the experiments would cast some light on the problems that the early metalwork-
ers would have encountered. The type of kiln used was of a simple bowl form which was preloaded with fuel and ore. The ore was formed into distinct balls containing ore, sawdust and charcoal, the aim being to produce an increase in the likelihood of at least localised reducing conditions and ensure that any result-
ing melting would be retained within distinct and easily found locations. Aside from the main bowl furnaces a pit-
hearth and a shaft furnace (using a tree trunk to form the shaft) were also tested.

These experiments formed a valuable part of the overall study in that they allowed the archaeologists to gain new insight into the mate-
rial remains and features with which they were working. This is particularly so with the fire setting experiments in that they became more aware of the distinct patterns which this technique leaves on the rock. In addition, the later mining of the fire set rock with antler picks and stone hammers highlighted the fact that these same patterns can be quickly lost through later activity.

The only possible criticism that can be levied at these experiments is the lack of time available and the lim-
ited numbers of direct link-
ages with the archaeology of the area. Both these points though are merely reflec-
tions of the limitations under which they took place and are neither a reflection on the ex-
perimentersthe results of the experiments themselves. Thus within the context of the survey and also public

The book publishes proceedings from the first Symposium on Hallstatt textiles.

Toon REURINK
(Netherlands)

A nice piece of red printed matter is lying on my desk, a new one which promises to tell much about the tex-
tiles from the Hallstatt finds, “Hallstatt Textiles. I hope it will give many new insights and will help to deepen my knowledge of archaeologi-
cal textiles. It brings the proceedings from the first Symposium on Hallstatt tex-
tiles hosted by the Austrian village of Hallstatt in 2004. Divided into three sections, the detailed and well-illu-
trated seventeen papers focus on material recovered from sites in Hallstatt itself, discuss the results of experimen-
tal archaeology and con-
sider textile evidence from
eighbouring Iron Age and La Tène sites in, for example, Italy, Slovakia and Moravia.

The papers are all presented in both English and German and are followed by colour photographs of some of these remarkable and complex pieces of cloth. At first sight, the publication seems well-
groomed and has – thankfully – many good pictures. Exactly because this publication holds many independent reports, it invites being read at random, I personally find that very comfortable. But I think this treasure of information would be made more accessible to a broader public by editing it to a

Can I, as textile producer, start working with the information from this publication and for example make repli-
cas of the fabrics mentioned? Yes, that would be possible, although you need to be a trained weaver or spinner. Somebody who works only every now and then with tex-
tiles will certainly need more explanation. What is missing in my eyes is information on the twist per centimetre of the yarns and the thickness of the fabrics. What also is a pity is that of the few garments, no patterns are given. It is nice that by reading all these ar-
ticles you get a better insight into the particular type of textiles in a certain period and especially in the abilities gained over time.

All in all a good publication – hopefully sooner or later there will a detailed consist-
ent book to published (in a single language).
While I am at it, I want to recommend to everybody who works with archaeological textiles to read the article by Lena Hamerlund, ‘Handicraft Knowledge Applied to Archaeological Textiles’ (published in The Nordic Textile Journal 2005). She gives a great addition to the descriptions of archaeological textiles and therefore makes them more available to reconstructors.

Hallstatt Textiles: Technical Analysis, Scientific Investigation and Experiment on Iron Age Textiles
edited by Peter Bichler, Karina Grömer, Regina Hofman-de Keijzer, Anton Kern and Hans Reschreiter;
Archaeopress BAR S1351, 2005; 189 p. 19 col pls, many b/w illustrations;

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17) The State of Research of La Tène Textiles from Slovakia and Moravia (Tereza Belanová)

Summary
Der Band legt die Ergebnisse des ersten Symposiums über Textilen der Hallstattzeit vor. Er gliedert sich in drei Abschnitte: Der eine widmet sich den Ausgrabungsfunden aus dem Bereich von Hallstatt selber, der andere diskutiert die Ergebnisse der experimentellen Archäologie und der letzte stellt eisenzeitliche Textilfunde aus anderen Regionen und Ländern vor.

Le livre recueille des contributions prononcées au premier symposium porté sur les textiles de Hallstatt. La publication est partagée en trois unités. La première unité regarde les matériaux textiles retrouvés sur des gisements de Hallstatt même, la partie suivante discute des résultats de l’archéologie expérimentale et la dernière présente des textiles découverts dans les pays voisins, datés du Premier Âge du Fer.

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Front cover: European members of liveARCH with national flags at the Scottish Crannog Centre.