

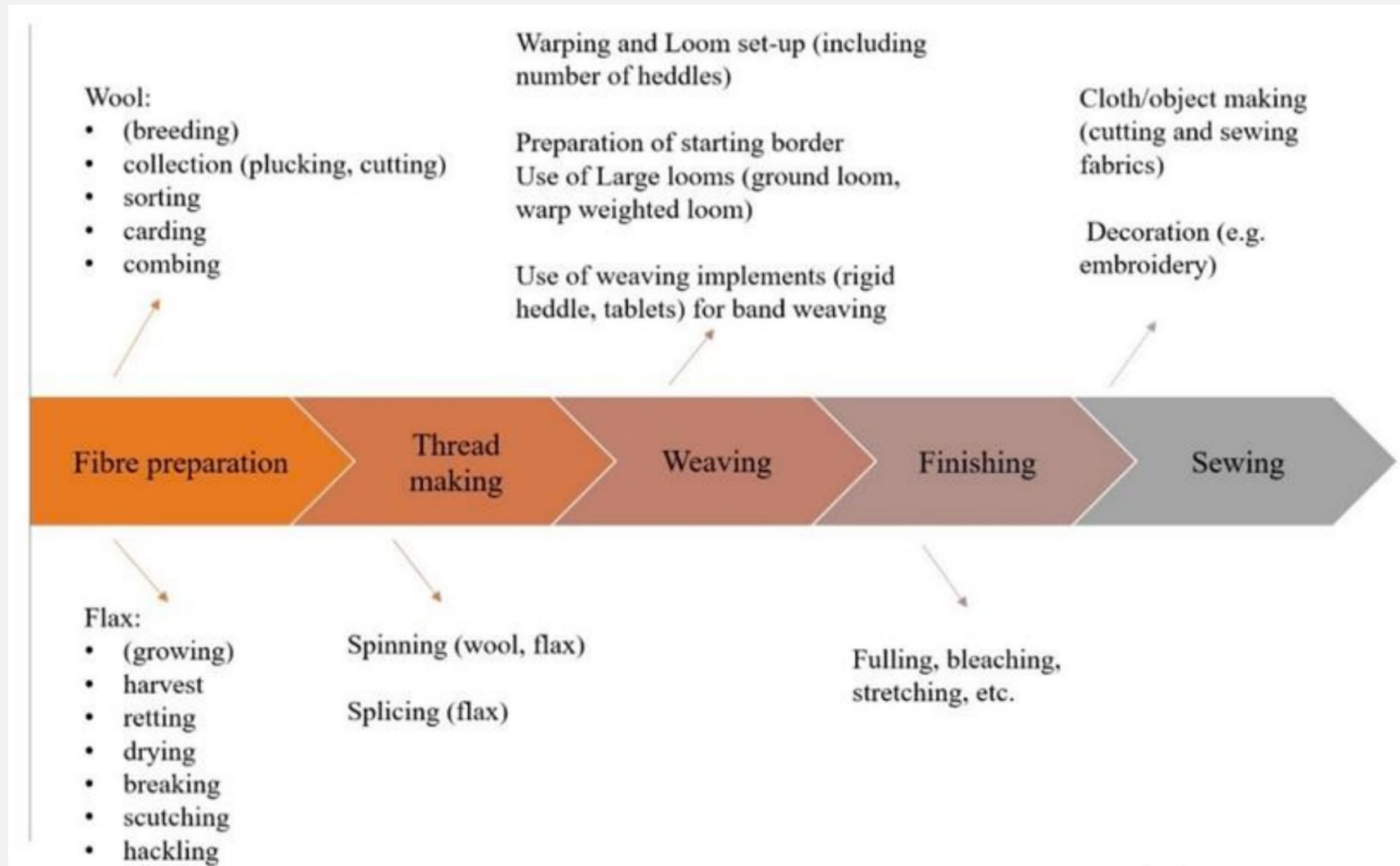


HOUSEHOLDS

Household Production:
Textiles & Clothing

TEXTILES AND TEXTILE PRODUCTION – THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

