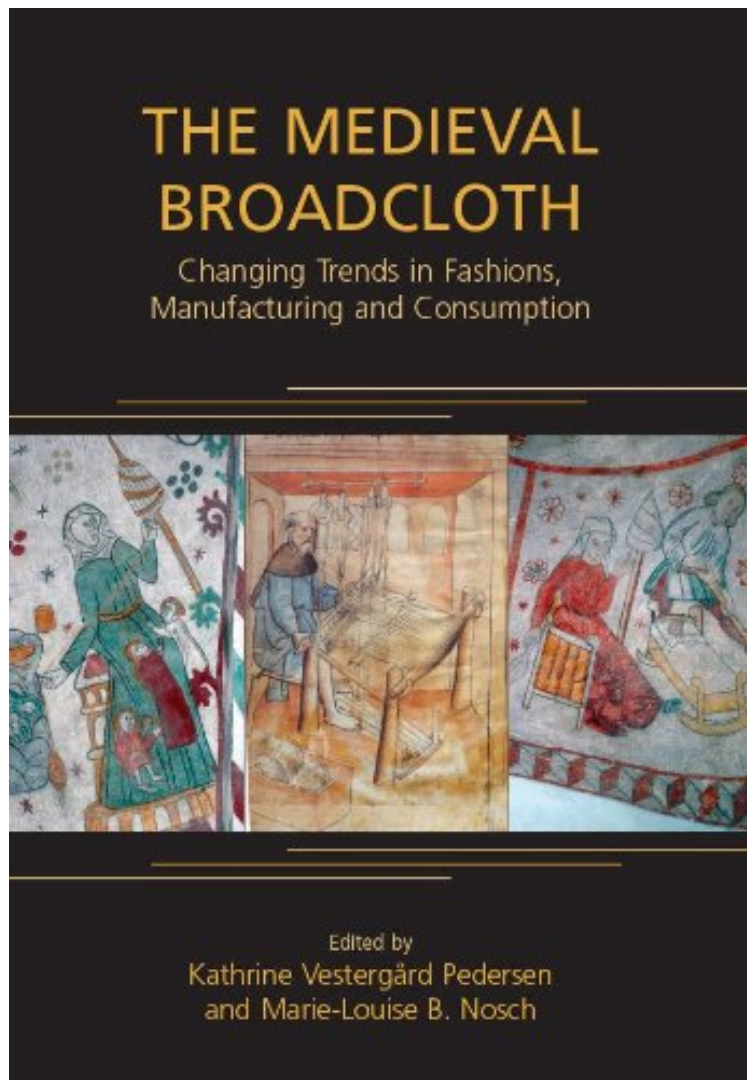


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Kathrine Vestergard Pedersen, Marie-Louise Nosch
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Kathrine Vestergard Pedersen, Marie-Louise Nosch : The Medieval Broadcloth: Changing Trends in Fashions, Manufacturing and Consumption (ANCIENT TEXTILES SERIES) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Medieval Broadcloth: Changing Trends in Fashions, Manufacturing and Consumption (ANCIENT TEXTILES SERIES):

The eight papers presented here provide a useful introduction to medieval broadcloth, and an up-to-date synthesis of current research. The word broadcloth is nowadays used as an overall term for the woven textiles mass-produced and exported all over Europe. It was first produced in Flanders as a luxurious cloth from the 11th century and throughout the medieval period. Broadcloth is the English term, Laken in Flemish, Tuch in German, Drap in French, Klælig;de in the Scandinavian languages and Verka in Finnish. As the concept of broadcloth has deriving from the written sources it cannot directly be identified in the archaeological textiles and therefore the topic of medieval broadcloth is very suitable as an interdisciplinary theme. The first chapter (John Munro) presents an introduction to the subject and takes the reader through the manufacturing and economic importance of the medieval broadcloth as a luxury item. Chapter two (Carsten Jahnke) describes trade in the Baltic Sea area, detailing production standards, shipping and prices. Chapters three, four and five (Heini Kirjavainen, Riina Rammo and Jerzy Maik) deal with archaeological textiles excavated in the Baltic, Finland and Poland. Chapters six and seven (Camilla Luise Dahl and Kathrine Vestergaard;rd Pedersen) concern the problems of combining the terminology from the written sources with archaeological textiles. The last chapter reports on an ongoing reconstruction project; at the open air museum in Eindhoven, Holland, Anton Reurink has tried to recreate a medieval broadcloth based on written and historical sources. During the last few years he has reconstructed the tool for preparing and spinning wool, and a group of spinners has produced a yarn of the right quality. He subsequently wove approximately 20 metres of cloth and conducted the first experiment with foot-fulling.

An important contribution.' (Elizabeth Coatsworth *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*, vol 6, 2010) Copious tables and illustrations throughout the book enhance its readability considerably, as do the contributor biographies that help to place the subject matter of each paper in its academic context. This is a fine book, one which clearly illustrates how archaeology can complement written sources and how those sources can enhance the archaeology.' (Philippa A. Henry *Medieval Archaeology*, Vol. 54, November 2010)...this volume would compliment the library of a textile subject expert both as an English language reference to Baltic regional research and as a directional map for developing future large-scale research projects of a truly interdisciplinary nature.' (Jaime D. Jennings *Archaeological from Cambridge*) About the Author Marie-Louise Nosch is Director of the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen and Research Professor at the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen. She is the editor of many titles in the Ancient Textiles series.