

**Museum Textile Services
24 Elm Street, PO Box 5004
Andover, MA 01810
978-851-0110**

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Museo Municipal de Huaca Malena
Pedro La Rosa y Miramar
Capilla de Asia
Peru

PROJECT REPORT

Textile #1

Object: Pendant
Accession #: 118-020
Dimensions: 24 cm h x 5 w
Materials: Cotton substrate and cord, Camelid embroidery and wrapping, leather.
Description: Rectangular pendent with tassels that support a leather pouch. Needle-knit over a plain-weave support fabric. Designs of stylized snakes.
Condition: Good
Treated by: Maureen Whitaker

Tipo: Colgante
Codigo: 118-020
Medidas: altura 24 cm x ancho 5
Materials: Urdimbre de algodón, bordado con hilo de camelido, saco de cuero
Descripcion: Colgante rectangular cn colgajos que sujetan un paquete de cuero. Diseños de serpirtes estilizadas
Estado de conservacion: bueno
Conservado por: Maureen Whitaker

Description

The main band of the fabric appears strong and fairly stiff. There is a piece of z-twist thread that is knotted close to the top of the band at one end, and is hanging loose at the other end. At the bottom of the main band, the piece separates into four braided sections. Two of these are completely wrapped in thread. On the other two, most of the thread has unraveled and has deteriorated completely. These four braided sections are gathered into a hard sack. The exterior of the sack, which is perhaps leather, has many spots of abrasion and deterioration. The four braided sections do not align parallel. They have been permanently distorted which also has caused the sack to turn unnaturally. The main band appears slightly soiled with particulate matter. Loose unspun fibers have collected on the piece, mostly on the edges of the main band.

La banda principal del textil se encuentra en buen estado. Presenta hilos en torsión Z. Esta anudada en ambos extremos superiores, y el extremo inferior solo presenta un extremo anudado. La parte superior de la banda se separa en cuatro cordones de algodón trenzado. Dos de los cuales están envueltos en pelo de camélido y los otros dos están deshilachados o inexistentes. Estos cuatro cordones sujetan un saco relleno. El exterior del mismo, aparentemente de cuero, tiene manchas de abrasión, deterioro y se encuentra torcido debido a la torsión de los cordones. La banda principal tiene partículas de polvo y suciedad. Los bordes de la banda presentan pelusa de pelo de camélido.



Treatment

The textile was vacuumed to remove particulate matter and soiling. It was then humidified by spraying with purified water, realigned, and pinned to board. After the fragment was dry, the process was repeated once more. Some soil migrated to the board, but there was no sign of dye loss. The fragment was mounted on pre-washed fabric covered board with small stitches in three columns down the length of the piece. The four cords were also secured with overcast stitches. The leather sack is supported by a depression in the padding covering the mount board.



During conservation
Durante la conservación

After conservation
Despues de la conservación

Textile #2

Object: Tapestry band
Accession #: 118-019
Dimensions: 42 cm h x 6 w
Materials: Cotton warp, camelid weft
Description: Slit tapestry band with exposed warps and stylized designs.
Condition: Fair
Treated by: Ellan Spero

Tipo: Banda en tapiz
Codigo: 118.019
Medidas: altura 42 cm x ancho 6
Materials: Urdimbre de algodón, trama de camelido
Descripcion: Banda de tapiz ranurado con urdimbres flotantes, diseños estilizados.
Estado de conservacion: regular
Conservado por: Ellan Spero

Description

There is overall creasing, particulate soil, and longitudinal fading along the upper edge. Section A has creasing along the weave structure and one open slit. The edge on the left side (A) is uneven due to loss. There is detachment between bands (A/D) also at this side. In the section of decorative exposed warps, there are 8 damaged pairs. In section C, there is an ~~open slit~~ and small hole on the motif. On the reverse, the colors are more vivid. Some cotton fibers are felted to the lower mid section (D).

