

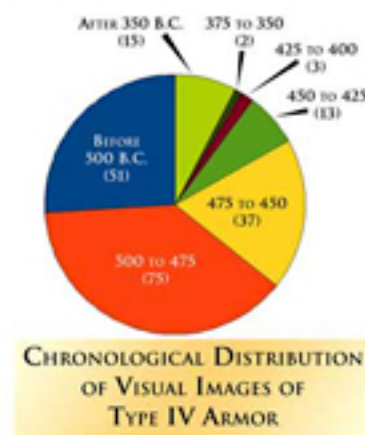
THE UWGB LINTHORAX PROJECT

RECONSTRUCTING AND TESTING ANCIENT LINEN BODY ARMOR

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RECONSTRUCTION:

- VISUAL EVIDENCE OF THIS TYPE OF ARMOR -



- PRIMARY SOURCE MENTIONS OF LINEN BODY ARMOR

ALCAEUS (2.19) - AENEAS TACTICUS (29.1-4)
 CASSIUS DIO (78.7.1-2) - CORNELIUS NEPOS IPHICRATES (1.3-4)
 HERODOTUS (2.182; 3.47) - HOMER ILLIAD (2.529; 2.830)
 LIVY (4.20.1-7; 9.40.3) - PAUSANIAS (1.8; 1.21.9; 6.19.7)
 PLINY NATURAL HISTORY (19.2) - PLUTARCH LIFE OF ALEXANDER (32)
 SILIUS ITALICUS PUNICA (4.223; 9.586-598)
 STRABO GEOGRAPHY (3.3.6; 13.1.10) - SUTONIUS (19.1)
 XENOPHON ANABASIS (4.7.16; 7.63); CYROPAEDIA (6.4.2)
 CHRONICLE OF LINDOS (29, LINES 36-39)
 SOPHOCLES EPIGONOI (P. OXY. VOL. 71 4807)

TOTAL NUMBER OF IMAGES OF TYPE IV ARMOR BY MEDIUM

BLACK-FIGURE VASES - 87
 RED-FIGURE VASES - 389
 WHITE-FIGURE VASES - 7
 SCULPTURE - 116
 BRONZE OBJECTS - 30
 PAINTED FRESCO - 11
 TOTAL - 640

- CONSTRUCTION PROCESS



- THE FINAL PRODUCT



ABSTRACT

THE UWGB LINTHORAX PROJECT IS AN ONGOING MULTI-YEAR EXERCISE IN RECONSTRUCTIVE ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY INVESTIGATING A MYSTERIOUS AND POORLY UNDERSTOOD TYPE OF ANCIENT BODY ARMOR MADE OUT OF LAYERS OF LINEN.

TRADITIONALLY, STUDIES OF ANCIENT ARMOR HAVE FOCUSED ON FORMS MADE OF METAL, OF WHICH PHYSICAL EXAMPLES SURVIVE. HOWEVER, OVER TWO DOZEN SPECIFIC ANCIENT LITERARY REFERENCES AND HUNDREDS OF IMAGES ON VASE PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURAL RELIEFS TESTIFY TO THE EXISTENCE OF A TYPE OF BREASTPLATE MADE OF LINEN, SOMETIMES CALLED A LINTHORAX.

EVIDENCE FOR THE USE OF THIS TYPE OF ARMOR ENCOMPASSES A WIDE CHRONOLOGICAL SPAN, FROM HOMERIC TO HELLENISTIC TIMES. BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF EXTANT EXAMPLES, MODERN SCHOLARSHIP HAS OFTEN IGNORED SUCH ARMOR OR, MORE COMMONLY, CONDEMNED IT AS BEING OF MARKEDLY INFERIOR QUALITY.

BACKWARDS-ENGINEERING FROM AVAILABLE LITERARY AND ICONOGRAPHIC SOURCES, WE HAVE RECONSTRUCTED SEVERAL COMPLETE SETS OF ARMOR USING ONLY MATERIALS THAT WERE AVAILABLE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE PROTECTIVE CAPABILITIES OF THIS ARMOR, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO ITS RESISTANCE TO PENETRATION BY ARROWS, WE HAVE SUBJECTED SAMPLE FABRIC PATCHES TO CONTROLLED TESTING.

OUR PROJECT PROVIDES AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THIS UNDERAPPRECIATED YET COMMON FORM OF ANCIENT BODY ARMOR.

ANCIENT PEOPLES ATTESTED AS USING LINEN BODY ARMOR

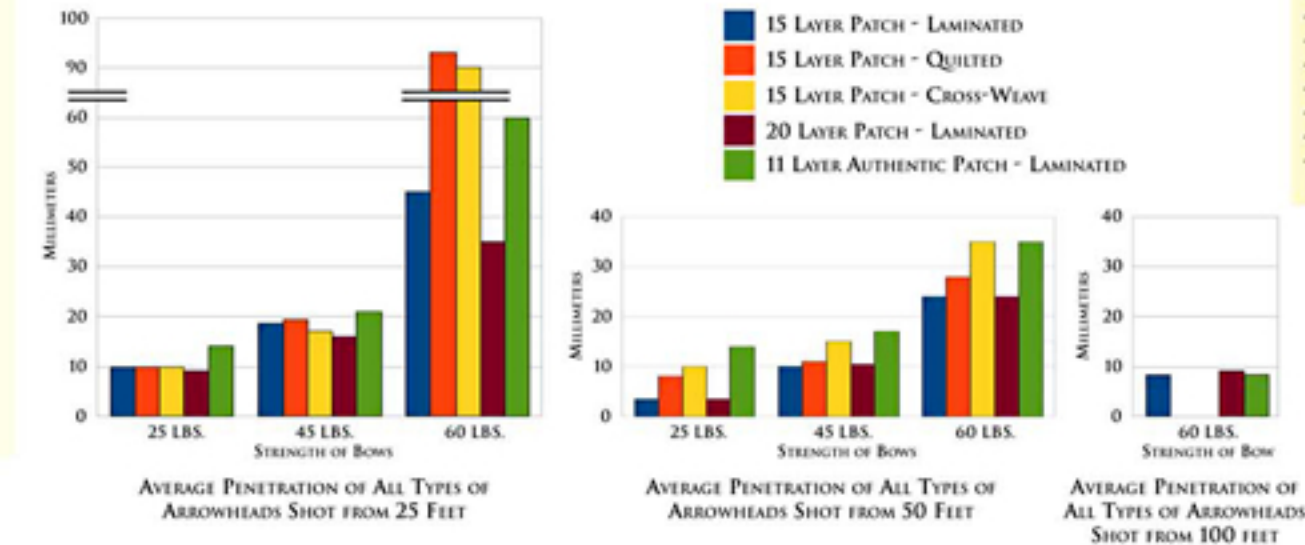


TESTING:

- METHODOLOGY -



- TEST RESULTS -



- ADVANTAGES OF LINEN ARMOR OVER METAL

- LIGHTER (1/3 WEIGHT OF METAL)
 - COOLER (BREATHABLE, NON-REFLECTIVE)
 - MORE COMFORTABLE (FLEXIBLE)
 - USES SIMPLER, MORE WIDESPREAD SKILLS
 - USES CHEAPER RAW MATERIALS
 - USES SIMPLER, MORE WIDESPREAD MATERIALS
 - AND STILL OFFERS GOOD PROTECTION

WATERPROOFING

