

Textiles from the Silk Road in Museum Collections

Scientific Investigations and Conservation Challenges

A Symposium in Conservation Science held with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Stevenson Lecture Theatre, Clore Centre, The British Museum

10 December 2018

9:00-9:40	REGISTRATION
9:40-9:45	Opening remarks
Session 1 Oriental textiles in the world (part 1) Chair: Diego Tamburini	
9:45-10:10	Keynote lecture: <i>Identifying the colorants in archaeological textiles from Central Asia: a long and difficult story</i> Dominique Cardon (CIHAM/UMR, CNRS, Lyon, France)
10:10-10:25	<i>A royal shrine from Denmark's Early Medieval Age with oriental silk</i> Anne Hedeager-Krag (Danish National Committee of Byzantine Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
10:25-10:40	<i>A Tibetan Tent for the Afterlife - Iconographic Reconstruction and Material Contextualization</i> Mariachiara Gasparini (University of California Riverside, USA)
10:40-10:55	<i>Late Roman and early Silk Samites from Egypt - Unravelling the thread from the western end of the Silk Road</i> Barbara Köstner (University of Bonn, Germany)
10:55-11:10	Questions/discussion with all speakers
11:10-11:40	Tea/coffee break and Posters
Session 2 Oriental textiles in the world (part 2) Chair: David Saunders	
11:40-11:55	<i>Silk Road Thangka Textiles from Sven Hedin Collection: Preservation History</i> Ann Shaftel (Canadian Association of Professional Conservators, Canada) and Michel Lee (Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden)
11:55-12:10	<i>The poor wash fastness of indigo dyed threads from a group of Central Asian silk weft-faced compound twill weavings dating from the 6th-9th centuries</i> Hélène Dubuis (Abegg-Stiftung, Switzerland)
12:10-12:25	<i>Wool quality of the carpets from Alan burials of the 8-10th centuries</i> Alexander Pakhunov (Institute of Archeology RAS, Moscow, Russia)
12:25-12:40	Questions/discussion with all speakers
12:40-13:30	LUNCH (not provided)
Session 3 Dyes from central China - the heart of the silk road Chair: Yu-Ping Luk	
13:30-13:55	Keynote lecture: <i>Behind the Colours: The Historical and Chemical Investigation of Dyes in High Status Chinese Costume and Textiles of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911)</i> Jing Han (Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, USA)
13:55-14:15	<i>Conserving and Displaying Textiles from the Stein Collection at The British Museum: Sakyamuni Preaching on Vulture Peak</i> Hannah Vickers and Monique Pullan (The British Museum, UK)

14:15-14:35	<i>The Use of Dyes in Archaeological Textiles of Mogao Grottoes</i> Jian Liu (China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou, China)
14:35-14:55	<i>Investigating Asian colourants in textiles from Dunhuang in the British Museum's collection</i> Diego Tamburini (Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, The British Museum, UK)
14:55-15:10	Questions/discussion with all speakers
15:10-15:40	Tea/coffee break and Posters
Session 4 Recent advances in silk characterisation Chair: Carl Heron	
15:40-15:55	<i>Identification of silks by protein mass spectrometry</i> Boyoung Lee (University of Oxford, UK)
15:55-16:10	<i>Proteomics characterization of organic metal threads</i> Caroline Solazzo (Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, USA)
16:10-16:25	<i>Silk, wild silk and half silk textiles from Palmyra - New scientific approaches</i> Annemarie Stauffer (Cologne Technical University, Germany) and Boyoung Lee (University of Oxford, UK)
16:25-16:40	Questions/discussion with all speakers
16:40-16:45	Closing remarks
17:00-19:30	Drinks at the Marquis Cornwallis (31 Marchmont St, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AP)

Posters

Balm, traces of silver and unusually behaving indigo dyes on a group of Liao dynasty textiles
Anja Bayer (Abegg-Stiftung, Switzerland)

Fibre and dyestuff analyses on clothes and accessories from Eastern Central Asia archaeological sites
René Csuk (Martin-Luther-University, Germany)

Extending the Silk Road to Nepal: Scientific investigations of textiles from Samdzong (5th-7th centuries CE)
Margarita Gleba (University of Cambridge, UK)

Swastika, a transcultural sign of textile ornamentation between the East and West
Kosuke Goto (Berlin, Germany)

Scientific Analysis and Technical Study of Three Ancient Egyptian Textiles from The Tomb of Hatnofer and Ramose, Western Thebes, New Kingdom, Dynasty 18, 1550-1295 B.C.
Tatiana Sol Verdon (Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA)

Looting of burial sites discovers and challenges conservation of Medieval silk textiles of Mongolian provenance
Sandra Vanderwarf (New York, USA)

Central Asia textiles in Western collections: two cases studies from San Isidoro Museum (Leon, Spain) and the Victoria and Albert Museum of London
Ana Cabrera Lafuente (Museo del Traje, Madrid, Spain)

Ancient Textiles Unearthed from the Tombs of the Turkic period in Mongolia
Tomomi Murakami (Slavic-Eurasian research center of Hokkaido University, Japan)