

The Danish National Research Foundation's
CENTRE for TEXTILE RESEARCH

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Copenhagen, October 8th, 2014

1st circular

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to announce that the two-day international conference **First Textiles. The Beginnings of Textile Manufacture in Europe and the Mediterranean** will take place on the 7th-8th May 2015 in Copenhagen. On the 9th May there will be a possibility to visit the Land of Legends and its experimental archaeological centre at Lejre (<http://www.sagnlandet.dk/English.425.0.html>).

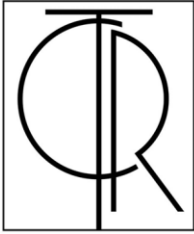
The venue will be held at the National Museum of Denmark and the Centre for Textile Research at the University of Copenhagen.

An abstract of minimum 500 words accompanied by a short list of your publications and research relevant to textile studies are to be sent to the organizers by the **15th December 2014**.

The aim of the conference is to present and discuss the recent achievements in the research field of the most ancient textiles and textile techniques in primarily Europe, Asia and North Africa in the Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age (ca. 8th-3rd millennia BC); the application of varied interdisciplinary methods of systematic analysis of textiles, such as studies on the most ancient textile remains, basketry, mat and textile imprints in clay; textile tools (e.g. spindle whorls, loom weights, needles, shuttles); experiments with copies of ancient textile implements; and recently developed scientific methods of analysing textiles and recognising the provenience of fibres. These all offer important insights into the oldest textile techniques, their beginnings and development throughout prehistory.

We therefore welcome papers on the following **topics**:

- The most ancient preserved textiles: archaeological material, microscopic analyses, raw materials (plant and animal fibres, skins and furs), provenience of the fibres, manufacture of fibres and textiles, woven and unwoven textiles.
- Raw materials: use of plant and animal fibres, skins and furs. Domestication of flax. Use of hairy and woolly wool. Introduction and spread of woolly sheep wool and 'the textile revolution'.
- Scientific methods of analysing ancient textiles and recognising the provenience of fibres: strontium and isotope tracing, ancient DNA, protein analysis.
- Development and changes of textile techniques (spinning, twining, splicing, weaving, needle-work, etc.) during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.
- Studies of textile tools: the first appearance of spindle whorls, other spinning tools and techniques, loom weights, looms, tablets, frames, etc., and their changes and spread through distant regions and cultures.
- Basketry, mats and other techniques.



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- Studies of imprints of textiles, basketry and mats in various materials. Methods and analyses.
- Experimental archaeology and its role in reconstructions of early textiles, tools and techniques.
- The social context of early textiles: textiles in society, household production, work organisation and specialisation, textiles in habitational and funerary context, social status, gender, exchange and trade of the raw materials and textiles.

The number of speakers will be limited, and priority will be given to presentations of new material, to new analyses of older finds, and to new analytical tools. The organizing committee will cover the hotel expenses of the participants (2 nights) and lunches (2 days). The travel expenses and the visit in Lejre will not be covered by the organisers.

The conference proceedings will be published in the *Ancient Textile Series* by Oxbow Books in 2016. Deadline for submission of papers is the **31th October 2015**.

There will be no conference fee and all are welcome to attend the conference as listeners, however, we would like to ask you to register in advance by sending an email to the organising committee: zkv933@hum.ku.dk

Yours sincerely,
The organising committee

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