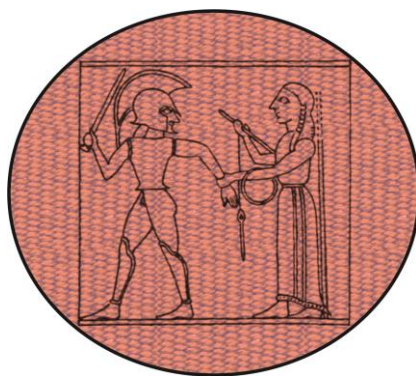


BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Textiles and War in Europe and the Mediterranean from Prehistory to Late Antiquity

Bucharest, 17 – 19 May 2023



This conference is based upon work from COST Action CA19131 - *Europe Through Textiles: Network for an integrated and interdisciplinary Humanities (EuroWeb)* supported by COST. COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.



DAY 1 (Wednesday, 17 May 2023)

Keynote lecture

Textiles for war: archaeological evidence and approaches

Margarita Gleba (Padua, Italy)

Panel 1. From garments and armor to ropes and sails: the use of military textile items and the effects of military campaigns over the acquisition and consumption of textiles

The Sling – an Overlooked Example of a ‘Weaponized Textile’ in Action

Emil Nankov (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Military textiles are normally associated with pieces of armor, e.g. breastplates, greaves, etc., and almost never with weapons. This paper reviews the archaeological evidence for the sling construction. Other types of data come from iconographic representations, classical texts and modern ethnographic parallels. Here the focus is on the simplest kind, i.e. the sling with retention cords and a pouch in the middle designed to accommodate the projectile or the slingshot. It was called in Greek σφενδόνη, and in Latin funda. Extant specimens or archaeological discoveries of actual slings are discussed, with particular reference to Egypt, the Levant and Central Europe. The available data is cross-referenced with the written accounts known from the Greek and Roman historiography. The dataset shows the use of various organic materials (mainly plant fibres, such as flax, hemp and rush) and different techniques of manufacture, from plaiting to weaving. Although historical accounts also mention the use of leather thongs, hair or sinews, the archaeological finds from the 2nd and 1st millennium BC accounts for the fact that there was a preference for plant fibres. Despite the common perception of being the cheapest weapon to make throughout human history, the closer examination of the manufacturing techniques, especially of the pouch, testifies to the great care that went into the construction of the sling.

Memories of War. The linen cuirass of Lars Tolumnius and the military use of linen in Italic equipment and armour

Gianluca Tagliamonte (Lecce, Italy)

According to ancient tradition, Octavian personally examined in Rome the linen cuirass of the king of Veii, Lars Tolumnius, which the Roman commander Aulus Cornelius Cossus had deposited as *spolia opima* in the temple of Jupiter Feretrius, after killing in 437

BC the Etruscan king in a cavalry duel. Starting with this episode, the paper aims at providing a general overview on the use of linen in the military equipment and armour of pre-Roman peoples of Italy, particularly with reference to the peoples of Central and Southern Italy.

The research is based on the scarce evidence derived both from the ancient writers and the archaeological record (especially from funerary context).

Protecting the legionary's head: analysis of the evidence of lining in Roman helmets from the Imperial age

Fabio Spagiari, Elisabetta Malaman (Padua, Italy)

In the ancient world, the helmet was an essential element of military equipment as it protected one of the soldier's most vulnerable points. Therefore, over the centuries the helmet changed according to different morphologies based on evolution of fighting techniques. The spread of metal helmets led to the development of further auxiliary protective systems: linings, probably called *centones* in Latin (Amm., 19.8.8). These were also employed to avoid direct contact between the soldier's head and the inner surface of the helmet. The use of linings is difficult to detect and, apart from a few sporadic finds in some specific contexts such as Germany or Egypt, only indirect traces of their presence remain. The contribution aims to emphasise the importance of these components from the analysis of the documentation of Roman helmets from the Imperial age (from the 1st century AD to the 5th century AD). Textile finds of these padding systems will be taken into account in order to unveil the morphology of these elements and how they were made and attached to the helmet. Moreover, the study will focus on indirect evidence of the use of linings: the presence of perimeter holes located along the edges of the helmet bowl, the check-pieces, or the neck-guard of the helmet for edging or sewing the padding will be marked. The analysis will be supported by the examination of literary and iconographic sources. In particular, the latter show in some cases soldiers wearing a cap probably used as helmet liner: a representative case is the *pileus pannonicus*. In conclusion, thanks to the integration of the above-mentioned sources, it will be possible not only to highlight the use of lining for helmets, but also to hypothesise the use of different lining systems during the Imperial age.

