



THE BLINDING OF ELIMA

This tapestry, titled "The Blinding of Elima", is composed of two types of textile methods: the upper half uses the woven tapestry technique while the lower area (done in 1931 by the Vatican Museums Restoration Laboratory in order to replace missing sections) is painted on cotton fabric. To date, the restoration operations mainly concern the woven tapestry section.

PREPARATION FOR WASHING: After disassembling the areas of preceding restorations that caused tension in the fabric, the fragile areas were sewn together. White cotton yarn was used because it is easily identifiable; it will later be removed at the end of the process.



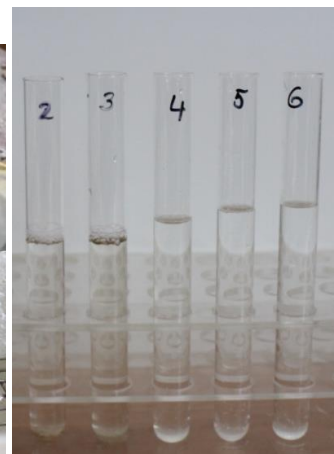


CLEANING: the woven section of the tapestry was washed by immersion in water and then cleaned using a sponge in order to remove dirt and deposits from the fiber.



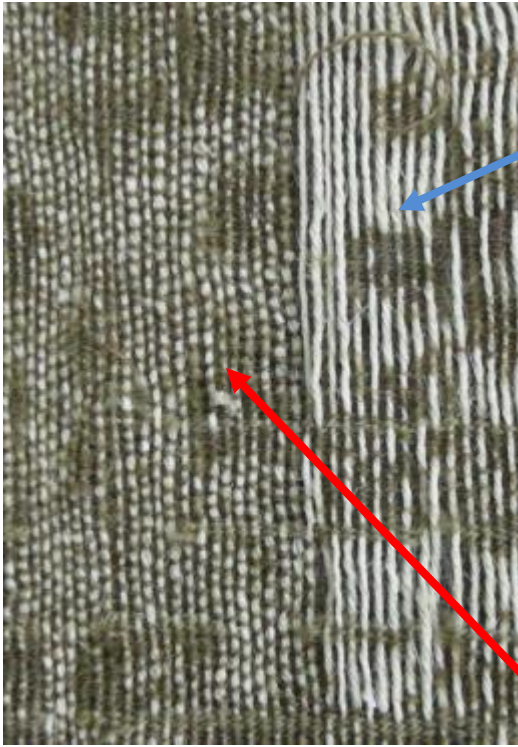


During washing, water samples were taken; these were placed in test tubes, and were then analyzed by GRS (Scientific Laboratory) in order to check whether the washing has completely eliminated the detergent residues used in the cleaning.



RESTORATION: Once dried, the tapestry was placed on a frame to permit consolidation of the sewn seams. After specific dyeing of the supports and threads needed to complete the restoration, it was then possible to proceed with alternative threading for consolidation.





Uncovered yards due to the missing weave

Alternating sewn consolidation of the weaving

STUDY OF THE PAINTED AREA: The lower area of the painted area to be restored, after being thoroughly vacuumed, will be consolidated with a brush using Funori algae. This type of intervention (never before used on similar artifacts) was the result of a lengthy experimentation in collaboration with GRS; this study was indispensable because Funori, used for many years in the field of silk restoration, still has a limited use in the field of cotton textiles.



Proof of cleaning using Funori algae, in diverse solutions.