



## Editorial

The year 2017 has brought many great successes for archaeological textile research including several conferences and workshops, interesting results from a variety of research projects, and many new publications, about which you will find information in this new issue of the *Archaeological Textiles Review*.

For the ATR team, 2017 has also been a great year and we are happy to announce that issue numbers 1 to 58 are now available as free, downloadable PDFs at our web page <http://www.atnfriends.com/>. User statistics for the web page show that all the issues are downloaded several thousand times each month, which demonstrates that the articles written for ATR reach interested readers all over the world. The ATN/ATR online store has moved to the University of Copenhagen web shop, where you may subscribe and buy back issues via print-on-demand. These changes will benefit both subscribers and editors, who will now be able to focus on the scientific content of the journal. We have also made changes to the editorial board. At NESAT in Liberec this year, Joanne Cutler stepped down with our grateful thanks for all her sterling work and Jane Malcolm-Davies was welcomed to the team.

This issue covers a wide range of topics and time periods. Catherine Breniquet, Marie Bèche-Wittmann, Christine Bouilloc and Camille Gaumat's article "The Gallo-Roman Textile Collection from Les-Martres-de-Veyre, France" demonstrates how an investigation of old finds from excavations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century can bring to light examples of textiles in a remarkable state of preservation. The most famous pieces are a tunic, a 'belt', a pair of stockings, and leather shoes, but there are also other items, such as a shawl and fragments of other garments. These exceptional finds are a small part of a larger collection that has been poorly published in the past.

The importance of new fibre analyses of small organic remains is demonstrated in "First Identification of Club Moss Use in Roman Britain" by Margarita Gleba, Elizabeth M. Foulds, Al Teasdale and Hannah Russ. This discovery widens the repertoire of indigenous plant species used for textiles in Roman Britain and emphasises the importance of fibre identification.

In the articles "Reconstructing the Tunic from Lendbreen in Norway" by Marianne Vedeler and Lena Hammerlund and "Making a Reconstruction of the Egtved Clothing" by Ida Demant the value of making high-quality reconstructions based on scientific analyses is clearly demonstrated. They each show how experimental archaeology contributes to our understanding of craft as well as clothing design in different ways.

The interpretation of archaeological objects can often be difficult, as highlighted in Laura Mazow's article "A Weaving Sword at Miletus? Combat or Weaving Sword and the Complexities of Gender Construction". Laura convincingly argues that metal objects interpreted as swords may have been weaving beaters instead.

Another interesting article, taking a different perspective on textiles from ATR's usual approach, is "The Red-blue Conundrum: an Archaeo-linguistic Approach to Red Dyes and Blue Flowers in Prehistory" by Mikkel Nørtoft. Here, the linguistic origins of the English plant name madder (*Rubia tinctorum*) in Proto-Indo-European are explored, clearly demonstrating the value of interdisciplinarity in textile research.

In this issue, we also provide some preliminary results from "The Central Timna Valley Project" headed by Erez Ben-Yosef and his collaborators Vanessa Workman, Orit Shamir, Naama Sukenik and Margarita Gleba. This project explores the ancient exploitation of copper ore at Timna which was used for the production of ingots traded throughout the southern Levant and possibly the greater Mediterranean region. A few hundred individual textile, cordage and rope fragments have been uncovered in the strata of several newly excavated sites. In light of these discoveries, the team launched multiple investigations into many aspects of production and consumption of textile goods using an interdisciplinary approach. They combine archaeological and archaeometric methods with methodologies applied in historiographical and ethnographic research.

The editorial board has decided to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> issue of ATR – our diamond edition – with a journal devoted to the study of archaeological and historical knitted items, which will be published during 2018. Issue 60 will primarily include articles on evidence for knitting in Early Modern Europe. We hope our readers will appreciate the importance of this long overdue initiative and embrace the need for a scientific approach to recording knitted items. We aim for it to have real scholarly impact and help upgrade this overlooked textile research topic.

As always, we welcome new contributions to forthcoming issues and encourage you to send them to us soon as they are ready, so that we may spread the editing work over the year. The deadline for contributions is **1 May** each year. Please also remember to send you us news of projects, PhDs, publications, and conferences, so that we can continue to be a hub for the archaeological textile community.

*The Editors*