



2011 has seen much activity in the field of archaeological textiles, including many conferences and workshops, numerous valuable publications and exciting new discoveries. Issue 53 includes two articles that demonstrate how textiles may inform our understanding of other technologies in the past, in particular pottery making technology in the Neolithic Europe and steel forging in the Islamic Central Asia. The issue also includes a couple of new discoveries – the first detailed analysis in English of the important textile finds from the Viking-Age site of Gnezdovo in Russia and the publication of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century silk find from Finland. And finally, an article about textile tools from southern Italy.

We want to remind the readers that at the Annual General Meeting of Friends of ATN held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 in Esslingen, Germany, it was decided that from 2012 the newsletter will change its name to **Archaeological Textiles Review** so Issue 53 is the last Archaeological Textiles Newsletter. We hope it will be an important new step in the evolution of the journal and raise its profile.

It was also decided that from 2012 the review will only be published **once a year**, so please remember that there will be no issue in June and the next issue 54 will come out in November 2012 which however will be in a much larger format, i.e. the usual two issues will be combined into one. We will focus more on the scientific articles, while most of the newsletter items (calendar, reviews, bibliographies, new publications and queries) will be posted on a

rolling basis on the Friends of ATN website, which should ensure an even faster dissemination. We regret having to change to one issue per year, which will certainly disappoint many subscribers/members, but the constantly increasing workload has made the publication of two issues per year no longer feasible. The change should also keep the constantly rising costs down.

In the beginning of 2012 the first two issues published in Copenhagen, Issues 46 and 47 from 2008, will be accessible in a full colour pdf format for free on the ATN homepage. Back issues will continue to be published online with a three year delay. Printed back issues will still be available via the website.

Please make sure to renew your membership at the beginning of 2012. The ATN/ATR is edited and produced by volunteers, all subscription fees go towards the essential costs of printing and distribution. We would also like to encourage the contributors to send their articles throughout the year to spread the editing workload. The peer review system which is necessary for the high standard of ATN requires more time in the editorial process. The absolute deadline for contributions for 2012 will be the **1<sup>st</sup> of September 2012**. We very much look forward to your contributions as ultimately the aim of the ATR is to disseminate new research in this fascinating field.

The editors