

## EDITORS' PREFACE

In the past few years the field of archaeological textile research has witnessed a major dynamism as demonstrated by numerous conferences and publications on the topic, as well as establishment of large-scale interdisciplinary collaborative programmes. New scientific methods have been or are being developed within archaeology to gain new knowledge about ancient textiles on an unprecedented scale.

Compared to Central and Northern Europe, textile research in Spain and Portugal has been a rather neglected field until recently. The reason most often cited for the absence of studies on ancient textiles in both countries is their extremely poor preservation. Textiles, however, are much more common finds than generally thought and survive in original organic state but also as carbonised and mineralised traces, as well as in the form of imprints. In addition, there are numerous other sources of evidence, such as textile tools, archaeobotanic and zooarchaeological remains, as well as iconographic and written sources, which permit us to gain valuable information about many and varied aspects of textile production in ancient Iberia.

This special volume of *Sagvntvm* stems from an interdisciplinary workshop organised on 17 February 2017 by the European Research Council funded 5-year project PROCON - *Production and Consumption: Textile Economy and Urbanisation in Mediterranean Europe 1000-500 BCE* (FP/2007-2013-312603; PI Margarita Gleba) based at the University of Cambridge in the UK. The workshop gathered specialists in textile archaeology, conservation, archaeobotany and zooarchaeology in order to bring together and to discuss the various methods and approaches to ancient textile and fibre studies in Spain. We hope that this issue will demonstrate the potential of archaeological textiles and related sources for the investigation of ancient Iberian economy, technology and agriculture and encourage new research directions in this subject.

We would like to thank all the speakers for participating in this workshop, whose enthusiasm and insightful discussion eventually led to the publication of this volume. We are grateful to Andrés Carretero Pérez and Carmen Marcos Alonso for hosting the workshop at the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid, as well as to Carmen Cacho Quezada, Ruth Maicas Ramos and Eduardo Galán for their support and active participation in the workshop. We appreciate the preliminary language editing of the papers by Jeremy Bennett, and the work of the reviewers who improved the quality of the articles of this volume. The European Research Council generously financed both the workshop and its publication, for which we are deeply thankful.