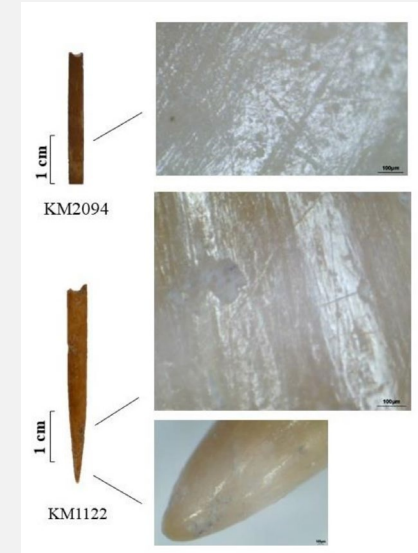
- Textiles are an umbrella term for a large number of different kinds of objects
- Textiles are not just the end result, but the processes and tools used to make them.
- There are multiple uses, both utilitarian and not, for textiles
- Our first evidence of textiles comes from the end of the Palaeolithic
- Some steps of the textile making process are invisible archaeologically (or very difficult to detect)
 - E.g. fibre preparation and dying
- Not all textile production requires tools (splicing rather than spinning)



Chaine operatoire of textile production (Image credit, Dr Gulia Muti)

CYPRUS – CHALCOLITHIC

- The earliest evidence of textile production on Cyprus dates to the Early and Middle Chalcolithic but had been largely ignored
- Bone needles from the Early Chalcolithic
 - Use wear analysis can determine what the needles were used for
 - Analysis of needles from Kissonerga *Mosphilia* showed they were almost all used for textile production



Middle and Late Chalcolithic needles

CYPRUS – CHALCOLITHIC

- Spindle whorls from the Late Chalcolithic – previously identified as beads despite their size and weight.

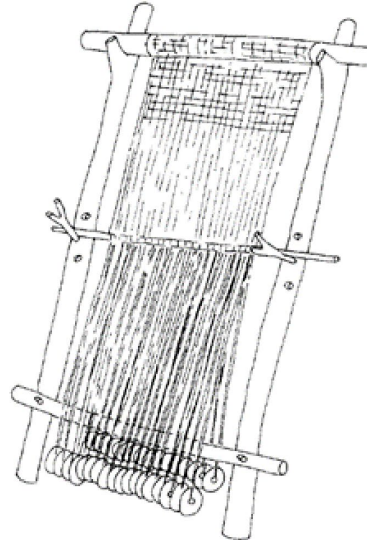


Stone whorls
from Kissonerga
Mosphilia (Late
Chalcolithic)





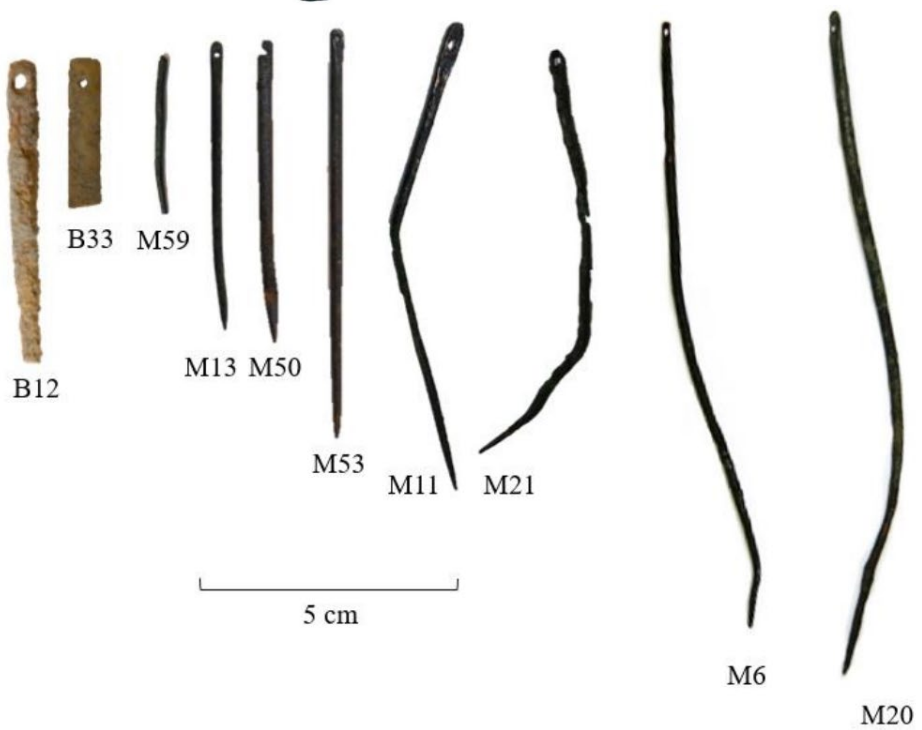
Selection of conical loom weights from
Marki Alonia (EC – MC)



