



Ulla Mannering

12th biannual Early Textiles Study Group meeting

5-6 December 2008, London, UK

In December 2008, the 12th biannual Early Textiles Study Group conference was held in London. The theme of the conference was Textiles in Art: from the Bronze Age to the Renaissance, and the organisers, Hero Granger-Taylor, Rosalind Janssen and Lisa Monnas had invited speakers covering a wide time span and geographical area. The first day was spent at the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, which provided a wonderful, relaxed and stimulating atmosphere for the conference. The papers presented the first day focused on textile designs and silk finds with interesting lectures by Sophie Desrosiers (Paris, France) on the textiles represented in the Dame à la Licorne tapestry, Paola Frattaroli (Verona, Italy) on Venetian decorative textiles, Zhao Feng (Hangzhou, China) on Chinese silks, Stephanie

Bunn (St. Andrew, UK) on felt, Zvezdana Dode (Stavropol, Russia) on silk from Caucasian Ulus of the Golden Horde and Elena Phipps (New York, USA) on Andean textiles.

The second day took the participants to the Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, where the conference continued with lectures on textile representations in early art from Mesopotamia (Hero Granger-Taylor, London), Greece (Marie-Louise Nosch, Copenhagen), Egypt (Lauren McGhee, Oxford), Scandinavia (Ulla Mannering, Copenhagen) and India (Rosemary Crill, London) from prehistory until the 5th century AD. In the afternoon, the audience were taken back to textiles from more recent periods like 14th century Korea (Sim Yeon-ok, Seoul) or the European Renaissance (Lisa Monnas, London, Jane



Bridgeman, London, Rembrandt Duits, London and Maria Hayward, Southampton).

Looking at textiles in art was an inspiring topic and a refreshing perspective that made researchers from different parts of the world meet and exchange information and research results. The conference fully demonstrated that textiles contain an international visual language.

The programme was additionally enriched by the visits and guided tours to various museums.

On the last day, at the business meeting of the organis-

ing committee, it was decided that the next meeting will be held in London in 2010, organised by Helen Persson from the Victoria and Albert Museum. For many years, the Early Textiles Study Group meetings have been organised by John Peter Wild, Manchester. The organizers hope that by bringing the conference to London, a wider audience will participate in future meetings. The conference papers will not be published together, but most speakers promised to publish their contributions in various journals.