

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEXTILES NEWSLETTER

No. 11, November 1990

EDITORIAL

To the man or woman in the street it always comes as a surprise to be told that there *are* archaeological textiles, that textiles do survive thousands of years - and that they are often indistinguishable at first glance from a rag cast off last week. So the places where archaeological textiles are to be found is a fundamental question, to which a section of this number of the *ATN* is devoted ('A Site Compendium'). To some extent the compilation of a compendium will be the collection of oral information not available in print, and perhaps only known at the moment to a few scholars. But the project, which we hope will be valuable to everyone can only make progress on an international front - and here we rely on you, the *ATN* readers!

International textile get-togethers are always fun - as well as being vital clearing-houses for the kind of information the Compendium needs. There are reports in this number on the TSA's symposium on 'Textiles in Trade', the ETSG weekend on 'Far Eastern Textiles' and NESAT's fourth Textilsymposium. In fact we carry two accounts of the latter which at first sight hardly overlap - which goes to show how difficult it is to take in everything a symposium has to offer!

After a lull there are now two research workers involved with Iron Age textile production in Britain (see below). Their task is not lightened by the fact that the purpose of virtually every textile tool from pre-Roman Britain has been scrutinised in recent years and queried. But now at least we can have the parameters of the problem defined.

And now for something practical. Due to rising prices and problems with bank charges etc., we are forced to put up the price of the *ATN* by five guilders. From May 1991 the yearly subscription charge will be Dfl. 20. We apologise for this increase, but we feel that it is necessary in order to keep the *Newsletter* going. Could you also take notice of the methods of payment, as outlined on the following page.

As readers will notice, the format of the current *ATN* has changed. We are now using WordPerfect (4.2 or later versions). Items for inclusion in future issues can be sent on disk (either 3½" or 5¼"), using this program.

Finally, just as the *ATN* was going to press, we heard of the death of H.-J. Hundt. An obituary will be included in the following issue.

NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

The *Archaeological Textiles Newsletter* aims to provide a source of information for those who are studying textiles primarily as archaeological objects. Contributions to the *Newsletter* are welcome, and should be in accordance with this concept.

1. Contributions can be in English, German or French. If necessary, items in Russian will be accepted, but these will be translated into English.
2. Contributions may include short (!) references to recently published books, journals, articles and to forthcoming exhibitions, seminars, conferences, special courses, lectures, etc., information concerning work in progress (see note 3), and any queries concerning the study of archaeological textiles.
3. Work in Progress: this is a general category which includes, for example, work on archaeological textiles from recent excavations or in museums. Items in this section should contain information (if available) about the following: where the textiles were found; the relevant dates; who excavated the site and when; the range of textiles found; who is responsible for the cataloguing of the textiles and where they are to be published. These notes should not exceed a maximum of 750 words per item. Maps showing the position of the relevant sites would be greatly appreciated.
4. Line drawings will be considered, but photographs cannot be accepted at present.
5. The editors reserve the right to suggest alterations in the wording of items sent for publication.
6. The deadline for contributions is the 1st April and the 1st October, for the May and November editions respectively.

The views expressed by the various authors are not necessarily those held by the editors.

COLOPHON

The *Archaeological Textiles Newsletter*, No. 11, 1990. Published in Leiden, The Netherlands. ISSN: 0169-7331.

Editorial board: L. Bender-Jørgensen, G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, P. Walton and J. P. Wild.

Publication dates: Twice-yearly: May and November. Deadlines for contributions: April 1st and October 1st for the May and November issues respectively.

Contact address: G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, Van Swietenstraat 45, NL-2334 EA Leiden, The Netherlands.

Subscription charges: Dfl. 20.00 (or equivalent in pounds sterling) per annum (two issues). Please note that payments are only accepted in pounds sterling or Dutch guilders, and that money should be transferred as indicated below! If all else fails, and it is necessary to use another currency, please add the equivalent of Dfl. 12 to the subscription to cover the bank charges.

Subscription payments can be sent to G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood at the above address in the form of bank cheques (for payments in pound sterling only) or international postal orders, or the money may be transferred to the following Dutch Giro Account: G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, 2567328, again using the contact address given above; please indicate with which issue your subscription should start.

Logo: The logo is taken from the famous depiction on a Hallstatt urn, found at Odenburg/Soporn, Hungary. The original illustration shows three women who are spinning and weaving.

