

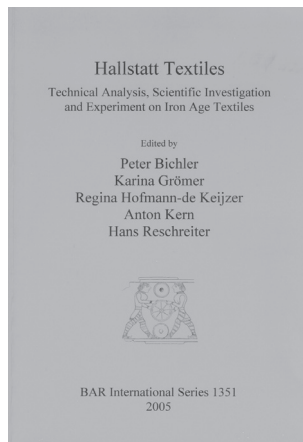
Hallstatt Textiles: Technical Analysis, Scientific Investigation and Experiment on Iron Age Textiles

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 textiles from the Hallstatt finds, “Hallstatt Textiles. I hope it will give many new insights and will help to deepen my knowledge of archaeological textiles. It brings the proceedings from the first Symposium on Hallstatt textiles hosted by the Austrian village of Hallstatt in 2004. Divided into three sections, the detailed and well-illustrated seventeen papers focus on material recovered from sites in Hallstatt itself, discuss the results of experimental archaeology and consider textile evidence from

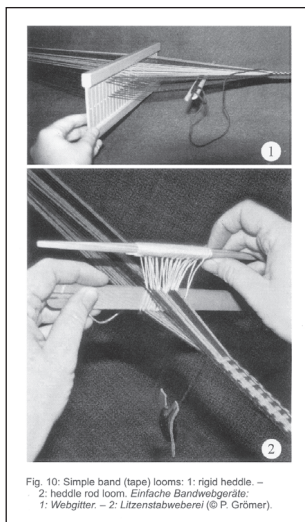
neighbouring Iron Age and La Tène sites in, for example, Italy, Slovakia and Moravia. The papers are all presented in both English and German and are followed by colour photographs of some of these remarkable and complex pieces of cloth. At first sight, the publication seems well-groomed and has – thankfully – 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 one large consistent book. It is disturbing, but understandable, that more languages are used in this volume, translations cost a lot of time and are therefore precious. The reports are clearly and most surely usable for an insider and those who dare to make reconstructions of textiles



from this period. I do see, however, there was too little experimental knowledge because of which in some cases people have come to the right conclusions or not the right solutions are to not shown. More knowledge of sources would certainly help here. What would also contribute to a better understanding is to gain knowledge in countries where different textile techniques are still in use.

Can I, as textile producer, start working with the information from this publication and for example make replicas 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 textiles 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 articles 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 consistent 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 make them more available to reconstructors.

Hallstatt Textiles: Technical Analysis, Scientific Investigation and Experiment on Iron Age Textiles

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Summary

Der Band legt die Ergebnisse des ersten Symposiums über Textilien 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.