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

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In 1997, I was informed by the University of Leiden about the possibility of applying for a full scholarship supporting a promotion project. The scholarship was issued by the Schuurman Schimmel-van Outeren Stichting in Haarlem, the Netherlands, which demanded that the research would concern '*an archaeological topic that would fall too much out of the core programme of the research group of the university*', so that it would have little chance of being carried out. As my Master's research topic had been the textile tradition of archaeological and modern Andean cultures, both far off the Faculty's beaten track, I had a good chance of procuring that scholarship. By that time I had been working in several office jobs and had reached that point of 'now what'. So doubtful, having years of theoretic work at the university in mind, but joyful, at the prospect of spending many months in Peru, I applied for the grant. And that is how I still felt the moment I opened the letter with its congratulations, and even throughout the years of research. It was the burden of duty and the lightness of Peru that kept me going throughout the years. If any memory will stick to these past few years, it will be 'solitude'. Solitude at the University, being the price of 'an unusual topic falling out of the core programme' and solitude for the countless days spent working alone behind my computer. But on the other hand there were these many hours spent in company of the textiles and the many adventurous rides and colourful encounters I had in Peru.

Thus I have come to that day that the work is concluded and words of gratitude need to be expressed. First of all then I would like to thank Dr. Hendrik Frederik Schuurman Schimmel (†1882) and his wife Helena Gerardina van Outeren (†1908). Their altruistic gesture of setting up the Schuurman Schimmel-van Outeren Stichting in 1883, in order to '*allow youngsters to study sciences and arts, who otherwise would not have been able to do so for their unfortunate financial circumstances*', would affect my life over a century later. I also would like to thank the board of SSvO Stichting for their confidence when electing me as the beneficiary. Special thanks go to Prof. dr. L.P.M. Timmermans for her interest and suggestions throughout the years of research.

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