

Recent Publications

Dressing the Past, edited by Margarita Gleba, Cherine Munkholt and Marie-Louise Nosch, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2008 (in English) ISBN 978-1842172698 Minoan ladies, Scythian warriors, Roman and Sarmatian merchants, prehistoric weavers, gold sheet figures, Vikings, Medieval saints and sinners, Renaissance noblemen, Danish peasants, dressmakers and Hollywood stars appear in the pages of this anthology. This is not necessarily how they dressed in the past, but how the authors of this book think they dressed in the past, and why they think so. The seventeen contributors come from a variety of disciplines: archaeologists, historians, curators with ethnological and anthropological backgrounds, designers, a weaver, a conservator and a scholar of fashion in cinema, are all specialists interested in ancient or historical dress who wish to share their knowledge and expertise with students, hobby enthusiasts and the general reader. The anthology is also recommended for use in teaching students at design schools. Can be ordered from www.oxbowbooks.com Price GB £25.00

Textiel in Context. Een analyse van archeologische textielvondsten uit de 16e eeuw, by Hanna Zimmerman, Groningen: Stichting Monument en Materiaal, 2007 (in Dutch) ISBN: 9789077957080 In the town of Groningen ca. 2800 fragments of textiles were excavated from a 16th century moat. Hanna Zimmerman discusses these finds in her dissertation "Textiel in Context". Never in the Netherlands have so many textile finds from this period come to light. Containing many photographs, drawings, patterns, reconstructions and contemporary pictures, the book gives a clear insight into the production, the producers, the use and re-use of textiles, the tailors and seamstresses, as well as the procedures of excavating, cleaning, conservation, analysis and documentation of archeological textiles. The main part of the book contains the descriptions of the finds, which are divided in weaves, tablet-woven bands, sewing techniques used, decorations, clothes and fashion as far as could be reconstructed from the remaining scraps, knitting and felt. The more complete children's clothes are particularly informative. The knitting also contained new information about the construction of stockings. In the later chapters, the finds are put into a broader historical and social-economic context. The book can be ordered from www.stichtingmenm.nl Price € 29.95

Reissue of Michael Ryder's *Sheep and Man*, London, Duckworth, 2007 (in English) ISBN 13 978 071 563 6473

The seminal volume *Sheep and Man* by Michael Ryder has been reprinted after 25 years. When the 850-page book was published by Duckworth in 1983, it received 30 excellent reviews but has been out of print for some time. It covers the history of human association with sheep world wide over 12,000 years, exploring the development of different fleece types for varied textile use. All sources of evidence were used – archaeology, ethnography, history, geography, agriculture and textiles. Michael Ryder thinks that the book's reissue by popular demand is an appropriate way to mark his 80th birthday.

Osebergfunnet. Bind IV Tekstilene, edited by Arne Emil Christensen and Margareta Nockert Oslo: Kulturhistorisk Museum, 2006 (in Norwegian and Swedish) ISBN 978-8280840240

The volume contains the long-anticipated presentation of the fabulous textile remains found in the Oseberg boat burial, excavated in 1904. This Norwegian Viking Age grave, dated to AD 834, contained some of the most extraordinary organic material ever excavated. A series of five publications was planned, and volumes I, II, III, and V appeared from 1917 to 1928. Unfortunately, the fourth volume, in which the textiles were to be presented, was constantly delayed. Therefore the text is a patchwork of contributions from researchers who have worked with the Oseberg textiles over many decades. A large part of the book, written by Bjørn Hougen in the 1930s, is dedicated to the description of the famous tapestry weaves (Chapter 1). The same author also produced a very interesting chapter on the furnishing textiles (Chapter 3). The presentation of the utilitarian and costume textiles is by Anne Stine Ingstad (Chapter 5), with the technical analyses by Anna M. Rosenqvist (Chapter 4). Margareta Nockert contributed analyses of the tablet weaves and the various silk textiles (Chapters 2, 6, and 7). These chapters make a valuable contribution to Viking Age textile history. For non-Scandinavian readers, there is an English summary with catalog descriptions available at the end of the text.