Warp-weighted loom
with a 'tabby' setup

CYPRUS – EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

- Needles
- Spindle whorls
- Earliest evidence of loom weaving from EC and MC periods
 - Surviving loom weights are heavy and made of terracotta and stone
 - Experimental archaeology has indicated the fabric woven would have been heavy



TEXTILE REMAINS

- Upper Palaeolithic:
 - Barber: ivory figurine is earliest depiction of spun thread
 - Skirt made from twisted fibres
- Neolithic: bast fibres from Çatalhöyük



Çatalhöyük textile
fragment

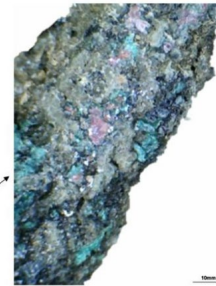


Lespugue Venus

TEXTILE REMAINS FROM CYPRUS



Side B



Long pin T.5/70 (Linou)
MC



'Fossilised' fabric
fragment from Khirakitia
(Aceramic Neolithic)



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

CLOTHING IN ANTIQUITY – THE SECONDARY EVIDENCE

- What did people wear?
 - Textiles: wool, linen & other plant fibres
 - Skins & leather; leather thongs etc.
- Sources:
 - Extant fragments of textiles & fibres
 - Tools associated with textile production & leather working
 - Textual
 - Dress accessories
 - Representations



Warrior on Bichrome jug

BRONZE AGE AEGEAN

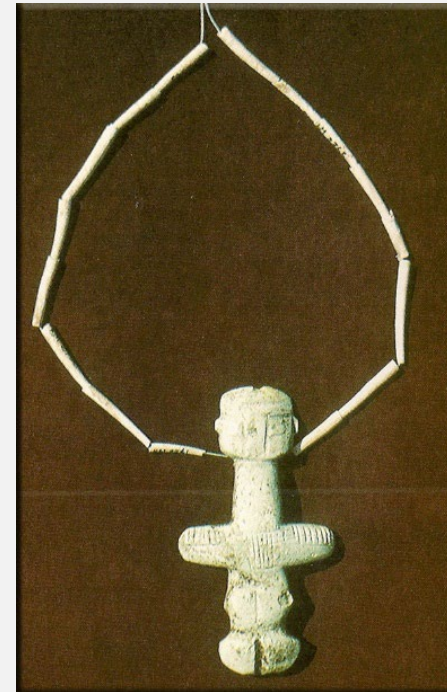
- Some textual evidence for supra-household production
- Very rich iconographic evidence:
 - Wall paintings
 - Gold signet rings
- Emphasis on female clothing:
 - Woven, brightly dyed woollen clothing
 - Some very finely woven – perhaps linen



Wall painting, Thera

CHALCOLITHIC CYPRUS

- Virtually no secondary evidence
- Most representations:
 - Female (stone & terracotta)
 - Naked apart from necklace & pendant
 - Possible body markings (body painting, tattooing?)
- Kissonerga birthing figure:
 - Possibly wearing dress/skirt?
 - Bands of red



Necklace: picrolite
pendant & dentalium
beads



Terracotta figurine,
Kissonerga *Mosphilia*

BRONZE AGE CYPRUS: CLOTHING



Deep bowl, *Vounous*

- Ceremonial clothing?
 - Early Cypriot I, Bellapais *Vounous*
 - Red Polished Deep bowls
 - Animal mask: bucrania, deer, goats
 - Shaggy skins

BRONZE AGE CYPRUS: CLOTHING

- Early Cypriot III-Middle Cypriot I:
 - Red Polished figures
 - Detailed documentation of clothing & dress accessories
 - Headdress
 - Also elaborate facial decoration: tattooing or scarification?



