

Ancient Customs, Ancient Stories

An exhibit held in conjunction with the 11th Biennial Symposium of the Textile Society of America at Hamilton

Library Bridge Gallery • University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa 2550 McCarthy Mall

• September 22 - October 31, 2008

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The textiles of Lampung, a province of Indonesia at the southern tip of Sumatra, present complex patterns and imagery, sometimes even mysterious pictorial tableaux.

Described as "ship cloths," they were sometimes said to represent the "ship of the dead." Remnants of house architecture, ceremonial furniture and objects, mats and beadwork are arranged according to four themes that together suggest "ship cloths" represent a very different world, where reverence for ancestors, preservation and enhancement of social status, continuity of the chiefly lineages and concern for agricultural fertility were paramount, with only an occasional ship, apparent sea voyage, or ship reference appearing at all.

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