

Programme Forum 2012

We are happy to have a variety of very interesting and fascinating topics for the Forum this year, ranging from pattern weaving to decorated underwear from Late Antiquity!

Monday, September 2 - arrival day

Welcome and official opening of the Forum
Possibility to set up tools etc. for demonstration

Tuesday, September 3

10:00 - Antoinette Merete Olsen: Pattern-weaving on the warp-weighted loom
Twill pattern weaving on the warp-weighted loom and the necessary setup for this.
14:00 - demonstration: 3 different ways to make a warp with starting border, how to weave (how to make the uddo, how to use the weaving sword and the fork and more) and how to put on the weights for a warp-weighted loom

Wednesday, September 4

10:00 - Beatrix Nutz: Book of Secrets - 15th century fingerloop braiding
Based on the 15th century textile finds from Lengberg Castle, East-Tyrol and an English manual from the same period this presentation will explore the technique of fingerloop braiding. The laces achieved by this technique were often adorned with metal lace chapes at each end in order to use them for fastening anything from clothes to purses. As organic matter decays, these lace chapes are often the only things that survived the centuries and are found frequently during archaeological excavations. Yet fingerloop braided laces were not only used together with lace chapes for fastening but also sewn onto other fabrics as decorative elements. In these cases no metal lace chapes remain to give testimony to their former existence. Several textiles decorated in this manner have been found at Lengberg and a closer look at other surviving medieval garments also reveal these laces.
14:00 - Loopbraiding laces as used in Lengberg and other variations.

Thursday, September 5

10:00 - Dr. Petra Linscheid: Late Antique Embroideries: Merely Imitation ?
Among the large number of textiles found in graves of Late Antique and Early Byzantine Egypt, there is just a small proportion of garments and furnishing textiles decorated with embroidery. The lay-out of the embroidered decorations as well as the pattern itself reflect decorations manufactured in other techniques like tapestry or compound weaves. The paper wants to discuss the possible technical advantages or disadvantages of embroidery confronted with other contemporaneous textile techniques. Special reference will be made to a complete tunic with embroidered decoration in the collection of the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz and a pair of embroidered bands in the Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe.
14:00 - Embroidering: Filling stitches in the embroidery on tunic RGZM O.22708

Friday, September 6

10:00 - Anne-Sophie Lüttge: Painting and dyeing - Resist-dyed textiles from Late Antique Egypt
Resist-dyeing is a specific method of applying colours to fabric: A substance that is impervious to the dye and blocks it from the fabric is painted on certain areas of the fabric, while other parts are free to take up the dye colour. From late Antique Egypt about 40 textiles of this kind survived. Their images include pagan, christian and secular themes - and they provide a repertoire that is different from that preserved in the Late Antique monumental

painting. The original purpose of the textiles is obviously very diverse: hitherto hangings, shawls and tunics were identified. Despite the beauty of resist-dyed textiles, relatively little attention has been paid to them so far. The presentation - based on a PhD thesis in progress - wants to discuss the informative value of the textiles based on their iconography and intended purpose as well as their making.

14:00 - Resist dyeing - preliminary tests of resist pastes/substances for an experimental project (as demonstration)

Saturday, September 7

10:00 - Julia Krug-Ochmann, Uni Bonn: Romans, intimately. Roman Empire and Late Antiquity "tanga briefs" from London

Part of the material basis of a dissertation about trousers in Antiquity and Late Antiquity is formed by the subligaria ("underpants") made of linen and leather. The pieces in the focus of the Textile Forum paper are excellently preserved - two whole subligaria as well as several, nonpublished, fragments. The pieces were found in cesspits in London. All pieces were made of very fine leather. Many of the subligaria were decorated with geometrical patterns cut out of the front. Due to the delicate material, corners and bands for closing the underpants are not preserved. Besides presenting these exciting finds, thoughts about the possible reconstruction of these closures are thus a part of the Forum presentation.

14:00 - Subligaria - closures and decoration

last evening get-together

Sunday, September 8

departure day

possibility for a scenic walk in the area