The ten-volume Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion was published in July 2010. Joanne Eicher, Regents Professor Emerita, Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, College of Design, University of Minnesota, was the editor-in-chief of this ambitious project, which is in hard copy and on-line. Margot Blum Schevill, the editor of Volume 2 that focuses on Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, will discuss the genesis of the Encyclopedia.

Three contributors to this volume, Susan Tselos, Amy Oakland, and Matthew Looper, will be presenting a brief summary of their articles. Susan is an independent scholar with degrees in Textile Arts and Museum Studies. Her focus is the textile traditions of Haiti and its Vodou culture. Amy is a professor of Art at California State University, East Bay, Hayward. She works with archaeological cloth and clothing from the Andean area of Peru and Chile. Matt, a professor in the Department of Art and Art History at California State University, Chico, specializes in Ancient Mesoamerican art and writing, and contemporary Maya textiles and performance.

The encyclopedia project began with a phone call Joanne received in the summer of 2003 from Sylvia Miller, Publishing Director of Reference for Routledge Publishers, who had been involved in the launching of a ten volume Encyclopedia of World Music, and wanted to discuss the possibility of a similarly organized encyclopedia on world costume and adornment. Joanne was excited by the prospect, since this worldwide approach would meet a need for a fuller coverage of the topic of “dress,” a term Joanne preferred over “costume” for a number of reasons—“dress” refers to body modifications and body supplements, while “costume” covers what is designed and worn for performances. The term “costume,” however, is favored in many institutions, particularly some museums. The Encyclopedia would include articles by scholars from many disciplines. Joanne accepted the challenge and the rest is “history.”

In 2005 Joanne learned that Routledge was canceling the project and pulling out of reference publishing. However, Berg Publishers took on the project. Fast forward to 2010. Four years of hard work by all involved have resulted in the finished project, which includes 775 articles from about 620 contributors.

After the panel presentations there will be a brief question and answer period. The audience will then have the opportunity to look at some of the textiles actually described in the articles. Also available will be brochures that contain details pertaining to the volumes, geographic areas discussed, editors, and marketing information.

Please note: Our Annual General Meeting will take place at 10 am before our September program begins. This short presentation will introduce your new Board members and bring you up to date with Textile Arts Council news.

Programs continue on page 2, col. 2
FROM THE TAC BOARD CHAIR:

It’s autumn and change is in the air! We have many exciting programs and special events lined up for the fall, so don’t wait to renew your membership if you haven’t done so already. As you know, membership renewal is July 1st. One of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to travel on tours created for textile lovers. Look for visits to local artist studios and homes of collectors in the coming months. We are also planning an exciting tour to Indonesia for August-September next year. The Ethnic Textile Bazaar, in its new, expanded location, will be held on November 14th.

An important change for the council is in the distribution of our newsletter. Starting with this September newsletter, we are sending out our tri-annual newsletter electronically to all members, with the exception of those members who do not have email. This will reduce TAC costs and you have the added benefit of photos in color. If you have not already done so, please give your email address to Trish Daly, office manager.

This is also a time of change for the TAC board. Thank you to four active board members who will be stepping down after serving six years: former chairs Paul Ramsey and Laurel Sprigg as well as vice chair Gerry Masteller and Ana Lisa Hedstrom. At the same time we have terrific new candidates to present for membership approval. Be sure to check your ballot and return it to the TAC office. TAC can pride itself on a board that is not only working actively to improve member benefits and support the Textile Department but a board whose members represent every aspect of textile arts from academics and artists to collectors and scholars. We are also fortunate to have a wonderful group of advisors, past board members, who provide invaluable continuity.

There is very exciting news about a new textile acquisition. The Textile Arts Council’s Endowment Fund was recently put to good use to make a major contribution towards the acquisition of an extraordinary Palace or Ship Cloth from Indonesia, an important addition to the Textile Department’s collection. We are looking forward to seeing this beautiful cloth on display soon.