ATN OCCASIONAL PAPERS SERIES

No. 1. THE ATN GUIDE TO STRUCTURAL SEWING: TERMS AND TECHNIQUES

by A. Morrell

The sales of the *Guide* are going very well. Please note that we omitted to insert in the volume the date and place of publication, which are 1990 and Manchester respectively. The *Guide* is available from Dr. J. P. Wild, Dept. of Archaeology, Manchester University, Manchester, England. It costs Dutch Dfl. 19.50 (including postage and packaging), or the equivalent in pounds sterling. Cheques (for payments in pounds sterling) or international postal orders should be made out to either G. M. Vogelsang (Dutch guilders only) or the Manchester Ancient Textile Unit (pounds sterling only). Members of the *ATN* are entitled to a reduction on the price. They pay Dutch Dfl. 15.

A second paper is currently under consideration. Entitled: *Deir 'Alla: The Iron Age Textiles and Textile Production*, by G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood. The booklet deals with the textiles and related objects found in the Iron Age levels at the Jordanian site of Deir Alla. All being well it will be published in March and available in time for the next issue of the *ATN*.

A SITE COMPENDIUM

It is becoming increasingly obvious that a compendium is needed of archaeological sites where textiles have been found. This work would have to cover sites throughout the Old World, and its compilation would thus be a major undertaking. It would be necessary to have a number of people involved in this project, each responsible for certain countries or regions. The information gained would then be included in a central file and database. The information could be made available either on a regional basis or as a complete volume containing all the information. It would be necessary to have regular updates as new information about sites and finds becomes available. The nature of

these updates would depend on the final form chosen for the main text.

Such a project will take time. It is envisaged that the collection of material will take about three years. It will then require a further year (at least) to prepare the compendium for general use.

A basic form will be used for collecting the information (see the sample sheet). The standard format has been divided into two main sections: (a) information about the site, and (b) information about the textiles. It will not be necessary to give details about every single object. Rather, the intention is to provide, wherever possible, background information about where and what type of material was excavated and to give an indication of where further information can be found. All of the information acquired will be double-checked during the course of preparing the compendium.

In order to avoid confusion over site names, etc., it will be necessary to provide each site with a unique identification code, i.e. one based on the country or region where the textile was excavated; an abbreviation for the actual name of the site, plus an indication as to whether the site was a cemetery or settlement. The abbreviation for the country can be based on the internationally accepted list of country abbreviations (most commonly seen on car stickers!). The site abbreviation will be based on that used at the excavation, for example, 'GB/VIN s' would stand for the British site of Vindolanda. Finally, for a cemetery the suffix 'c' would be used and an 's' for a settlement site.

It will be a considerable undertaking, but the editors feel it is one which is suitable for the *ATN*. Anyone interesting in helping, should get in contact with J. P. Wild, Manchester Ancient Textiles Unit, Dept. of Archaeology, Manchester University, Manchester, M13 9PL, England.

It should be stressed that this is purely voluntary work, not backed at present by outside funding.

SITE INFORMATION

ID: GB/VIN s

Name of site: Vindolanda, Bardon Mill, Northumbria

Location: Behind Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland

Excavator(s): R. E. Birley, F.S.A.

Date(s) of excavation season(s): 1972-5; 1985-89

Date(s) of site occupation: A.D. 78-410

Nature of site: Roman fortress and civil settlement (*vicus*). The textiles come from the debris found in the wooden military buildings which underlie the civilian houses in the south-eastern corner of the *vicus*.

Climatic/soil conditions at the site: Compact bracken layers on a clay floor. Constant moisture.

Main publications: Not yet available

TEXTILE INFORMATION

Textile specialist(s) involved: J. P. Wild

Date(s) of the object(s): Textile deposit AD 85-115

Approx. number of textile(s): 600

Condition of the textile(s): Those from the bracken levels are in a good state of preservation, while those from near the clay floor tend to be heavily decomposed.

Current location of the textile(s): Vindolanda Museum. Chesterholm, Bardon Mill, Northumberland.

Relevant publications: J. P. Wild, *Vindolanda III: The Textiles* (Bardon Mill, 1977)

Comments: All the textiles are rags and many show signs of severe wear. There are few complete objects.

Source: JPW 1990

THE ABU SHA'R TEXTILES

During the summer of 1990, L. Bender Jorgensen visited the Red Sea site of Abu Sha'r in order to record the textiles found during current excavations by S. Sidebottom, University of Delaware. A total of 442 textiles have so far been recorded. This is approximately two thirds of the estimated number of textiles found during the 1990 season. The majority of the textiles came from the rubbish dump on the north side of the fort. This region has been tentatively dated to the late third and fourth centuries A.D.

The textiles: The fibres identified are wool, goat hair and bast (probably flax). The most common fibre type is bast. The spin is almost always s in both the warp and weft, but exceptions do occur, for example, occasionally s/z, z/z forms are found. The vegetable fibre textiles mostly comprise tabby or warp-faced tabby weaves in a range of qualities: from very coarse with 3-6 threads/cm to very fine flax fabrics. Basket weaves occur within this group. The wool textiles are a mixture of tabby weave forms and twills. Tabby and weft-faced tabby are the two most common forms recorded. Basket and half-basket weaves also occur. One fragment of tapestry weave has been found with a flax warp and wool (green and black) weft. One unusual weave has a weft-float patterns over five warps (in flax). The ground cloth has single weft threads, while the floats are paired or tripled weft threads. This piece came from the later 'church' trench.

An important feature of the Abu Sha'r wool fabrics is the large number of diamond twills, which also can be divided into a number of types. One form has a paired weft, and often has warp displacement, but point repeat in the weft. 'Tight' diamond twills with a rather coarse warp, often Z-s plied, and a tight, fine weft has been found several times. They can be paralleled with two fabrics from Palmyra, which have been frequently discussed in connection with a group of Viking Age diamond twills from Scandinavia. The Abu Sha'r diamond twills will throw new light on this discussion. Plain 2/2 twills are mostly s/s, and therefore

supposedly of Egyptian/Near Eastern origin. A few 2/2 twills (z/z) may derive from Europe. Some wool tabbies have weft-faced bands in red, purple or blue wool. In most cases only one broad band occurs, but occasionally textiles with two or three bands have been found.

A small group of textiles are of special interest. These are three pieces which are embroidered. One is a bast tabby, embroidered with an elaborate motif in green, blue, red and yellow wool; two red wool felts are embroidered in blue and yellow wool yarn. All of these pieces are late third/fourth century in date. Another interesting piece is a 'shaded band', a cloth type mentioned in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and known from sites such as Quseir al-Qadim and Mons Claudianus, both on or near the Red Sea coast. Several pieces of self-patterned tabbies have been found, with stripes in paired or tripled weft.

A large piece of linen cloth with a weft-faced pattern was found with a small sample of 'Coptic' tapestry, unfortunately broken off, but most probably derived from this piece. This piece comes from the later 'church' rubbish dump and is fifth century A.D. in date at the earliest.

The Gulf situation permitting, either L. Bender Jorgensen or G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood will continue recording the textiles at Abu Sha'r during the 1991 season.

L. Bender Jorgensen and
G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood

WEAVING COMBS - CURVED OR STRAIGHT?

Combs of antler and bone, dentated at one end and frequently decorated occur throughout the British Isles and are predominantly an Iron Age phenomenon. These combs are traditionally associated with weaving, an idea originally put forward by Bulleid and Gray (1911) for the combs found at Glastonbury. They suggested that the combs were used to push the weft into place before beating up with a weaving sword or batten. Arguments against this theory have usually centered on the curvature of the combs and the concave nature of the teeth. Ling Roth (1934) maintained that if combs like these were used for beating up they would tend to pull the warp strands together and produce an uneven effect and possibly injure the warp as well. This argument was supported by Rance (1964) after experimental work with replica combs.

Had the combs indeed been curved in the way that Ling Roth thought, there would be much to say for this argument. A recent study of the combs found at Meare West revealed that the wear on their teeth bore little relation to what might be expected from their use in this manner, either for beating up with the underside of the comb or by turning it over and using the top. Had the combs been concave the wear should only have been on the outside teeth on the underneath, or on the middle on the top. Out of 130 combs found and studied at Meare West there are very few with wear only on the outside teeth, in fact six in all. Most have wear on tips and under all the teeth, which is what might be expected of a more or less flat comb used for beating. Of the combs with wear on the top, most show marks right across the teeth (fig. 1).

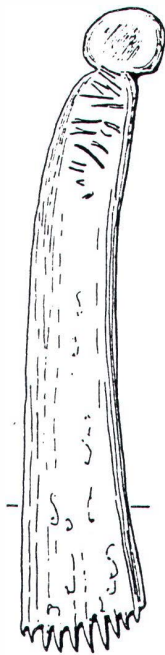
Experimental work with my own replicas has suggested that the combs may well have been flat while in use. Roe deer antler was obtained and after being soaked the tines were removed and the centre section sawn through the middle to make two blanks similar to those found at Glastonbury and Meare West. A hacksaw blade was used to cut the teeth and the comb finished with a sharp knife. The tools were chosen as being as close as possible to those which may have been used in making the original combs.

