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Obituary: Geoff Egan

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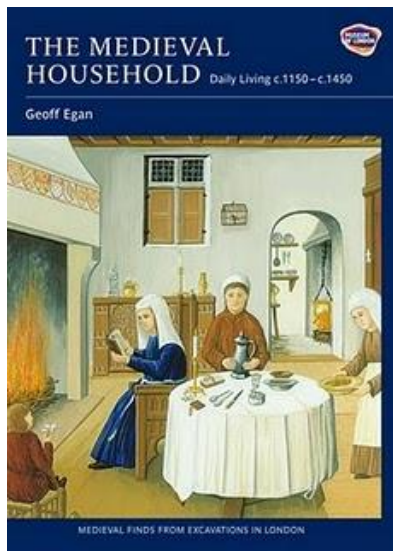
PEREGRINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF PILGRIMAGE ART



Obituary

Geoff Egan, beloved UK expert in medieval and later small finds, died of coronary thrombosis aged 59. Born in Wembley, London, educated in Harrow County School and Cambridge University, where he studied archaeology and anthropology. Most of his career was spent at The Museum of London where, for 34 years, he worked as an archaeologist becoming Fieldwork Director and then Finds Specialist. Along with Brian Spencer, Geoff established a cordial working relationship between the “mudlarks” (metal detectorists) and the professional archaeologists. This blossomed into a trove of finds made available and the free exchange of information between specialist and amateur. Ultimately, this relationship would lead to the establishment, in 1997, of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to record finds made by members of the public. In 2010 was appointed to a full-time post as finds adviser for the scheme, based at the British Museum.



As a scholar, Geoff published widely. His most important works included: *The Medieval Household* (1998), *Dress Accessories* (1991, with Frances Pritchard), *Toys, Trifles and Trinkets* (2005, with Helen Forsyth), *Material Culture in London in an Age of Transition: Tudor and Stuart Period Finds from Southwark* (2006), and *Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast* (2007, with David Griffiths and Robert Philpott). Geoff was greatly loved by his peers and built up many friends in European and American museums and universities. An illustration of his character can be seen in his becoming master (2009-10) of a new city guild, the Company of Arts Scholars, Collectors and Dealers, one of the newest of the city guilds. He is among the members of the guild who exercised their right as freemen of the City of London to drive a flock of sheep across London Bridge. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr1r2LEjQcw> He loved jazz and good food and good friends. He is survived by his cousin, Graham.