

**MONO
GRAPHS**^{OF}
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF FINLAND



Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research of North and Central European Archaeological Textiles

The Proceedings of the North European
Symposium for Archeological Textiles
(23rd–26th August 2021 in Oulu)

Sanna Lipkin, Erika Ruhl, Krista Wright (editors)



Published by the Archaeological Society of Finland www.sarks.fi

Layout: Marika Kuusisto and Sanna Lipkin

Cover image: Sanna Lipkin

Section page images: Monika Kaczmarek, Mervi Pasanen, Marie Wallenberg, Sanna Lipkin, Folk Costume of a Peasant from Österbotten, Nationalmuseum Sweden NMH THC 2571, Sanna Lipkin, Krista Wright

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ISBN 978-952-69942-1-5 (softcover)

ISBN 978-952-69942-2-2 (PDF)

Monographs of the Archaeological Society of Finland ISSN-L 1799-8611

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MONOGRAPHS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FINLAND 12



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NESAT

Nordeuropäisches Symposium für archäologische Textilien

North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles

Preface

The North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles (NESAT) is an international triannual conference that gathers researchers of historical textile production. The presenters of the conference are leading experts in the fields of archaeology, art history, ethnography, conservation, textile design, and textile technology. This book presents chapters based on twenty-eight papers or posters presented at the fourteenth NESAT meeting that was hosted by the University of Oulu, Finland, from August 23rd to 26th, 2021.

The conference organization was a collaborative effort by Sanna Lipkin and Saara Tuovinen (University of Oulu) as well as Krista Wright (Aalto University), Jenni Suomela (University of Helsinki) and Erika Ruhl (University at Buffalo). The conference was initially scheduled for May 2020, but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite early hopes that rescheduling would make an in-person meeting possible, the planning committee ultimately decided to host the conference virtually. Overall, about 150 participants attended virtually across three continents and at least 24 countries.

Organizing a conference online had its challenges, as NESAT traditionally is not only an opportunity to present the latest research but also to meet collaborators and friends. The foremost aim of the organizing team was to have a conference that was both accessible and inclusive. For this reason, we decided to collect all paper presentations as ca. 15 minute videos that were available for viewing before and after the conference. The poster presenters were given the option to present their research either as short 5 minute videos or as a selection of slides including images and text that were published both on Instagram and Facebook. The conference itself was reserved for discussion after each participant briefly presented their main research results. Whereas there were altogether 45 papers, eight poster videos and eight posters presented in social media, the program was packed. Nevertheless, it was rewarding to learn from new research conducted around the Northern and Central European archaeological textiles (see more on the program in Ruhl and Lipkin 2022).

This book is divided in seven sections: Early textile production, Reconstruction projects, Weaving reconstructions, Late medieval fabrics, Early modern seafaring textiles, Burial and religious clothing, and Methods. While research on prehistoric textiles remains at the center of North and Central European research, most of the research presented in this book concentrates on the medieval and post-medieval periods. In addition, reconstructing past textiles and technologies remains to be important field of study.

July 2023

Sanna, Erika and Krista

Reference

Ruhl, E. and Lipkin, S. 2022. North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles 23 to 26 August 2021, University of Oulu, Finland and online. *Archaeological textiles review*: 162–163. <http://atnfriends.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ATR-63-complete.pdf>. Accessed 21.6.2023.