Presenta arrugas, partículas de polvo y decoloración en el borde superior. La sección A presenta una hendidura y presenta borde izquierdo irregular debido a la pérdida de fibra. Existe una separación entre las secciones A / D. La decoración presenta hilos de urdimbre complementaria, de los cuales ocho están dañados. En la sección C, hay una hendidura y un pequeño agujero en el diseño. En el reverso, los colores son mas llamativos. En el centro de la sección D las fibras de algodón están tocando a la seccion C.

For reference purposes, the textile has been divided into four sections according to design boundaries.

Treatment

The textile was vacuumed to remove particulate matter and soiling. It was then humidified by spraying



with purified water, realigned, and pinned to board. After the fragment was dry, the process was repeated once more. Some soil migrated to the board, but there was no sign of dye loss.

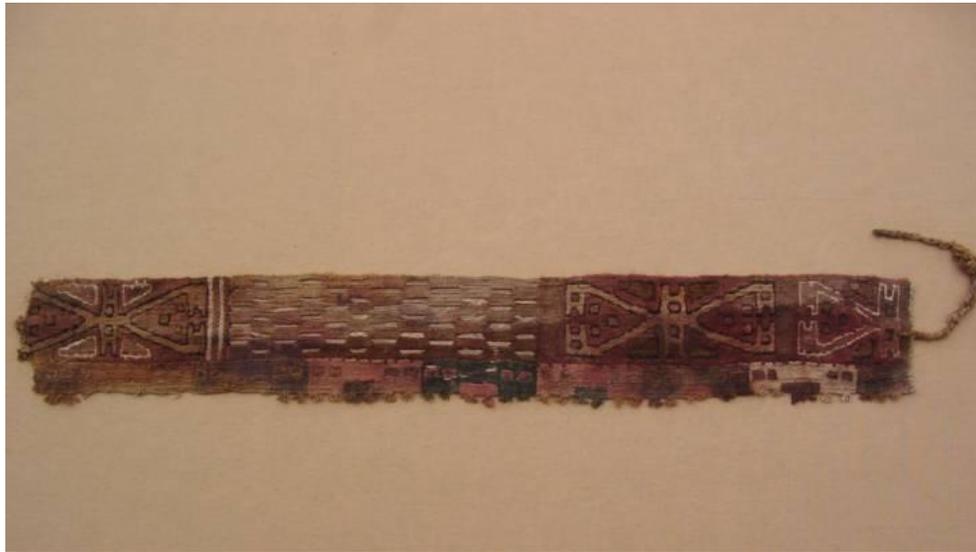


Detail of reverse with loose cotton fiber

The fragment was mounted on pre-washed fabric covered board with small stitches (over one warp) in an irregular zigzag pattern in three columns down the length of the piece. The top and bottom edges, as well as the beige edge in the exposed warp section were also secured with

perimeter stitches.

The cord was placed in an arc and secured with stitches hidden in the twist of the yarn.



ANTES—
BEFORE

After conservation
Despues de la conservación

Textile #3

Object: Rectangular warp-faced panel
Accession #: T 16 E
Dimensions: 32.5 cm h x 26.5 w
Description: Warp-faced wool textile with supplementary warps.
Condition: Fair
Materials: Camelid
Treated by: Aranzazu Hopkins Barriga

Tipo: Pano cuadrangular de cara de urdimbre
Codigo: T 16 E
Medidas: altura 32.5 cm x ancho 26.5
Descripcion: Pano en tecnica cara de urdimbres suplementarias de lana
Materiales: Camelido
Estado de conservacion: regular Conservado por: Aranzazu Hopkins Barriga

Description

This textile has colored stripes (green, blue, red, brown, and yellow) each of which has anthropomorphic and geometric designs. It is a full-web textile with fraying in areas, particularly one corner. There are some fragments of sewing threads visible along the selvedge. The fabric is discolored and faded, and has soiling and salt deposits.

Treatment



Before conservation—
Antes de la conservación

The textile was vacuumed to remove particulate matter and soiling. The textile was then stitched to a support fabric around the perimeter, in vertical rows throughout the body, and around losses. To avoid bunching, stitching began in the center and worked outward.