We are so excited about the current Textile Department exhibition To Dye For: A World Saturated in Color which explores the history of resist dye techniques. In addition to historical pieces there are works by contemporary Bay Area artists including 4 TAC members, Judith Content, Ana Lisa Hedstrom, Barbara Shapiro and Yoshiko Wada. To support exhibitions by the Textile Department, our lecture series will feature speakers whose topics range from Central and Latin America to the Philippines. Three lectures, beginning in November, will focus on fashion and western costumes, reflecting the upcoming exhibition Pulp Fashion: The Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave. In March of next year, haute couture returns to the de Young’s Textile Gallery with the exhibition Balenciaga and Spain.

In addition to TAC’s active board, I would like to thank the many volunteers that support TAC by helping out at our lectures and receptions and also promoting TAC at the annual Arts of Asia Pacific and Tribal and Textiles shows. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the next Ethnic Textiles Bazaar and the Holiday Party.

Mary F. Connors, Chair

Programs  continued from page 1

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 10 a.m.

Carriers Of Tradition In The Philippines: Kalinga Baskets And T’boli Textiles

With Fides Enriquez and Dr. Ramon Silvestre, co-directors of Pacific Ethnographic, A Heritage Preservation Research Trust

Within the borders of the Philippines, the world’s second largest archipelago, live more than 100 ethnological groups. While most of these groups are linked by their common Austro-Asiatic heritage, each has a distinctive culture, language and lifestyle. In this presentation Fides Enriquez and Ramon Silvestre will shed light on two groups: the Kalinga living in the northern part of Luzon island and the T’boli of the southern island of Mindanao.

Gender-specific tasks are a common thread throughout Southeast Asian cultures. In this presentation Dr. Silvestre will discuss the Kalinga tradition of men weaving baskets and Ms. Enriquez will talk about, and show, her film documentary illustrating the creation of the ikat patterned banana fiber textiles woven by T’boli women. While Kalinga men use a variety of basketry techniques, including plaiting, coiling, and twining, and T’boli women weave their textiles on a back-strap loom, there is a

T’boli weavers in Longhouse, photo Ramon Silvestre

Programs continue on page 3, col. 1
clear link in both the process and in the esteem given these traditional crafts within their communities. Both the Kalining baskets and T’boli textiles are created for ritual ceremonial use as well as serving daily functions. In analyzing the functions of the baskets and textiles, both lecturers reveal insights into the cultures of the communities.

Dr. Ramon Silvestre has a PhD in Ethnoarchaeology and Anthropology from the University of Arizona. His field research was conducted among the indigenous Kalinga and Ifugao in the northern Philippines. He also studied traditional textiles in southern Mindanao. Fides Enriquez is an independent ethnographer, photographer, film documentarian and explorer. She produced the documentary Weaving T’nalak, the visual essay Mindanao, Lalawigan, and curated the T’boli textile exhibit T’nalak: The Spirit of Fu’Dal. She is currently producing Harana, a film documentary on traditional Philippine music.

Please join us to hear ethnoarchaeologist/curator, Ramon Silvestre, PhD and ethnographer/film documentarian Fides Enriquez, for a great session of discussion, a film documentary, and a display of a select group of exquisite woven objects that represent the traditional Kalinga and T’boli groups of the Philippines.

**R. L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book Award, Textile Society Of America**

The winner of the 2009 R. L. Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award, given each year by the Textile Society of America, is *Uncommon Threads: Wabanaki Textiles, Clothing and Costume*. Authors Dr. Bruce J. Bourque and Laureen A. LaBar are curators at the Maine State Museum in Augusta.


**2010 Artist Fellowship Grant, Art Council Of Silicon Valley**

Congratulations to TAC member and Palo Alto textile artist Linda Gass, who has been awarded a 2010 Artist Fellowship grant from the Art Council of Silicon Valley.

**ATTENTION TAC MERRY MAKERS!**

Save the date for the **2010 TAC Holiday Party**:
Friday, Dec. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Watch for your invitation!
designers who focus primarily on the cut of the cloth. She lives in St. Helena, California, and is the Director of the Center for Pattern Design. www.centerforpatterndesign.com

Since 1992 Ms. Ericson has presented three-week-long symposiums on Vionnet's work and has assembled a large library of related teaching materials. She travels throughout the US and Canada teaching innovative pattern design techniques.

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear about Madeleine Vionnet, master couturier for the ages. Sandra Ericson will present many images and drawings as examples of Vionnet's work.

