

Early Textiles Study Group <https://www.earlytextilesstudygroup.org>

Identifying and describing the structures of textiles

PART 2 programme - Complex Figured Weaves,

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The Part 2 of our course introduces participants to the identification and description of a range of complex figured weaves used in Asia, Europe and the Andes before 1600. It includes a discussion of the types of looms and yarns used.

Teaching is based around the analysis by participants of modern samples in the same weaves, complemented by microphotographs of early fabrics and the examination of actual historic examples. The different methods of representing these weaves as diagrams are explained. We compare Emery's system of classification and the CIETA vocabulary.

The session includes an overview of technological classification: patterned one warp/one weft textiles; supplementary and complementary weft/warp textiles; double- and triple-weaves. Due to time limitations, it is not possible to treat all the weaves listed below in the same amount of detail.

ONE WARP/ONE WEFT TEXTILES: PATTERNED AND/OR WITH SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT* /WARP (*BROCADING AND PATTERN WEFT)

Early "damasks": Patterned monochrome tabby (mid-2nd millennium BC onwards)

True twill damask (3.1/1.3 twill - 4th century AD onwards).

Late medieval damasks – 5-end satin damasks, some gold-brocaded.

A brief view of post-medieval damasks – 8-end satin damask, and others with two weaves.

Damasks woven on the Jacquard loom with early iconography: how to identify them?

A special case: Plain and figured gauzes, many brocaded (2nd century BC onwards).

COMPOUND WEAVES

Warp-faced compound tabby (3rd century BC to 7th c. AD)

Weft-faced compound tabby / taqueté (1st century AD onwards)

Weft-faced compound twill /samite (4th century AD onwards)

From samite to lampas: monochrome figured samite, proto- and pseudo-lampas (from the Middle East to Spain - 8th-13th c. AD)

Cloth of Aresta and light samites (Spain, south of France, late 12th-early 14th c. AD)

Double and triple cloth (4th century AD onwards)

LAMPAS AND BROCATELLE (11th to 16th centuries)

Lampas, early grounds: tabby, twill, double-cloth, satin

Early weft bindings: tabby, twill, early Spanish gold binding

Brocatelle (variation with *alluciolato* and/or bouclé effects)

VELVETS (13th to 16th centuries)

Plain and chequered on a tabby ground (refresher from Part I of the course).

Differences in pile: cut / uncut (*frisé*); one-two-three heights, one to three *corps*; voided.

Grounds: extended tabby, twill, satin, others

Additional effects: gold/silver-brocaded, *alluciolato*, *bouclé*.

Discussion of historic types and terminology (14th-16th century Italy)