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**Carol A. Christiansen**

## NESAT X

### 13-18 May 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark

The North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles (NESAT) held its 10th meeting on 13-18 May 2008 in Copenhagen. The jubilee event was hosted by the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research (CTR). Held every three years, the symposium was larger than ever, with 120 registered participants from 23 countries. No less than 41 papers and 20 posters were presented during the 6-day event. The symposium began on the evening of the 13th with a wine and hors d'œuvres reception at CTR. This was followed by a presentation by CTR director, Marie-Louise Nosch and research programme managers Margarita Gleba, Ulla Mannerling, and Eva Anderson outlining the Centre's many projects and publications currently underway.

Lise Bender Jørgensen began the formal symposium the following day with an amusing trip down memory lane. She explained how the first NESAT was realised, after she and Klaus Tidow searched for like-minded researchers among archaeologists and textile historians. Lise reviewed how NESAT has slowly expanded over the years, welcoming more and younger scholars from a larger geographical base. Many delegates from the first NESAT meetings were in attendance or presented research at the jubilee meeting. The first sessions set the main theme which ran throughout the symposium: experimental archaeology

and new methods of research. It was clear from many of the presentations that textile archaeologists are increasingly using reconstruction processes to better understand early tools, fibres and fabrics. For example, Viktoria Holmqvist analysed the Eric of Pomerania's Belt and the Dune Belt, both exhibiting a more complex structure than noted in previous research, but one which was better understood after reconstructions using octagonal-shaped tablets.

The first full day concluded with a large number of papers on conservation. Again, these focused on new methods, in some cases using new technology. Nicole Reifarh showed how poorly preserved burials in unmovable sarcophagi could be analysed in greater detail using close-up video-microscopy. Maria Cybulska presented remarkable research on how archaeological textiles could be virtually reconstructed, using the results of traditional structural analysis combined with the latest methods in computer animation.

Thursday began with a session on medieval textiles focussing on how texts, whether descriptive passages or single words, ancient or modern, require careful consideration when applied to specific types of cloth or clothing. The day continued with research on viking age and medieval textiles, followed by the poster session, organised by Maj Ringgaard of the National Museum of Denmark and CTR. In all, 20 posters were

presented over several hours in lively discussion. A number of the presenters thoughtfully provided printed versions of their posters. Friday was devoted to prehistoric and early historic textiles. This was followed by lunch at the Town Hall. Delegates were invited to a special preview of the newly re-opened Danish Prehistory exhibit at the National Museum. The exhibition was formally opened by Queen Margrethe II, after which delegates viewed the displays, including many textiles recently analysed by the CTR project on Danish Bronze and Iron Age textiles. The last day of presentations was held at the National Museum and finished the conference with a lively session on textile tools and technology.

Following the final discussion, delegates were treated to a luncheon hosted by the National Museum. On Sunday, delegates were taken on an excursion to Lejre Experimental Centre. The weaving studio presented some of its recent work with tools and recon-

structed fabrics and clothing.

The 'new methods' theme was carried further at this NESAT by the broadcast of a web-cast of the first two day's proceedings. Twenty listeners across the globe tuned in to watch the symposium live.

For the full NESAT X programme and abstracts,



podcast of the first two days of the conference and PDF files of some of the posters, go to <http://ctr.hum.ku.dk>. The proceedings will be published by Oxbow Books in the Ancient Textiles Series in 2009. The 11th NESAT will be held in Esslingen, Germany

Anne Marie Carstens

## Military and Textile Conference 20-22 May 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark

An international conference *Military and Textile* was held at the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research and the Royal Danish Defence College in Copenhagen May 20-22, 2008. The aim of the conference was to analyse the role of textile culture within the military organisation, with the broadest geographical and chronological scope. Thus the interaction between military and the civil society from Antiquity till the 21<sup>st</sup> century was covered by in all 28 papers, from *Purchase orders of military garments from papyri of Roman Egypt* (by Kerstin Dross, Marburg) to *The Political Fabric of NATO in Afghanistan*.

*Uniforms, Symbols and a Multinational Mission* (by James Thomas Snyder, NATO Science, Brussels), and from *Ancient linen corselets* (three papers by Eero Jarva, Oulu, by Margarita Gleba, Copenhagen, and by Carmen Alfaro Giner, Valencia) to *The use of the Sewing machine in the American Civil War* (by Amy Isaacs, Baltimore). For the full programme and abstracts as well as podcast of the first day of the conference (Early Historical Contexts), go to <http://ctr.hum.ku.dk>. The papers will be published by the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen.