

Ancient Textiles

Rare Ancestral Puebloan Blanket

By: Louise Connor

As a member of the Colorado Archeological Society, I recently read about (in the CAS Surveyor, Winter 2008) an ancient woven blanket from Ancestral Puebloan times. (The term Ancestral Puebloan is used these days instead of Anasazi).

The Telluride Historical Museum has a rare 800-year-old Ancestral Puebloan textile blanket. Discovered 100 years ago in a remote cave in southeastern Utah, the blanket is a new exhibit at the museum. According to Janne Brako, interim director of the Center of Southwest Studies and curator of collections at Fort Lewis College, the blanket is the only known intact, dyed blanket (other blankets from the ancients are fragments).

The blanket was found rolled up inside a large olla-type pot, plugged with a large skein of cotton yarn and buried in a cave

floor. A long string of polished beads and a bone awl were enclosed in the blanket. It measures approximately 5 feet square with rust, brown and white yarns woven in a twill pattern which hints at ceremonial use rather than everyday wear.

The Telluride Historical Museum is in the process of developing a formal management plan, research design, fundraising and grant proposals for the scientific analysis and dating of the blanket. To find out more about visiting the blanket or making donations, contact the museum at 970-728-3344 or info@telluridemuseum.org or www.telluridemuseum.org.



Classes forming now!!

Specializing in designer couture and fine natural fiber fashion fabrics, including silks, cashmeres, wools, linens, and embellished fabrics.

textile-O-ophile
delicious fabrics

1769 South Eighth Street
Broadmarket Square
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

719-473-1818
www.textileophile.com
de@textileophile.com