

**Ina Vanden Berghe, Susan Möller-Wiering**

Belgium / Denmark

## **Dye Study of Textiles in Weapon Deposits in Jutland Peninsula. Evidence for Roman Influences?**

In the present study, evidence was sought for the provenance of textiles found in the Thorsberg bog on the Jutland peninsula, Northern Germany, by means of dye identification. The Thorsberg bog is known to be a site where Germanic people deposited offerings to their gods for several centuries. The materials were excavated about 150 years ago. The vast majority belongs to weapon deposits, dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. As some of the weapons are of Roman origin, the question raised whether this is also the case with the textiles. A selection of 15 mostly functional determinable textile objects was chosen consisting of cloaks with tablet woven borders, trousers and – possibly – tunics. Most textiles belong to the Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen in Schloss Gottorf, few to the National Museum in Copenhagen. For some of them, a Roman origin was already suggested out of earlier research.

Organic dyes were identified using HPLC-DAD. In 9 out of 15 textiles, evidence was found for the practice of textile dyeing, in all cases by means of plants. An overview will be given of the dye components found and the related possible vegetable dye sources, with special emphasis to the provenance of these sources. This will be followed with a more detailed description and discussion of the impact of the results on the provenance of the main textiles individually, as there are the coloured trousers and the “Prachtmantel”.

### **Bibliography**

I. Hägg (2000), Geopferte Gewänder, in M. Gebühr, *Nydam und Thorsberg, Opferplätze der Eisenzeit*, (Exhibition in Schleswig, accompanying publication), Schleswig, 28–29.

S. Möller-Wiering: War and Worship. Textiles from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>-century weapon deposits in Denmark and Northern Germany. Ancient Textiles Series Vol. 9, in press

I. Vanden Berghe, M. Gleba, U. Mannering (2009), ‘Towards the identification of dyestuffs in Early Iron Age Scandinavian peat bog textiles’, in *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36, 1910-1921.

### **Contributors:**

I. Vanden Berghe, Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, Jubelpark 1, BE 1000 Brussels (KIK/IRPA)

S. Möller-Wiering, Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen, Njalsgade 102, DK 2300 Copenhagen (CTR)