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Wrap the Dead : The funerary textile tradition from the Osmore Valley, South Peru, and its social-political implications

Minkes, W.

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APPENDIX 10: EXTRA DATA ON RAW FIBRE AND SINGLE ELEMENT STRUCTURES

1. Form and function

FIBRA CRUDA

The *fibra cruda* or raw fibre specimens are subdivided into unprocessed masses of fibre (if they still had some pieces of skin attached to the tangled fibres and/or contained dirt or cotton seeds); processed masses of fibres (cleaned wads); or *almohadillas* (the wads that were shaped in more or less rectangular pads of processed fibres).

The almohadillas from La Cruz (n = 4) vary in size and colour between 12 x 9 x 2 cm = 216 cm³ of golden brown ('15') with cream ('14') colour, to 18 x 18 x 4 = 1296 cm³ of cream ('14') and reddish brown ('11') colour. The latter contained some coca leaves inside the wad.[1]

The unprocessed wad of camelid wool from El Descanso forms the largest wad of all crude fibre specimens of this study with its volume of 22 x 24 x 9 cm = 4752 cm³ of both thick and fine fibres of cream ('14') colour.[2]

A final wad of crude fibre was found at Algodonal.[3] It measured 21 x 16 x 5 cm = 1680 cm³ and contained camelid fibre in four different colours, cream ('14'), yellow beige ('07'), light brown ('05'), and golden brown ('15'), which may represent the wool from various animals, or from a patched animal, and/or differential discolouration of the fibres due chemical processes inside the tomb.

In addition, two processed wads of wool were found at Algodonal, one concerning camelid wool in golden brown colour ('15') and the other cotton fibre in cream ('14') and light brown ('05') colours. Both were small sized wads, measuring 8 x 9 x 0.5 = 36 cm³ and 5 x 5 x 3 cm = 75 cm³, respectively.[4]

KNOTS

Several knots have been preserved in cords and ropes which held the funerary bundle tightly wrapped. The reports on the unwrapping of La Cruz' (1993) funerary bundles state that the wrapping of the bundled deceased person started at the head of the individual, working down to the feet, often but not always knotting the cords and/or ropes at crossings of one or two cords or ropes. Often more than one type of knot was used: one element (cord or rope) was linked by simple linking, half hitches, the clove hitch or doubled clove hitches, or

bowline-like knots).[5] The crossing of two cords or ropes was joined by square knots (= reef knot) or cow hitches (= lark's head knot).[6]

NOTES

1. Almohadillas (#99315, 1/s) from La Cruz (1998) and (#99233, tomb 1) from La Cruz (1993), respectively. The other two almohadillas are (#99255, tomb 11, wad of 15 x 11 x 4 cm = 660 cm³, with very fine fibres (diameter 0.03 mm) in light brown ('05') colour, and (#99229, tomb 23), wad of 15 x 13 x 3 = 585 cm³ of golden brown ('15') colour, both from La Cruz (1993).
2. Unprocessed crude camelid fibre (#01619, tomb 2), El Descanso (1999).
3. Unspun camelid fibre (#02457, tomb 33), Algodonal.
4. Processed camelid fibre (#02463, tomb 37; #02484, from disturbed fardo 162), Algodonal.
5. (#02572, tomb 21), (#99254, tomb 11 and #02569, tomb 18, (#99232, tomb 1; #02569, tomb 18), (#99236, tomb 10); (#02572, tomb 21), all from La Cruz (1993), respectively.
6. (#99374, tomb 7), La Cruz (1998) and (#02449, tomb 27), Algodonal; (#99273, tomb 2), Cruz (1993), respectively.