After the combs were made they were dried

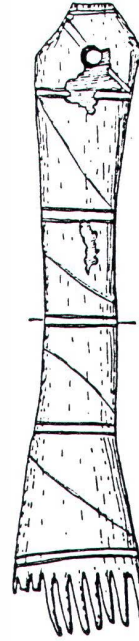
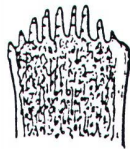
out and the cancellous tissue became very hard and the comb thus being flat on the undersurface. The tissue resisted all wear during weaving experiments. At no time did wear produce any kind of curling on the comb or breaking away of the cancellous tissue. Moreover the whole undersurface of the comb at the dentated end was in contact with the weft while in use. It can be assumed therefore that after long use, wear marks would appear right across the underside of the teeth. So if the Meare West combs acquired their wear marks while flat and before curving took place, then they are in the places one might expect in combs used for beating up the weft.

Two possibilities may explain their later concave state. First it could be seen through experiments that one part of the cancellous tissue was vulnerable. That was just below the teeth. After considerable use, and more than I have been able to give it, the comb might well start to wear at this point and eventually lose its tissue leaving a curved surface, after which it could have been discarded as being no longer useful. Alternatively it is possible that weathering in the peat caused the cancellous tissue to shrink so that the bony outer layer was pulled inwards and the comb became curved. Examination of the Meare combs seems to support this as the cancellous tissue remains on the underside of the teeth still show the original signs of wear. Despite long use it had obviously not been worn away. Also in some cases the outer skin had split i.e. HH22 and HH16 (fig. 2) to show the shrunken tissue underneath. It is notable that the two best preserved combs (HH34 and HH123), still apparently in working order and flat with marks right across the teeth (fig. 3) are thought to be of whalebone rather than antler, all of one density and thus not subject to weathering in the same way as the others.

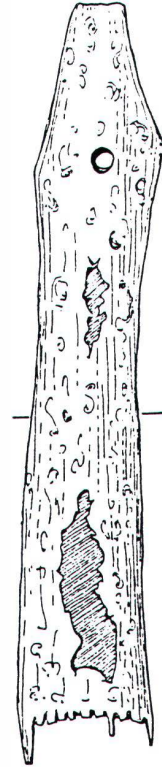
Fig. 1. Wear marks across the teeth



HH 15



HH 22

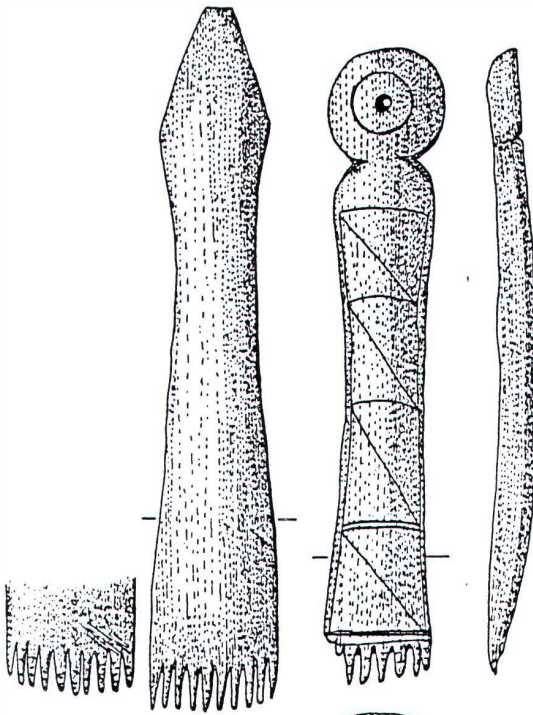


HH 16

Fig. 2. Combs HH16 and HH22



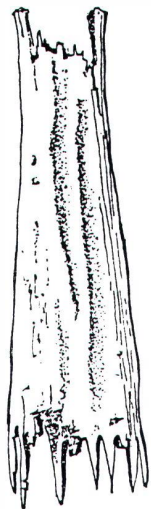
Fig. 3. Combs HH34 and HH123



HH 34

HH 123

Fig. 4. Combs from Midden Delfland



HH 16

In many cases combs found on dry sites such as All Cannings Cross do not appear to be as curved as those found at Meare West. However, another comb recently discovered during excavations directed by A. A. Bink in Midden Delftland, The Netherlands, roughly contemporary to Meare and in similar conditions, has an exactly similar curvature (fig. 4).

