

Fibers & Textiles

Textile Objects

Many types of textile objects are made from plant or animal fibers.



Cotton



Khipu

Inka, 1550's

MCCM 2002.1.118



Linen from Flax



Dog Mummy
Egyptian, 664-332 BC
MCCM 2011.3.1



Wool from Alpaca



Pile Hat

Wari, 500-800 AD
MCCM 2002.1.119



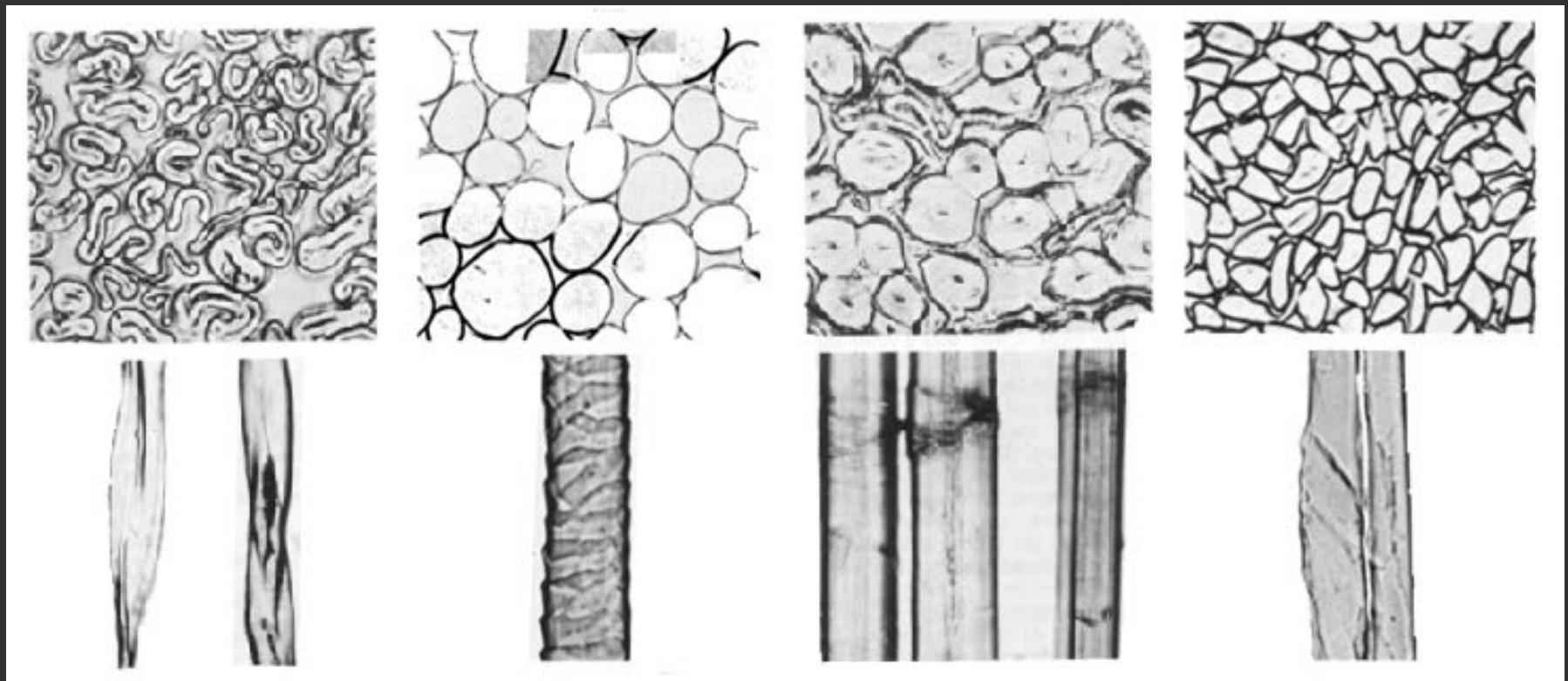
Silk cocoon



Patriarch of Ngor Monastery
Tibetan, 17th century
MCCM 2000.5.5

Fiber Microscopy

Different fibers can be distinguished by their physical characteristics visible under magnification. The fibers' shapes can be compared in cross-section (top) as well as along their lengths.



Cotton

Wool

Linen

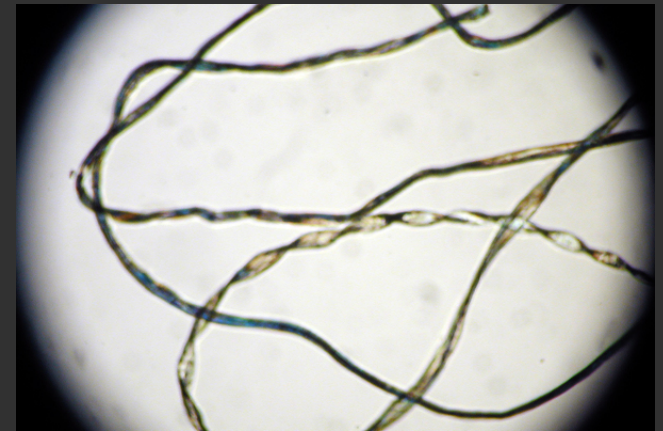
Silk

Fiber Identification

The tan background cloth for this brocaded textile was woven from cotton threads. The colored image threads are dyed wool.



Textile Fragment with Pelican Shaman
Chimu, Peru 1100-1470
MCCM 2002.8.1



Cotton – see twists



Wool – see scales