

Compiled by Nicole James, the *Calontir Fiber and Needle Guild Textile Links and Email Lists* is a mixture of articles, external websites, bibliographies, and examples of both Medieval and Renaissance textile work. All of the links to internal and external information are on a continuous page, so that navigation is tedious. Fortunately, links that jump to the different sections ease the process. For academic evaluation, though, the most salient points are authoritativeness, documentation, and currency.

The website, found at <http://www.calontirfiber.org/fiberlinks.html>, is actually a part of the research and activities of the organization Society for Creative Anachronisms (SCA) in the Calontir branch. The fact that it is an SCA website lends it more credibility than other “civilian” sets of authors: members have to provide an historical basis for any article, product, or created persona that they submit for official approval. Still, any researcher cannot ignore the fact that these authors are generally not certified experts, as the “.org” instead of “.edu” indicates. In this regard, the website’s information shouldn’t be trusted without further evaluation.

Even if the SCA lacks immediate authority, the amount of documentation for most of these articles, both internal and external, lends significant credibility to the authors’ research. Of course, the amount of documentation does vary, as expected from a non-academic source. For example, the article “Black in Period” has an excellent list of sources that the author has divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary, whereas the article “Embroidery Techniques” has no listed references. Overall, many of the sites have at least a few noted sources (e.g., “A Saxon Thread In-Tablet Weave”), while even more have long bibliographies or are just bibliographies.

In addition, a few of the ones that do not list sources concern some of the modern substitutions that some SCA members use. The plan “How to Build a Frame Loom” requires modern tools and not historical ones. A researcher must be careful to separate the substitutions

from the historical facts. However, the extensive bibliographies help indicate which articles and links are strictly historical.

Concerning currency, James has not updated the website since 2002. While inexplicable, such inactivity does not automatically counter the credibility of documentation. It does mean that any researcher should be aware that there might be more recent discoveries, and thus they should confirm any facts with another source. The most annoying direct result is that some of the links (no more than a dozen) don't work or have changed locations. When James was actively caring for the site, she separated these out onto a different page. James, having put contact information on the main site and the "Broken Links" page, encourages people to email her with questions. This would help preserve the information lost in the broken links, but I didn't explore whether or not that contact is still valid.

In the end, *Calontir Fiber and Needle Guild Textile Links and Email Lists* is a good resource on diverse subjects for a careful researcher. With wary discrimination between the new and historical, anyone can find the information or identify the resource for which they're searching.