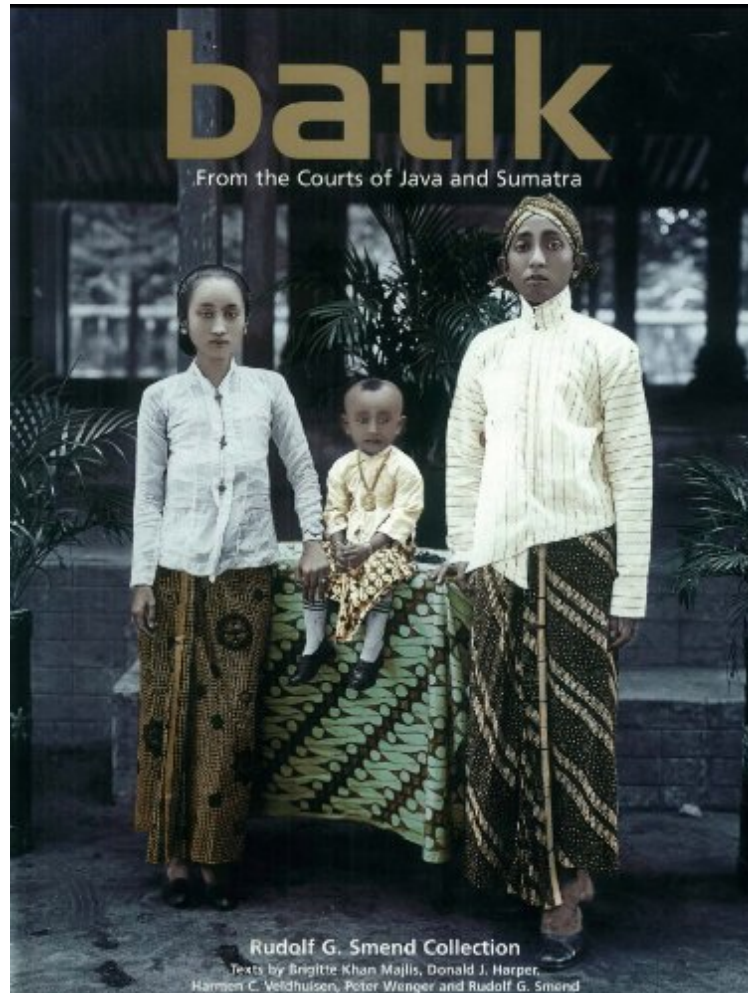


Batik: From the Courts of Java and Sumatra

Rudolf G. Smend, Brigitte Khan Majlis, Harmen C. Veldhuisen

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Rudolf G. Smend, Brigitte Khan Majlis, Harmen C. Veldhuisen : Batik: From the Courts of Java and Sumatra before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Batik: From the Courts of Java and Sumatra:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. terrific book on batikBy danny boyIf your appetite has been whetted by other books on batik, the examples given here will surely astound you. The examples are all taken from the Rudolf Smend collection and represent archaic pieces of sublime textile art. They represent the finest examples of batik patterns from the courts of Java and Sumatra. Buy this book but you will need another book on batik as a general introduction and background.

With beautiful full-color Batik cloths and extensive historical and cultural commentary, Batik: From the Courts of Java and Sumatra is a fundamental work in the field of Indonesian art and culture. Batik occupies a special position in

Indonesia. The extraordinary photographs of cloths and prints in this book demonstrate why batik is the stuff of textile legend. These 71 batik designs, taken from the collection of famed dealer Rudolf G. Smend, date from 1880-1930, a time still considered batik's golden age. Emanating from the provincial and stately courts of Yogyakarta and Surakarta in Central Java are hip, chest, shoulder, and head cloths in controlled, orderly, geometric patterns in natural soga brown, indigo blue, black, and cream. Brighter colors and freer designs on the sarongs made in Cirebon, Pekalongan, Lasem, and other towns along Java's commercial north coast eloquently attest to the blending of indigenous forms, motifs, and colors with outside influences. Southern Sumatra, with its Muslim heritage, contributed large shoulder cloths and headscarves often bearing Koranic invocations. Complementing these extraordinary cloths are 16 vintage photo prints from the Leo Haks collection, which demonstrate how batik was worn at court and in other settings.

From the Publisher The exotic textiles of Java have intrigued the outside world for the past 150 years. Batik, the legendary fiber art of painting and dyeing fabrics using a waxing process, has been influenced by cultures as diverse as the Chinese, Indians, Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch, and English. Like no other book before it, Batik takes the reader on a spellbinding tour of Java, revealing batik's history, motifs, and methods of production. About the Author Rudolf G. Smend is a passionate batik collector and owner of Galerie Smend in Cologne, Germany. Brigitte Khan Majlis is Curator of Textiles at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum of Ethnology in Cologne.