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# KOSMOS 2010

21-26 April 2010, Centre for Textile  
Research, University of Copenhagen,  
Denmark

The themes of the 13th Aegean conference were jewellery, adornment and textiles, including aesthetics, body adornment, colours, dyes and pigments, textile production, luxury and exotics, gender and femininity/masculinity, as well as their social, religious, ideological, economic, technological, administrative and philological connections in the Aegean Bronze Age. When the conference was due to open on the 21st April, less than 10 of the 135 registered international participants had been able to reach Copenhagen due to the Icelandic volcanic ash affecting air traffic. However the meeting between the Greek and Nordic pantheons created a synergy effect. Instead of chaos and cancellation, a new type of international conference was born.

The conference organisers, Marie-Louise Nosch (CTR, Denmark) and Robert Laffineur (University of Liège, Belgium) together with conference coordinator Ingeborg Philipsen PhD (CTR, Denmark) received help from ITMEDIA (University of Copenhagen) and stranded participants of the online forum *Aegean-Net* to run a highly successful online conference. With the formal permission of the authors, their conference papers were read aloud by a team of volunteers comprising the few visiting participants and CTR staff and student helpers. Quite a few participants sent a recorded narration of their papers. In all other cases, the team of indefatigable readers had to read through and rehearse in advance before reading the papers aloud. Here an important factor was the length of the papers, which had to be no more than 20 minutes each when read out aloud. Those papers that exceeded this had to be shortened. Throughout the web presentations, the cameras alternated between the readers and the power point presentations sent by the authors.

To ensure maximum participation worldwide, the time of the online conference was shifted from morning to afternoon and evening (Copenhagen

time) on the first day. An audience from 28 countries worldwide actively participated through the online conference chat room. The stranded authors too were able to discuss their papers, answer questions and even provide links to other material in response to questions.

Over 1700 visitors from around the world, both researchers and students, followed the live stream and used the online chat possibilities to listen and participate in the live discussions over the 4 days. Although most participants would surely have missed the physical proximity of their colleagues, the virtual conference enabled a great many who may not have been able to afford the time or financial expense to travel to Copenhagen to participate. Only time will tell how many students it inspired to research into the fields covered by KOSMOS. The proceedings of the conference will be published in *Aegaeum. Annales d'archéologie égéenne de l'Université de Liège*. For further information and a day by day account of the process of turning a planned traditional conference in one city into an unanticipated worldwide online event please see:

[www.ctr.hum.ku.dk/conference\\_and\\_seminars](http://www.ctr.hum.ku.dk/conference_and_seminars)