CONSERVATION OF TEXTILE

By:

ERLINE S. MILLAR
Conservator
Chemistry & Conservation Laboratory
National Museum, Manila
TEXTILE - is defined as any material braided, knitted weave into fabric. It is made-up of different fibers such as cotton, linen, silk, wool, rayon-polyster.

TEXTILE – is one of the most delicate among museum collections. It covers a wide range of objects such as clothes, costumes, curtains, vestments, upholstery, rugs, carpets, etc. It symbolizes the manner of dressing of our early settlers and furnish historical background. Its manufacture, provenance, social status, vegetation of a certain place cannot be fully eliminated, but at least the conservator must control the degradation process.

RATIONALE:

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

and

PRESERVATION IS BETTER THAN RESTORATION

The purpose of conservation and restoration is not to make the document look new but to preserve its historical legal values from being lost.
Types of Fibers:

- Natural Fibers of Animal Origin
- Natural Fibers of Vegetable or Plant Origin
- Man – made Synthetic Fibers
- Blend or Combination of Natural and Synthetic Fibers
Factors of Deterioration:

1) Light
2) Relative Humidity
3) Dirt and Atmospheric Pollution
4) Biological Agents (Insects and Microorganisms)
5) Handling
1. Title/Object: ____________________________________________________________

2. Owner: __________________________________________________________________

3. Laboratory Number: ______________________________________________________

4. Accession/Property No.: ___________________________________________________

5. Date Received: ____________________________________________________________

6. Requested by: ____________________________________________________________

7. Provenance: ______________________________________________________________


9. Description of the Object: __________________________________________________

10. Photographic Record: (Before) (After)

11. Date Started: _____________________________________________________________

12. Date of Completion: _____________________________________________________

13. Proposed Treatment: _____________________________________________________

14. Conservation Treatment: _________________________________________________

15. Institution/Agency: _______________________________________________________

16. Conserved by: ___________________________________________________________
Procedures for Conservation of Textile

1. Documentation
2. Fumigation
3. Cleaning
4. Washing
5. Restoration
6. Preparation for storage
7. Storage
Condition assessment of the textile.
• Sketching of object prior to treatment-identifying the damage and stains.
• Digital Documentation: Before, during and after treatment.
Test for Dye Fastness Test
Acidity test using pH paper
• Acidity test-to determine if the textile is acidic.
Determine the weaving technique using peek glass
-Warp --- vertical fiber (/)
-Weft --- horizontal fiber (-)
Fumigation is required when the object is affected by insects and fungus. This is very safe method for control of insects and fungus.

- Fumigation with tymol crystals.
- Fumigation with Para-dichloro benzene.
CLEANING

• Cleaning may be done using soft brush or vacuum cleaner. This is done to remove dust and dirt on the objects.

• The other way of cleaning is by washing. This sounds simple but when speaking of textile conservation this must be done after all the test are made because this is an irreversible process. Once the color fades or bleed no more repair can be done. Washing textile must be done carefully.
Cleaning

Mechanical cleaning—with soft brush.
Vacuum Cleaning
Washing of Textile

• This was done with non ionic detergent.

• Washing is done by brushing. The object should be enclosed in a nylon or tulle net covering the textile.
Process of Drying

• Improvised fabricated drying with nylon screen
Drying of Textile

• Another process of drying. The object will be placed on a plastic tray with tulle net for drying.
Restoration of Textile

Textile with missing / torn part:

• This is done using organza fibers.
• Missing / torn parts will be reinforced with the same type of cloth sewn with organza fiber using very thin needle.
On-going conservation and restoration
After Restoration
The Banton Burial Cloth (13th to 14th Century AD). Found in association with coffin burial in Banton Island, Romblon Province (Southern Luzon), this burial cloth is the Oldest textile found in the Philippines, recovered from Archaeological site inside the cave and associated with Yuan Ceramic tradeware. (It was sewed in organza and muslin cloth using organza fiber)
Preparation for Storage

• The object will be rolled on a metal or cardboard spool covered with the Japanese Paper.
Preparation of Padded Hanger

- A padded hanger.
**STORAGE**

*Storage* is a place wherein the objects or collections are deposited for safekeeping.

**Types of Storage:**

**Rolled Storage** – is an excellent space-saving system. This can be applied to all flat textiles including carpets and blankets.
Storage

**Hanging Over Rod** – is applied to textiles which can not be rolled because of folds, applied decorations or if they are too large to be stored flat in drawers, shelves or boxes. Capes, chasubles, dalmatics can be stored this way.
Storage

**Drawer Type or Flat Storage** – any textile deteriorated, brittle or fragile shall be stored flat. They should be laid out fully extended. Greater protection is needed for textiles bearing surface decorations. They should be interleaved with acid free paper to prevent from rubbing against each other.
THANK YOU
SO MUCH
FOR
LISTENING
AND
GOOD DAY!!!