During conservation

Durante la conservación

Textile #4

Object: Miniature tunic
Accession #: T 111 A
Dimensions: 15 cm h x 15 w
Description: Miniature tunic of red wool with vertical stripes
Materials: Camelid
Condition: Good
Treated by: Yael Rosenfeld

Tipo: Uncu en miniatura
Codigo: T 111 A
Medidas: altura 15 cm x ancho 15
Materiales: camelido
Descripcion: Uncu en miniature de lana color roja con bandas laterals verticals.
Estado de conservacion: bueno
Tratado por: Yael Rosenfeld

Description

The tunic shows particulate soiling and needs vacuuming. There is a brown stain on the proper right shoulder. The fibers are brittle and are powdering. There is some creasing and distortion of the fibers, especially at the proper left neck slit area and the hem. The textile is loosely woven which has created 3 problems: some areas have pulled red warp threads exposing the weft threads; other areas have abraded warp thread also exposing weft threads; some warp threads have snags leaving loose loops on the surface of the textile. The side seams are sewn together coarsely, leaving loose threads like a fringe at the shoulder and hem corners. The back of the tunic is in similar condition to the front. At the bottom hem area of the back the warp threads are left unwoven (without weft threads); this was the end edge of the weave while it was still on the loom.

Unku miniatura, de una sola pieza cosido en los extremos, dejando espacio para los brazos y cuello. Presenta partículas de polvo, decoloración en el hombro derecho; las fibras están distorsionadas y quebradas, especialmente en el lado derecho del cuello del unku. La pérdida de tejido ha ocasionado 3 diferentes problemas: exposición de hilos de trama, desgaste de hilos de urdimbre, y formación de nudos en las fibras. Los lados del unku presentan pérdida de fibras, que se encuentran en forma de flecos en los hombros y alrededor del extremos de la basta. La parte posterior de la camisa, presenta las mismas condiciones que la parte delantera. En la parte inferior encontramos la urdimbre sin tejer.



During conservation
Durante la conservación

Treatment

The textile was vacuumed to remove particulate matter and soiling. A support pillow was made using muslin and cotton batting. The pillow was inserted into the inside of the tunic with tissue paper so that it would slip in easily. The tunic is attached to the support pillow using a curved needle with running stitches running vertically along the length of the tunic. Four rows of stitches were made, two running on either side of the neck slit, and the other two on either sides of the tunic. The tunic with its support pillow are attached to the fabric covered board. Only the bottom layer of the tunic is caught (i.e. the back of the tunic). These rows of stitches run along the 4 edges of the tunic (top, right side, left side, and bottom). The stitch was made slightly set in from the edge so that it would not show. The hem of the tunic is sewn closed, taking care where possible to show both front and back edges (so they are not flush). This was done in order to retain the appearance of a tunic. The 4 sets of fringes at the corners of tunic are attached to the fabric covered board. Each cord was attached separately, to give a natural appearance. Small stitches were taken in a diagonal manner to match the direction of the twist of the yarn and render them invisible. Any loose threads or snags on the surface of the tunic were tucked in and hidden using the point of tweezers.



After conservation
Despues de la conservación

MUMMY BUNDLE #8

Object: Mummy Bundle #8 (Fardo Funerario #8)
Materials: Human remains; cotton textiles; camelid textiles; cotton yarns; metal pin
Dimensions: 54 cm x 33 cm x 17 cm approximately
Treated by: Maureen Whitaker and Ellan Spero

Description

This female mummy bundle consists of multiple layers of undyed off-white cotton in an unbalanced plain-weave. There is a warp-faced camelid mantle of beige with a yellow and red border over the bundle.

Condition

The mummy bundle is in fair to good condition overall. Surface cloth is soiled with particulate matter and is most ragged and worn at the center. At the top center of the head area there is a hole (4 cm x 2 cm) through which multiple layers of wrapping cloths are visible. The bottom of the mummy bundle shows more degradation than the top. It is brittle and has several holes and slits. Cords that hold the layers of mummy wrappings are immediately visible.

