

PREFACE

This small book is not intended as a complete manual on ancient textiles. It will pass over the aesthetic and artistic aspects of such textiles but will try to summarize our present knowledge of the history of textile fibres, their spinning and processing and the tools used in spinning and weaving. Copious references will guide the reader to the essays written by experts. Several of these have given the author considerable help. Mrs. Grace M. Crowfoot has kindly permitted the author to reproduce her excellent summary of types of weaving from the chapter on ancient textiles in the *History of Technology* Vol. I (edit. Singer, Holmyard and Hall), the editors of which handbook have permitted the author to reproduce this section verbatim and have kindly supplied him with the excellent drawings belonging to this section. Miss Louisa Bellinger has allowed the author to quote large sections of the excellent Workshop Notes which she wrote for the Textile Museum (Washington). Many authorities have supplied him with illustrations for this book. Our future task seems to consist in more precise description of the ancient textiles in our musea and excavations and a better statistical analysis of such materials in order to close the many gaps in the history of ancient textiles.

Amsterdam, January 1956.

R. J. FORBES