



The WAU logo symbolises knowledge emerging from the empirical. The logo juxtaposes a symbolic representation of the “four directions” with a patchwork of woven textiles, sourced from different cultural groups worldwide.

The background from which the symbolic arises is empirical in nature. Woven articles from various cultural groups are themselves woven together — at times the boundaries are clear, sometimes they merge. It is the social fabric that anthropologists experience first-hand and the anthropological method as a defining feature of the discipline.

The compass points, or four directions, constitute one of the most widely shared symbols across cultures and geographic regions, and thereby refers to what humanity holds in common. As an unbroken line, the symbol conveys continuity in space and time. Poignantly, the looped form might also be seen as a symbol of unified interaction, whereby the combined knowledge of anthropologists points at our shared psychological centre. The logo thereby strongly reinforces the unifying strength of anthropology based on respect for diversity, and hence conveys what

WAU has to offer the global community. It is emblematic of cross-cultural interaction that gives rise to mutuality.

The textiles

Sources

Below are notes regarding the source of the textiles, with special thanks to both the British Museum and the National Museum of Ethnology (Osaka) for making their archival material accessible.

In rows left to right, running from the eastern to the northern point:

1. Bhutan (NME), Albania (BM), West Papua (BM), Mongolia (NME)
2. Egypt (BM), Morocco (BM), Greece (BM), Peru (NME)
3. Bulgaria (BM), Sumatra (BM), Democratic Republic of Congo (BM), USA (BM),
4. Japan (NME), United Republic of Cameroon (NME), Bali (TR), Sweden (BM)



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NME Collection of the National Museum of Ethnology; images provided by the Museum.
TR Private Collection of T. Reuter

Descriptions:

Row 1

Bhutan — Buddhist priest's silk stole, acquired in 1984 (NME)

A formal wear called Cheogey (Dzongkha). Rectangular vermilion-orange silk satin grafted. Decorated edging with fringes and laces. Made of special yarn, including gold and silver threads, yarns ununiform in thickness, and hand spun silk yarn. Decoration in four corners. Partially machine stitched. Length: 121 cm. Width: 254 cm.

Albania — Woman's scarf, 20thC, Found/Acquired Krujë, (BM)

A woman's scarf; square. Brightly coloured, worn around the waist; part of festive attire. Made of shiny synthetic twill woven fabric with damask patterning. Dark red leaf motifs on a purple ground in the centre field. Border designs comprise lines of seven-petalled blossoms within a circle on all four sides; worked in tones of red and

yellow. Macrame fringing, worn away in some sections. Length: 82.5 cm. Width: 81 cm.

West Papua — Bag, 2002, Asmat people, Found/Acquired: Er (BM)

Bag, woven of vegetable fibre, painted, with coix seeds and feathers. Rectangular bag, decorated on the front with woven triangular designs, painted with red, black and white clay pigment. A row of strung coix seeds is attached along the top, centre and bottom of bag, each with a series of seed and white feather tassels. A section of the bag's opening is woven across, leaving a gap either side. Plaited strap is attached to each side of bag's reverse and doubled back. Length: 68 cm. Width: 31 cm. Made by Marta Duyakap, Asmat peoples.

Mongolia — Shoulder cloth for monk, Khalkha people, acquired in 1997 (NME)

Yellow satin weave with a floral pattern. Applique in a decorative spiral pattern with a soft material, including reversed applique. Plaid applique around the neck. Poncho type with a hole in the middle. Length 52 cm. Width: 104 cm.

Row 2

Egypt — Fragment from cuff of tunic, 3rd or 4thC, Found/Acquired Qaw el-Kebir, (BM)

Fragment of tunic sleeve with paired tapestry bands. Decoration, in dark blue on a cream ground, of curving vine stems between cusped and dotted borders. Main colour of tunic, brown (naturally pigmented wool). "Late Roman/Coptic". Length: 20cm. Width: 13.5cm. Materials: wool - pigmented and unpigmented, indigotin; Technique: tapestry

Morocco — Rug, Found/Acquired: Marrakesh in 1969, (BM)

Rug made of textile (wool). Length: 105 cm. Width: 116 cm.

Greece — Apron, 1970-1980, Found/Acquired: Greece, Haliki, (BM)

Apron, deep yellow hand-spun and hand woven wool with a band of white geometric ornament towards the base; almost square in shape, the top hemmed and the corners turned over, with plaited yellow and white wool ties. The edges bordered with white wool stitching, the hem with an added fringe in knotted cotton. Height: 54 cm. Width: 51.5 cm. Woven by Tassoula Ziozia-Koskoviti for her own use in the village of Haliki in the eastern Pindus mountains, south of Mezovo, in the 1970s. The apron was made for everyday wear when working, whether washing (in a communal spring), making bread or lighting the fire. It was not part of a costume, which would have a more delicate apron, but rather a hard-wearing piece worn as protection. It was considered a suitably simple introduction to the technique of weaving. The ties were made first as they were the easiest part. Then the maker would learn to use the spinning wheel and finally the loom. The yellow was achieved with natural dyes, onion skin in this case. The type of blanket stitch used for the edges was known as 'foot of the hen'.