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 10 a.m.

Vionnet, The Art Of The Cut

With Sandra Ericson

In this lecture, Vionnet, the Art of the Cut, Sandra Ericson will explore all the ways Vionnet planned and cut her pattern pieces prior to draping them on her half scale form. The lecture will identify principles and techniques that Vionnet used throughout her career, eventually producing over 600,000 designs. It is a career that has never been equaled. She was the best in her era and is still considered the foremost couturier of the 20th Century.

In the 1930’s, in Paris, France, Madeleine Vionnet revolutionized haute couture by using the natural fluidity of diagonal woven fabric and the bias cut to let her designs conform to the body with only a few seams and darts. This method of design and construction uses little or no hardware such as zippers, buttons or boning. The garments are also free of facings, linings, interfacings, shoulder pads, and other construction features. All the magic is dependent on cut, so that it breaks and falls in just the right place on the body, often yielding only a single two-dimensional pattern piece for the three-dimensional design.

Vionnet’s concepts require that the garment be cut so perfectly that few other features are necessary to convey the design. The garments float on the body, settling with such balance and purity that no further modifications are required. Bias cut garments match the anatomy of the wearer with fluid grace, giving the woman elegance independent of personal figure characteristics. The cut flows around the body, streamlining the figure, yet allowing for the poetry of human movement. Madeleine Vionnet represented the epitome of a master “cutter,” or pattern designer. She pioneered the use of the bias to achieve intricate designs far beyond the slip-dress, becoming a geometrician, or an architect, in fabric.

Sandra Ericson has taught draping and fashion design on the college level for over 30 years, all the while specializing in the techniques of Madeleine Vionnet and other innovative

Programs continued from page 3

Vionnet re-creation by Catherine Stephenson, photo courtesy Threads Magazine
Treasures From The Permanent Collection

With so much to report on, where do I start? On July 31st, we opened *To Dye For: A World Saturated in Color*. This exhibition, drawn from our permanent collection and key private Bay Area collections, explores the multiple techniques of resist dyeing. What great fun it was for me as curator to delve into our permanent collection and to visit collectors’ homes and artists’ studios. Of note, over 50% of the textiles in the de Young’s collection are on view for the first time. I fully encourage TAC members to visit the exhibition as you will see many acquisitions made possible by the Textile Arts Council Endowment Fund. Moreover, you will see a beautiful installation. FAMSF textile conservators Sarah Gates and Beth Szuhay, aided by their summer intern Erica Storm, have once again masterfully prepared and installed the exhibition. I would also like to thank our exhibition department, especially Robert Haycock, for their work on the exhibition.

Working on *To Dye For: A World Saturated in Color* allowed me to find many treasures; however, yet another treasure has been discovered in our collection: a 17th century Safavid silk velvet fragment. To clarify, we have long admired this fragment. In fact, Trish Daly has used a photo of it as her screen saver for years. But what a surprise to learn that a fragment of this same design sold at Sotheby’s, London, April sale for a stellar $2,478,245. As *Hali* magazine reported “being one of just four known examples of this design doubtless helped the price, as did the provenance in the legendary Besselièvre Collection, perhaps sold at Drout, Paris in 1912 along with the other three, all now in museum collections.”

Further enriching the permanent collection, the textile arts department made an extremely important acquisition. We recently acquired a rare Sumatran ceremonial cloth. The acquisition was made possible by the Textile Arts Council Endowment Fund and the Nasaw Family Foundation gift in memory of trustee Marshall I. Wais, Sr. The *palepai* (or ship cloth, as it is known to Westerners) has long been recognized as the pinnacle of Indonesian weaving. In her 1979 book, *Splendid Symbols: Textiles and Traditions in Indonesia*, leading Indonesian textile scholar and Textile Museum curator, Matiebelle Gittinger, wrote “*textiles bearing ship designs are some of the most remarkable weavings ever made in the Indonesian archipelago. These textiles, requiring exceptional skill and patience, stagger the imagination.*”

*Palepai* ship cloths have been classified into several prominent types: one features red ships, the other blue. This *palepai* depicts two large red ships with sweeping oars and gracefully arching bowsprits and tails. The cloth is masterfully woven with finely detailed human figures, mythical creatures, birds, and ancestral shrines. The rich color palette, combined with the intricate composition of the fine details, makes this an exceptional example, a true masterpiece of textile design.

