



Dress ID

Dress ID Clothing and Identities – New Perspectives on Textiles in the Roman Empire

The Institute for Textile conservation Science and Archeological Fibres at Cologne University of Applied Science – in collaboration with six European research institutions has received final support from the European Union to conduct a research project concerning Clothing and Identities – new Perspectives on Textiles in the Roman Empire (Dress ID). The partners involved comprise universities and research institutions from all over the European Union, and directed by the Curt-Engelhorn-Stiftung of the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen in Mannheim, Germany. Research in Cologne will be focussed on three main topics.

Project 1:

Clothing in pre-roman Italy: Mens dress from Verucchio (700 AD)

The textiles from Verucchio (700 – 640 BC) range among the most spectacular textile finds known from prehistoric Europe. In the frame of a collaboration project run by the University of Applied Sciences Cologne and the Soprintendenza Archeologica dell'Emilia Romagna Bologna a series of mens garments of different shapes could be reconstructed, however textile historical interpretation is still missing. Within the EU – project these garments should be compared with representations of mens garment from the Villanovan and early Etruscan period, mainly with sculptures, votive bronzes and paintings. The aim will be to get ideas about the way these garments were worn and about their significance in general.

Project 2:

Clothing and clothing contexts in Palmyra

The textiles from Palmyra (1. c. B.C. – 3rd c. A.D.) form one of the largest and best preserved amounts of textile finds known from late Roman times in the Near East. In the context of a Syro-German joint project focused on conservation, documentation and research on the late antique textiles from Palmyra, two different groups of clothing and their corresponding decoration systems could be distinguished: at one hand the classical "Roman" type of clothing, at the other hand the local "Parthian" one. Both types of clothing distinctly different in shape, cut, colours and patterns obviously show different ways of appearance at one single place. However the original textiles only reflect restricted aspects of clothing. From Palmyra a lot of works of art are preserved, reflecting cloths and combination of elements of clothing as well as lots of varieties within the same social group over more than three hundred years.



Palmyrene Sculpture © A.Schmidt-Coline



Palmyrene Loculus Relief
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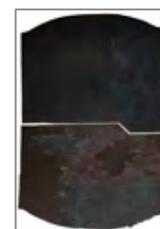
Program „Kultur“
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm



<http://www.dressid.eu/>



Cloak 1 tomba 89
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Foto: U.Borowiak



Cloak A tomba Strada Marechiese
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The scope of this project as part of a combined study of clothing in Roman Syria (see project Schieck) is to collect elements of clothing as represented on local works of art, starting with monuments of the 1st century AD and ending with the 3rd century (destruction of the place in 273). The main scope of the project will be laid on Palmyrene funerary sculpture and sarcophagy. A databank of the compiled material will be established. At a later stage of the project the data will be compared in order to find out about differences and similarities of "local palmyrene(?)" and "general Syrian" elements at one hand and to get more information about clothing "styles" at the other.

Project 3: Late Roman Textiles from Iovia (Hungary)

Iovia was a Roman Fort at the Limes in southern Hungary. In a tomb dated to the end of the 4th century two bodies of a couple were found. The bodies of the man and woman were wrapped in different types of textiles, among them fine silk (scutulatum silk), linen fragments of different density and very fine silk interwoven with purplish blue wool and gold. The textiles are partially impregnated with oils and balms. The finds from Iovia are of outmost interest showing close parallels to textiles found in Syria especially in Palmyra. A profound analysis of fibre materials, dyestuffs, gold threads and embalming substances will be the starting point of further research in a broader context. The data will make it possible to compare the textile finds from Iovia with other similar finds from late Roman time found in Syria and in Europe (Naintré, Köln, Conthey). Thus we hope to get more inside into trade with luxury textiles in Roman times.
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