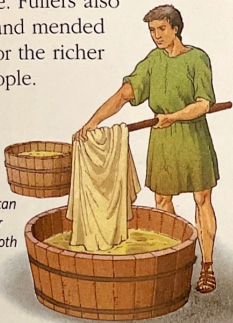


CLEANING CLOTH

Most Romans took their woollen cloth to the fuller's workshop, where it was cleaned and treated before being made into clothes. First, the cloth was stiffened by soaking it in urine, and then it was cleaned by rubbing it with a kind of clay, known as fuller's earth. After this, the cloth was beaten, stretched and bleached to make it soft and white. Fullers also cleaned and mended clothes for the richer townspeople.



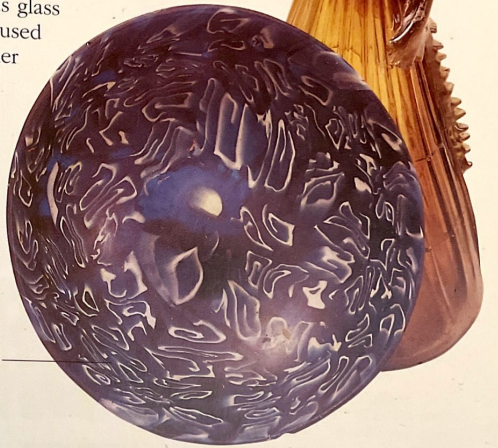
Here you can see a fuller soaking cloth in urine.

GREAT GLASS

By the 1st century AD, the Romans had learned how to blow glass. Some glaziers made simple glass jars and sheets of glass for windows, while others produced exquisite goblets and dishes from delicate patterned glass. Precious glass objects were used at grand dinner parties, or were placed in graves as funeral offerings.

Glass bowl and flask from the 1st century AD

Swirls of white glass



Ribbed glass like this was very popular.

LUXURY CRAFTS

As well as the everyday craftworkers, there were also many fine artists who specialized in luxury goods. Goldsmiths and silversmiths produced elaborate necklaces, flasks and ornaments, ivory carvers made intricate covers for writing tablets, and engravers carved delicate cameos for brooches and rings.

This cameo was carved from a gemstone called sardonyx. It shows the Emperor Tiberius.



CRAFT CLUBS

Each Roman trade and craft had its own *collegium* - a kind of social club which held regular meetings and occasional banquets. Belonging to a *collegium* was a great source of pride, and members who contributed to their club's burial fund were given a dignified funeral and an impressive tombstone.

AFTERNOONS OFF

Although the Romans worked hard at their trades and crafts, they also made sure that they enjoyed themselves. By the end of the 1st century AD, most city shops and workshops closed in the afternoon, leaving their owners free to enjoy themselves at the baths, the games or the races.

INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can take an interactive journey to Londinium and find out more about Roman trade, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