Did Wars and Conquests Change Textiles Consumption Habits? – Reused and Recycled textiles of the Jewish Rebels under the Roman Sieges compare to Nabatean Sites, First and Second Centuries CE

Orit Shamir (Jerusalem, Israel)

Jewish rebels under the Roman sieges, during first and second centuries CE, reused and recycled textiles. The quantity of repairs and patches are an indication of the harsh conditions under the sieges.

The Jewish population usually suffered during rule of the Roman governors. Their harsh policies caused the First Jewish Revolt (66-70 CE). After the fall of Jerusalem by

Rome, Masada fortress was captured in 73 CE. Almost every textile at Masada is fragmentary. The linen textiles all appear to have been well used. The goat hair fragments are very worn and brittle. The wool textiles are worn, showing repairs and patches. The special circumstances at Masada in which one group of people was isolated and cut off from supplies for several years (66-73 CE) makes it very likely that even people not used to wearing worn and patched clothing were forced to do so.

The next revolt was the Bar Kokhba Revolt (the Second Revolt, 132-135 CE) resulting in initial success for the Jews who conquered Jerusalem and re-established the Jewish state, thus threatening the Roman Empire under Hadrian who was forced to dispatch the best of his legions to The Land of Israel to fight the rebels. Many of them were hidden in Judean caves, spread in the deep canyons and along the high escarpment west of the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley. He cut off their supplies. The rebellion was finally crushed by the Romans in 135 CE. The burial in the Cave of Letters sheds some light on the war. Most of the shrouds were made from tunics and mantles, usually made of wool that had been ripped apart for this purpose. Linen sacks were also in secondary use as shrouds. Wadi Murabba'at caves, although of excellent quality of textiles, they heavily patched and repatched.

Purple-dyed textiles were found in the Land of Israel only at Masada and Wadi Murabba'at extracted from the Murex Snails, some of them are patched.

On the other hand, the Nabateans, who possessed a monopoly over camel caravans on the 'Incense Route', linked the Arabian Peninsula and Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea between the third century BC and the third century CE accepted the Roman annexation of Nabataea in 106 CE.

Hundreds of textiles were found at the way-stations e.g. Moyat 'Awad (Mo'a) Sha'ar Ramon, 'En Rahel and they provide some indication of prosperity of the inhabitants. Patched textiles are few.

Panel 2. Elite cloaks and standard uniforms: the iconography of Greek and Carthaginian military textile items

Iconographic representations of sails and ropes of Greek warships depicted on ancient ceramics

Paulina Lebedowicz (Toruń, Poland)

This work focuses on iconographic representations of ropes and sails used on Greek military ships depicted on ancient ceramics. Aspects related to the acquisition and processing of natural resources in order to obtain goods necessary for sail and rope-making were discussed and analyzed. The importance of sails as a necessary support for large ships, which for the most part used oars as the main propulsion power, was also discussed. The ropes held the mast and sails in place, provided stability and the ability to quickly roll the sail up and down when necessary. From archaic times on ceramics one can find various arrangements of the two objects, differing in their number and position, which change with the development of shipbuilding and the increase of Greek war conquests. The possibility of recognizing and

characterizing them on ceramics allows for closer recognition of the state of the Greek naval military unit in ancient times.

A Few War-Related Representations on Ancient Textile Tools

Alina Iancu (Bucharest, Romania)

Weaving and spinning constitute some of the most common activities carried out by ancient artisans, as garments and other textile fabrics were commodities widely needed for everyday use. The time and energy required by these crafts were substantial and they implied the use of various sets of tools (Ulanowska 2016, 44). An important component of the ancient textile kits was made out of clay (e.g. spindle whorls, epinetra, spools and loom weights) and sometimes these implements were impressed with ring seals while the clay was still crude or they were decorated with molded representations or even beautifully painted.

