

The Museum of Modern Art

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AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS by Roy Sieber. 240 pages; 244 illustrations 40 in color. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, NY. Paper \$7.95. Clothbound edition \$15 distributed by New York Graphic Society, Ltd.

The most comprehensive pictorial survey of the African arts of textile design and personal adornment will become available with the publication by The Museum of Modern Art of AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS by Roy Sieber on October 11, 1972. The book includes 244 pictures (40 in color) of textiles, jewelry, costume, head-dresses and hair styles, and decorative scarification and painting of the body.

This important, distinctive survey of decorative arts from twenty-six countries of Africa is designed to provide a useful addition to the growing literature in African studies, and to stimulate an appreciation of the aesthetic value of this material to those unfamiliar with its beauty and variety.

The book highlights the making of textiles, particularly cloths woven on looms, but includes examples of beaten bark cloth -- often painted or embroidered, and resist-dyed fabrics -- the least known being tied and died cloths -- as well. The diversity of patterns that result from these quite rudimentary technical means can be remarkably beautiful and subtle in effect.

Roy Sieber is Professor of Art History at Indiana University and from 1967 to 1970 served as Chairman of its Fine Arts Department. He has spent considerable time in Africa, as a Ford Foundation Fellow in Nigeria, as Visiting Professor at The University of Ghana, and as Visiting Research Professor at the University of Ife in Nigeria. He is the author of Sculpture of Northern Nigeria and, with Arnold Rubin, Sculpture of Black Africa.

Publication of AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS coincides with the opening of a major exhibition at the Museum presented under the auspices of its International Council and sponsored by Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) and the National Endowment for the Arts. After the New York showing (October 11 - January 31) it will travel to art museums in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Cleveland.

Review copies, black and white photographs and color transparencies available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504 - 7501.