



Silk and Cotton: Textiles from the Central Asia that Was

Susan Meller

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The traditional textiles of Central Asia are unknown treasures. Straddling the legendary Silk Road, this vast region stretches from Russia in the west to China in the east. Whether nomadic or sedentary, its peoples created textiles for every aspect of their way of life, from ceremonial objects marking rites of passage, to everyday garments, to practical items for the home. There were *suzanis* for the marriage bed; prayer mats; patchwork quilts; bridal ensembles; bags for tea, scissors, and mirrors; lovingly embroidered hats and bibs; and robes of every color and pattern.

Author Susan Meller has spent years assembling the 590 textiles illustrated in this book. She documents their history, use, and meaning through archival photographs and fascinating travelers' narratives spanning many centuries. Her book will be a revelation to designers, collectors, students of Central Asia, and travelers to the region. *Silk and Cotton* is destined to become a classic.

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