I suggest therefore, that these combs were flat when in use and that this would make them a viable weaving implement. The type of loom that they may have been used for is a separate argument. Their width suggests use for patterns rather than plain weaves, but this has yet to be proved.

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References

- A. Bulleid and H. St G. Gray, *The Glastonbury Lake Village, I*, (1911).
A. D. Rance, *The Weaving Industry of Meare and Glastonbury Lake Villages*, (1970). Unpublished BA thesis, Queens University Belfast, quoted in I. Hodder and J. W. Hedges, *Weaving Combs*, in: ed. J. R. Collis, *The Iron Age in Britain: A Review*, (1977), 17-28.
L. Roth, *Studies in Primitive Looms*, Halifax (1934).

REQUESTS FOR HELP

First Millennium B.C. Textiles

I am a graduate student whose research interest is textile production in Britain during the first millennium B.C. By detailing the sequence of processes involved, I hope to be able to understand the possible functions of the tools and equipment traditionally associated with textile manufacture of this period. The data will be examined for intrasite spatial patterning and

for regional and chronological differences in distribution. I am also interested in the questions of raw material supply and product distribution as they relate to social organisation.

I would appreciate any information on possible Continental parallels of first millennium material, particularly weights, triangular or of other forms, which may have been used on a warp-weighted loom, combs of bone or antler, and sheep metapodials with pairs of transverse grooves on opposite sides near each end. I look forward to discussing these and similar topics with anyone who cares to contact me at the address below.

D. DeRoche,
Clare Hall,
Herschel Road,
Cambridge, CB3 9AL,

England.

Pharaonic Egyptian Clothing

I am currently writing a book on Pharaonic Egyptian clothing. As part of this work I am compiling a list of relevant garments in private and public collections throughout the world. If anyone has any Pharaonic garments in their collections, particularly if they are unpublished, could they please send me the relevant details, at the address given below. Many thanks.

G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood
Van Swietenstraat 45,
2334 EA Leiden,
The Netherlands.

TSA SYMPOSIUM 'TEXTILES IN TRADE'

The Textile Society of America held its second biennial symposium at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., September 14-16, 1990. The meeting was organised around the topic of textiles as trade items, and the presentations tackled the theme from a variety of historical and methodological positions. Art historians, economic historians, textile curators, and anthropologists gave papers that dealt with the role of textiles as trade commodities. The material was interpreted in relationship to economic growth, as distributing designs and hence as valuable art historical documentation, and as a vehicle for displaying social relationships. The approach was comprehensive, and it goes very much to the credit of the symposium's organizers, Rita Adrosko (National Museum of American History) and Mattiebelle Gittinger (Textile Museum), that a coherence did emerge. A high standard of scholarship was established from the outset. Individual speakers, both in keynote addresses and lectures, were given the opportunity to address specific research areas, while panels were created with a particular cultural and geographic focus.

There was a total of thirty-three speakers, and it would lead beyond the scope of this review notice to mention all. Of particular interest to the readers of the Newsletter should be the lecture by Elizabeth Barber, "Reconstructing the Ancient Aegean/Egyptian Textile

Trade", as well as Anna Muthesius', "The Impact of the Mediterranean Silk Trade on the West before 1200 A.D.". Patricia Rieff Anawalt spoke on "Ancient West Mexican Clothing and its Ecoudorian Origins: New Evidence of Maritime Contacts", and my own contribution "Indian Trade Cloth in Egypt: The Newberry Collection", also dealt with archaeological textiles.

The wider context of the panels and lectures covered the European and North American textile trade, both historical and contemporary, the Islamic world, in particular the Middle East, and textiles in Southeast Asian trade. Two panels in particular concentrated on the effect of trade on small-scale societies, one dealing with African textile trade, the other with textiles in the tourist trade. Surprisingly there was a relative sparsity of papers dealing with East Asia.

The symposium established beyond a doubt (if the point needed to be made) that textiles provide crucial information as social, economic, artistic, and technological documents. The proceedings of the meeting are expected to be published within a year.

R. Barnes,
The Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford,
England.

**EARLY TEXTILES STUDY GROUP WEEKEND
CONFERENCE 1990**

'Far Eastern Textiles' was the title chosen for this year's Early Textiles Study Group weekend conference held at Ashburne Hall in the University of Manchester from 14th to 16th September. It was the logical successor to the 1988 topic 'Textiles of the Near East'; but this year the gathering's international character was much more marked. Sadly Bao Mingxin from Shanghai was unable to be present, but Kazuko Sakamoto and Hideo Fujii represented textile research in the Far East.

