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The collection of fabrics and costumes at the Zurich School of Textiles

by Mr. Johannes Itten, Director



AT THE ZURICH TEXTILE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

The Textile Vocational Training School in Zurich will this year be celebrating the 75th anniversary of its foundation. We shall be referring again to this event and giving an account of its celebration in our next number. Meanwhile, we thought that the article below, which describes this school's fine collection of fabrics, would be of interest to our readers.

The Editors

Tissu péruvien avec animaux stylisés ; env. 500 av. J.-C.

Peruvian fabric with stylised animals ; circa 500 B.-C.

Tela peruviana con animales estilizados ; aprox. 500 a. J. C.

Peruanisches Gewebe mit stilisierten Tieren ; ca. 500 v. Chr.

Photo Wolgensinger

The Zurich silk industry founded the School of Silk Weaving in 1881. Very soon afterwards the school acquired a fine collection of textiles largely based on the donation of the private collections of the Prelate F. Bock of Aix-la-Chapelle and Dr. Forrer of Strasbourg. In keeping with the school's aim, the main emphasis was on silks. To illustrate technique and give an idea of the designs, it is not necessary to have large lengths of material, for two or three repeats are all that is required for the purposes of instruction.

Today the collection consists of some 1,650 different fabrics, 57 altar cloths from the convent at Gnadental (Canton of Aargau), 138 examples of embroidery and nearly 100 books of samples and designs. In 1948 we were

able to purchase Mme Grete Trapp's collection of costumes of the last hundred years.

In 1894 the acquisition was made of the collection's most ancient exhibits : 33 fragments of fabrics from Egyptian sarcophagi dating back to the period between 5000 and 525 B.C. The most important sections of the collection are the Italian velvets and silk brocades of the 16th to 18th centuries and the silks of Lyons and Zurich of the 19th and 20th centuries.

We are always endeavouring to enrich our collection by the purchase of old items of historical interest as well as modern fabrics of technical or artistic interest. These exhibits constitute an invaluable source of inspiration for textile designers.



Velours de soie italien rouge foncé, XVI^e siècle.
Italian dark red silk velvet, 16th century.
Terciopelo de seda italiano, rojo oscuro; siglo XVI.
Dunkelroter Seidensamt, Italien 16. Jahrh.



Tissu double italien : taffetas de soie jaune avec coton bleu, XVII^e siècle.
Italian double fabric : yellow silk taffeta and blue cotton, 17th century.
Tejido italiano doble : Tafetán de seda con algodón azul; siglo XVII.
Doppelgewebe, gelber Seidentaffet mit blauer Baumwolle, Italien, 17. Jahrh.

Tissu de soie pour gilet; milieu du XVIII^e siècle.
Silk waistcoat fabric, middle 18th century.
Tejido de seda para chalecos. Mediados del siglo XVIII.
Seidener Westenstoff, Mitte 18. Jahrh.



Voile de calice, France, seconde moitié du XVIII^e siècle.
French chalice veil, second half of the 18th century.
Velo para cáliz, Francia. Segunda mitad del siglo XVIII.
Kelchtuch, Frankreich, 2. Hälfte 18. Jahrh.





1



2

1. Brocatelle de soie de Lyon ;
1880/1890 environ.

Lyons silk brocatelle of the
1890's.

Brocatela de seda de Lyon de
Francia. Aprox. 1880/1890.

Seidenbrokatelle, Lyon um ca.
1880/1890.

2. Damas pure soie ; Robt Schwarzenbach & Co., Thalwil, 1900.

Pure silk damask ; Robt
Schwarzenbach & Co., Thalwil,
1900.

Damasco pura seda ; Robt.
Schwarzenbach & Co., Thalwil,
1900.

Reinseidener Damast ; Robt
Schwarzenbach & Co., Thalwil,
1900.

3. Satin chiné façonné tout soie ;
Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich,
1925/1926.

All silk figured chiné satin ;
Siber & Wehrli Co. Ltd., Zurich,
1925/1926.

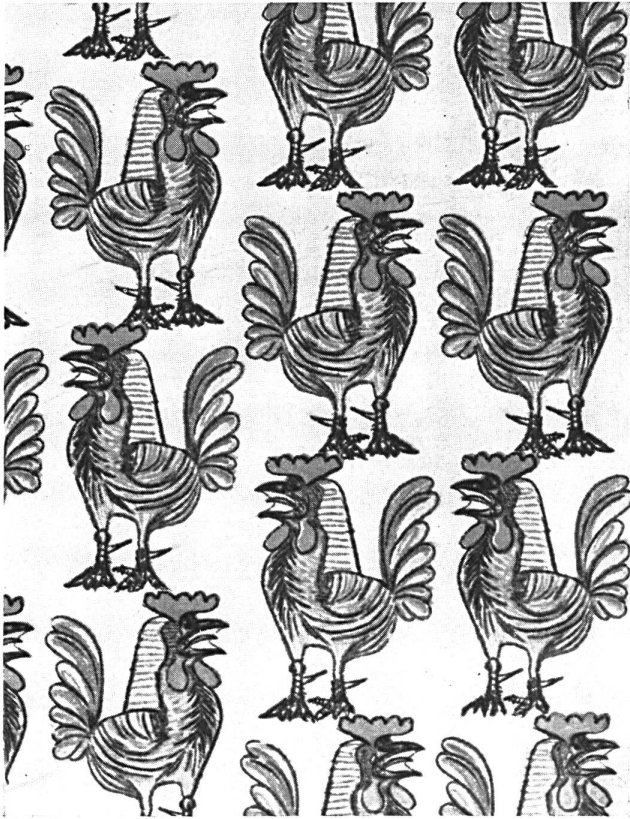
Raso chiné labrado todo seda ;
Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich.

Reinseidener, fassonierter Satin
mit Kettdruck ; Siber & Wehrli
A.-G., Zürich, 1925/1926.



3

Photos Wolgensinger



Tissu de coton contemporain, impression américaine d'après un dessin de Picasso.

Contemporary cotton fabric, American print from a Picasso design.
Tela de algodón contemporáneo, estampación americana según un dibujo de Picasso.

Zeitgenössischer amerikanischer Baumwolldruck, nach einem Entwurf von Picasso.



« Polype », mouchoir de tête d'après Calder.

« Polype », a square with a Calder design.

« Polype », pañuelo de cabeza según Calder.

Kopftuch « Polyp » nach einem Entwurf von Calder.

Roses : impression mécanique sur organza d'un montage photographique de Mme Anneliese Itten, selon un procédé suisse original de Heberlein & Co. S. A., Wattwil.

Roses : machine print on organza of a photographic montage by Mrs. Anneliese Itten, according to an original Swiss process of Heberlein & Co. Ltd., Wattwil.

Rosas : estampación mecánica sobre organza de una composición gráfica de Anneliese Itten, por procedimiento suizo original de Heberlein & Co. S. A., Wattwil.

Rosen, Photomontage von Frau Anneliese Itten, auf Organza bedruckt mit einem mechanischen schweizerischen Originalverfahren der Fa. Heberlein & Co. A.-G., Wattwil.

Photos Wolgensinger