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# Preface

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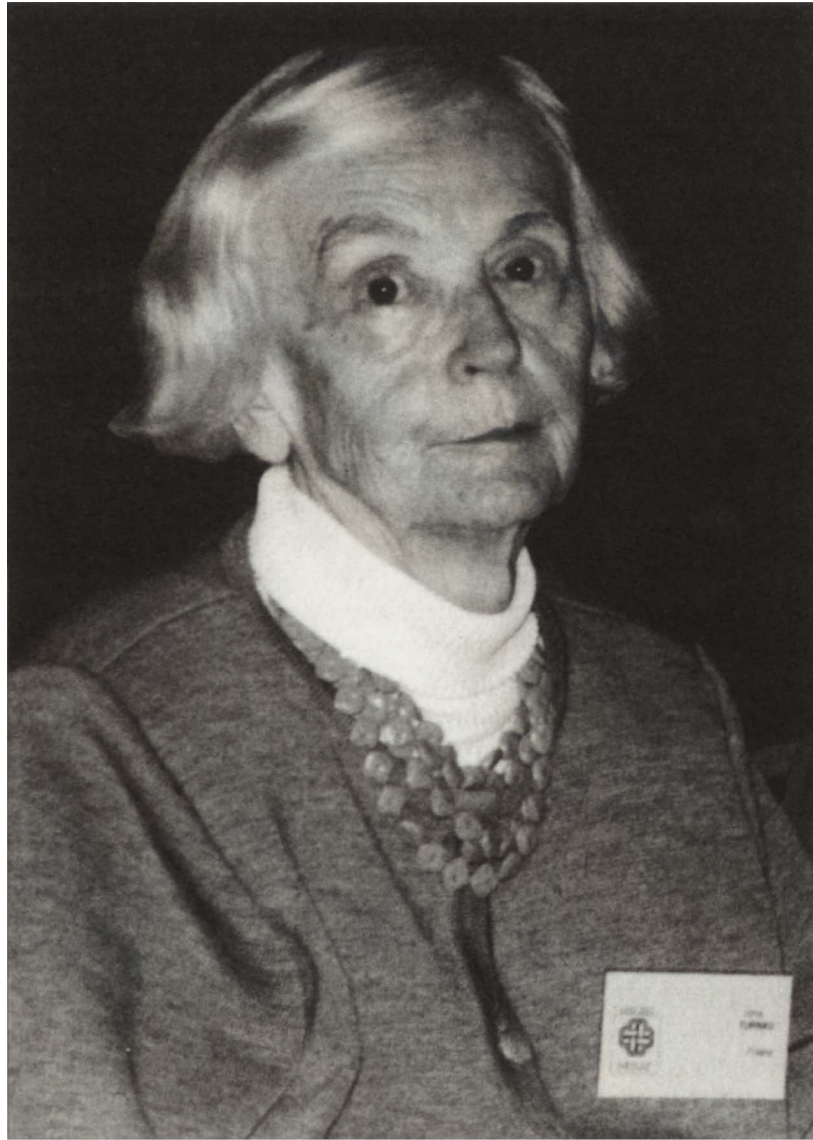
Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia nr 50/1, 7-9

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2004

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez **Muzeum Historii Polski** w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.



**Professor Irena Turnau**

## Preface

*Priceless Invention of Humanity – Textiles!* Is it true? Is not this title slightly exaggerated? Anyone, not only an archaeologist, could ask these questions. Textiles are all around us. They are part of our everyday life. Their presence is so obvious to us that we hardly ever notice them at all. But they do exist. We wear clothes and woolen hats, spread carpets on the floor and hang tapestries on the wall. We use fabrics to store jewellery and potatoes. There is a great variety of textiles: from plain materials used for making everyday clothes to luxurious silk garments; from, among others, fine muslins and thin fabrics used for making clothes worn in the tropics to thick materials suitable to sew clothes taken on polar expeditions. Fabrics are used for insulating our houses. Sailcloth as well as technical rough materials used for making sacks and other objects make our life and work easier. We have invented textiles which are more resistant and stronger than the steel used in medieval armour! Bulletproof vests are made of cloth of this type. Thus, one can clearly see that the title of the present publication is easy to justify. Without textiles our life would be much more difficult though probably not impossible.

This is why archaeologists have become interested in cloth. If truth be known, archaeological textiles were first examined only in the 1930s, which was probably a result of the discovery of fabrics on the bog sites in northern Germany and in Scandinavia. It was there that studies into archaeological textiles were originally undertaken. The first scholars to become interested in this subject were G. Sage, K. Schlabow, W. v. Stokar (Germany), M. Hald (Denmark), A. Geijer (Sweden) among others. After World War II, new excavations were carried out on a large scale in many countries, as a result of which the number of available sources increased. More and more archaeologists got interested in textiles and our knowledge of the ancient history of cloth was considerably enriched.