The repertoire of symbols, motifs and scenes which were documented on many of these tools is vast and their exact meaning is still a matter of debate among scholars. Sometimes, they were interpreted as elements showing personal ownership (Quercia – Foxhall 2014, 96; Erikson 2018, 176), as trademarks (Davidson 1952, 156-160; Schilbach 1999 and others), decoration (Goldman 1940) or even as having a votive role (Smith 2015). From simple incisions to detailed ring stamps or exquisite painted scenes – all of them show the desire of toolmakers (and their clients, if the tools were produced in workshops) to mark and/or to embellish the tools. From the vast range of representations, the war-related scenes observed on some spools, loom weights and epinetra in the Aegean are some of the most unexpected motifs to be found on some objects which were commonly used in household, where mostly women were engaged in textile production. In this paper I aim to give a preliminary account of spinning and weaving tools bearing military motifs (e.g. the spool SF.9 from Keramidia, Peloponnese, impressed with a ring seal showing a warrior with helmet and shield, see Jones – Kouka 2015, 89, no. SF. 9, Fig. 41.9 and a conical loom weight from Olynthus stamped in a similar way, see Robinson 1930, 123, no. 2) and to discuss some possible meanings of these unusual associations.

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A technical description of the Carthaginian military dress

Amine Hadj Taieb (Sfax. Tunisia)

By the late 4th century BC, after the Phoenician city-states in the Levant were politically sidelined due to Alexander’s the Great conquest, Carthage, which is located in North Africa, on the present territory of Tunisia, flaunted both its commercial and military significance. The city took over the remnants of many of the various Phoenician colonies and trade factories, especially along the western Mediterranean coasts, ranging from North Africa to Sicily and Iberia (Spain and Portugal), thus establishing itself as the predominant maritime power in this part of the world, based on its commercial colonies, military outposts, and charismatic generals (including the great Hannibal Barca). The military of Carthage was one of the largest military forces in the ancient world. Although Carthage's navy was always its main military force, the army acquired a key role in the spread of Carthaginian power over the native peoples of northern Africa and southern Iberian Peninsula from the 6th to the 3rd century BC.

Unfortunately, most indigenous records about Carthage were lost in the wholesale destruction of the city after the Third Punic War, so that unlike for the contemporary civilizations of Rome and Greece, the sources of knowledge are limited to ancient translations of Punic texts into Greek and Latin, Punic inscriptions on monuments and buildings, and archaeological finds of Carthage's material culture. Contemporary foreign accounts of Carthage usually reflect significant bias, especially those written during or after the Punic Wars, because their authors came from cultures that were nearly always in competition with Carthage. Inevitably, many of the iconographic and archaeological finds remain ambiguous.

However, in this survey, the military dress and accessories of the Carthaginians during the 3rd-2nd centuries BC and particularly during the second Punic war are described and interpreted from a technical point of view, using the various available historical, iconographic and archaeological sources.

DAY 2 (Thursday, 18 May 2023)

Keynote lecture

**Craft, design and ergonomics: on decorations, reinforcements and protections for
Mediterranean panoplies**

Raimon Graells i Fabregat (Alicante, Spain)

**Panel 3. Taxes, tributes, contracts or specialized workers? Systems of
production and acquisition of garments and other textile items for the
armies**

***Quod satis in usum fuit sublato. Booty and tribute as textile supply sources for the
ancient Greek and Roman armies***

Liviu Mihail Iancu (Bucharest, Romania)

Textile items were absolutely necessary for ancient Mediterranean armies. Waging war was unimaginable without adequate supplies of garments for soldiers, linings for metal armours, tents, ropes for war machines, sails and cordage for ships. Whereas for military operations conducted over short periods of time such as the frequent border skirmishes between neighbouring tribes and cities or petty plundering expeditions, the initial supplies of textiles items were sufficient, protracted wars between major powers required their constant replenishment. War booty and tribute imposed over defeated foes were convenient sources for meeting the needs of campaigning troops and for refilling arsenals.

Despite their importance for waging war, military textiles items captured as booty or received as tribute were very rarely mentioned explicitly in ancient literary sources and in inscriptions. Their occurrence is less frequent than that of the expensive (*poluteleis*) textile articles such as robes and carpets and much rarer than that of weapons, not to speak of precious metals, captives and cattle. It might be inferred though that capturing such type of objects was more frequent and specific mentions emerge either by accident or because of the novelty and the importance of the articles, such as the *spartum* reserves of the Carthaginians, seized by the Romans in Spain in the second Punic war (Liv. 22.20.6; 26.47; cf. App. *Iber.* 23).

This paper lists and discusses the available evidence found in ancient authors such as Herodotus, Xenophon, Diodorus Siculus, Plutarch, Livy and Appianus and in few inscriptions in order to support and develop the abovementioned conclusions.

