

Forum Programme

Please note that there still may be a few changes made to the programme. We will keep you updated!

Monday, November 2 - arrival day

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

Tuesday, November 3

10:00 - Ruth Gilbert: On the terminology of non-woven textile structures and techniques, and why it matters.

There is a great deal of confusing terminology in use with regard to looping, netting, knitting and other non-woven structures. The most fundamental issue is the separation of descriptions of technique from descriptions of structure, but there are other considerations. Ideally we should be using one word, and one only, for each distinct technique; structures need to be described, not referred to by mysterious place names. I will review the available terminologies for both structures (Irene Emery, Peter Collingwood, Egon Hansen and others) and techniques (Buhler, Seiler- Baldinger, Amsden). Unfortunately I am only able to propose exact terminology in English: it would be useful if native speakers of other languages would like to contribute suggestions.

11:00 - Petra Linscheid: Early knitting? Knitting-like structures from Roman and Early Byzantine Sites

Real knitting is presumed to make its appearance in Europe and in the Near East not earlier than the Middle Ages (11th century). Recently though, some knitted structures from Roman and Early Byzantine sites have been published (Didymoi, Maximianon, Pompeii, Krokodilopolis), which call this theory into question.

The paper wants to introduce this finds and raise the discussion, if they can be classified as ?real knitting? or not.

The paper is followed by a workshop to try out and discuss these techniques.

Please bring, if possible: knitting dolly, yarn to use with it

15:00 - Heather Hopkins: Lightning talk presentations of unpublished findings from Pompeii, and a round-table discussion of these subjects.

Talk 1: The supply of water to the dyeing workshops of Pompeii.

Robustly reconstructing the dyeing industry through surveying remains and experimental archaeology means it is now possible to explore the influence of the water supply on industrial output. This includes the source, content, quantity required, storage and disposal. This is the first study that examines the supply of water to Pompeii in the context of a manufacturing industry, specifically dyeing.

Talk 2: Who were the dyers? Populating the dyeing workshops of Pompeii through ergonomic study and survey of apparatus.

Surveying the remains of dyeing apparatus, reconstructing the operating methods through experimental archaeology and assessing the population's skeletal remains meant it was possible to undertake ergonomic assessments. This means it is now possible to populate the dye works. Understanding the working environment gave the number of dyers, their heights and ages, giving a foundation for future exploration of their origins while placing the dyers and dyeing industry within a thriving city.

Wednesday, November 4

10:00 - Angelika Rudelics: Extracting Data from Archaeological Textiles

Archaeological Textiles hold the key information upon which we base our theories when trying to reconstruct textile history. But how to open that window to the past? How to extract the data hidden in the threads preserved by time? This lecture will give a brief insight into the process of archaeological textile analysis, its methods, problems and wonders by means of ongoing research in the Natural History Museum of Vienna. The audience will join the archaeological find on a photographic journey from being lifted out of the ground through the stages of pre-analysis, analysis and post-processing of data and thus get a glimpse behind the scenes into the complex world of textile research and part of its many, fascinating facets.

14:00 - Micky V. Schoelzke & Ruth MacGregor: A Hands-On Session with Silk

A hands-on session on working with silk -- specifically, working from cocoons. This would include degumming, cocoon stretching (for making both silk wadding and spinnable preparations), reeling (for the best and shiniest thread), and spinning. The cocoons will be from the *Bombyx mori* moth (mulberry silk), and they provide a lovely introduction to the material. Other cocoons will be on hand to show the variety of silk types and sources.

Thursday, November 5

10:00 - Jane Malcolm-Davies: Knitted caps and knitting as a key innovation of the Early Modern era

This paper and round-table discussion explores Dr Jane Malcolm-Davies's forthcoming MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE fellowship project at the Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen. The study will re-explore the development of knitting as a key technological innovation of the early modern era. There are more than 100 knitted caps from the period in museum collections worldwide - an astonishing number given the paucity of extant garments from the period. Despite their diverse locations, they have remarkable similarities in material and manufacture which illustrate trade in knitted caps as consumer goods in the emerging early modern European marketplace. The study will undertake rigorous scientific study (including radiocarbon dating, fibre and dye identification) and make the results accessible via an online database. A round-table discussion invites collaboration, ideas,

and techniques for data collection and recording to ensure end users find the data accessible and illuminating.

Please bring, if possible: Knitting needles and yarn

14:00 - Beatrix Nutz and Rachel Case: Reconstruction project of extant garments from Lengberg Castle, focusing on the non-woven parts

This talk aims to present the results of the cooperative efforts to reconstruct the extant garments from Lengberg Castle, focusing on the non-woven elements of the undergarments. These non-woven elements include sprang, needle lace and loop braided laces, all of which were found in some combination. There will be a discussion on the archaeological importance of these garments followed by a detailed presentation of the applied techniques and the overall making of the replicas. This will include the patterns and the type of seams and hems used in tailoring. The presentation will be followed by a sprang and loopbraiding workshop in which participants will be able to start making their own replica of one of the Lengberg breast-bags.

Please bring, if possible:

for needle lace: needle(s) and yarn (linen yarn), scissors, a scrap of fabric to attach the lace to

for fingerloop braiding: wool yarn (silk yarn if you feel ambitious)

for sprang: a sprang frame (or pieces of wood/dowels to cobble one together), yarn

19:00 - Linen dyeing tests - preparation

Last year's linen dyeing tests showed that there may be a slight influence of the pH on the dyeing results of mordant dye on linen, but overall dye results were very weak.

Following two other leads, we are planning to test different concentrations of mordant as well as the influence of a sulphur treatment of the linen this year.

Friday, November 6

10:00 - Aislinn Collins: Hat felting

14:00 - Anne Reichert - A lime bast textile find from Lake Constance in a singular technique

Saturday, November 7

10:00 - Sabine Ringenberg - Detection of Mordanting Substances in Historical Textiles

Mordants are crucial for the outcome of most dyeing procedures, but they have been neglected in research for a long time. Experiment has shown that a 'yellow pigment' not necessarily results in yellow colour on textiles, but, depending on the mordant used can vary from green or even brown to yellow. When the dyeing substance is identified in historical textiles, the mordant needs to be tested as well, to be sure about the appearance of the fibers, a fact, important for reconstruction.

There is some easy, traditional testing methods that will be introduced, and some contemporary development in the subject. This lecture will give an overview on these.

14:00 - experiment wrap-up

last evening get-together

Sunday, November 8

departure day

possibility for a scenic walk in the area

It will be possible for full participants to stay an extra night if you wish to spend a little more time in the scenic region; if you would like this, please contact us. It will also be possible to arrive on Sunday; again, if you would like to do so, please contact us.