The textiles found in the coffins varied from coarse off-white plain weaves to woven blue and pink striped and checked fabrics which appeared to have been used as shawls. A large number of the checked and striped fabrics were recovered, some directly from bodies and some from the coffins where they had been used as packing around the body. Mary Broderick, in her book, A Handbook for Travellers in Lower and Upper Egypt, published in 1896, referred to the checked shawls "so often worn by the Nile boatmen". None of these were apparent in the dress of the current Akhmim inhabitants. How long the shawls were used as clothing and when they ceased to be used is as yet an unanswered question.

A few of the dead were clothed with sheer fabric that covered the heads and bodies to the knee region. Mrs. Basta, wife of the caretaker of the churchyard, identified the garment as a šāla. According to Karl Baedeker in the 1914 book, Egypt and the Sudan. Handbook for Travelers, long šāla were worn by poorer classes for important or state occasions.

As the textiles were retrieved, they were wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and placed either in cardboard boxes or cotton bags which were transported to Sohag, a town across the Nile River. There preliminary fabric and yarn structure determination was completed as well as cataloging.

At the end of the excavation the textiles were packed in crates and trucked to the Islamic Museum in Cairo where they were examined by curators. The more significant pieces were kept by the Egyptian government for their museums with the remainder being returned to the University of Minnesota for further study.

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