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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

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Chicago, Illinois
1996
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.
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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