



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Further Advanced: Vergil

Seminar 2: 4.129-172

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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picto chlamydem (137)

- Gold thread is well known in antiquity;
- We find it both as fragments of thread ready for use, and used in tapestry woven objects;
 - Top: gold and purple tapestries from the Hellenistic tombs at Vergina in N. Greece (4th C BCE)
 - Bottom: gold and purple tapestry on a cloak found in a Roman burial in Thessaloniki (3rd C CE)
- Translations often use the word embroidery for Vergil's [*acu*] *picto*
- ...but we have extremely limited archaeological evidence for embroidery from 5th C BCE onward



So what is an *acus*



Above: Grave monument to Genitiva (Baugy, Aquitania), 1st/2nd C CE.



Two-beam loom in the Ipogeo degli Aurelii, 3rd C CE Rome.

Right: Weaving on a two-beam loom using tapestry technique. CTR 2016.



Further reading

- On the term *acus*
 - Flemestad, P, Harlow, M, Hildebrandt, B, Nosch, M.L. (2017) [Observations on the Terminology of Textile Tools in the Edictum Diocletiani on Maximum Prices](#),
- On other terms for tapestry weaving
 - Dross-Krüpe, K, Wild, J. P. (2017) '*Ars polymita, ars plumaria*: The Weaving Terminology of Taqueté and Tapestry' (<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/texterm/21/>)

Sidoniam picto chlamydem (137)

- Parallels: 5.249; 8.167; 9.582; 614-616; 11.777 (all on *chlamydes*); *Aen.* 1.648-652 (on a *palla*)
- Gleba 2008 on archaeological textiles inwoven with gold thread
 - [https://www.academia.edu/1393336/Auratae vestes Gold textiles in the ancient Mediterranean](https://www.academia.edu/1393336/Auratae_vestes_Gold_textiles_in_the_ancient_Mediterranean)

Metre and sound: 152-153

ecce ferae saxi deiectae uertice caprae
decurrere iugis; alia de parte patentis

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- Why is there no elision between *decurrere* and *iugis*?
- Consider the high frequency of plosive consonants in 152 and the rhotics in 153 prevalent across the end of 152 and beginning of 153...
- ...and the slowing of the rhythm in the middle of 152 in contrast with the mention of goats in the fifth foot
- ...and the implications of the slowing again in first foot 153