Textiles on the March: Textile Activities in Roman Republican Military Contexts of Western Iberia (1st century BCE)

*Francisco B. Gomes, Teresa Rita Pereira, Carlos Pereira, João Pimenta
(Lisbon, Portugal / Madrid, Spain)*

The Iberian Peninsula has become a crucial scenario for the study of the Roman army during the Late Republic. Many sites related to the Roman military presence of the 3rd to 1st centuries BCE have been studied from different perspectives, among which strategic issues of supply have been paramount. However, the supply of textiles has been overlooked, mostly due to a persistent lack of data. This presentation focuses on selected military contexts in Western Iberia in order to widen the evidence for the production, import and maintenance of textiles in Roman military contexts.

Available evidence may relate both to local production and to the maintenance and recycling of textiles. The former situation could be attested in Cáceres el Viejo (Cáceres, ES), a military camp in which a significant number of tools was retrieved pointing to textile production and transformation activities at the service of the army. The latter, on the other hand, could be illustrated by the four spindle whorls of Cáceres Viejo de Santa Marina (Cáceres, ES), likely related to the maintenance of clothing.

The site of Cabeça de Vaia Monte (Monforte, PT), a contemporary indigenous site with a military occupation, has yielded one of the most complex assemblages of textile tools in the Iberian Peninsula. Despite its contextual issues, this material shows that textile activities are present both in *ex novo* military camps and in others which settled within indigenous settlements, raising specific issues regarding the presence of women in these military contexts, as recently discussed for the case of Chibanes (Palmela, PT).

The existence of substantial textile activities has also been documented in Monte dos Castelinhos (Vila Franca de Xira, PT), where a substantial assemblage of textile tools was retrieved distributed by the various architectural units detected throughout the site. This suggests a domestic, self-sufficient production pattern, in line with other data from the Lower Tagus valley suggesting an increased volume of production relating to the Roman military presence.

Dressed for (Military) Success: Official and Private Suppliers for the Roman Army during the Empire

Iulia Dumitrache (Iași, Romania)

The supply of the Roman army is a subject as interesting and complex as it is difficult to reconstruct, given, on the one hand, the lack of consistent mentions in written sources, and, on the other hand, the difficult corroboration of different types of available sources. Various types and models of provision of what is needed for the Roman military personnel have been

identified, models that may vary according to the nature of the troops, their stationing place, but also the nature of the context (e.g. peace vs. war).

A soldier ready for action at all times, loyal and full of confidence can only be a well-equipped soldier. The effort to provide this equipment was a constant concern both at the band level, but also in the "agenda" of the administrative managers. Many firms from the Roman world must have obtained contracts with the state; indeed, it was enough that some provincial production centres emerged that had the advantage of being closer to military bases. This is the model that will be applied most often in the western provinces, where the troops were on the frontiers far from the Mediterranean; in the east, these centres were associated with existing cities that could have served the needs of the troops. The presentation analyses different types of documents that demonstrate, at the same time, the contractual involvement of the state through its representatives, the assignment of some procurement works made not only from the surroundings, but also at greater distances, but also some logistical defects.

At the same time, where the state failed to meet needs, or where personal choices exceeded supply, a parallel market could always develop, providing superior products to the common soldier or officer and generating not inconsiderable income for the merchants involved.

Private textile supply and personal appearance of Roman soldiers in Imperial times

Kerstin Droß-Krüpe (Bochum / Kassel, Germany)

Even though research on the Roman army has been extensive for decades, this research has primarily focused on armour and food. Textiles, even though being *gelegentlich* researched, have been dealt with far less intensely. Scholars usually focused on iconographic evidence of the individual soldier and a general logistic strategy of the Roman State. And indeed, military accounts demonstrate that a large percentage of a soldier's stipendium went to garments, papyri and tablets demonstrate that the Roman State was responsible for supplying its soldiers with clothing (e.g. BGU 7/1564 or Tab. Vindol. 2/255). However, documentary sources demonstrate that Roman soldiers additionally covered their textile needs via other distribution channels as the open market or a network of friends or relatives. The proposed paper investigates the modes of textile supply other than official logistics of the Roman Imperial army. It focusses on documentary sources such as the papyrological record and writing tablets and combines the evidence provided with the information to be obtained from literary sources and archaeological findings dating from the first to third centuries CE.

Panel 4. Elite cloaks and standard uniforms: the iconography of Italic military textile items

Woven and engraved military dress from Daunia

Francesco Meo (Lecce, Italy)

Body ornaments and clothes represent gender and ethnicity, and are a mirror of the social interactions between Greeks and the many indigenous populations of the South of Italy.

The recent discovery of a garment in an extraordinary state of preservation inside the warrior's tomb 382 at Ortona (ancient Herdonia), dated to ca. 400 BC, opens new perspectives on many aspects of military dress in Daunian area.