At the back of the head area there is a large hole (6 cm x 4 cm) through which some pieces of bone are visible. At the nape of the neck there is another dark brown hole. Some tissue is stuck to the mantle on the main part of the body, most likely from when the mummy was originally prepared for storage after excavation. The mummy has been housed in an acidic cardboard box between three pieces of tissue-covered Styrofoam. There are irregular holes in the tissue, suggesting past insect activity.

Treatment

The mummy bundle was surface cleaned, stabilized, and analyzed to improve its level of preservation and assess the possibility of future display. The bundle was vacuum cleaned with a soft attachment and brushed with a paint brush. The soils were collected in a bag and retained for future analysis, and to preserve the fragments of textile and other remains removed by the vacuum. Where possible, the wrappings were moved aside to allow more thorough vacuum cleaning. First the top side of the bundle was vacuumed, then the mummy was rotated, and the bottom side was vacuumed. Photodocumentation occurred simultaneously with the cleaning process.

Storage

The original cardboard box was covered in Tyvek[®]. A support pillow with a cut-out mold was fashioned for the mummy to fit in. The pillow is made of cotton batting covered with cotton muslin. After the pillow was placed in the box, a muslin sling followed by a layer of acid-free tissue paper was draped over the pillow. The mummy was placed in the box and covered in tissue and muslin, before a final flat support pillow of cotton batting and muslin was placed on top. All of the dirt, small rocks, and loose fibers that were vacuumed off of the mummy and its surrounding area during cleaning were removed from the vacuum and placed into a zip lock bag labeled *Fardo No. 8*.

TEXTILE ANALYSIS

Below is a description of five of the textiles examined in association with Mummy Bundle #8, listed from outermost to innermost:

OUTER MANTLE (MANTA)

Dimensions unknown

Warp-faced camelid with camelid weft and discontinuous supplementary warp patterning
Thread counts unknown

This mantle is medium brown with red and yellow geometric step patterning. The warp and weft are both two-ply S-twist (2 z-spun). A straight metal pin with patina (hidden beneath a fold of the mantle) pierces the right proper corner but does not hold the mantle closed. The mantle is held together by a loop stitch at that corner. The fabric covering the center and sides of the body is strong; however, the fabric that was gathered at the bottom of the body (the decorated part) is more brittle. The bottom-most edges are especially delicate and powder easily. A fragment measuring 10 cm x 15 cm at the longest point was found at bottom, which appears to be bottom selvage of the mantle.

INNER MANTLE

Dimensions unknown

Warp-faced camelid with camelid weft

This piece of fabric covers the entire mummy bundle. There is an open horizontal seam 6 cm from the base of the bundle. Stitches on the left and right sides close the inner mantle.

HEAD CLOTH

Approximately 35 cm x 33 cm

Cotton plain weave (2/1)

This beige head covering is irregular with large areas of loss. It is located on the head of the mummy.

GAUZE

Dimensions unknown

Cotton plain weave

This textile was found under the mantle in a bundle over the chest area. It is beige, open plain weave with more densely woven stripes.

CORD

22 cm long

Wrapped braid

This cord was found at bottom of mummy bundle, not attached to it. It is a braid wrapped in multi-color thread in alternating stripes of yellow, red, and brown.

Photographs



During treatment, after removal from the original box.
During treatment, after removal from the original box.



After cleaning.
After cleaning.



Pin with green patina in inner mantle.
Pin with green patina in inner mantle.



Cotton gauze before treatment.
Cotton gauze before treatment.



Inner mantle, (head area) before treatment.
Inner mantle, (head area) before treatment.



Head cloth before treatment.
Head cloth before treatment.



Bag with ???
Bag with ???



Gauze after treatment.
Gauze after treatment.



New storage box with support pillow.
New storage box with support pillow.