Chinese silks from the earliest times to the later Middle Ages were the recurring theme of the papers presented, which revealed the wealth of important, often little known material in public and private collections throughout the world. Ulla Cyrus-Zetterström spoke on Chinese silk terminology and showed some refreshingly direct videotapes of modern handloom weaving.

Practical demonstrations of the plaiting of Japanese Kumi-Himo braids by Roderick Owen and Daphne Crisp were a welcome Saturday afternoon distraction from more academic matters. A great deal, in fact, was packed into a small compass, but still there was time for useful discussion - for which all credit is due to the convenors, Frances Pritchard and Lisa Monnas.

J. P. Wild,
Dept. of Archaeology,
Manchester University,
Manchester,
England.

**4TH NESAT TEXTILSYMPOSIUM,
RUNGSTEDGAARD, MAY 1990**

The raising of the Iron Curtain could not have come at a better time from NESAT's point of view. The fourth triennial Symposium of the North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles was held at Rungstedgaard, just north of Copenhagen, from 1st to 6th May 1990, and we were able to welcome there colleagues from East Germany (as was), Czechoslovakia, Poland, Latvia and the Russian Republic who had previously only been pen-friends.

The meeting was opened by Olaf Olsen, Denmark's State Antiquary, who emphasised how seriously textile studies were now taken by archaeologists in Scandinavia. The three-day lecture programme that followed (25 papers in all) had something to offer on every chronological horizon and in (almost) every technical corner of textile production. It would be invidious to pick out individual contributions - sufficient to say that it was rare for a paper not to give rise to lively discussion! There were some pleasant and memorable diversions, too: on May 3rd we visited the weaving workshops at the Archaeological-Historical Research Centre, Lejre, and the National Museum's Textile Conservation Laboratory at Brede.

The highlight was undoubtedly the dinner given on the last night by the Drapers Guild of Copenhagen as a prelude to the appearance of a Viking king dressed in a costume accurate to the nth degree - the work of NESAT members, again with the support of the Guild. Elisabeth Munksgaard and Lise Bender Jorgensen were warmly congratulated for organising a splendid five days. But their task is not over: the proceedings of the Symposium are now in their hands for publication.

J. P. Wild,
Dept. of Archaeology,
Manchester University,
Manchester,
England.

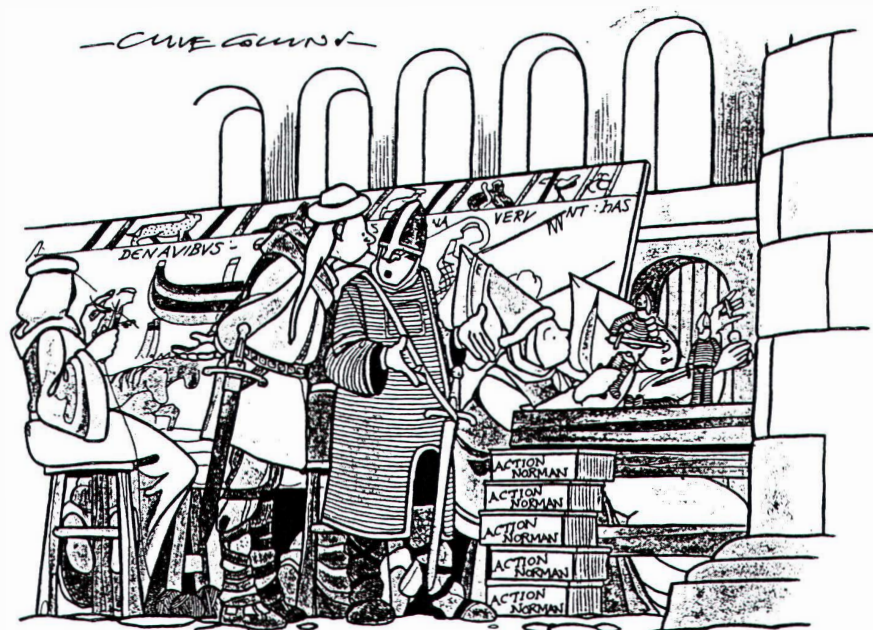
**4. NORDEUROPÄISCHES SYMPOSIUM FÜR
ARCHÄOLOGISCHE TEXTILFUNDE (NESAT)
IN KOPENHAGEN VOM 1.5 BIS 5.5 1990**

