



3rd Textile production workshop

Hands-on experience archaeology

August 26-29 2014

Practical introduction into textile techniques based on knowledge of ancient craft traditions



**The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen University
Denmark**

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The Historical Archaeological Research and Communication Centre, Lejre, Denmark

The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen University Denmark (CTR) invites all those interested in working with various aspects of ancient textile production to participate in the 3rd textile workshop at the Historical Archaeological Research and Communication Centre, Lejre, Denmark.

In this workshop, practical introduction into various aspects of ancient textile production and its complexity will be given via hands-on experience archaeology. Furthermore, the knowledge obtained can serve as inspiration for questions to be explored via experimental archaeology. The teaching is based on the experience and knowledge of textile craftsmanship, archaeological evidence as well as archaeological experiments. The teachers are trained in prehistoric textile techniques and have several years of experience. During these four days, you will get the opportunity to practise different textile techniques. It is our aim that you will gain new knowledge which you can use in your work in, e.g. archaeology. Please note that no previous experience is necessary.



The subject areas you can choose are:

1. Dyeing with plants

The aim of this activity is to give a theoretical and practical introduction into different stages of dyeing with plants.

There will be a short theoretical introduction to plants for dyeing and dyestuff and how the dye was fixed with mordants on different materials. Furthermore, you will be introduced to how the colour tones can be changed. In wood fired boilers you will try to add the mordant and dye wool samples of different yellow hues, red and blue with plants and animal dyes, and mixing of colour tones – i.e. to create green and black hues.

Activities e.g.: Mordanting, dyeing wool and flax with plants

2. Fibre preparation and spinning

The aim of this activity is to give a practical introduction into the different stages of fibre preparation and spinning.

Participants in this group will have the possibility to try out different techniques associated with these processes. The activity includes processing flax stems from retted state to fibre. You will experience different types of wool and their characteristics. Furthermore, the wool will be sorted, combed and prepared for spinning. The second part of the activity will be spent on spinning the fibre you have prepared. We will focus on hand spinning on spindles. Various techniques and spindles will be demonstrated and tried out. Different types of yarn will be produced, and the processes discussed. The content of this activity is based on finds of archaeological textile tools and ethnographical and traditional craftsmanship.

Activities e.g.

Fibre preparation

Flax –breaking, scutching, hackling

Wool –sorting, teasing, combing

Spinning

Spinning on a hook and on a suspended low whorl spindle

Other spinning techniques

3. Production of tools for textile production.

The aim of this activity is to give a theoretical and practical introduction into different stages of toolmaking, made of clay and wood for textile production.

The course includes a theoretical introduction to replicating tools in clay, i.e. how to measure the water content of the clay, weighing the clay and getting the proportions right.

You will be able to try out the mixing of clay with different types of tempering: i.e. burnt granite, sand and chamotte (fired clay) and make a replica of loom weights and spindle weights. Of finishing techniques you will practice burnishing and discuss forms of glazing. As it takes considerable time for the clay to dry, it will not be possible to burn the tools made at the course. However, there will be some premade items to be used for a firing demonstration.

There will also be a theoretical introduction into making the wooden tool parts, what wood to choose and how to cut it.

Activities e.g.

Tempering, shaping of the tools in clay, finishing techniques and firing.

4. Warping and weaving on the warp weighted loom.

The aim of this activity is to give a practical introduction into different stages of setting up a warp on the warpweighted loom and weaving.

The activity will include a short theoretical introduction into the relations between the warp thread and the warp weights and the participants will make their own calculations for the warping according to the tools available.

You will make a small warp (approx.. 30 cm) on the warping frame with tablets, and set it up on an upright loom as a tabby weave, make the heddles and practice weaving.

Activities e.g.

Warping, tablet weaving, heddling, weaving of tabby.



Programme:

Tuesday, 26 August:

09.45 Welcome and short guided tour of the centre.

Lunch

13.00 – 18.00 Practical work:

Subject 1: Dyeing with plant material: activities e.g. Mordanting, dyeing wool and flax with plants

Subject 2: Fibre preparation and spinning: activities e.g. Sorting and combing of wool, hackling and scutching of flax, spinning with a drop spindle.

Subject 3: Weaving on an upright loom: activities e.g. Warping with tablets, heddling and weaving.

Subject 4: Tool making: activities e.g. Tempering, shaping of the tools in clay, finishing techniques and firing

18.00-19.00 Summing up

Transport to Roskilde will be arranged

Wednesday 27 August:

9:45-16.00 Practical work (lunch break included)

16.00-16.30 Summing up

Thursday 28. August:

9:45-16.30 Practical work (lunch break included)

16.30-17.30 Summing up

18.30 Dinner in Lejre. Transport will be arranged to Roskilde.

Friday, 29 August:

9:45-16.30 Practical work (lunch break included)

15.30-16.30 Summing up and Farewell





Place: Historical Archaeological Research and Communication Centre, Lejre, Denmark

www.sagnlandet.dk

Date: 26-29 August 2014

Maximum numbers of participants: 16

The participant can choose two subject areas (out of four possibilities) and will then work with these for two days respectively.

There will be room for 4 participants in each study group and the places will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis.

Price: 400 € (incl. VAT)

Payment details

Bank: Nordea

Address: Algade 16, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark

Reg. nr. 2280

Konto: 4384950707

Iban: DK2520004384950707

SWIFT: NDEADKKK

Please also write CTR workshop on the payment form

Accommodation:

You will have to book your own accommodation and we can recommend the Youth Hostel in Roskilde. Danish Youth Hostels are of a high standard. It is also possible to book single rooms.

(www.danhostel.dk/roskilde) From the hostel there will be a bus to Lejre.

Lunch and coffee on Tuesday - Friday will be served at cost.

For registration, please fill in the form below and send it to the address below or send us an email with your details to ida@sagnlandet.dk

Historical Archaeological Research and Communication Centre,

Sagnlandet Lejre

ATT: Ida Demant

Slange alleen 2

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Organisers:

Historical Archaeological Research and Communication Centre, Sagnlandet Lejre in cooperation with The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen University Denmark

Ida Demant
Historical Archaeological Research
and Communication Centre,
Sagnlandet Lejre

Eva Andersson-Strand
The Danish National Research Foundation's
Centre for Textile Research,
Copenhagen University, Denmark



**Registration for the 3rd textile production workshop, August 26-29, 2014
(please return by 1st of June 2014) to Ida Demant**

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PHONE +

EMAIL:

I would like to be included in the following **two** activities:

Please tick:

- subject 1 *Dyeing with plant material*
- subject 2 *Fibre preparation and spinning*
- subject 3 *Weaving on upright loom*
- subject 4 *Tool making*

Supplementary information:

Place and date _____

Signature _____