



Inv. no. 12/1988

TABBY-WOVEN TEXTILE, LINEN WITH INLAID PATTERN WEFTS OF WOOL AND LINEN

EGYPT OR SYRIA; LATE 7TH-EARLY 8TH CENTURY

H: 106.5: W: 84 CM

The simplest form of cloth is made by passing weft threads over and under warp threads. In this case, the textile is made of linen, which was commonly used in Egypt. Wool, which takes dyes well, was inlaid as extra wefts. These pattern wefts, which form the fairly simple geometrical shapes, are the characteristic feature of this textile.

There are contemporary, more complicated textiles with a similar decoration, but the most obvious parallel are the mosaic floors found in the Umayyad desert palaces, for example Khirbat al-Mafjar, near Jericho.

The textile might have made up one half of a curtain.

Published in:

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Mentioned in Christie's, London 30/4-1992, lot 322;

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Kjeld von Folsach and Anne-Marie Keblow Bernsted: *Woven Treasures: Textiles from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 1993, cat.no. 1;

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Mentioned in *Hali*, 171, 2012, p. 95, no. 15;