

THE TEXTILE REVOLUTION IN BRONZE AGE EUROPE

Textile production and the introduction of wool and woollen textiles represented a great revolution in Bronze Age Europe at the dawn of the second millennium BC. The available contemporary written sources from the Mediterranean and Near East suggest that textile production had a strong impact on cultural, social and economic life. In most parts of continental Europe, however, archaeological material alone can help us understand the details relating to textile production and its wider importance to early societies. This book provides new insights on patterns of production, specialisation and consumption of textiles in Europe throughout the Bronze Age. Assembling a diverse array of studies on various aspects of textile production and the economy, the chapters, specially written for this volume, provide a wide range of scientific data as well as archaeological evidence. They also show the great potential of examining early textile production through the use of innovative methodologies and diverse perspectives.

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Frontmatter
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REVOLUTION IN
BRONZE AGE EUROPE

PRODUCTION, SPECIALISATION,
CONSUMPTION

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The collection of chapters presented in this volume is the result of a long process and intense discussions on the necessity of adopting an interdisciplinary approach for renewing our understanding of prehistoric textiles and wool textile production. The idea of the book was born in connection with the international workshop ‘Textile Production and Trade in Europe during the Second Millennium BC’ that was organised by the editors in Gothenburg on 12–13 March 2015, funded by a grant from the Wenner-Grens Foundations. The volume is a direct reflection not of the proceedings and papers presented at the workshop, but rather of the ideas this event inspired. Many scientific discussions began there, evolving into research projects in the months that followed. The contributions to this volume represent some of the new and groundbreaking scholarship that has emerged thanks to the networking opportunities and collaborations made possible through this unprecedented gathering of researchers. The contribution by the editors resulted from work within two research projects: European Research Council under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP/2007–2013)/ERC Grant Agreement n. 269442 – *THE RISE*; and the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences project ‘Bronze Age Wool Economy: Production, Trade, Environment, Herding and Society’ (P15–0591:1).

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