Peru — Poncho, Quechua, acquired in 1983 (NME)

Woollen poncho with a hole in the middle. Two pieces of figured textile grafted. Applique with a soft material, including reversed applique. Decorated edging with

fringes and laces. The four sides stitched with a ribbon tape. A fringe of yarn in a striped pattern of red, white, orange and green. Length: 50cm-80cm.

Row 3

Bulgaria — Towel, c.1950, Found/Acquired: Pleven, (BM)

A towel; rectangular in shape and made of natural cream tabby woven cloth; handspun and hand woven. Two diamond patterned woven bands (overshot weave) towards each selvedge, worked in yellow/brown cotton. The warp ends are turned and machine stitched. Hand crocheted trimming applied to each end: a salmon pink band bordered by a white band with salmon pink coloured bobbles at the edge. Some staining in the centre field. Length: 87 cm. Width: 40 cm.

Sumatra — Woman's sarong, c.1883, Found/Acquired: Indonesia, Sumatra, Lake Ranau, (BM)

A woman's ceremonial tubular skirt, a 'tapis' (a sarong); made of five separate pieces of cloth in total; hand stitched together. The central 39 cms panel, mainly woven, separates two predominantly embroidered panels (upper 18.5 cms wide, lower 24 cms wide). The top and bottommost panels are made from the same cloth as the middle one, predominantly yellow and red tabby cotton bands (woven as stripes). Nearly all of the red bands are embellished with couched silver-coloured metal threads (wrapped around a yellow silk core), green and brown floss silk and turquoise and flecks of mica; lines of supplementary warp (metal thread) are woven into this cloth. The ground for the embroidered panels is blue, indigo-dyed (?), tabby cotton cloth. The imagery includes framed human figures, some sheltering under the rooves of buildings, bisected sun-like motifs with rays, with a single human figure in the upper panel, seated in a ship ('ship of the dead') surrounded by water creatures. Curator's comments: 'The ship bearing the human figure not only symbolises the journey to the afterlife but may also serve as a general symbol of transition. Fabrics decorated with ships are used during various rites of passage in Sumatra.' [source: Hitchcock, Michael, Indonesian Textiles: 118].

Congo, Democratic Republic of — Cloth, 19thC (before 1894), Found/Acquired: Kasai River, (BM)

Cloth made of raffia palm fibre; dyed red. Composed of two pieces hand sewn together; stem stitch embroidery in black-dyed raffia fibre and cut-pile embroidery in natural and black-dyed raffia in oblong and chevron patterns.

USA — Saddle-blanket, c.1850, Found/Acquired: Southwest Peoples, Navajo (BM)

Saddle-blanket; woven of hand-spun wool; rectangular saddle-blanket with terraced pattern weaving, red, blue and pink. Height: 79 cm. Width: 93 cm.

Row 4

Japan — Silk kimono, acquired in 1975, Yamanashi Prefecture, (NME)

Women's silk underwear (Nagajuban) padded with cotton. Fly front. The body and sleeves by grafted silk cloth. Sleeve openings covered with black plain cloth. Sleeves

and the bottom edge finely patterned (Komon) in deep blue. Red silk lining. Length: 155 cm. Width: 119 cm. Thickness: 3.5 cm.

Cameroon, United Republic of — Traditional male garment (togo in Ngenba), collected by Nobuyuki Hata in 1983, Mankon, Mezam Prefecture, Northwest Region, (NME)

Cylindrical garment made of black cotton. A hole in the middle, broad sleeves of 85 cm. Bodies and sleeves with red, orange and white embroidery in geometric pattern. Embroidery includes shirring and durning. Length: 113 cm. Width: 193 cm.

Bali — Waist cloth (sapuk), Acquired 1994, Kintamani, (TR)

Pelangi textile, local resist tie-dye motif on imported silk, decorative upper waist cloth (sapuk), antique.

Sweden — Cloth, 20thC, Found/Acquired: Sweden, (BM)

A large, rectangular polycrome cloth, furnishing fabric (?). Four pieces of woven cloth, machine stitched together. Bands with different styles of diamond twill woven patterning, worked in woollen yarns, on a beige-coloured cotton 'ground'. Selvedges at outer, longer sides only. Warp ends raw. Length 134 cm. Width: 71 cm.

