

ABEGG-STIFTUNG

Media release, September 2021

10 SEPTEMBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2021
OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.



A CHILD'S GARMENT FROM LEBANON **VIEWS OF A CONSERVATION PROJECT LASTING SEVERAL YEARS**

The Abegg-Stiftung has been studying and conserving a group of archaeological textiles from the National Museum of Beirut in Lebanon since 2019. The forty-four garments and accessories as well as 171 small textile fragments all date from the thirteenth century. They were found between 1988 and 1993 during excavations in the Assi el-Hadath cave in the Qadisha Valley, about 100 km north of Beirut. Thanks to the dry climate there, they are well preserved and are now prized as unique testimony to the clothes worn by a rural population during the Middle Ages.

The project is expected to take four to five years. Half of the allotted time has already passed and the work is progressing well. Some of the garments, head coverings, shawls and sashes pose special challenges and have been made the subject of bachelor's and master's degree projects. The child's garment that the Abegg-Stiftung is now exhibiting was the subject of a master's degree thesis in textile conservation and restoration. The thesis covered both theoretical and practical aspects of the project. The focus of the research section was on the search for a suitable support fabric to secure the fragile areas of the garment and the choice of a dyestuff for this fabric. The conserved garment on display in the showcase is flanked by a reconstruction of the garment and a sample of the support fabric. After several tests the latter was eventually dyed in keeping with the surface of the original object – that is to say, in various colours rather like a map.

Both media release and photo are available as e-mail attachments.

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Caption:

Child's garment; Lebanon, 13th century; half-linen fabric and silk fabric, braided silk trim;
Beirut, Direction Générale des Antiquités du Liban, inv. no. 116331

The exhibition «**THE DELIGHTS OF DINING – HISTORICAL LINEN DAMASKS**» remains open until 7 November 2021.