

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings

Textile Society of America


1994

From the Ancestors or the Portuguese: Exotic Textiles in Flores and the Solor Archipelago

Robyn Maxwell

National Gallery of Australia

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf>

 Part of the [Art and Materials Conservation Commons](#), [Art Practice Commons](#), [Fashion Design Commons](#), [Fiber, Textile, and Weaving Arts Commons](#), [Fine Arts Commons](#), and the [Museum Studies Commons](#)

Maxwell, Robyn, "From the Ancestors or the Portuguese: Exotic Textiles in Flores and the Solor Archipelago" (1994). *Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings*. 1045.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/1045>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Textile Society of America at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

FROM THE ANCESTORS OR THE PORTUGUESE: EXOTIC TEXTILES IN FLORES AND THE SOLAR ARCHIPELAGO (abstract only)

ROBYN MAXWELL

Dept. of Asian Art, National Gallery of Australia
GPO Box 1150, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

Throughout the eastern Indonesian island of Flores and the neighbouring Solor archipelago, village treasuries usually contain considerable numbers of highly valued textiles and some items of costume. These consist predominantly of important local products clearly made within the particular village or district.

Other heirloom textiles have been acquired from outside the local regions in the distant or not-so-distant past. These exotic heirlooms are often awarded a special place in the hierarchy of textiles found throughout Flores, Solor and Lembata and, where possible, examines local histories and myths associated with the origins of particular objects or types of cloth.

Further, an examination of the place and significance of exotic cloth in various local ceremonial contexts will focus on relationships between local and "foreign" textiles. Such an analysis may shed light on the history of textiles in the Flores region and the impact of exotic textiles on local textile design, meaning and usage.