

Ida Demant

Dänemark

How to make a good replica ?

Reconstructions or replicas of historical and prehistorical costumes are common, both in museum displays and in teaching, and they contribute to a good understanding of the way of life in the past. However, when making the costumes, inevitably there are a lot of decisions to be made both regarding materials and techniques used. The ultimate would be if we could copy the whole process of production, but this is rarely possible, as it is a costly affair. Further it might not be necessary, depending on the reasons for making the costumes and what it is that is to be displayed with the costume. But, though there is no consensus among textile researchers to the importance of reconstructions, it is at fact that a costume on display will be taken as representing a truth by the general public, and this should be thoroughly considered during the process of making costumes, from a practical point of view as well as a source critical one.

In this poster, along with considerations called for above, a systematic set of standards will be presented for how to make these priorities according to the purpose of the reconstruction - research, display or reenactment, with respect to the chaine opératoire of textile production, as a tool for creating good quality presentations of prehistoric costume.

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