First of all the weaving technique seems to demonstrate a long term tradition, as twill is common in the Iron Age but it starts to disappear after the Greek colonisation of the South of Italy, mainly from the 6th century BCE onwards.

Also, the wonderful decorative pattern, most probably embroidered on the cloth, has an incredible similitude with the one engraved on some Daunian anthropomorphic stele of the late 7th century BCE. Further suggestions derive from the representation of a Daunian warrior on a red-figured vase.

Leading from these data, this paper will try to face if the decorations discovered can be linked to the funerary sphere, if they can be typical of the Daunian population, if and how they can be linked to a social status and in particular to warrior's dress.

Mantles, drapes and other textiles: echoes of military hierarchy on the proto-Lucanian Hydria from tomb 2 of Gravina di Puglia – Botromagno?

Carlo Lualdi (Warwick, United Kingdom)

Depictions showing large battle scenes can offer the opportunity to widen our knowledge about the representation of military ranks of the fighters. Indeed, images showing conflicts including more combatants gave the opportunity represent the complex world of war showing fighters, officers and military leaders fighting on the battlefield. Today we can see this crowded context mostly through the iconographies provided by craftsmen, artists and patrons. The battle scene depicted on the upper register of the proto-Lucanian red-figure hydria attributed to the Painter of Amykos found in the tomb 2 part of the necropolis near the settlement of Gravina di Puglia can offer an interesting starting point of reflection about this topic. Indeed, the eight fighters can be distinguished by their equipment mainly consisting of fabrics as short chitons without sleeves, mantles and drapes. A detailed analysis of these details of the iconography can provide a new view about military imagery, artistic licenses and the links between the real military experience, the models part of the cultural mindset of indigenous people settled in Peucetia region and the cultural interactions which took place in Apulia region.

The *paludamentum* during the conquests of the Roman Republic

Dimitri Maillard (Paris, France)

The purple mantle of the Roman general, the *paludamentum*, seems to have been instituted at the beginning of the Roman Republic : most sources present it as not having been

worn by kings before the consuls, and the Republic would have thus proposed a new garment for his generals.

A new examination of the sources could suggest that these accounts are however the fruit of a rewriting, and rather than an invention in 509, the late-Republican *paludamentum* would rather have appeared during the Republic, like the *sagum* of the simple soldiers. Festus refers to all military equipment as *paludamenta* and not just the general's coat, which suggests that it was not always considered a distinct piece of clothing. Valerius Maximus (1.6.11) considers that war clothing was not always purple, but sometimes white or edged with purple. This suggests that the story on the *paludamentum* had removed the elements of its introduction in the official Roman pageantry.

This paper proposes to examine the case of the external influence, in particular Iberian, on Roman war clothing. During the Second Punic War, then during the 2nd century BC, the Romans came into contact with the Iberian populations wearing a characteristic garment, the Spanish *sagum*, which was used by Scipio the African through official gifts. Though no explicit mention assumes that there was a time when the Roman *paludamentum* was created, and that it could be hard to say that the *paludamentum* was either Hispanian or Greek, this context offers the occasion to understand that war had been a factor of alteration of the Roman pageantry and that foreign cultures influenced the Roman clothing modes. The so-called *paludamentum* would thus have been at the center of influences scarcely studied until now.

DAY 2 (Friday, 19 May 2023)

Keynote event

Event:

Official Launch of The EuroWeb Digital Atlas of European Textile Heritage

Poster:

The EuroWeb Digital Atlas of European Textile Heritage: An overview with the occasion of its official launching

*Catarina Costeira, Alina Iancu
(Lisbon, Portugal / Bucharest, Romania)*

The Digital Atlas of European Textile Heritage is one of the most important deliverables in the COST Action 19131 „EuroWeb – Europe Through Textiles: Network for an integrated and interdisciplinary Humanities”. It is intended to be built as an online free cartographic resource that is linked to a database specially adapted for the Atlas, containing vast archaeological, historical, and ethnographical data on the history of textile crafts and the development of dress cultures in Europe. The Atlas is currently a work in progress project, being permanently enriched with new digitized textile resources by specialists that are part of the EuroWeb network. Therefore, we argue that the EuroWeb Atlas has the potential to become a major European dissemination tool that will highly increase the accessibility of information into the textile field. This contribution aims to present insights on the content of the Atlas comprising material remains on spinning, sewing, dyeing, weaving and other aspects related to cloths and garments from Prehistory to the 20th century AD and to show the benefits of launching it online so that it can be freely accessed by a broad public. Additionally, we will also discuss the main challenges and opportunities for storing and disseminating information related to the European textile heritage in the framework of this project.