Lise Bender Jørgensen (who worked in the museum in Rudkøbing at that time) and Klaus Tidow (from Textilmuseum in Neumünster, Germany) were the initiators of the first international symposium on archaeological textiles. The symposium was held in Neumünster, Germany, in 1981. Twenty-three scientists from seven countries participated in the conference.

The participants presented twenty-three papers, which were subsequently published.

The scholars who took part in the first symposium in Neumünster resolved to meet every three years in different countries. The symposium was called North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles (*Nordeuropäisches Symposium für Archäologische Textilien*). The papers were to be delivered in either English or German. The organizational committee was appointed, whose members were Lise Bender Jørgensen (Denmark), Bente Magnus (Norway), Klaus Tidow (Germany), and John-Peter Wild (UK). The present day committee is composed of Johann Banck-Burgess (Germany), L. Bender Jørgensen (Denmark), J. Maik (Poland), F. Pritchard (UK), and A. Rast-Eicher (Switzerland).

Subsequent symposia were held in Bergen, Norway, in 1981; in York, UK, in 1987; in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1990; in Neumünster, Germany, in 1993; in Borås, Sweden, in 1996; in Edinburgh, UK, in 1999. The eighth symposium was organized in Łódź in 2002 and the next conference, which will take place in Braunwald (Switzerland), is scheduled for 2005. The material collected during the first six meetings have already been published. Hopefully, volume 7 will have been made available by the time of the publication of the present work (for the list of volumes see below).

Between forty to seventy scholars attended each conference. In total, over 110 scientists have participated in the symposia so far and about fifty of them try and take part in every meeting.

The symposium held in Łódź from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2002, was organized by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, and co-financed by the city of Łódź. Sixty-two scholars from fourteen countries attended the conference. They delivered twenty-six papers on the history of textiles from ancient times to the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries and presented four posters. It should be noticed that the borders of widely understood northern Europe have long been crossed, which shows how desirable such meetings are. Moreover, the subject of the Łódź symposium covered a lot of ground, including textiles from southern Europe and the Near East.

My thanks are due to various colleagues and friends, particularly my colleagues from the Łódź Branch of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, for their advice and help in organizing the symposium. I am also very grateful to all those involved in editing this book. Felicity Wild, Zuzanna Poklewska-Parra, Nick Sekunda, Klaus Tidow and John-Peter Wild have been generous with their support, both in copy-editing the text and in translating into English and German.

This book is dedicated to the most illustrious researcher in the history of textiles, Professor Irena Turnau.

Łódź, November 2004

Jerzy Maik

#### NESAT SYMPOSIUMS REPORTS

##### NESAT 1

1982 *Textilsymposium Neumünster. Archäologische Textilfunde, 6.5-8.5.1981*, ed. L. Bender Jørgensen, K. Tidow, Neumünster.

##### NESAT 2

1988 *Archaeological Textiles, Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> NESAT Symposium 1.-4.05.1984*, "Arkæologiske Skrifter 2", ed. L. Bender Jørgensen, B. Magnus, E. Munksgaard,

Copenhagen.

##### NESAT 3

1990 *Textiles in Northern Archaeology. NESAT III: Textile Symposium in York, 6.-9.May 1987*, ed. P. Walton, J.-P. Wild, London.

##### NESAT 4

1992 *Archaeological Textiles in Northern Europe. Report from the 4<sup>th</sup> NESAT Symposium 1.-5.5.1990*, "Tidens tand 5", ed. L. Bender Jørgensen, E. Munksgaard, Copenhagen.

##### NESAT 5

1994 *Textilsymposium Neumünster. Archäologische Textilfunde – Archaeological Textiles, 4.-7.5.1993*, "NESAT V", ed. G. Jaaks, K. Tidow, Neumünster.

##### NESAT 6

1998 *Textiles in European Archaeology. Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> NESAT Symposium, held in Borås 7-11.05.1996*, "GOTARC", Seriea A, Vol. 1, ed. L. Bender Jørgensen, Ch. Rinaldo, Göteborg.

##### NESAT 7

2005 *Northern Archaeological Textiles: NESAT VII: Textile Symposium in Edinburgh, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 1999*, ed.: F. Pritchard, J. P. Wild, Oxbow Books, Oxford.

##### NESAT 8

2004 *Priceless invention of humanity – textiles. Report from the 8<sup>th</sup> North European Symposium for Archaeological Textiles, 8-10 May 2002 in Łódź, Poland*, ed. J. Maik, "Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia", Nr 50, Łódź.