Red Polished figures

BRONZE AGE CYPRUS: CLOTHING

- Early Cypriot III-Middle Cypriot I:
 - Scenic compositions have less detail on clothing
 - Long robes, headdresses & personal adornment
- Contemporary surviving personal adornment & dress accessories



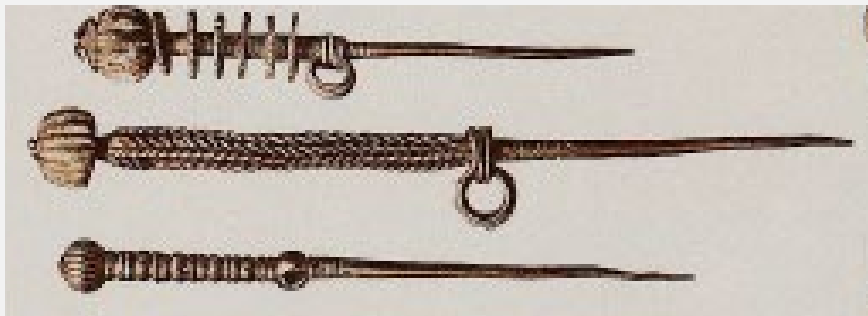
Bronze toggle pin



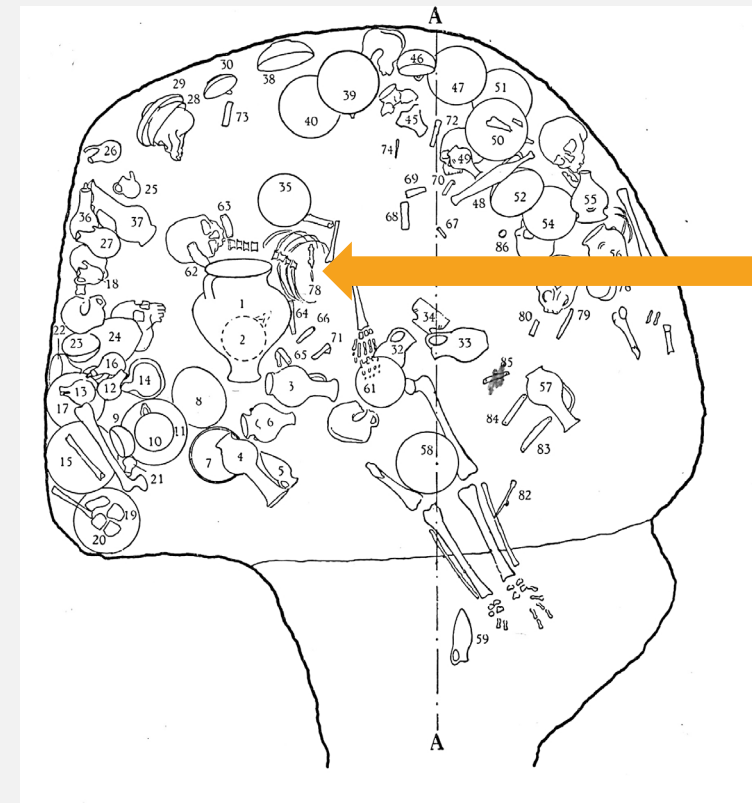
Red Polished trough scene,
detail

BRONZE AGE CYPRUS: CLOTHING

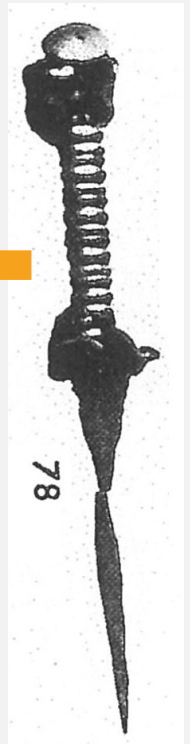
- Late Cypriot:
 - Plentiful evidence for personal adornment & clothing accessories
 - Pins fastening robes
 - Very limited iconographic evidence: predominantly male



Gold pins, Enkomi British Tomb 93

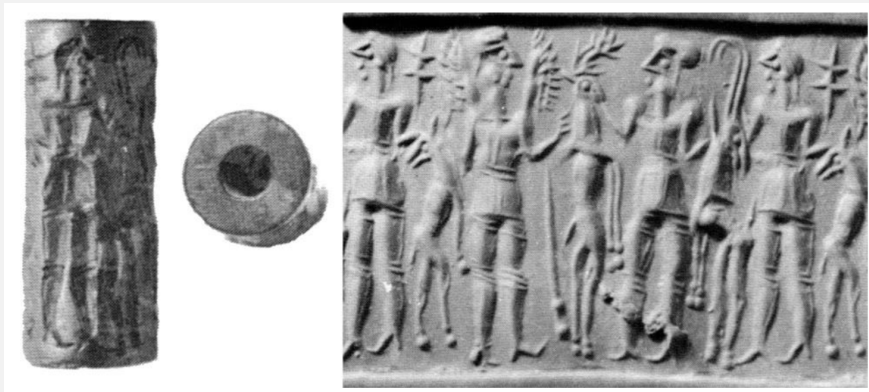


Enkomi Swedish
Tomb 17

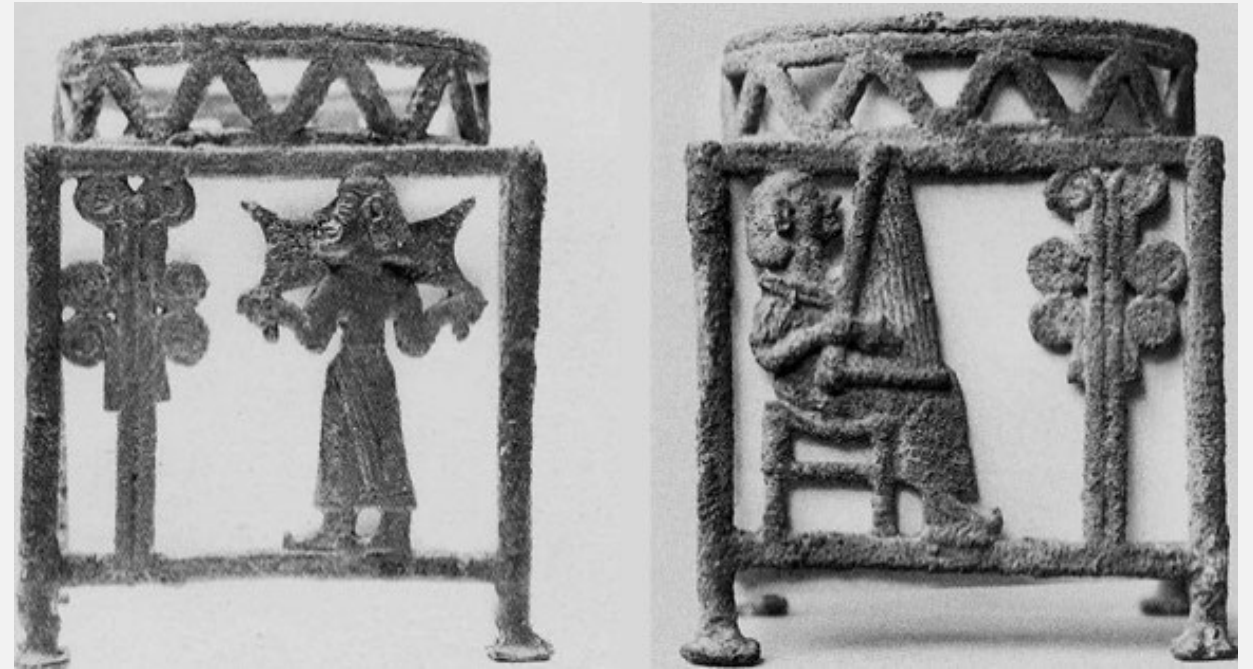


BRONZE AGE CYPRUS: CLOTHING

- LC iconographic evidence:
 - Males wearing long robes, pointed shoes, and possibly a fillet or headdress
 - Cylinder seals?



Elaborate Style cylinder seal from Kalavassos Building III



Bronze stands from Enkomi in the British Museum

SUMMARY

- Secondary evidence for clothing in BA Cyprus is very limited
- Archaeological evidence: personal adornment & clothing accessories only provide hints
- Iconographic evidence:
 - Possible to make some deductions, but the evidence is frequently gendered
 - These can be related back to the extant archaeological record (personal adornment)
- Contrasts with the rich archaeological evidence for textile production