For Indonesians inhabiting the archipelago of 13,000 islands, the sea represents their lifeblood, and ship imagery reflects their social structure, ritual life, and cosmological belief system. The ship as a recurring theme in their ritual arts can be seen as a spirit boat safely guiding the agent from one stage in life to another. In the Lampung region of south Sumatra, ship imagery predominates their woven arts, reaching its height with the *palepai*, the most prestigious of all

*Treasures... continues on page 8, col. 1*
NEW! BIGGER! BETTER! ETHNIC TEXTILES BAZAAR

Sunday, November 14, 2010
Moriarty Hall of St Anne of the Sunset Church
1300 Funston, between Irving & Judah
10 am – 4 pm

Following on the success of last year’s Bazaar, we have expanded the scope:
• Ethnic jewelry from around the world.
• Books: back by popular demand, duplicate books from the Textile Department will be on sale.
• Individual vendors will also have great books for sale.
• More vendors, with a wide variety of offerings.
• TAC tables with textiles and other treasures donated by a founding member of TAC.

• Free parking adjacent to the church; good public transportation (see below)
• 4000 square feet of treasures for your collection or Holiday gifts.
• Free Admission

Bring cash or checkbooks. Most vendors will not have credit card facilities.

Public transportation:
N-Judah streetcar stops at Funston and Judah. Walk one block north along Funston.

Buses: #6 Parnassus, #43 Masonic, and #44 O’Shaughnessy all stop at 9th Ave and Judah. Walk 4 blocks west then a block north.
Save the Time to Go!
TEXTILE ARTS COUNCIL TOUR:
BALI AND BEYOND
Late summer 2011

The Indonesian archipelago was once the crossroads of the world. For more than 3,500 years people have come here seeking fragrant spices and other exotic goods. The textile arts have been central to this story. Travel through these islands gives access to a wide variety of textiles reflecting ancient traditions and cultural practices that continue today. Echoes of the spice trade and Indian trade cloths abound, juxtaposed with indigenous motifs and imagery related to local history, genealogy, and environment. Textiles continue to be produced and used in numerous ways ranging from traditional dress to playing an integral part in rites of passage.

Our gateway to this world is through the island of Bali. Here we will steep ourselves in the island’s rich traditions with stays in Ubud and eastern Bali. The majority of weavers in Indonesia live in remote, isolated islands untouched by the forces of modernity. The Threads of Life and the YPBB foundation (http://www.ypbb.org/) are working with several weavers’ cooperatives throughout the region to help women weavers create high quality textiles that balance their desires for sustainable incomes and cultural integrity. We will meet some of these groups. Traveling beyond Bali we will visit weavers and dyers on the island of Timor. This tour will be led by Jean Howe and William Ingram, the driving forces behind the Threads of Life.

As we go to press, the exact dates for this exciting tour have not been fixed. Look for more details at upcoming lectures and on our website. This is a trip not to be missed!

TAC BOARD
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Bali Basket Weavers, photo Susan York

Tengannen Festival, photo Mary Connors
their textiles. The multi-layered or stratified decks lend themselves to multiple interpretations: a representation of the upper and lower worlds, a ledger of ancestry, and a reflection of their social hierarchy.

Indonesian aristocrats, the exclusive owners of palepai, hung them at rituals such as engagements, marriages, births, circumcisions, and funerals. This cloth would have been used in a marriage ceremony, with each of the double-red ships representing a clan. In the marriage rites, a single-ship palepai would replace the double-ship cloth to symbolically represent the merging of the clans.

High-quality palepai cloths are extremely rare. In 1883, the eruption of Krakatau in the Sunda Strait generated a tsunami that destroyed 165 villages and towns, including the town of Kalianda. During the Japanese occupancy of Indonesia in World War II, many cloths were cut apart to make clothing.

I look forward to exhibiting both textiles in the near future. And I hope to see you all in the galleries.

