



CALL FOR PAPERS

TREASURES FROM THE SEA – Sea-silk and Shell purple dye in antiquity
International Workshop in Lecce, Italy
May 26-27-28, 2013*

Accepted keynote speakers:

Felicitas Maeder, *Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland.*

Pietro Militello, *Dipartimento di Scienze Umanistiche, Università di Catania, Italy.*

David S. Reese, *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, USA.*

The Danish National Research Foundation's *Centre for Textile Research (CTR)*, University of Copenhagen, in cooperation with the University of Salento - Department of Cultural Heritage, hereby has the great pleasure to announce a workshop on sea-silk and shell purple dye in Lecce, Italy, on May 26th - 28th 2013.

Garments made of sea-silk, also known as *byssus*, have always been highly valued for the extreme lightness and lustre of the material. Sea-silk is made from fibres extracted from the *Pinna nobilis*, a marine mollusc that grows in the Mediterranean Sea. Today only a few people in Sardinia still know how to work it. Two of them will give a hands-on demonstration on how to spin and weave this very fine thread.

Shell purple dye, also known as Royal or Tyrian purple, much valued in antiquity, is a dye substance extracted from several types of Murex shells. In the Mediterranean area the manufacture of shell purple dye is attested to from at least the Middle Bronze Age.

Our aim with this workshop is to learn as much as possible about these marine species and their importance in ancient textile manufacture. We welcome papers that treat sea-silk and shell purple dye from all aspects - archaeological, historical to ethnographical.

There are limited spaces so please register your interest as soon as possible. Please send your abstract (max 250 words) with your affiliation to seatreasuresworkshop@gmail.com The deadline for submitting is without exception February 1st 2013.

Papers will be 20 mins, with subsequent chaired discussion.

There are no conference fees but participants will have to provide their own funding for travel and accomodation. People can sign in as listeners also without giving a paper until April 30th 2013.

Co-organisers of the workshop are:

Dr. Hedvig Landenius Enegren PhD
Marie Curie Research Fellow
The Danish National Research Foundation's
Centre for Textile Research (CTR)
Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.
Njalsgade 76, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark

Dott. Francesco Meo
Dip. di Beni Culturali
Università del Salento
Via D. Birago, 64
73100 Lecce

* Subsequent to the workshop, for those who so wish, we will, at a cost, organise a three-day tour to visit archaeological sites close to Lecce and Taranto.