

SCIENTIFIC REPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE ANCIENT TEXTILES – PRODUCTION, CRAFT, SOCIETY, LUND/COPENHAGEN MARCH 2003

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

19/3 Norregården, Sweden

12.00-17.00 Registration

17.00-18.00 Welcome and opening

Eva Andersson
Carole Gillis
Brendan Burke
Ulla Mannering
Marie-Louise Nosch
Valter Lang

18.00-19.00 Dinner

19.00-20.40 Introduction

Lise Bender Jørgensen
John Peter Wild

21.00 Reception

20/3 Norregården, Sweden

9.00-12.00 Textiles in practice

Eva Andersson
Antoinette Rast-Eicher
Philip Betancourt
Elisabeth Trinkl
Martin Ciszuk
Anne Batzer
Lis Dokkedal
Anna Nørgård

12.00-12.40 Spinning Demonstration

12.40-13.40 Lunch

13.40-17.00 Textiles in cross-disciplinary contexts

Lise Ræder Knudsen
Jana Jones
Julie Unruh
Kerstin Petersson
Christina Rinaldo
Carol Christiansen

17.00-18.30 Lectured posters

Maria Emanuela Alberti
Sofia Tsourinaki
Louise Mumford and Heather Prosser
Youli Spantidaki
Luca Peyronel
Karen Lizarraga
Edith Trnka
Annemette Bruselius Scharff

18.45-20.00 Dinner

20.00-21.00 Weaving and spinning demonstrations

Lena Hammarlund
Lise Ræder Knudsen
Martin Ciszuk
Anna Nørgård
Anne Batzer
Lis Dokkedal

21/3 Norregården, Sweden

9.00-12.30 Textiles through society

Hero Granger-Taylor
Pietro Militello
Susan Möller-Wiering
Margarita Gleba
Brendan Burke
Elisabeth Wincott Heckett
Orit Shamir

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.40 Textiles through texts

John Killen
Hartmut Waetzoldt
Klaus Tidow and Eva Jordan-Fahrbach
Lisa Hughes
Francoise Rougemont
Roberta Cortopassi
Anne Hedeager Krag
Heini Kirjavainen
Ariane Marcar

16.10-17.10 Lectured posters

18.15-22.30 Departure to Lund and Medieval dinner

22/3 Copenhagen, Denmark

9.00-10.00 Departure from Norregården and arrival in Copenhagen

10.00-13.30 Society through textiles

Elisabeth Barber
Irene Good
Iris Tzachili
Irine Nikoleishvili
Nettie Adams
Daniela Cottica

13.30-15.00 Lunch

15.00-15.30 Departure to and arrival in Roskilde

15.30-18.00 Visit to the Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde

18.00-20.30 Return to Copenhagen and Hotel Ansgar

23/3 Copenhagen, Denmark

10.00-12.00 Final discussion

All participants

12.30-13.30 Lunch at the National Museum

13.30-15.00 Visit to the National Museum

2. SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

Very few textile specialists are trained exclusively in textile studies. On the contrary, most of us come to textile research via various disciplines: archaeology, history, epigraphy, art history, and ethnology. The cross-disciplinary exchange between all these traditions was a major issue during the conference. Second, the gap between the North European research, with its studies of textiles and tools, and the South European research with its historical, pictorial and epigraphical approach has been a evident problem in the field.

In order to facilitate the exchange between disciplines and methodologies, the organising group had set up a program based on themes common for all researchers:

Textiles in practice
Textiles in cross-disciplinary contexts
Textiles through society
Textiles through texts
Society through texts

In each section, little attention was paid to geography or chronology, but to common themes. Each section started with the session leader giving a résumé of the research in the field, an overview of the methods and approaches to the common theme and its future perspectives while also introducing the papers and posters in the sessions. All contributions had been sent to the session leader one month before the conference.

Another issue in the conference was to include the aspect of textile craftsmen and -women. In these practical demonstrations, the academic participants spent much time discussing the techniques, tools and practicalities with the weavers and spinners.

The theoretical approach during the conference was to view textiles not as more or less technically achieved objects but in their social and historical context and function.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

The international conference *Ancient Textiles* was the first of its type - and as a builder of bridges it was a great success. It enabled different categories of people involved in textiles to meet, talk and learn from each other, often for the first time. People dealing with textiles on a scientific basis experienced the practicalities of spinning and weaving, and textile craftsmen learned more about how their craft can be a source to the understanding of ancient societies.

