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Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles

Proceedings of the
Fifth Biennial
Symposium of
The Textile Society
of America

1996

Textile Society of America, Inc.

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Ceremonial Textiles**

*Proceedings of the
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*Chicago, Illinois
1996*

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SACRED AND CEREMONIAL TEXTILES
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM
OF THE TEXTILE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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This volume contains papers delivered at the Fifth Biennial
Symposium of the Textile Society of America, Inc. held at
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, September 19-21, 1996

The Textile Society of America, Inc. provides a forum for the exchange and dissemination of
information about the historic, cultural, socio-economic, artistic, and technical aspects of textiles. It was
founded in 1987 and is governed by a Board of Directors which includes scholars from museums and
universities, as well as fiber artists.

The *Proceedings* of each biennial symposium are distributed as a benefit of membership. The
previous titles are:

1988 *Textiles as Primary Sources*
1990 *Textiles in Trade*
1992 *Textiles in Daily Life*
1994 *Contact, Crossover, Continuity*

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Cover photo: Detail of a chalice veil, Italy, about 1680.
Linen, plain weave; edged with linen, needle lace with raised details.
Courtesy The Art Institute of Chicago, restricted gift of Louise Lutz, 1991.549.

CONTENTS

Preface	7
Panel: Sacred Textile Banners of Japan	
Sacred Textile Banners of Japan <i>Monica Bethe</i>	9
Braids on Early Japanese Banners <i>Masako Kinoshita</i>	19
From Secular Garment to Sacred Object: Kosode Refashioned into Buddhist Altar Cloths and Banners <i>Nobuhiko Maruyama</i>	29
Offertory Banners from Rural Japan: Echigo-Chijimi Weaving and Worship <i>Sharon Sadako Takeda</i>	38
Session 1	
The Tenjukoku Shucho and the Asuka Period Funerary Practices <i>Maria del Rosario Pradel</i>	48
The Reproduction and Ceremonial Offering of Sacred Textiles and Apparel in Ise Jingu's Shikinen Sengu (abstract only) <i>Rosemarie Bernard</i>	57
Panel: The Sacred Drapo of Haitian Vodou: Antecedent, Tradition and Metamorphoses	
Haitian Drapo Vodou: Imagery, Ritual and Perception <i>Susan Elizabeth Tselos</i>	58
Some Breton and Muslim Antecedents of Voudou Drapo <i>LeGrace Benson</i>	68
For the Flower of Ginen: The Artistry of Clotaire Bazile, a Haitian Vodou Flagmaker <i>Anna Wexler</i>	76

Session 2

Laundry: Ritual as Habitual Use <i>Margo Mensing</i>	86
Ceremonial Textiles of the Mardi Gras Indians <i>Ann M. DuPont</i>	94
Video: Between Light and Shadow (abstract) <i>Kathryn Lypke Vigesaa</i>	103

Session 3

The Ampato Textile Offerings <i>William J. Conklin</i>	104
The Great Cloth Burial at Cahuachi, Nasca Valley, Peru <i>Elena Phipps</i>	111
Syncretic Cloth, Virgins and Colonization in the Peruvian Andes <i>Karen Michelsen</i>	121
Textiles of Sacrifice: Aztec Ritual Capes <i>Patricia Rieff Anawalt</i>	131

Session 4

Manifest Insignificance - The Consecrated Veil of Medieval Religious Women <i>Desiree Koslin</i>	141
Traditional Textiles in Transylvanian and Danubian Mourning Rituals <i>Joyce Corbett</i>	148
Beauty Enhances Ritual <i>Jennifer Wearden</i>	156

Panel: Ritual Cloth as Emblem of Socio-Religious Values in Indonesia

Panel Introduction <i>Rens Heringa</i>	165
---	-----

Heirloom and Hierarchy - The Sacred Lawo Butu Cloth
of the Lio of Central Flores
Willemijn de Jong 168

Heirloom and Male Ancestors - The Flowered Kain Kembangan
of Kerek, East Java
Rens Heringa 178

Heirloom Cloth and Social Organization - The Ceremonial Kain
Sandang Gobo of the Minangkabau, West Sumatra
Linda Hanssen 185

Session 5

Maori Weaving: The Intertwining of Spirit, Action and Metaphor
Suzanne Mac Aulay and Kura Te Waru-Rewiri 195

Video: Entrance Gates Commission - Maui Arts and Cultural Center
(introduction to the video)
Pat Hickman 205

Video: The Traditional Method of Masi Making on the Island
of Taveuni, Fiji (abstract)
Daniel Roy Hildenbrandt 208

Video: Threads of Time - Handmade Textiles for Weddings in
Fez, Morocco (introduction to the video)
Louise W. Mackie 209

Panel: Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles and the Constitution of Value in Africa

The Meaning of Yoruba Aso Olona Is Far from Water Tight
Lisa Aronson 210

Mourning and Memory: Factory-Printed Textiles and
the Baule of Cote D'Ivoire
Kathleen E. Bickford 221

White Robes for Worship: The Umnazaretha of the
Nazareth Baptist Church in South Africa
Karen H. Brown 229

Divine Worth: Weaving and the Ancestors in Highland Madagascar
Rebecca L. Green 239

Session 6

Cloth and the Corpse in Ebirá
John Picton 249

Sacred Textiles from an Ancient Nubian Temple
Nettie K. Adams 259

Video: Contemporary Fashions of Traditional Textiles and
Clothing in the Gambia (abstract)
June Pearson Bland 269

Sessions 7 and 8

Four Eighteenth-Century Monumental Ethiopian
Tablet-Woven Silk Curtains
Michael Gervers 270

Naming and Meaning: Ritual Textiles of the Iban of Sarawak
Traude Gavin 280

(Re)Situating Ceremonial Textiles in Ifugao, Upland Philippines
B. Lynne Milgram 288

Appendix: Textile Society of America's 1996 Governing Board 298

PREFACE

The Fifth Biennial Symposium of the Textile Society of America, Inc. was hosted by The Department of Textiles at The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois from September 19-21, 1996. This *Proceedings* contains the thirty-one papers and one abstract of a paper presented at the symposium, plus introductions or abstracts of the five videos presented.

The theme 'Sacred and Ceremonial Textiles' was chosen so that researchers throughout the world, working within a wide range of cultures and time periods, could offer participants the broadest possible exploration of this important universal subject. The resulting papers offer a wide variety of points of view including: glimpses into the structure and use of textiles that are central to ancient traditional ceremonies; speculations about the faraway origins of others; the inspiration and evolution of contemporary sculptural forms based on textile models; along with a review of laundry, a common domestic ritual.

In the course of the sessions some presenters considered the role that textiles have played in private or in public ceremonies, the textiles' types and construction, the visual appearance of ceremonial costumes and the textiles of which they are constructed, and modern adaptations of traditional textiles.

Rita J. Adrosko, Curator Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution

