

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Fabric of Life: Approaches to Textile Resources, Economy and Production in Ancient Italy

Il tessuto della vita: le risorse, l'economia e la produzione tessile nell'Italia antica

British School at Rome / Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia
26 February 2015

Organisers: Margarita Gleba (University of Cambridge) and Romina Laurito (University of Copenhagen / SBAEM)

In the past few years the field of archaeological textile research has witnessed a major dynamism as demonstrated by numerous conferences and publications on the topic, as well as establishment of large-scale interdisciplinary collaborative programmes, such as the Centre for Textile Research funded by the Danish National Research Foundation (2005-2015) and the pan-European project Clothing and Identities - New Perspectives on Textiles in the Roman Empire (DressID) funded by the European Union Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (2007-2012). These activities demonstrate not only that the field holds great potential in elucidating many aspects of past cultures, such as economy, technology, trade, fashion and religion, but also that at the moment there is a developing energy, expertise and collaborative will to draw from. The necessary next step is to lead this growing field into answering some of the fundamental questions of archaeology, where evidence for textiles has hitherto been virtually unexplored.

Compared to Central and Northern Europe, textile research Italy has been a rather neglected field until recently. The reason most often cited for the absence of studies on ancient textiles in Italy is their extremely poor preservation. Textiles, however, are much more common finds than generally thought and survive in original organic state but also as carbonised and mineralised traces, as well as in the form of imprints. In addition, there are numerous other sources of evidence, such as textile tools, palaeobotanic and archaeozoological remains, as well as iconographic and written sources, which permit us to gain valuable information about many and varied aspects of textile production in ancient Italy. The scientific methods have been or are being developed within archaeology (such as ancient DNA studies, isotopic tracing) that can be applied to gain new knowledge about ancient textiles on unprecedented scale. The interdisciplinary workshop will gather specialists in these fields in order to bring together and to discuss the various methods and approaches to textile and fibre studies in ancient Italy. The overall aim of this session is to demonstrate the potential of archaeological textiles and related sources for the investigation of ancient Italian economy, technology and agriculture and to discuss new methods that can be applied to the investigation of ancient textiles.

Thursday 26 February 2015

AM - British School at Rome

Introduction

- 9:00-9:10 Christopher Smith (Director, BSR) – Welcome
9:10-9:30 Margarita Gleba (University of Cambridge) – Archaeological textiles in Italy: *chaîne opératoire*, raw materials and analyses
9:30-9:50 Susanna Harris (University College London) – Textile iconography of proto-historic Italy: methods and research potential

Session 1: Raw materials

- 9:50-10:10 Mauro Rottoli (Musei Civici di Como): Lino, canapa e lana; nuovi dati sull'età del Ferro dai pollini ai macroresti ed ai tessuti in Italia centrale e settentrionale
10:10-10:30 Angela Trentacoste (University of Sheffield) – Separating the sheep from the goats: archaeozoological evidence for wool production in pre-Roman central and northern Italy c. 2000-200 BC
10:30-10:40 Discussion

10:40-11:00 Coffee break

Session 2: Textiles, texts and iconography

- 11:00-11:20 Marta Bazzanella (Museo degli Usi e Costumi della Gente Trentina) – Le produzioni tessili preistoriche in Italia settentrionale: il caso dei siti palafitticoli di Molina di Ledro e Fiavé in Trentino
11:20-11:40 Annemarie Stauffer (Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences) – Holes, stiches and pleats - A closer look at men's garments from Verucchio 700 BC
11:40-12:00 Peder Flemestad and Birgit Olsen (University of Copenhagen) - Sabellic Textile Terminology
12:00-12:20 Berit Hildebrandt (University of Copenhagen) – Fabricating marble dress: How to interpret clothing on statues?
12:20-12:40 Discussion

12:40-15:00 Lunch break

PM – Museo Archeologico Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia

Introduction

- 15:00-15:10 Alfonsina Russo (Soprintendente dell'Etruria Meridionale) – Saluti istituzionali
15:10-15:30 Romina Laurito (University of Copenhagen / SBAEM) – Filare e tessere tra gli Etruschi. Uno primo sguardo funzionale al loro strumentario

Session 3 – Textile production

- 15:30-15:50 Hedvig Landenius Enegren (University of Copenhagen) – Archaic Sicily – loom weights and identity
15:50-16:10 Francesco Meo (University of Salento) – Produzione tessile nell'Italia meridionale preromana: primi dati, nuove prospettive
16:10-16:30 Maria Stella Busana, Anna Rosa Tricomi and Cecilia Rossi (University of Padova) - Archeologia dei tessuti nella Venetia Romana
16:30-16:40 Discussion

16:40-17:00 Coffee break

Session 4 – Experimental and experience archaeology

- 17:00-17:20 Cristina Lemorini (University of Rome La Sapienza) and Assunta Perilli – La tela invisibile: evidenze archeologiche e sperimentazione
17:20-17:40 Ettore Pizzutti – La tessitura a tavolette e gli strumenti da tessitura della T.102/72 Lippi di Verucchio
17:40-18:00 Jacopo Tabolli (Museo Archeologico-Virtuale di Narce, Mazzano Romano) Dai taccuini del 1890 al Museo MAVNA: l'identità di Narce attraverso le attività di filature e tessitura a La Petrina

18:00-18:10 Discussion

18:10-18:30 Larissa Bonfante (University of New York) – Tiriamo le fila: considerazioni conclusive

18:30-19:30 Wine reception