## RISD MUSEUM

## Court & Country: Textiles from Mainland Southeast Asia, July 12, 2000-October 29, 2000

The countries of Southeast Asia have long histories of excellence in many art forms, including textiles. The rich beauty of the textiles on display in this gallery testifies to their importance in the lives of the peoples of Southeast Asia. On the mainland, the contemporary nations of Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia (in part), Thailand, and Vietnam share languages and cultures that cut cross their current political borders. Thai language groups are found in Thailand and Laos, while Khmer speakers comprise most of Cambodia, but are also found in Malaya (the mainland portion of Malaysia). The Shan people of northern Burma also inhabit northern Laos.

Traditional textile production on the mainland has always been almost exclusively women's work. One common technique creates pattern by tie-dyeing yams prior to weaving. Called *mat mii* in parts of the Southeast Asian mainland, it is often recognized by its Indonesian name: *ikat*. Another widespread practice uses weft yams that are supplementary to the ground fabric in order to pattern the cloth. Many variants of both are employed and, together with differences in patterns, fibers, and colors, provide clues to cultural and linguistic identity, as well as the gender of the wearer.

The influence of the Thai aristocracy was felt throughout the region, and many provincial courts emulated the styles preferred in Thailand. Textiles in the Thai taste were also sent from outlying regions to the Thai capital as tribute or for sale. In addition, luxury goods for court use were purchased from China and India, and influence from these areas may be seen throughout the region. Beyond the courts, many traditions and cultures thrived, and in some areas contact with the outside world was rare.

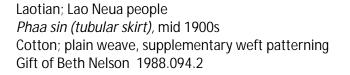
## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Burmese; Shan Bag, early 1900s Cotton, seeds; plain weave, weft brocading, applied ornament Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.224





Burmese Sash or shoulder cloth, early 1900s Cotton; warp-faced plain weave, weft brocading Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.225







Bhutanese; Laotian *Pha biang (shoulder cloth)*, 1800s Cotton, silk; plain weave, supplementary warp patterning, continuous supplementary weft patterning, weft brocading Gift of Mrs. Eliot A. Carter 1991.148.9





Burmese Shoulder cloth or sash, late 1800s Silk, cotton; plain weave, weft brocading Gift of Brown University 22.070

Burmese; Karen Sash or shoulder cloth, 1800s Cotton, silk; plain weave, supplementary weft patterning Gift of Brown University 22.062





Cambodian; Thai; Khmer *Pidan (pictorial hanging)*, early 1900s Silk; twill weave, weft ikat (mat mii) Gift of Miss Mary Patterson 53.041





Burmese; Shan Shoulder cloth or wrapper, 1800s Cotton, wool; plain weave, supplementary weft patterning Gift of Brown University 21.467



Burmese; Shan Bag, early 1900s Silk, metallic yams, seeds; weft-float patterning, applied ornament Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.230



Cambodian; Khmer *Hip wrapper*, late 1800s Silk; twill weave Bequest of Martha B. Lisle 67.453





Burmese; Shan Bag, late 1800s Cotton, seeds; plain weave, weft brocading, applied ornament Gift of Brown University 22.072



Burmese; Shan Bag, late 1800s - early 1900s Cotton, wool, silk; plain weave, weft-float patterning Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.226





Burmese; Kachin; Shan Man's bag (n'hpye), late 1800s - early 1900s Cotton, wool, seed, silver disks, tassels; plain weave with supplementary weft patterning and appliqué Gift of Marshall H. Gould 46.227

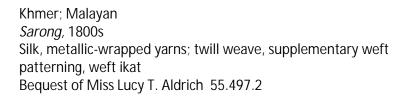


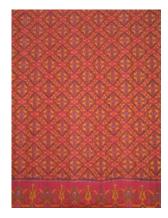
Cambodian; Khmer *Ceremonial shawl*, mid 1900s Silk; twill weave, tie- and stitch-resist dyed Gift of Mrs. Eliot A. Carter 1991.114.2





Malaysian Sarong, 1800s Silk, metallic-wrapped yarns; twill weave, weft ikat, supplementary weft patterning Bequest of Miss Lucy T. Aldrich 55.497.1





Cambodian; Thai; Khmer Shoulder cloth, late 1800s Silk; twill weave, weft ikat Gift of Mrs. Barbara Deering Danielson 82.308.40