The participants represented 18 countries divided among five continents, which allowed a clear view of the range of world textile research. No doubt, the participants gained a great amount of new knowledge, awareness, and heightened appreciation of the importance of all the aspects of archaeological textiles. Furthermore, continued collaboration and contacts were established.

The ensuing discussion resulted in the establishment of a web site (www.ancienttextiles.org) for our mutual benefit. This will include an open forum on the site to encourage and maintain contacts over and within borders, as well as a bulletin board of coming conferences, books, and so on. This web site will promote and make public contributions not only for the specialists but also for anyone who needs to know more about ancient textiles.

An important part of this web site is dedicated to a 'first aid' manual written by textile conservators and fibre analysts. The field manual is intended to be a help for the archaeologists in the field when excavating textiles. It will hopefully become an invaluable tool in excavations and archaeological training.

Another issue that was brought up during the conference is the use of different terminologies for textile techniques or types etc., and the confusion in the translation of textile terminology. It was decided that the various sources (books, web sites, etc.) dealing with terminologies would be posted on the new web site.

The major contribution for the future (as well as the present) is the diffusion of knowledge through communication about ancient textiles and the building of bridges between textile researchers from all disciplines - on a micro level, encompassing everyone who participated in the conference, and on a macro level through the web site and the publication of the acts of the conference.

The acts of the conference will be published hopefully within a year. This will be the first truly international collection of articles concerning all facets of ancient textiles. The contributions will be published by topics, as in the conference, and hopefully this layout will encourage readers in a natural way to learn more about ancient textiles. The purpose of the publication is thus to create a standard reference for today's textile researchers and a tool for the training of coming textile specialists.

The *Ancient Textiles* conference has provided a common basis for all future research in the history of textiles creating a new direction in textile research by integrating the specific methods and traditions of all disciplines involving textiles.

4. FINAL PROGRAM

See 1.

5. FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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6. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Participants:

52 participants from 18 different countries.

43 women and 9 men.

Majority of participants with Ph. D.s and/or university affiliations.

Age structure of participants ranged from late-20s to early-60s.

Organisers:

(1) USA – Brendan Burke

(2) Denmark – Marie Louise Bech Nosch, Ulla Mannering

(2) Sweden – Carole Gillis, Eva Andersson

Participants:

(1) Australia – Jana Jones

(1) Canada – Lisa Hughes

(1) Finland – Heini Kirjavainen

(1) Georgia – Irine Nikoleishvili

(1) Ireland – Elisabeth Wincott Heckett

(1) Israel – Orit Shamir

(1) Norway – Lise Bender Jørgensen

(1) Peru – Karen Lizarraga

(1) Switzerland – Antoinette Rast-Eicher

(2) France – Roberta Cortopassi, Françoise Rougemont

(2) Austria – Elisabeth Trinkl, Edith Trnka

(3) Greece – Youlie Spantidaki, Sophia Tsourinaki, Iris Tzachili

(5) Germany – Margarita Gleba, Eva Jordan-Fahrbach, Susan Möller-Wiering, Klaus Tidow, Hartmut Waetzoldt

(4) Italy – Maria Alberti, Daniela Cottica, Pietro Militello, Luca Peyronel

(4) Sweden – Martin Ciszuk, Lena Hammarlund, Kerstin Petersson, Christina Rinaldo

(5) USA – Nettie Adams, Elizabeth Barber, Philip Betancourt, Irene Good, Julie Unruh

(6) Denmark – Anne Batzer, Annemette Bruselius Scharff, Lis Dokkedal, Anne Hedeager Krag, Anna Nørgård, Lise Ræder Knudsen

(7) UK – Carol Christiansen, Hero Granger-Taylor, John Killen, John Peter Wild, Ariane Marcar, Louise Mumford, Heather Prosser

Listeners:

In Sweden 19 listeners from 7 different countries (Austria 1, Denmark 3, Estonia 1, Italy 2, Germany 1, Sweden 7, USA 4). 18 women and 1 man.

In Denmark approximately 15 extra Danes.

