



Lampung Imagery: Textile Iconography of South Sumatra

Thomas Murray

Saturday, February 14, 2015

1343 Ocean Park Blvd. • Santa Monica, CA

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church • Community Hall

Refreshments 10 am • Program 10:30 am

Free Parking

The Lampung District in South Sumatra is home to the most celebrated textile tradition of the Indonesian Archipelago. It is an area known for ancient Austronesian megaliths, Bronze Age decorative influences, and the great cultural impulse of the Buddhist/Hindu state of Srivijaya. A millennium ago a cosmopolitan world of ideas and trade goods appeared from China, India, Arabia, and Europe in exchange for prized Lampung pepper. A cultural and aesthetic hybridization occurred at its most fertile, both esoteric and compellingly beautiful, but not widely understood.

This lecture will examine the ritual cloth of the area, review all of the major weaving and dyeing artistic expressions, including the famed supplementary weft *palepai* and *tampun* ship cloths; initiation sarongs, with their richly embroidered boat & ancestor iconography; *tapis*; *lampit* mats patterned by burning; and the mysterious weft *ikat bidak* ritual cloths, with their small bird and deer motifs. Original research, some very early dating of certain special cloths and insights gained from radiocarbon testing will occur. Lampung textiles will be contextualized as part of a greater SE Asia textile heritage, including comparative woven structures and iconography from the mainland, Borneo, and some of the outer islands of Indonesia.

Thomas Murray is a private dealer of Asian and tribal art with an emphasis on Indonesian sculpture and textiles and Indian printed trade cloths from the 13th–18th centuries. A contributing editor to *Hali* for more than 20 years, he serves as its in-house expert on ethnographic textiles, and has been featured in more than 45 publications. Murray is currently a member of President Obama's Cultural Property Advisory Committee. Program is co-sponsored with Textile Museum Associates (TMAS).

RSVP by NOON February 11, 2015 by email to feelie@ucla