Zum 4. Mai trafen sich die Mitglieder von NESAT, um über neue Textilfunde aus Ausgrabungen zu diskutieren. Nach den Treffen in Neumünster (1981), Bergen (1984) und York (1987) waren diesmal die dänischen Textilforscher Gastgeber. Die Organisation der Tagung lag in den Händen von Lise Bender Jorgensen und Elisabeth Munksgaard, die neben einem umfangreichen Vortragsprogramm auch ein interessantes Rahmenprogramm zusammengestellt hatten. Dazu gehörten der Besuch des Archäologisch-historischen Versuchszentrums in Lejre, der Textilkonservierungsanstalt in Brede und der frühgeschichtlichen Abteilungen im Nationalmuseum in Kopenhagen. Das Vortragsprogramm umfaßte alte Bereiche der vor- und frühgeschichtlichen sowie mittelalterlichen Textilforschung. Neue Textilfunde aus Ausgrabungen in West-, Nord- und Osteuropa wurden vorgestellt, über frühgeschichtliche und mittelalterliche Bekleidung wurde von mehreren Textilforscherinnen berichtet, das Arbeiten an eisenzeitlichen, früh- und hochmittelalterlichen

Gewichts- und Trittwebstühlen wurde diskutiert und über die Probleme bei der Konservierung von archäologischen Textilien wurde gesprochen. Die Beiträge der 25 Referenten werden wiederum in einem Tagungsbericht, der im nächsten Jahr erscheinen wird, veröffentlicht.

Die abschließende Mitgliederversammlung von NESAT bestätigte Lise Bender Jorgensen (Konservatorskolen, Kopenhagen), Klaus Tidow (Textilmuseum Neumünster) und John Peter Wild (Universität Manchester) in ihren Ämtern. Neu in den Vorstand wurde Frances Pritchard (The Museum of London) gewählt. Das 5. Textilsymposium findet 1993 in Neumünster statt, wo sich 1981 im Textilmuseum erstmals Textilforscher aus dem nordeuropäischen Raum, die sich mit archäologischen Textilien befassen, zu einer Arbeitsgemeinschaft zusammengeschlossen haben.

K. Tidow,
Textilmuseum Neumünster,
Parkstrasse 17,
D-2350 Neumünster,
Germany.



"...and this is our tapestry merchandising department."

EMPFEHLUNGEN FÜR DIE KONSERVIERUNG UND UNTERSUCHUNG MITTELALTERLICHER TEXTILFUNDE AUS GRABUNGEN

Die erfolgreiche Bearbeitung archäologischer Textilfunde setzt eine Zusammenarbeit zwischen wissenschaftlichem Bearbeiter und Textilrestaurator voraus. Während unserer Zusammenarbeit in den letzten Jahren haben sich folgende Vorgehensweisen bewährt:

Konservierung von Naßfunden:

Die Objekte werden in der Werkstatt für Textilrestaurierung in Münster-Wolbeck für die Magazinierung bzw. zur Ausstellung vorbereitet. Notwendige Massnahmen wie u.a. Bestimmung des pH-Wertes, Gefriertrocknung, Reinigung, ergeben sich nach Untersuchung von Fundzusammenhang (Auswirkung von Fremdkörperanlagerung) und Erhaltungszustand der Objekte.

Einfache Textilien, wie beispielsweise Gewebe, Gesticke und Filze aus Wolle erhalten eine mit Zellwollfilz bespannte Unterlage aus Hartschaum (Rohacell) und eine Abdeckung durch Polycarbonate (UV Schutz), Plexiglas oder Karton. Der Abstand zwischen Abdeckung und Objekt wird durch Einlegen eines Passepartouts aus Karton oder Plexiglas erreicht. Alle Materialien sind auf ihre Unbedenklichkeit (Schadstoffabspaltung) geprüft. Bei der Verwendung von Kunststoffen, wie Plexiglas, werden Massnahmen zur Neutralisierung der statisch aufgeladenen Oberfläche getroffen.

Eine Entnahme der Objekte ist jederzeit möglich:

Zu jedem Objekt wird ein Restaurierbericht erstellt. Er enthält eine Beschreibung des Textils, zeigt den Erhaltungszustand auf und weist die getroffenen Massnahmen aus. Es werden Zustandsfotos vor und nach der Bearbeitung beigelegt. Anschließend erfolgt eine textiltechnische und evtl. trachtenkundliche Bearbeitung im Textilmuseum Neumünster. Der hierüber erstellte Bericht enthält Schema- und Bindungszeichnungen.