Jill D'Alessandro
Curator
The Caroline and H. McCoy Jones
Department of Textile Arts

Welcome to Our New TAC Members
Through July 16, 2010
Sally Abbott
Linda Van Curen Anderson
Rochelle Armas
Nancy Barbata
Barbara Beckmann
Jeanne Benatar
Ally Beran
Kathleen Bishop
Lisa Bittan
Mary Ann Boddum
Sheri Brautigam
Marla Brill
Marian Brischle
Ann Brooks
Lisa Carey
Deb Cashatt
Gloria Cooper
Melissa Crowe
Giny Dixon
Kathleen Dybeck
Sandra Farrell
Lisa Fremont
Candice Gold
Carol Goldman
Leslie Grace
Nancy Hernandez
Ernest Hook
Birgit Jacobsen
Gunter & Trudi Kaldschmidt
Rose Kelly
Violet Lee
Barbara Levinson
Josephine Licata
Kristin Maberley
Jo Anne Magaraci
Cynthia MacGregor
Joan McAllister
Nancy McKay
Vanessa Moraga
Chris Motley
Heather Oelerich
Janet Pollock
Melissa Raphaely
Caroline Rousset-Johnson
Kris Sazaki
Pepper Sbarbaro
Jennifer Shaw
Brooke Shellflower
Sharman Spector
Janis Stoner
Maureen Viele
Mary Ann Walsh
Charlene & Bill Woodcock

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
November 15, 2010
Please send your copy to the TAC office. tac@famsf.org

Treasures. . . continued from page 5

Length of velvet (detail), Iran, Persian, Safavid dynasty, 17th century. Silk, metallic thread; cut voided velvet, supplementary-welt patterning. Dimensions: 49 x 22 in. Gift of Archer M. Huntington
Textile Arts Council

Don’t miss these exciting TAC events!

Dress & Fashion Of Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico & Peru: Past And Present
With Margot Blum Schevill, Panel Moderator
September 18, 2010, 10 a.m.

Recent Studies In Textiles From The Silk Road In China
Saturday, October 2, 2010 10:30 am
Gould Theater, Legion of Honor Museum*

Carriers Of Tradition In The Philippines: Kalinga Baskets And T’boli Textiles
With Fides Enriquez and Dr. Ramon Silvestre, co-directors of Pacific Ethnographic, A Heritage Preservation Research Trust
October 16, 2010, 10 a.m.

Vionnet, The Art Of The Cut
With Sandra Ericson
Saturday, November 13, 2010, 10 a.m.

Ethnic Textiles Bazaar
Sunday, November 14, 2010
Moriarty Hall of St Anne of the Sunset Church
1300 Funston, between Irving & Judah
10 am – 4 pm

Visit our web site: www.textileartscouncil.org
GENERAL CALENDAR

Ongoing

Until Sept. 25  Judith Content is one of six artists featured in the Summer Exhibit at the Preston Contemporary Art Center, Mesilla, NM. www.prestoncontemporaryart.com

Until Oct. 31  ITAB: International TECHstyle Art Biennial, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, includes TECHstyle SoftWEAR: Surface & Shape, an artwear installation by Colleen Quen, Corinne Okada Takara, and Rick Lee. www.sjquiltmuseum.org

Until Oct. 31  By Hand: American Women with Needle & Thread, Los Altos History Museum, 650 948-9427 www.losaltoshistory.org

Until Dec. 5  Weaver’s Stories from Island Southeast Asia and Nini Towok’s Spinning Wheel, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles. www.fowler.ucla.edu


September


Sept. 20 – Oct. 9  SAQA 2010 Benefit Auction: more than 200 studio art quilts to be auctioned online. www.saqa.com


October


Oct. 6 – 9  Textiles and Settlement: From Plains Space to Cyberspace, TSA Biennial Symposium, Lincoln NE. www.textilesociety.org/symposia_2010


November

Nov. 4 – 7  Costume Colloquium II: Dress for Dance, an international conference featuring numerous speakers and visits to local sites. Florence, Italy. www.costume-textiles.com


December & beyond

February 1, 2011  Deadline for entries: as part of the 2011 International Surface Design Association Conference: Confluence, a members’ fashion show: Bodies of Water, June 11, 2011, in Minneapolis, MN. Entry information: www.surfacedesign.org

