

Cherine Munkholt

Website: Meet Danish Prehistory (Møder med Danmarks oldtid) <http://oldtiden.natmus.dk/>

In collaboration with the Centre for Textile Research, the National Museum of Denmark recently launched a website on prehistoric artefacts in their collection that is of interest to textile researchers. The virtual exhibition displays artefacts from six periods: the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Viking Age. They contain text descriptions, images, and a few videos pertaining to the artefacts, their provenance and their context.

The textual descriptions are aimed at a general and specialist audience. The interactive 3D digital images are of great relevance for the researcher. A rotational device renders the objects in 3D and a zooming function enable the objects such as the dress of the Huldremose woman, or the Egtved girl to be examined in minute detail. Of special interest to textile scholars are the images and accompanying texts to Bronze Age finds such as the costumes of the family from Borum Eshøj, the woman from

Skrydstrup, the Egtved girl, the man from Muldbjerg and the Trindhøj man; the clothes of the Huldremose woman and the rich collection of jewellery of the Årslev woman, as well as those of the woman from Himlingøje; and the richly decorated Viking Age costume of the Mammen man.

At the time of writing (28.05.09), the English language site was not yet complete. This is a pity as the Danish version written by Ulla Mannering and Margarita Gleba also includes a comprehensive thematic section on how people dressed in prehistoric times (See horizontal menu *Livet i Oldtiden*). It contains seven main sections: the preservation of textiles; costume design; technology and production which includes subsections on: visual expression, fibre, spinning, weaving, looms, sprang technique, tablet weaving, and finishing; Stone Age costume which includes subsection on skins worn by stone age hunters and textile technology; Bronze Age costume which includes subsections on an introduction to female and male costumes, accessories, in depth analysis of female and male costume, shoes and footwear, textile technology, and hairstyles; an introduction to Early Iron Age costume including subsections on the lack of gender differentiation in costume, Roman inspiration, costumes of textile fabric, costumes of animal skin, shoes,

textile technology, colour and patterning, hairstyles, and jewellery; and finally a section on the Late Iron Age and Viking Age with subsections on gender differentiation of costume, the development of costume, animal skin and furs, shoes, textile technology, colours patterning and decoration.

Missing from the English section, but included in the Danish version are also a plan of where the artefacts are located in the museum (oversigtskort), a read aloud version for the visually handicapped (oplæsning), megadata on the website such as information on copyright, contributors including editors and photographers, funding bodies, software used (om sitet), and links. The English version will soon be completed. The entire website would also be richer and more valuable to both students and researchers if references for further reading could have been provided. Finally, for those interested in digitizing artefacts, a description of the project's history, do's and don'ts in the actual process of building the website, and information on the community of users would be a welcome addition. This website provides an international audience not only with greater insight into the prehistory of Denmark but also a fantastically detailed glimpse into the rich prehistoric textile collection of the National Museum of Denmark.