

ATN has moved once again – this time, from Manchester to Copenhagen. We kindly thank John Peter and Felicity Wild for making the transfer easy. We hope to continue the great work of the previous editors, Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, Elizabeth Peacock and John Peter Wild. The format of the ATN will remain the same but the layout has been digitalised and updated.

Archaeological Textiles Newsletter is a twice-yearly publication for textiles, which have been found in archaeological contexts, dating from the prehistoric to the modern age. Geographically, ATN concerns itself mainly with the Old World textiles (from Western Europe to Japan) but New World textiles may be included if deemed relevant.

The study of archaeological textiles involves many disciplines, which seldom overlap in traditional scientific journals. The publication of the ATN started in 1985 to provide a medium for discussion, interaction and exchange of information between archaeologists, conservators, historians, art historians, biologists, chemists, geologists and craftspeople, who have archaeological textiles at the core of their interests. It still remains unsurpassed.

Originally, the ATN was intended to be an information service and not a journal. Over the years, however, it has become an important venue for publication of important scientific articles. Currently it publishes a unique combination of featured scientific articles and reports, notes, queries, reviews, resources as well as conference and event announcements, thus truly serving as an active tool of communication. This is largely due to the fact that subscribers to the ATN have been both readers and contributors.

In order to secure the scientific and legal continuation of the ATN in the future, on 17 August 2007 the society “Friends of Archaeological Textiles Newsletter” was established. All old and new individual subscribers to the ATN will automatically become members of the society and thereby receive the newsletter. Institutions may subscribe to the ATN without membership in the society at a special price. The most current information about the society, the subscription fees and submissions can be found on www.atnfriends.com.

This is also where the renewal of all subscription should be made via a secure web-shop. We hope that by the end of the year we will fix all the glitches and this new platform will ease the dissemination of ATN. The society will hold annual meetings, where all issues regarding the running of ATN will be decided. The 2008 meeting was held on the 14th of May and the minutes follow this editorial.

We encourage the readers to send articles, notices about new books or forthcoming conferences, as well as reviews of events and sources – the continuation of ATN can only be ensured if it is ‘for the readers and by the readers’. We also would like to emphasise that the ATN website can be used as a further venue for communication, particularly for announcements of events, short queries etc. For the moment, ATN will be continued in a printed format and distributed by mail but it is planned that, in the near future, ATN will also be accessible in an electronic format.

We look forward to your comments, suggestions and all kind of input following the release of No. 46, which covers Nubian textiles, Avar costumes and Bronze Age spindle whorls. The number of yearly events on archaeological textiles has increased so much that we have decided to begin a Textile calendar, which will provide links for the forthcoming events.

We would like to begin this issue by introducing ourselves.

Eva Andersson Strand is an archaeologist specialised in North European archaeology. She received her Ph.D. in Prehistoric Archaeology from the Lund University (Sweden). She has worked in museums and as a lecturer at the Lund University. Her research focuses on textile production in the Iron and Viking Age Scandinavia and in the Bronze Age Mediterranean as well as experimental archaeology.

Margarita Gleba is an archaeologist specialised in pre-Roman Italian archaeology. She received her Ph.D. in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College (USA). She has worked on excavations in Italy, Turkey and Ukraine. Her special area of study is the archaeology of textile production, including investigation of textiles, textile tools, as well as written and iconographic sources.

Ulla Mannering is an archaeologist specialised in North European textiles and costumes. She received her Ph.D. in Prehistoric Archaeology from the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). She has been analysing textiles for numerous museums in Denmark and abroad. Her areas of research include Scandinavian and Roman costume traditions, the use and production of prehistoric plant fibre materials, especially nettle and flax, and study of costume from iconographic sources.

All three editors are research programme managers at the Danish National Research Foundation’s Centre for Textile Research at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark