



Textiles and the household(s)

Textile technologies,
production and social uses
in Chalcolithic and Bronze
Age Cyprus

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Nettle burden straps
(Dalaware Native
American Culture),
Museum of Natural
History, New York

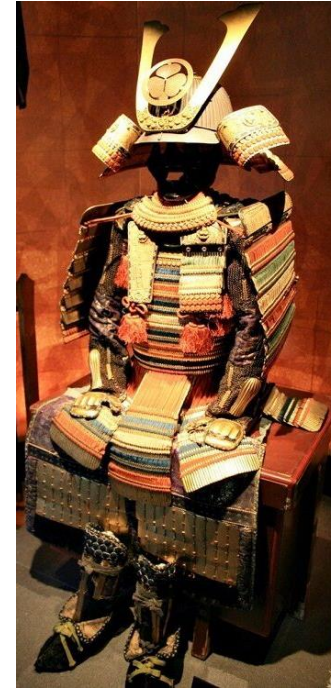


Terracotta oil flask (lekythos)
(Athenian production, ca 550–
530 BCE), Metropolitan
Museum of Art

Bronze spindle whorl (China, Han
Dynasty, ca 200 BCE – 200 CE)



Yurta, tent covered with
sheets of felt (Mongolia)



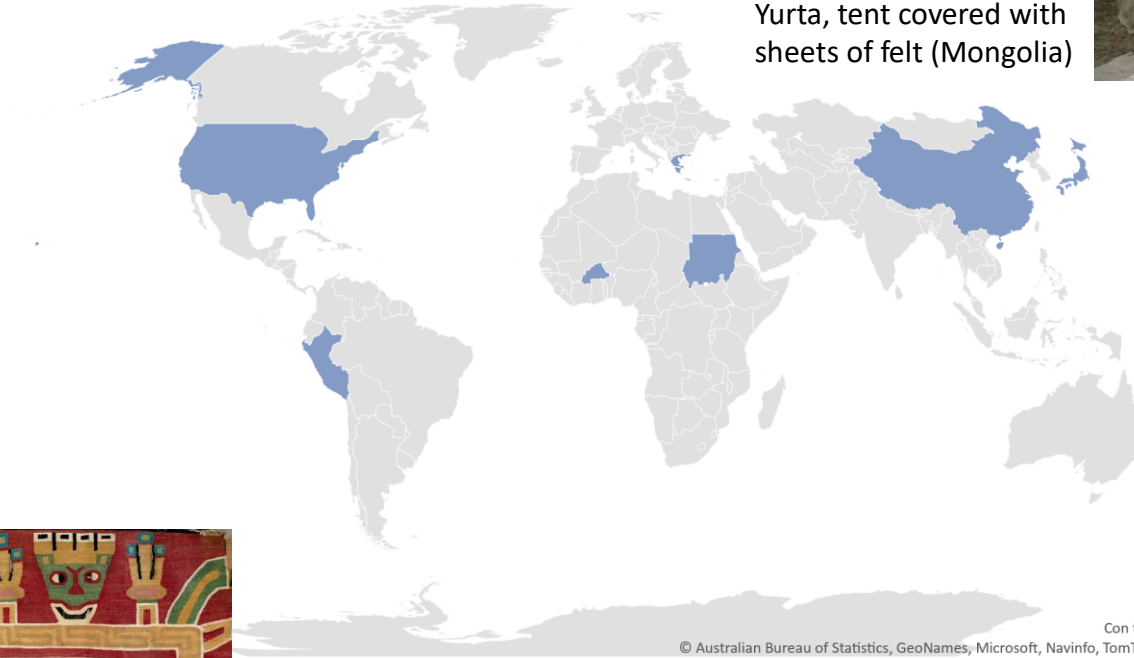
Samurai armour (Japan, 1192
to 1333 CE)



Dressed dolls
representing husband
and wife (Menomini)
Museum of Natural
History, New York



Huari-style tapestry from
Peru (ca 750 to 800 CE)



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Con tecnologia Bing



Implements for processing tapa/barkcloth
(Polynesia) Museum of Natural History, New
York

Sonoric instrument
wrapped in a textile
fabric from Kissi,
Burkina Faso (11th
century CE)

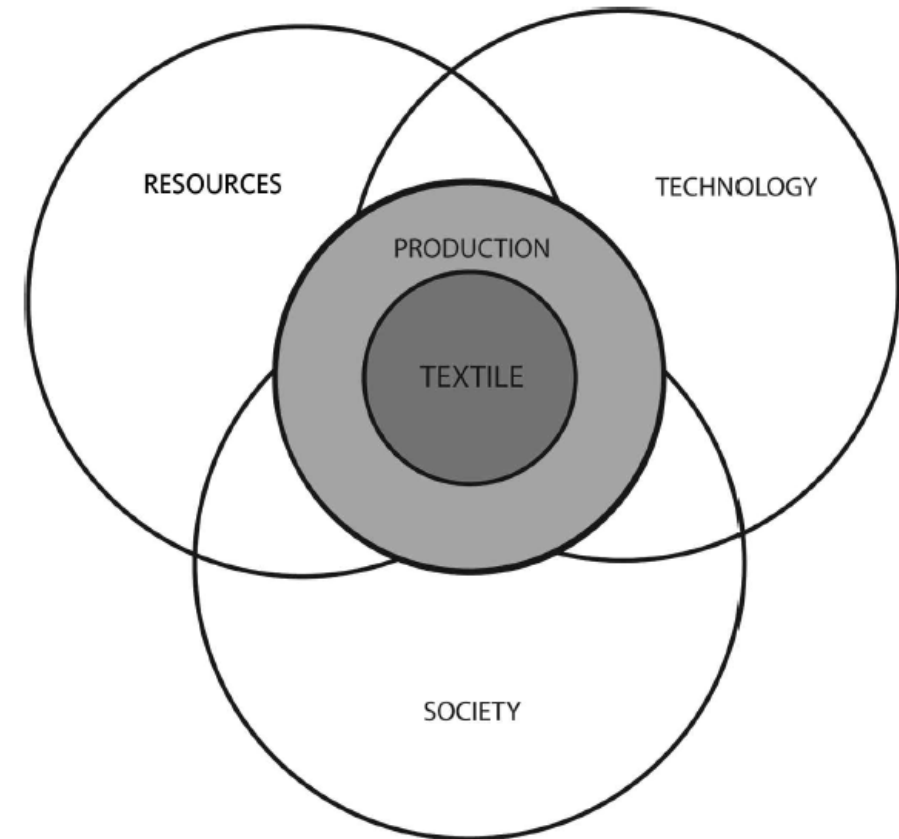


Cotton textile from
Karanog, Sudan (350–
550 CE)

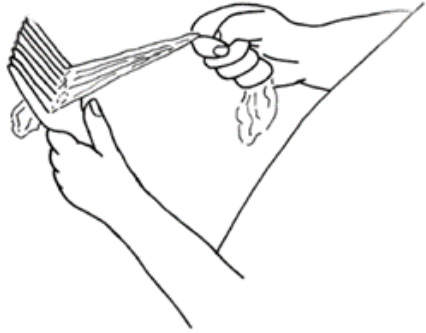
“[Textiles are] not simply a binary system of spun, twisted, or spliced fibres, but first and foremost a result of complex interactions between resources, technology, and society”
(Andersson Strand *et al.* 2010, 150)



“Building me a loom off of your back and your stomach”
weaving/artistic performance delivered by Raisa Kabir in 2018
at the Whitworth Gallery (Manchester)
<https://lids-sewn-shut.typepad.com/blog/exhibition/>



Textiles and Textile Production as key to investigate
past and present resources, technologies and
societies (Anderson Strand *et al.* 2010, 151 fig.1)



Dyeing

- fleece
- yarn
- fabric



Wool:

- (breeding)
- collection (plucking, cutting)
- sorting
- carding
- combing

Warping and Loom set-up (including number of heddles)

Preparation of starting border
Use of Large looms (ground loom, warp weighted loom)

Use of weaving implements (rigid heddle, tablets) for band weaving

Cloth/object making (cutting and sewing fabrics)

Decoration (e.g. embroidery)

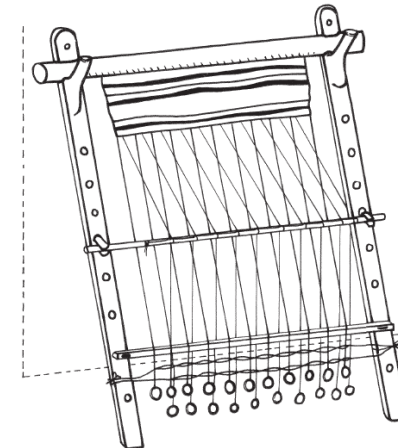
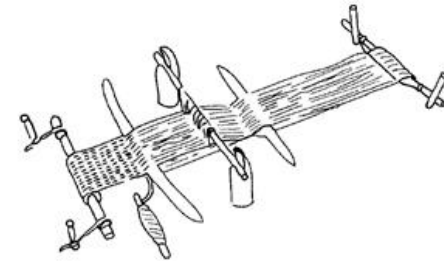


Flax:

- (growing)
- harvest
- retting
- drying
- breaking
- scutching
- hackling

Spinning (wool, flax)
Splicing (flax)

Fulling, bleaching, stretching, etc.



Chalcolithic and Early/Middle Bronze Age Cyprus



Periods	Phase/Culture	Dates Cal BC
Late Epipalaeolithic	Akrotiri phase	11,000–9000
Initial Aceramic Neolithic	Cypro-PPNA	9000–8500/8400
Early Aceramic Neolithic (EAN)		8500/8400–6800
	EAN 1 (Cypro-EPPNB)	8500/8400–7900
	EAN 2 (Cypro-MPPNB)	7900–7600
	EAN 3 (Cypro-LPPNB)	7600–7000/6800
Late Aceramic Neolithic (LAN)	Khirokitia	7000/6800–5200
Ceramic Neolithic	Sotira	5200/5000–4500/4000
Chalcolithic	Erimi	4000/3900–2500/2400
	Early Chalcolithic	3900–3600/3400
	Middle Chalcolithic	3600/3400–2700
	Late Chalcolithic	2700–2500/2400
Prehistoric Bronze Age (PreBA)	(Philia–Early/Middle Cypriot)	2400–1700
PreBA 1	Philia 'Phase'	2400/2350–2250
PreBA 1	Early Cypriot I–II	2250–2000
PreBA 2	Early Cypriot III–Middle Cypriot I–II	2000–1750/1700
Protohistoric Bronze Age (ProBA)	(Middle Cypriot III–Late Cypriot IIIA)	
ProBA	(MC III–LC III)	1750/1700–1050
ProBA 1	Middle Cypriot III–Late Cypriot I	1700–1450
ProBA 2	Late Cypriot IIA–IIC early	1450–1300
ProBA 3	Late Cypriot IIC late–IIIA	1300–1125/1100
Early Iron Age	Late Cypriot IIIB	1125/1100–1050 BC
Early Iron Age	Cypro-Geometric I	1050–1000 BC

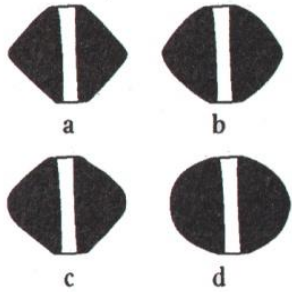


Thread making

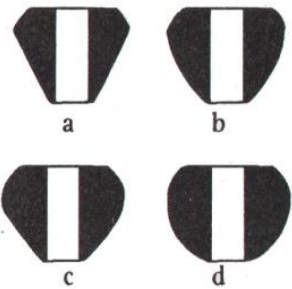
Type I. Conical/hemispherical



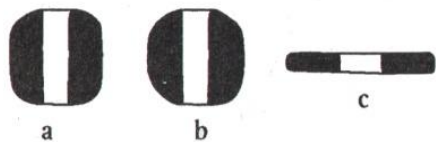
Type II. Biconical/spherical



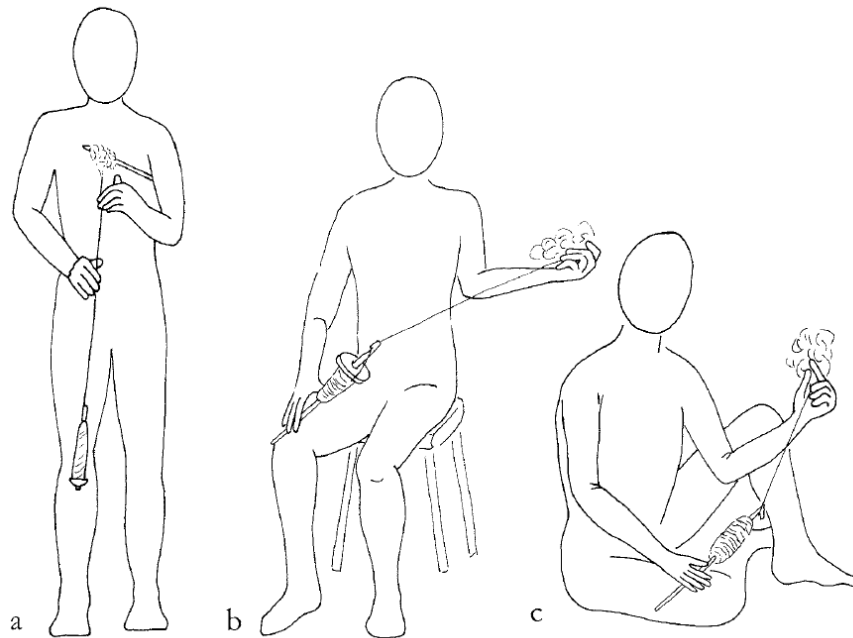
Type III. Truncated biconical/spherical



Type IV. Cylindrical



Decorated spindle whorls (EC – MC)



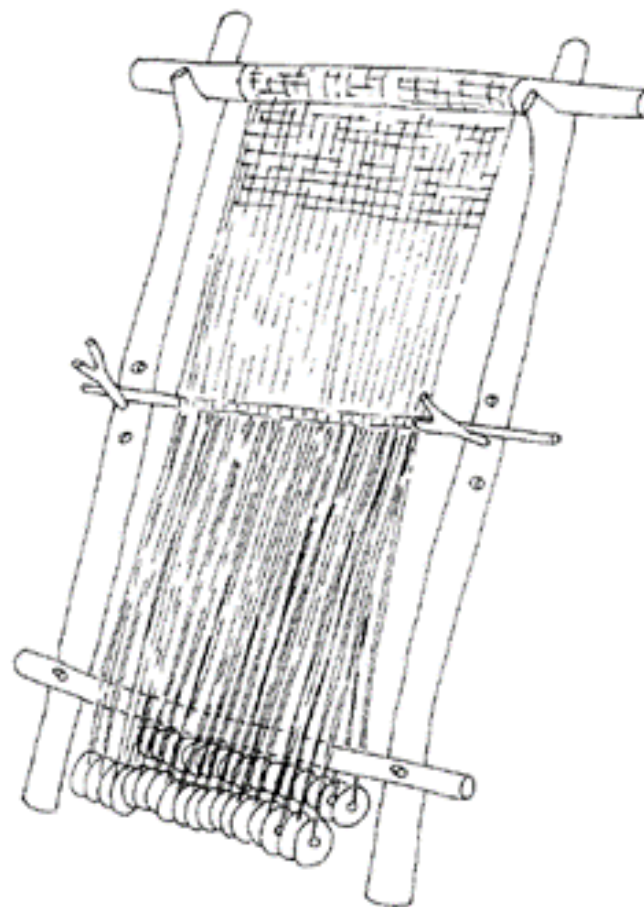
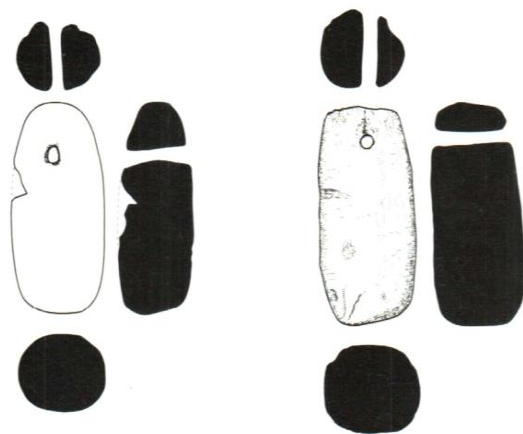
Terracotta skeuomorphic models of spindles and metal spindles

Crewe's typological division of EC and MC spindle whorls (Crewe 1998: 22 fig. 4.1)

Weaving



Selection of conical loom weights from Marki *Alonia* (EC – MC)



Warp-weighted loom with a 'tabby' setup

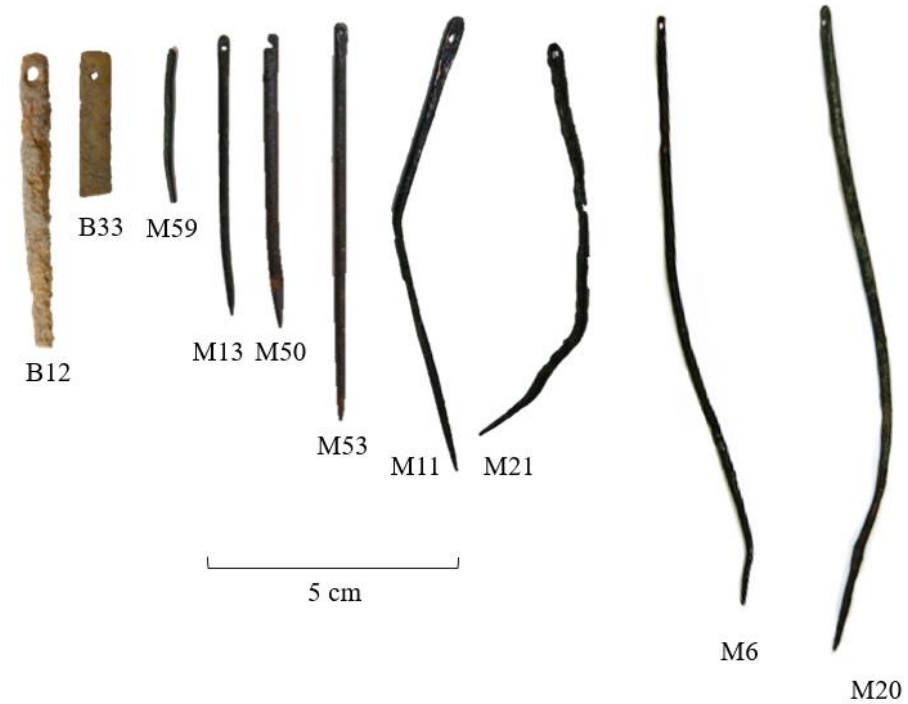


Experimental/experiential weaving with heavy conical loom weights

Sewing (embroidery?)



Middle and Late Chalcolithic needles



Early and Middle Cypriot needles

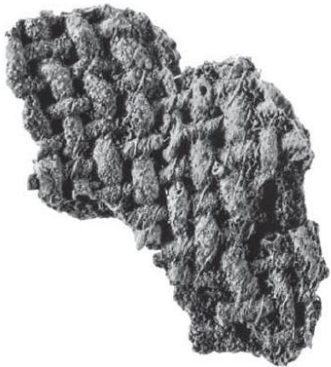


Tailor
sewing



‘Lefkaritika’ lace
making
(Lefkara, Cyprus)

Fabric remains



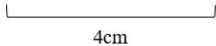
‘Fossilised’ fabric fragment from Khirokitia (Aceramic Neolithic)



Side A



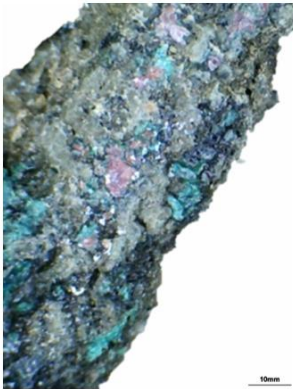
Side B



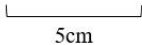
Knife T.16/3 [Met 894] (Lapithos Vrysi tou Barba) MC



Side B



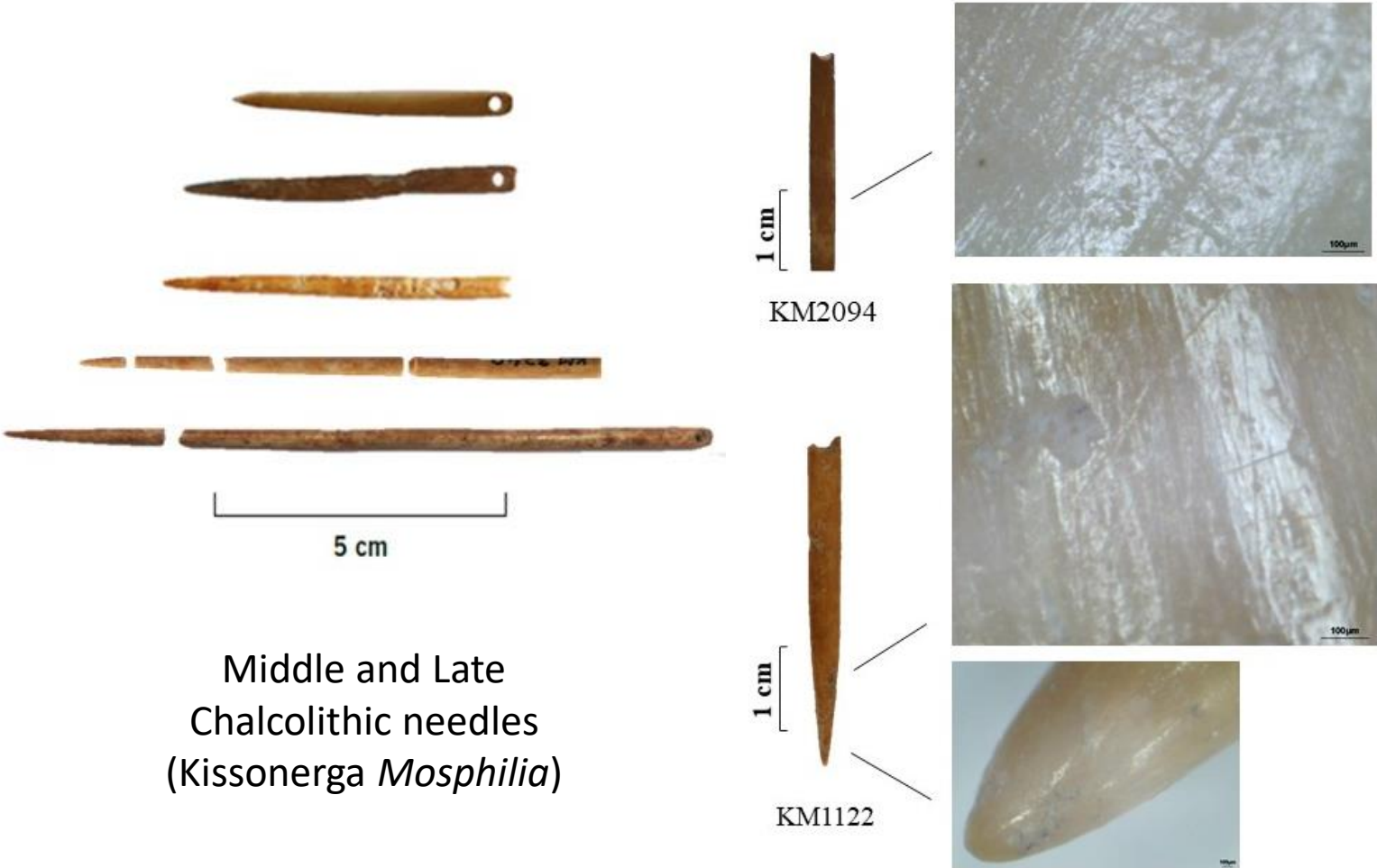
Long pin T.5/70 (Linou) MC



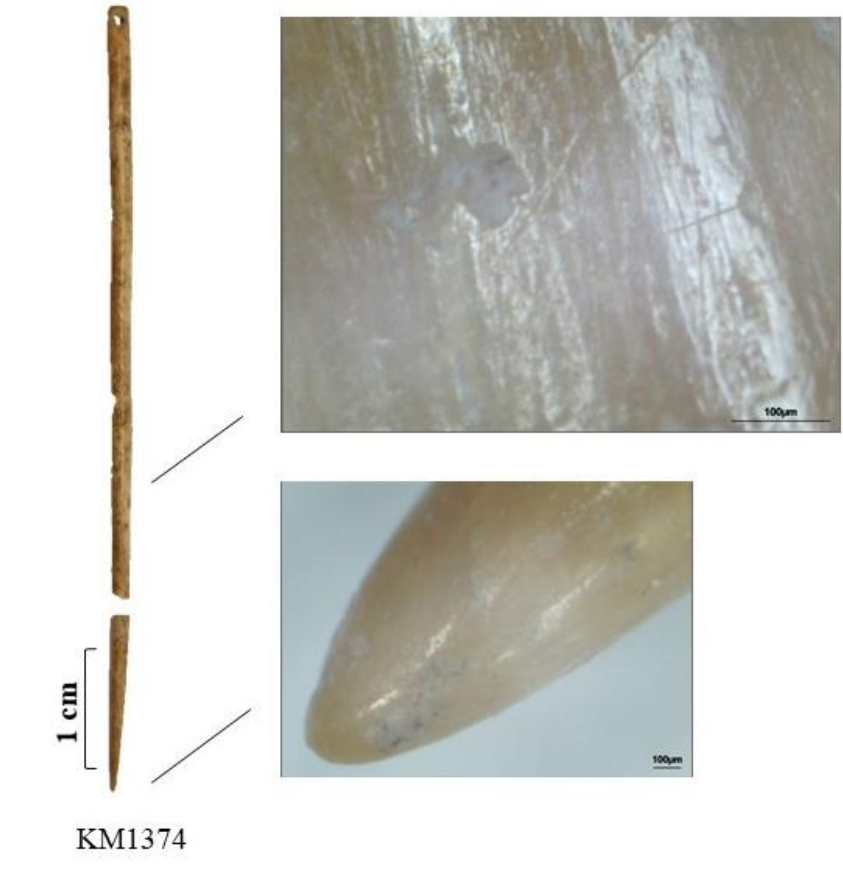
Dagger/knife C.118, T.26 (Kalopsidha) MCIII



Middle and Late Chalcolithic textile production



Middle and Late
Chalcolithic needles
(Kissonerga *Mosphilia*)



Usewear and micro-usewear analysis

Plant based fibre
fabrics/textiles

Uses of needles



Basketry



Fabric weaving

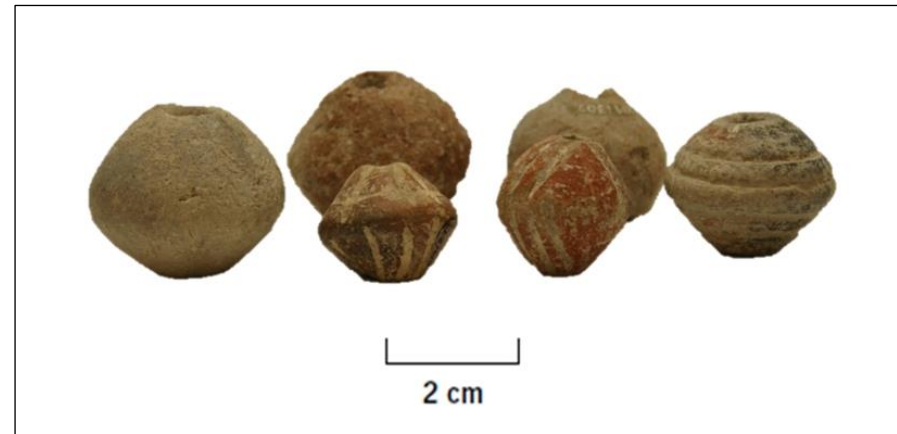
Horizontal ground loom for mat weaving
(The Cyprus Folk Art Museum, Nicosia)



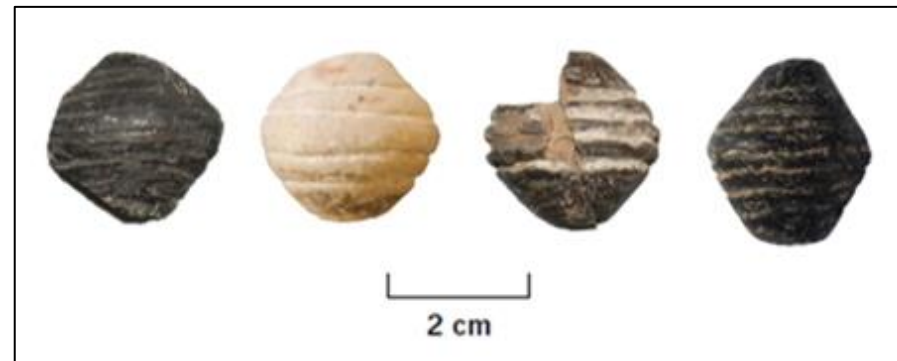
Late Chalcolithic spindle whorls?



Stone whorls
from Kissonerga
Mosphilia (Late
Chalcolithic)



Terracotta spindle whorls and one stone
whorl from Kissonerga *Mosphilia* (Late
Chalcolithic/Philia)

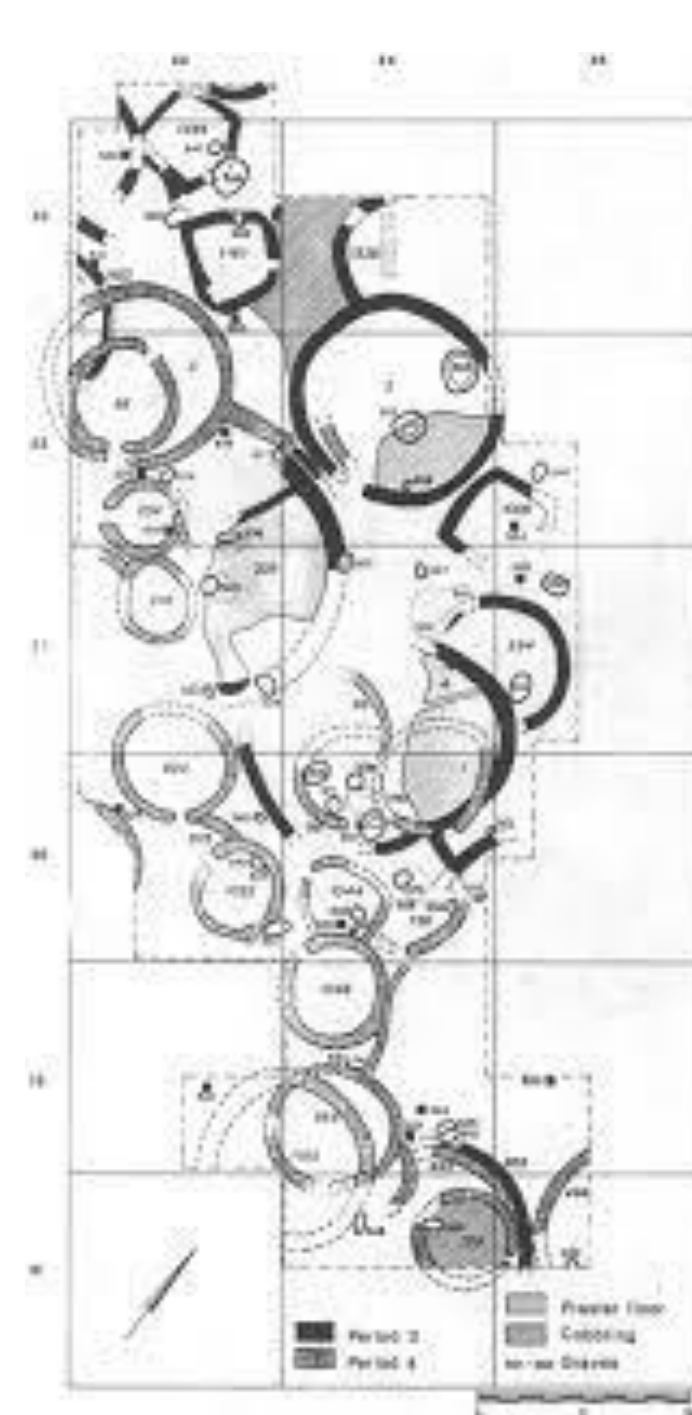


Philia spindle whorls from Marki *Alonia*
and Kissonerga *Skalia*

The Chalcolithic round house: a domestic workspace for textile production?



Chalcolithic site of Lemba *Lakkous*
and Lemba Experimental Village



Lemba, interior of
a reconstructed
roundhouse

Kissonerga
Mosphilia



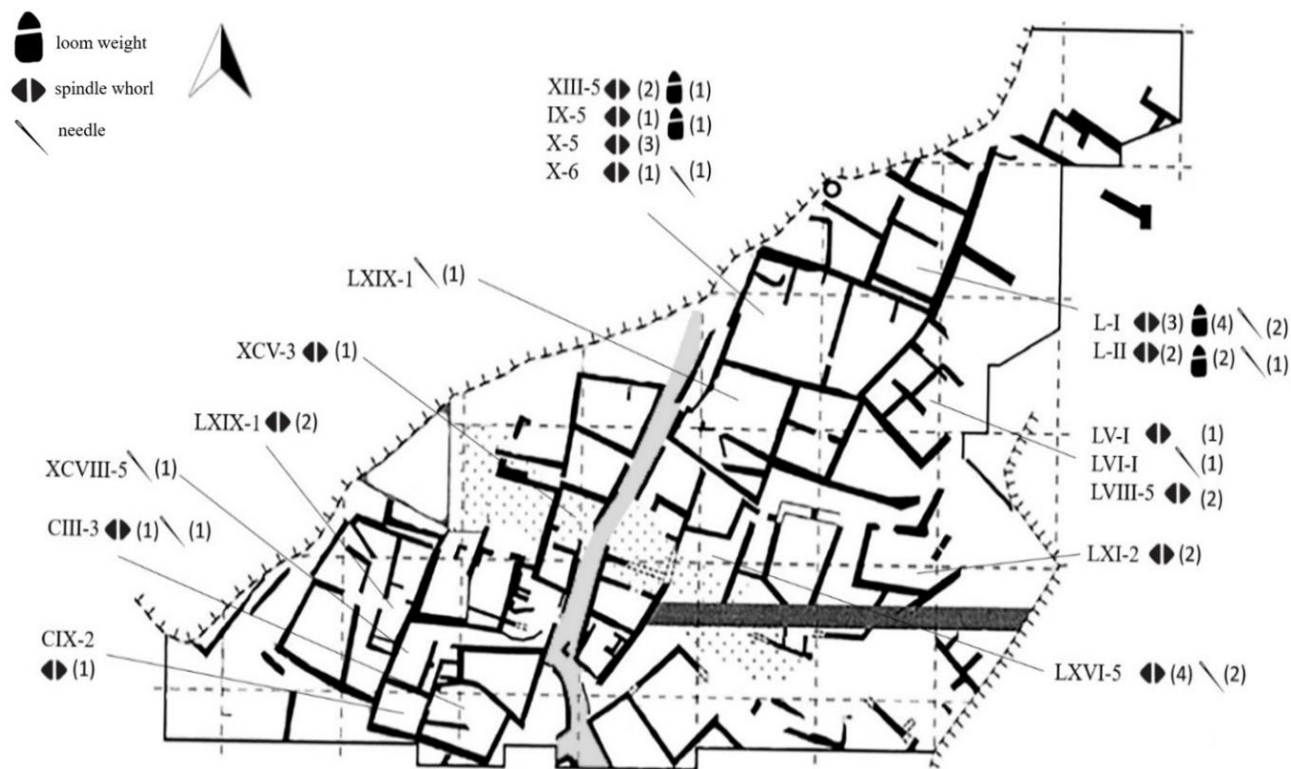
EC/MC settlements

Tool distribution in domestic units

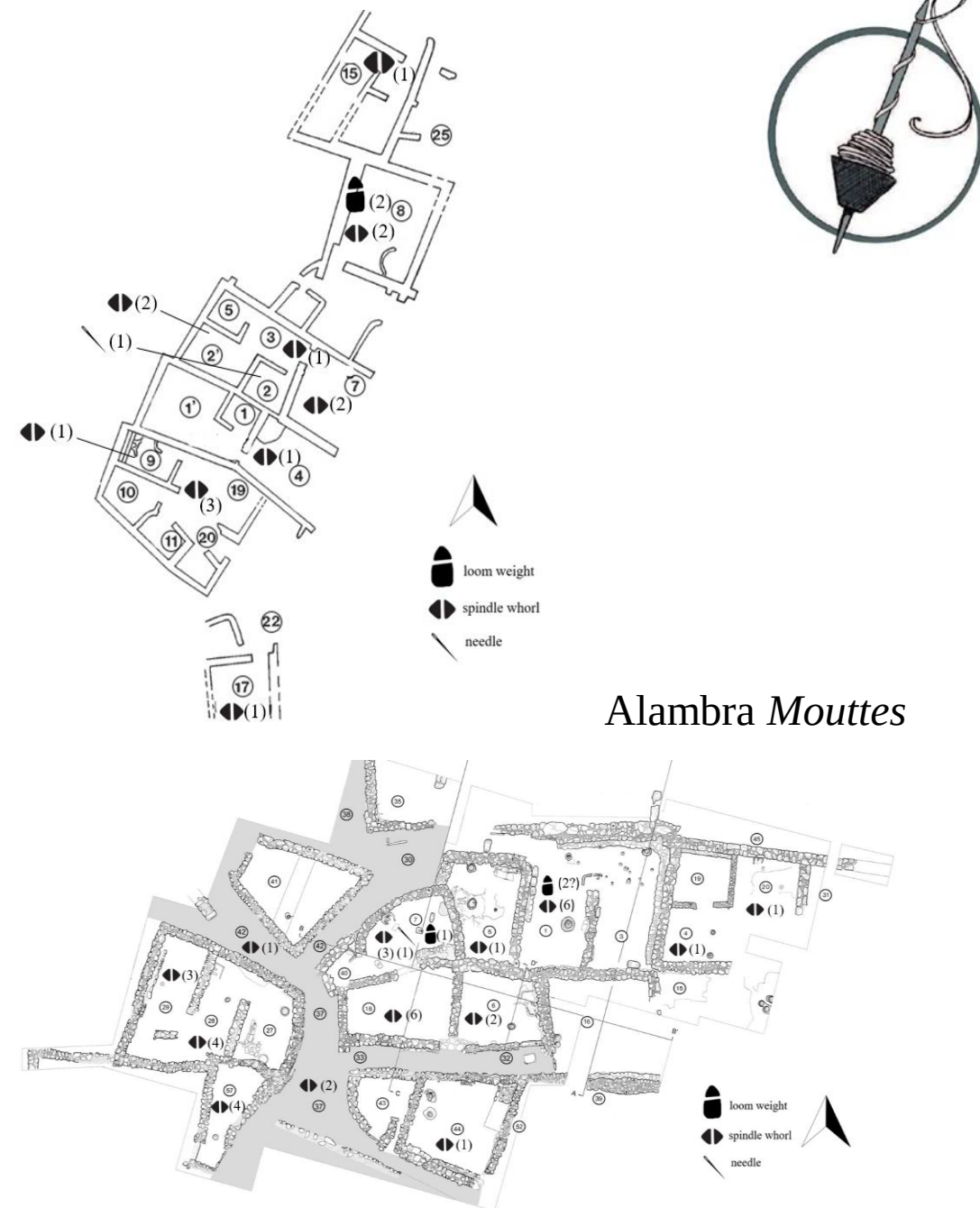
Sites: Sotira Kaminoudhia, Alambra Mouttes, Marki Alonia

Contexts with textile evidence: domestic units

Type of evidence: tools (spindle whorls, loom weights, needles)



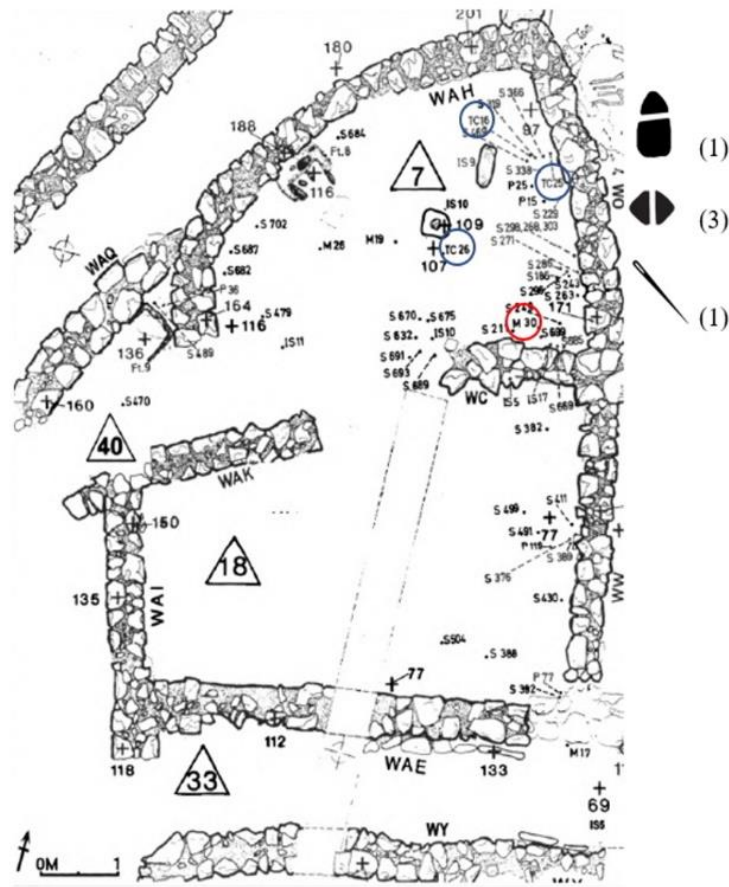
Marki Alonia



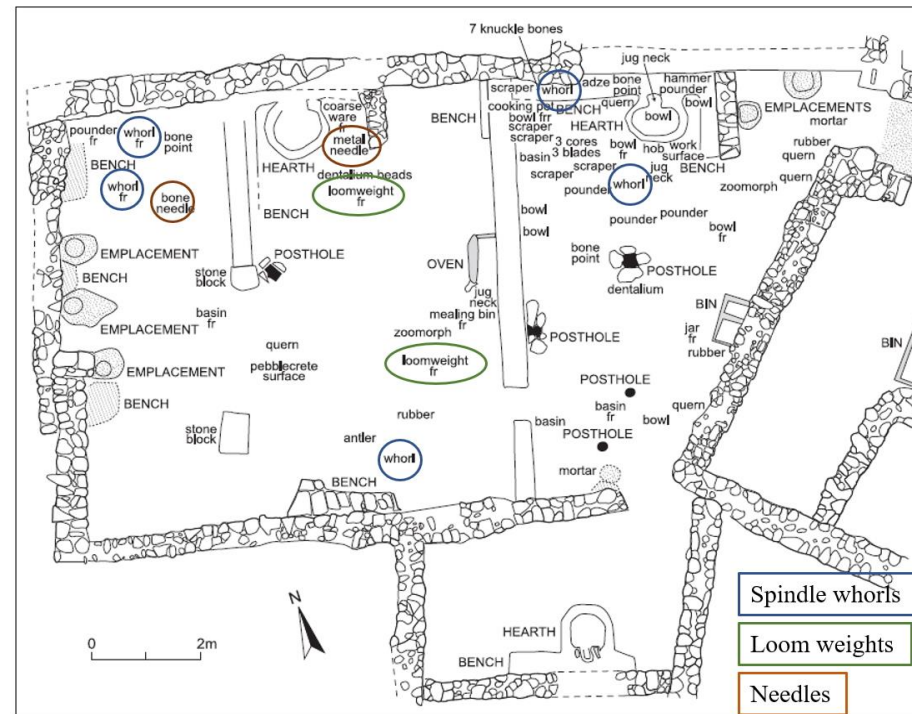
Alambra Mouttes

Sotira Kaminoudhia

Textile evidence in context? The domestic environment of textile production



Sotira. Plan of Unit 7 with finds



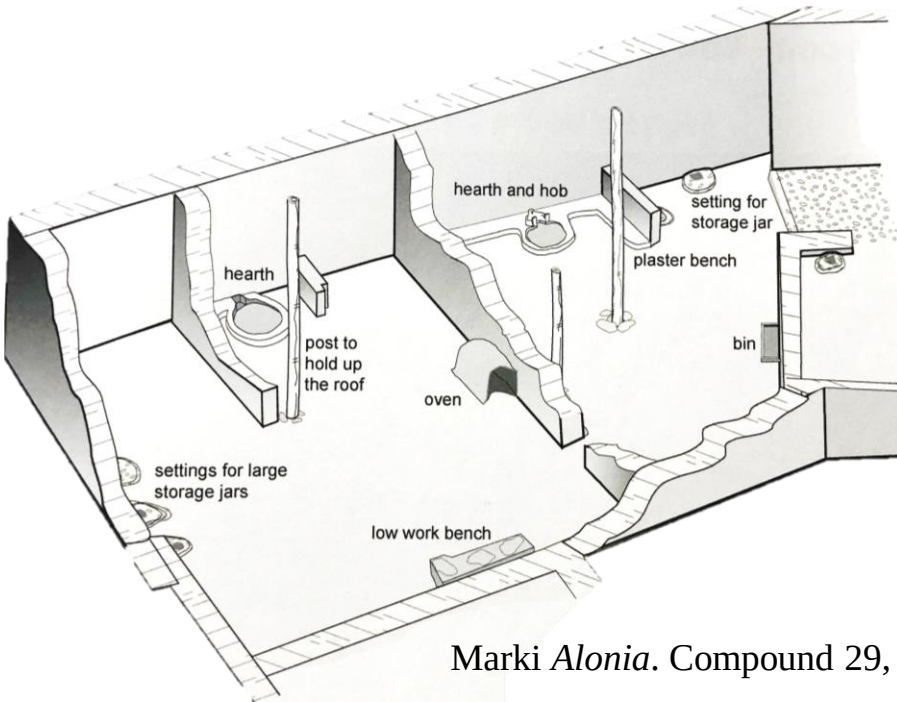
Marki. Compound 29, Phase G with artefacts found on the floor



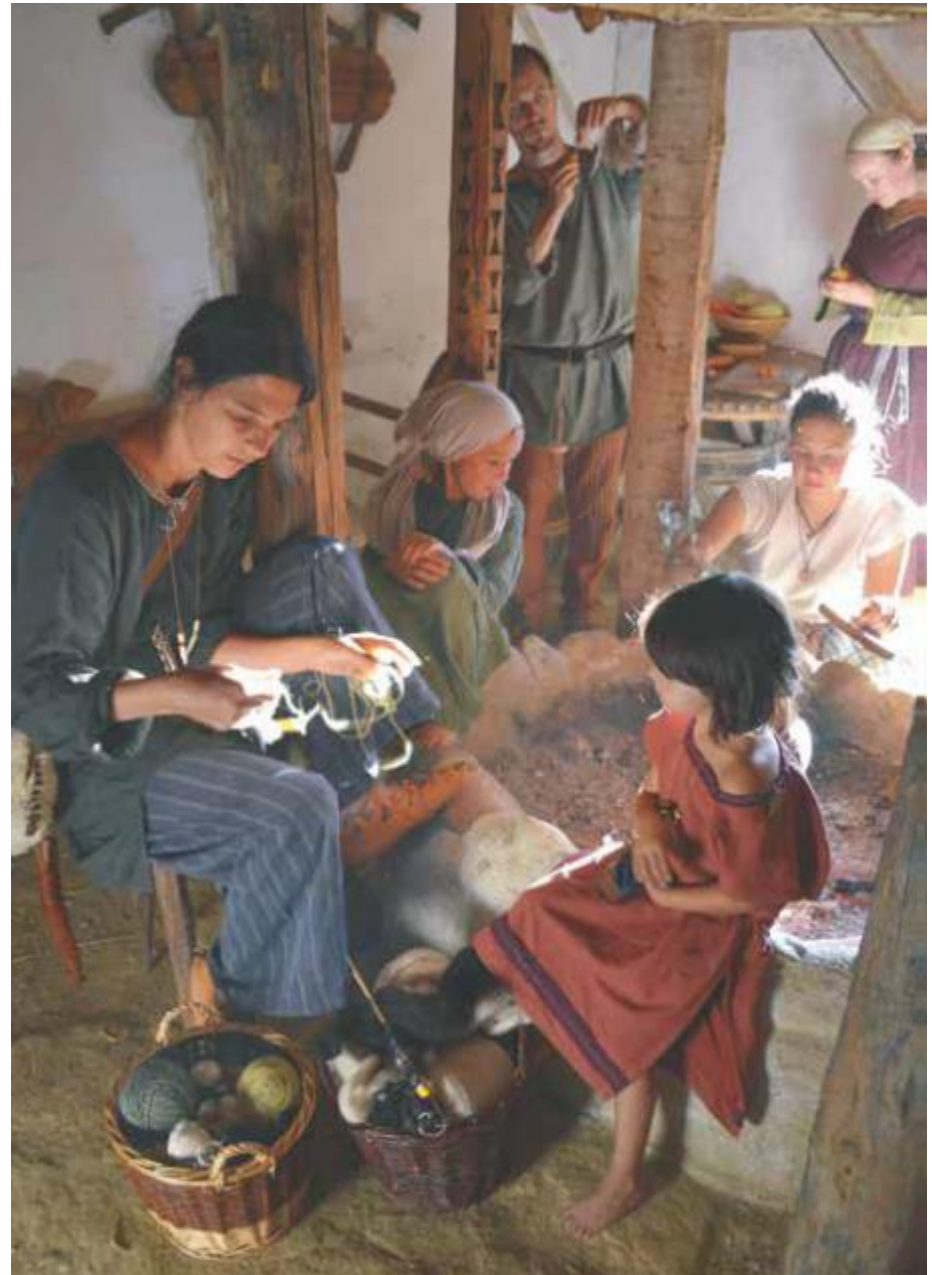
Marki. Selection of loom weights



Marki. Spindle whorls P11207, P7357, P7356, P11673



Marki Alonia. Compound 29, Phase G





**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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