Professor Majid Sarmadi (University of Wisconsin-Madison, US)

Lecture: High Resolution Digitization of Historic Textiles

This work has used the state-of-the -art high precision scanning imaging technology developed by the Ide Laboratory of Kyoto University's Graduate School of Engineering. Twenty items from Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection of the School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison were scanned. These items were selected from more than 13,000 items housed at this collection. Garments and fabric fragments were selected to represent a range of time, country of origin, design and size. The oldest item was from the tenth century. This particular scanner was used because of its high dimensional and color reproduction accuracy. We were able not only to study the fabric and yarn structure but also the individual fibers which made the yarns and their colors. Since all collected materials and consequently our cultural heritage degrades by time, we have used this scanner to document the state of wellbeing of the scanned items. We plan to create a data bank that can be studied not only by our faculty, staff and students but also by scholars from around the world.