

**Date**

Wednesday 05 March 2020

**Regarding**

Cambodian Silk Collection

I've examined your interesting collection of Cambodian silk textiles and the following can be said:

As I'm aware, it's one of the 3 most important khmer textiles collection in the world, consisting of 183 pieces which includes 30 Pidan.

Some of the pieces can be dated from the late 19th Century, some others from early 20th century, and the remaining pieces from the first half of the 20th century.

This high quality of textiles are extremely seldom seen, as most of them seen today on the market are a modern reproduction, using at best Vietnamese raw silk, chemical dye, using bigger patterns to reduce the complexity of production and time. Worse is actually many Sampot or Pidan sold in Cambodia, are produced in Thailand using synthetic textile.

The silk of the textiles from the Zelnik collection is from the local indigenous yellow silk cocoons species. Sericulture almost vanished from Cambodia, due to the civil war and the Red Khmer. Most Mulberry trees had been cut down at this time.

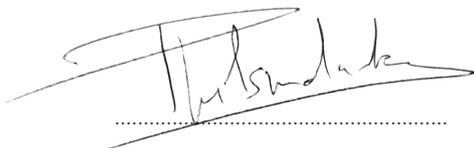
This collection of Cambodian silk has been dyed using natural Cambodian dyes. Using the three basic colours, Yellow, Red and Black, respectively the bark of the 'Broor Hoot' (*Gareinia hanburyi* Hook), the nests of the lac insect (*Lassifer lacca* Kerr) and the ebony tree fruit along with some other natural dyes.

Weaving techniques and pattern design from the textiles of this collection are consistent with the late 19th and first half of the 20th Century.

On the ground of these observations, my opinion is that this collection is extremely valuable for researchers, and that this collection is worth to take place in a museum.

The estimation of this Collection is £1,700.000.

Kindest regards,



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