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The Margrethe Hald archive: Digitisation and communication

In 2006, the Centre for Textile Research (CTR) at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark acquired the archive of the renowned Danish textile scholar, Margrethe Hald. Thanks to a grant from Agnes Geijer's Foundation, the Margrethe Hald Archive was digitalised from 1 January to 30 June 2019, and her work made accessible to everyone who is interested in it. A thorough bibliography has been compiled and published together with articles, books, slides and photos at the CTR homepage.

Margrethe Hald (1897-1982) was a Danish weaver and textile scholar who worked as a curator at the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen between 1947 and 1967. As a young girl, Margrethe Hald had learned weaving during her stays at Vrigsted Højskole and Askov Højskole in Jutland. During her studies at Tegne- og Kunstindustriskolen for Kvinder, Margrethe Hald was encouraged by her teacher, Elna Mygdal, a researcher of popular embroidery, to study the textiles at the National Museum of Denmark. Her investigations and analyses formed the basis of her work *Tablet Weaving in Danish Antiquities* (1930). Margrethe Hald published numerous books on textile techniques besides studying textiles and garments all over the world.

Margrethe Hald received her doctorate in 1950 for her thesis *Olddanske Tekstiler*, a body of work that was groundbreaking for its technical analyses and which is still considered to be fundamental in international textile research. *Olddanske Tekstiler* was translated into English in 1980 and published under the title *Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials*. Margrethe Hald had particular skills in communicating cultural history to a wide audience and she was a diligent writer, even in the non-academic world.

Margrethe Hald is, first and foremost, renowned for her work on textiles in Antiquity, but thanks to her extraordinary technical understanding of weaving and her rich cultural and historic knowledge, she also managed to put the historic textiles of the nordic countries and the contemporary textiles of the Middle East and South America into context.

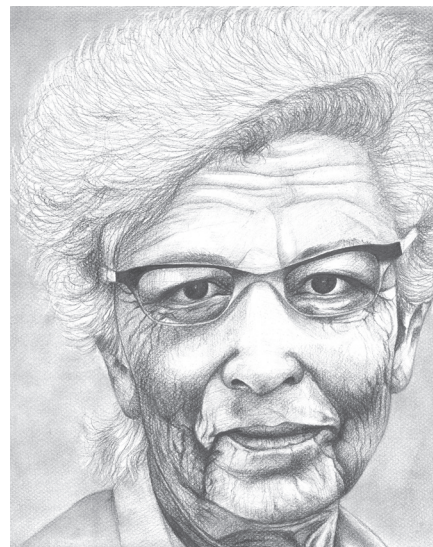
From her many study trips in Denmark and around the world, for example, to Syria and Peru, Margrethe Hald brought back notes, photos and objects for further examination at the National Museum of Denmark, some of which are now in the archive at CTR.

Since the opening of CTR in 2005, researchers have continued to build on Margrethe Hald's work by means of contemporary methodology, and her doctoral thesis *Olddanske Tekstiler* continues to represent a cornerstone for the research carried out here.

Everyone at CTR and in the broader textile research community is now thankful to Agnes Geijer's Foundation which has given CTR the possibility of making Margrethe Hald's groundbreaking work accessible to all those who are interested in it. The entire bibliography is now online, and with links to most of the articles - see: <https://ctr.hum.ku.dk/.../the-margrethe-hald-archive-digital.../>.

Internet source:

Dansk Kvindebiografisk Leksikon, <http://www.kvinfo.dk/side/597/bio/44/origin/170/> (accessed: 31.10.2019)



Drawing by Farzana Khosrawi, CTR