

**TAFFETA** (OF., Fr. *taffetas*, from Pers. *tāftah*, taffeta, woven, p.p. of *tāftan*, to weave). A term of somewhat general application in silk manufacture. It was formerly applied to all plain silks simply woven by regular alternations of the warp and filling (see WEAVING), and is by some writers supposed to be the first kind of silk weaving known even to the Chinese, from whom it came to us. Modifications have, however, been introduced, by varying the quality of the warp and filling, and by the substitution of various colors for the single one of the original taffeta. It has therefore become a sort of generic term for plain silk, or silk woven in lines so fine as to appear plain woven. Taffeta has the same appearance on both sides. See Plate of TEXTILE PRINTING.