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TAPESTRY, DYED WOOL AND UNDYED LINEN

EGYPT; 9TH-10TH CENTURY

H: 56; W: 43 CM

Egypt has been known for its textile production since ancient times. This fairly coarse tapestry belongs to a group that was made under the Turkish Tulunid dynasty. In contrast to *tiraz* textiles, where inscriptions played the main role, these pieces are figurative. They reflect both the local Coptic tradition and finer silk fabrics of the type that was made for the Byzantine and Sasanian courts.

A stylized tree of life is surrounded by confronted sphinxes and addorsed lions framed by a medallion. The pattern is a bit clumsy, but it also displays a power and colorfulness that might bring to mind Turkish kilims.

Published in:

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Anne Hedeager Krag: "Textiles from Egypt's first millennium AD in Danish museum collections" in Antoine De Moor, Cäcilia Fluck and Petra Linscheid (eds.): *Explorers, first collectors and traders of textiles from Egypt of the 1st millennium AD*, [Antwerpen] 2021, fig. 16, p. 69;