Baby Mummy Bundle

Object: Baby Mummy Bundle
Materials: Human remains; cotton textiles; camelid textiles; cotton yarns; metal pin
Dimensions: 44 cm x 27 cm approximately
Treated by: Yael Rosenfeld, Sarah Scaturro, Sarah Pitt

Description

The outer wrapping of the bundle is plain weave natural white cotton. At the head end of the mummy the textile has a selvedge edge. The warp direction runs across the width of the mummy and the weft along the length. The weft direction has varying densities. This may be a pattern or a loss of fiber due to abrasion. The thread count in the tightly woven areas is 6 warps per cm and 10 weft per cm. The loosely woven areas are 5 warps per cm and 7-8 weft per cm. Peeking out of the outer layer is a coarse plain weave brown fabric, likely cotton.

The mummy is wrapped in strands of varying widths of twine (3 thick strands of twine and 2 thinner strands of twine), circling the bundle around the neck area. The twist is an s twist. In this area is also red yarn, possibly camelid, and also an s twist.

There appears to have been a third twine encircling the width of the mummy. Its position was in between the two other twines, about 8 cm below the neck twine. Only an imprint of the twine remains. Near the bottom third of the mummy there is one thick strand of twine wrapped around the width, cinching the bundle. The twine is missing on the front of the bundle.

There is a 46 cm long string attached to the outer layer of fabric, in the position of a necklace. The string is laced through the textile and knotted at one end. There are about 30 white and pink feathers, each about 8 cm long, located inside the outer layer of the mummy bundle. Each feather is attached to a smaller twine in an s twist. The twine and feathers are bundled together. Some feathers are almost completely degraded, while others are flaking and in fragile condition. There is one loose feather.

Condition

The mummy bundle was housed in a 41 x 30 x 12 cm brown cardboard box. It was wrapped in tissue paper and modern cotton fabric, and supported with foam inside the box. Inside there was a small plastic bag with bone fragments and a twisted rope fragment.

The bundle is caked with soil. The textile is heavily abraded on the proper lower right of the bundle, with a large loss of warps. The bottom of the bundle is heavily degraded, with the outer layers of textiles missing, revealing organic matter and bones. On the proper left side of the head, about neck height, there is a tear in the fabric revealing organic matter compressed into the textile. Also at this tear, one can see another layer of textile wrapping in a finer weave.

Treatment

Photodocumentation occurred simultaneously with the cleaning process. The corners of the cardboard box were cut so that the mummy remained on the flat surface of the cut box. The bundle was lifted off of the modern textile shroud and placed on acid free board with rolls of tissue to support the head and bottom, placing the bundle in a slight arc position. The bundle was brushed first, and then vacuumed, with all dust collected in a bag. The bag was stored with the mummy.

The textiles covering the bottom of the bundle were completely degraded, leaving a jagged hole about 13 x 20 cm. The area around the hole was brushed and then vacuumed. The interior of the hole was also brushed and vacuumed to remove dirt and carbonized cotton matter. Once clean, acid free tissue paper, then cotton batting followed by washed cotton fabric were inserted

into the hole. The cotton fabric was sewn with cotton thread between the first and second textile layers on the top of the hole. Where it could not be tucked between the two textile layers due to deterioration of the mummy bundle, the support fabric was stitched over the top layer.

The waist area of the mummy bundle has a 13 cm split running from the front of the left-proper side around to the back of the mummy. The crack was first vacuumed. Much debris fell out and was collected in separate baggies, divided into bones, textile fragments and debris. Dust that was vacuumed was later collected and put into the bag. Once clean, acid free tissue paper, then cotton batting followed by washed cotton fabric were inserted into the crack. The cotton fabric was sewn with cotton thread between the open sides of the crack.

Storage

The original cardboard box was covered in Tyvek[®]. The box was filled with cotton batting covered with cotton muslin and acid-free tissue paper. The mummy was placed in the box and covered in tissue and muslin. All of the bags of associated artifacts and debris were placed inside the box as well.

Photographs

Baby mummy during treatment.
Baby mummy during treatment.



Vacuuming hole at bottom of mummy.
Vacuuming hole at bottom of mummy.



Stabilizing necklace
Stabilizing necklace



Inserting support fabric over loss at bottom. Note hole on proper-left side of neck.

Inserting support fabric over loss at bottom. Note hole on proper-left side of neck.



Repairing slit at center.
Repairing slit at center.

