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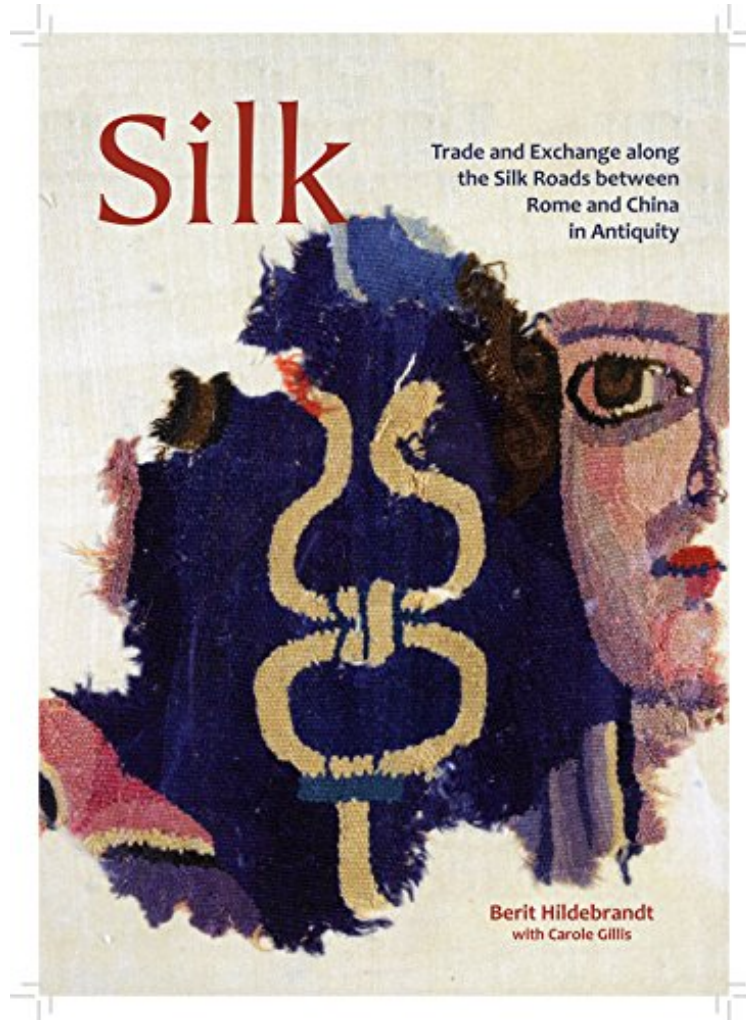
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Silk: Trade and Exchange along the Silk Roads between Rome and China in Antiquity (Ancient Textiles)

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"Already in Greek and Roman antiquity a vibrant series of exchange relationships existed between the Mediterranean regions and China, including the Indian subcontinents along well-defined routes we call the Silk Roads. Among the many goods that found their way from East to West and vice versa were glass, wine, spices, metals like iron, precious

stones as well as textile raw materials and fabrics and silk, a luxury item that was in great demand in the Roman Empire. These collected papers connect research from different areas and disciplines dealing with exchange along the Silk Roads. These historical, philological and archaeological contributions highlight silk as a commodity, gift and tribute, and as a status symbol in varying cultural and chronological contexts between East and West, including technological aspects of silk production. The main period concerns Rome and China in antiquity, ending in the late fifth century CE, with the Roman Empire being transformed into the Byzantine Empire, while the Chinese chronology covers the Han dynasty, the Three Kingdoms, the Western and Eastern Jin and Sixteen Kingdoms, ending in 420 CE. In addition, both earlier and later epochs are also considered in order to gather an understanding of developments and changes in long-distance and longer-term relations that involved silk."

About the Author Berit Hildebrandt is a researcher at the Danish National Research Foundations Centre for Textile Research at Copenhagen University, Denmark, where she specializes in the study of ancient silks and the silk trade. She is currently involved in a major project exploring changes in the costume of the Roman emperor, his family and his court from Augustus to the emperor Honorius (1st century BCE-5th century CE).