on the other hand. First since the 80's, researchers have been trying to combine these two approaches, but - as Hedegaard remarks clearly - archaeological university education only rarely contains the technical side of materials: a researcher interested in this approach has to learn the (lost?) craft by him or herself. The pictures, Hedegaard added of his experimental pieces help clarifying the subject a great deal.

Of both Hedegaard and Weiner, there are other articles written in this series.

Fansa, M. (editor) (1994): Experimentelle Archäologie: Bilanz 1994, Symposium in Duisburg, August 1993, Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Nordwestdeutschland, Beiheft 8, (Oldenburg: Isensee), 367 pp, ISBN 3-89598-237-7, ISSN 0170-5776, (sold out).