



## Editorial

2015 has been a great year for archaeological textiles, with many interesting conferences, new publications and exciting new research projects, and thus also for the *Archaeological Textiles Review*. At ATR's Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen in May, we bid Carol Christiansen farewell from the editorial board and welcomed Joanne Cutler (University of Cambridge) to the fold. We are in the final stages of digitising back issues of ATN/ATR and by the New Year, issues 1-45 will be available as print-on-demand hard copies that can be purchased via the University of Copenhagen webshop, while issues 46-56 will be available free of charge as PDFs on the ATN/ATR homepage <http://www.atnfriends.com/>.

The wider archaeological textile community has also seen some exciting changes in the past year: The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research has reached its final year of project funding, but will, as of 2016 continue as a research centre at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen. Eva Andersson Strand has been appointed Associate Professor for Textile Archaeology at the Saxo Institute, and former editor Susanna Harris has been appointed Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. In sadder news, the renowned textile expert Michael Ryder died at the beginning of the year, leaving an enormous legacy to the textile community.

It is wonderful to see how textile studies has become more visible in recent decades in mainstream archaeology and historical studies, which has manifested itself in increasingly interdisciplinary publications, many of which can be found in our recent publications pages below. We are particularly pleased to be able to announce a number of new textile projects this year: Romina Laurito's *Textile Technology in Central Tyrrhenian Italy from Late Prehistory to the Etruscan Period*, Sue Harrington and Susan Möller-Wiering's recent work on early Anglo-Saxon textiles from Lakenheath in Suffolk, England, Ellen Harlizius-Klück's *Textile MATRIX* exhibition in Munich and two PhD projects: Gabriela Ruß-Popa's ongoing comparison of textile technology in the Dürrenberg salt mines in Austria and Chehrābād in Iran, and Lise Ræder Knudsen's completed study of Iron Age tablet weaving from Denmark.

We are delighted to see the diverse directions in which textile studies continue to develop. Indeed, the current volume includes contributions that cover a huge geographical and chronological span, from the Chalcolithic period in the Levant (Shamir) to the 17<sup>th</sup>

and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Czech Republic (Bravermanová and Březinová) and Siberia (Glushkova, Tataurov and Tikhonov). The materials presented also display a great diversity: there are Bronze Age moss fibre garments from Scotland (Harris and Gleba), silk flowers from Polish graves (Grupa) and patterned silk weaves from Denmark (Skals). New insights into a range of specific textile techniques are also a theme in this volume, such as tablet weaving (Merthen), experiments in plain gauze (Mokdad) and finger-loop braiding in Hallstatt (Grömer, Kania and Boutrup). But it is not just textile manufacturing methods that are discussed in this volume: other technologies in which textiles may have played an instrumental role also get a mention in Émeline Retournard's discussion of metal ore processing in the French Alps. Ongoing work in the field of archaeological finds processing has produced some exciting new developments, also presented in this volume: first, a system for the digital documentation of organic materials (Nowak-Böck and Voß), the software for which has been made freely available by the authors for all of us to use. Second, Natalie Susmann introduces us to a new system for the identification and classification of Mediterranean murex dye production sites. As always, we are very grateful to our many peer reviewers in the textile community who are instrumental in helping us to publish such high-quality research papers.

The next Annual General Meeting of the *Archaeological Textiles Review* will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Rome in conjunction with the *Contextualising Textile Production in Italy in the 1st millennium BCE* conference taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia and the Danish Academy in Rome and organised by Romina Laurito and Margarita Gleba.

We thank you for your continued support and remind you to renew your subscription as soon as possible in the New Year. We welcome contributions to the next issue (*ATR* 58) and would encourage you to send them to us as soon as they are ready, so that we can spread the editing workload evenly over the coming year. The next deadline for contributions is **1<sup>st</sup> June 2016**. Please also remember to send us any news of new projects, publications and conferences, so that we can continue to act as a hub for our growing archaeological textiles community.

The Editors