Konservierung von Trockenfunden:

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Da es sich bei diesen Textilien häufig um Objekte handelt, die bereits längere Zeit magaziniert wurden, sind Hinweise auf die Dauer der Lagerung, das Verpackungsmaterial und die klimatischen Aufbewahrungsbedingungen hilfreich.

Kosten:

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Für die Konservierung und Montage von einfachen Textilien entstehen in der Regel pro DIN-A-4 Platte Kosten zwischen DM 150 und DM 200. Für größere bzw. dreidimensionale Objekte werden verbindliche Kostenvoranschläge erstellt, wenn Größe, Beschaffenheit und zu treffende Massnahmen des zu bearbeitenden Materials bekannt sind.

M. Th. Worch,
Textilrestauratorin

K. Tidow,
Textilingenieur

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *ATN* we incorrectly gave the title of E. E. Gudjónsson's article about the warp-weighted loom in the Saga of Njal as *Járnvarðr Yllir*. The author has asked us to publish the full title as: "Járnvarðr Yllir: A fourth weapon of the Valkyries in *Darradarljód*?".

RECENT THESES

C. N. Nelson, *A Methodology for Examining Ancient Textiles and Its Application to VI-XIX Century Textiles from Akhmim, Egypt*, Ph.D. thesis, University of Minnesota (1986).

PUBLICATION OF PAPERS FROM THE 8TH MEETING OF DYE RESEARCHERS

Issue 8 of *Dyes in History and Archaeology* (formerly *Dyes on Historical and Archaeological Textiles*) is now available. This year's edition, sponsored by ICI, includes nine contributions:

Dye analysis at Paisley (R. S. Sinclair);
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Archaeological records of dye plants (A. R. Hall and P. Tomlinson);
Analysis of medieval red dyes by HPLC (D. Cardon, A. Colombini, B. Oger);
Analysis of two early Chinese kesi panels (G. W. Taylor);
Four black-dyed silk textiles of the 17th century (M. Findlay);
A list of dyed yarns available for analytical work (S. Grierson).
Copies may be obtained from the editor,

P. Walton, Textile Research, 12 Bootham Terrace, York, YO3 7DH, England.

Price: £3.75, postage free within the UK (please add 40p for addresses in Europe and 60p elsewhere). Cheques should be made payable to 'Dyes in History and Archaeology' (English currency, please!); or money may be transferred to DHA's Girobank account: 65-935-5906 (Leeds).

Issue 7 is still available at £2.95, same postage rate.

AEDTA: NEW PUBLICATION

AEDTA wishes to announce the publication of *Resist Dyed Textiles from Quseir al-Qadim*, by G. M. Vogelsang-Eastwood.

The textiles, which are probably of Indian origin, were excavated at the site of a Mamluk trading port on the Red Sea coast of Egypt. They date from the 13-14th centuries A.D. The book includes 119 pages, 79 colour illustrations. 200 copies were printed. Only available in English. Price: 450 FF or US\$ 70.00. ISBN: 2-908864-02-9. Available from: AEDTA, 60 bis, Avenue de Breteuil, 75007 Paris, France, or Mrs. T. R. Mayer, Lepercq, de Neufelize and Co., 1675 Broadway, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10019, USA.

TELLEM TEXTILES: CATALOGUE AND EXHIBITION

R. Bolland, *Tellem Textiles: Archaeological Finds from Burial Caves in Central Mali*, with contributions by R. Bedaux and R. Boser-Sarivaxévanis. KIT Press, Amsterdam, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Musée National Bamako, 1991. Translated by P. Wardle. Ca. 260 pp, with numerous illustrations. Price: Dfl. 100.00. ISBN: 90 832 224 9

This publication includes a detailed catalogue of the textiles excavated in burial caves in the Bandiagara cliff in Mali, W. Africa. Most of the textiles can be attributed to the Tellem culture. They are among the earliest known textiles from Africa, south of the Sahara. Their large number and good condition have enabled a technical and stylistical analysis to be made, while their known provenance and date, from the 11th to the 18th centuries A.D., make it possible to sketch the history of textiles in a region which is considered to be one of the oldest weaving centres in Africa.

Contributions by R. Bedaux on the archaeological context of the textiles and by R. Boser on the history of weaving in West Africa, are included.

To mark this publication, the textiles will be exhibited at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, and The Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, before being returned to their final home at the Musée National, Bamako.

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