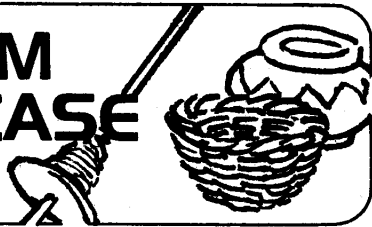


# MUSEUM SHOWCASE



## THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS TEXTILE COLLECTION

The textile collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is composed of approximately 2,000 examples ranging from a skein of fine, bleached linen lace thread, to large European tapestries and oriental rugs.

Of special note are the Chinese court robes and European tapestries. These particular parts of the collection contain some of the finest examples of their kind.

The laces, of which the Museum has over 900, include many fine examples of the art. The collection contains both bobbin and needle lace made during the last six centuries, and represents the growth of the art from drawn work on linen to the very finest interlacing of single element fibers. The collection also contains a few lace tools, patterns, and pattern books.

The collection houses samples of woven and surface ornamented textiles which originated in over fifty different countries and exemplify a wide range of techniques from the simplest weave to elaborate brocades and velvets, as well as ikat, needlepoint, tambor work, couching, crewel embroidery, batik, copperplate and woodblock prints. There are very few examples of Scandinavian textiles, and in terms of numbers, the strength of the collection lies east of Istanbul. However, there are over 200 examples of Italian and French fabrics made in the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries.



A large Norwegian tapestry entitled "The Wise and Foolish Virgins" from the 18th Century; part of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Textile Collection. Photo courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

The costume collection is rather small, although it does contain over forty very fine examples of Kashmir shawls which were made during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in India.

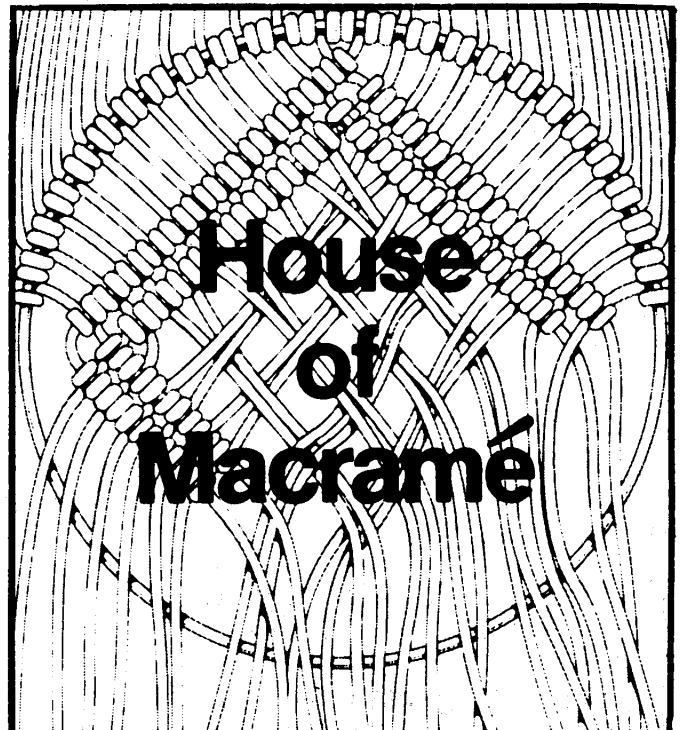
At the present time the textile collections are being re-organized and stored in one area. This is being made possible by the receipt of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Several Guild members have donated their time and effort to help in this enormous undertaking. It is hoped that by the end of the summer of 1977 the textiles will be properly housed in their new storage area and a small study center will be available for the use of students and scholars studying in the field.

In January a limited rotation system was initiated in the main Decorative Arts Gallery (320), whereby visitors to the museum are now able to view a few of the costumes owned by the museum. The Persian Gallery will also display textiles which will be changed periodically. Several large tapestries are hung in the rotunda of the museum and the Tapestry Gallery in the west wing of the museum's second floor.

Lotus Stack

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