Panel 5. Elite cloaks and standard uniforms: the iconography of Imperial Roman military textile items

Roman military textile garments on the sarcophagi in Cilicia (southern Turkey)

Ergün Laflı, Maurizio Buora (Izmir, Turkey / Udine, Italy)

This paper covers several aspects of military textile and clothing research from detailed analyses of specific cloths, weaves or dyes to discussions of technological developments in textile manufacture and production through the figures on Roman sarcophagi in the local

museums of Cilicia in southern Turkey. These museums are Adana, Mersin, Tarsus and Hatay. The aim of the paper is to report Roman military garments in such a specific context, and their techniques in Roman Asia Minor. So far not much efforts was given to the textile research in Asia Minor. Thus, this presentation will be a new approach on this subject with some examples.

Roman soldiers, miners or others: who were the people depicted on the funerary stelae from the Middle Strymon valley?

Philip Kolev (Sofia, Bulgaria)

The Middle Struma valley is located in the northeastern part of the province of Macedonia, on the border with Thrace in present-day Southwestern Bulgaria. Roman soldiers and veterans are well attested in numerous monuments from the valley. In the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, at least two Roman military units were stationed in the region. The present paper aims to examine an interesting group of funerary stelae from the Middle Strymon valley, on which figures of male characters are depicted. They are dressed in a belted tunic with short sleeves. Over the tunic is a cloak of animal skins that covers the back and upper arms. The cloak is fastened with a round ring. The men wear soft leather boots. In one hand they hold a pickaxe, axe, or spear, and in the other a strange object probably made of leather. The images have been interpreted by different authors as Roman soldiers, however their clothing and the tools they hold are not typical for soldiers. This paper offers the hypothesis that the men depicted on the funerary stelae were miners who were given privileges to carry weapons in order to defend themselves in case of need.

From *milites* to *Augusti*: The adoption of military clothing in Roman emperors' depictions during the Third Century AD

Adrián Gordón-Zan (Zaragoza, Spain)

Looking at the statues of the tetrarchs on San Marcos Cathedral in Venezia and the rock reliefs of Shapur I at Darabgird (Overlaet, 2009), we can see how a mid- and late-third-century Roman emperor was dressed in a long-sleeved tunic, trousers, Pannonian hat, cloak, and *spatha*. This was the result of the evolution of military clothing (Gordón Zan, 2017), the development of a different style of depicting emperors (Wood 1986), and their provenance and political support during the same period.

In this paper, I intend to explain the depiction of Roman *Augusti* during the Third Century, as shown in written sources, painting, coinage, and sculpture, to demonstrate that the changes in their appearance were a result of their connection with the troops. This period transformed every aspect of politics, warfare, or society, and obviously affected the way Roman emperors presented themselves. It was a gradual development that completely changed the concept of an emperor, from an *optimus princeps* or philosopher during the Antonine dynasty and early Severan period to a soldier and commander after the Diocletian

and onwards. To achieve this, I will compare the development of more standardised military clothing during the Third Century (Coulston, 2007; Sumner, 2009) and the representation of emperors to determine when and how this change occurred (Heijnen, 2022).

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Iconographic considerations about Late Antique military “fashion”

Marina Pizzi (Bologna, Italy)

In the archaeological field of ancient textiles - which are rarely found in excavation contexts due to their perishable nature -, iconographic sources are very important in order to visualize ancient clothing, because they often are the only pieces of information available enabling us to reconstruct the appearance of clothes and how they were worn. Even though the scarcity of material evidence does not allow to draw any general conclusion, the aim of my contribution in the context of the conference topic is to provide an overview of the Late Antique military apparel. Therefore, in this paper, I would like to discuss some features of army uniforms according to their iconography on mosaics, mural paintings, stone reliefs and luxury goods with depictions of soldiers, officers, imperial guards and emperors - some of them wide known, such as the Great Hunt mosaic of the Villa de Casale in Piazza Armerina, the Imperial Cult Chamber frescoes in Luxor Temple, the Kerch missorium and the Barberini ivory. In the process, by also taking into account the vaster context of non-military clothing, I will try to highlight the differences in army wear as a way of distinguishing ranks and roles in a highly hierarchical military system such as the Late Antique one. Meanwhile, some more practical observations about garments fabrics, production techniques and acquisition can be drawn from textual sources and preserved artifacts.