

The Borneo Book Fund

raising money for important ethnographic publishing project

The Borneo Book fund will be used to publish *Borneo Ikat Textiles: Style Variations, Ethnicity and Ancestry* by Traude Gavin. Tracing Patterns Foundation plans to publish this work as an open-access pdf available to all, and as a print-on-demand book, to appear in Spring 2023.

The book is based on fieldwork carried out by the author between 2005 and 2009. Gavin writes: 'This study provides a record for ethnic groups in Sarawak and West Kalimantan of textiles that many of the groups themselves no longer possess.' The book will be a unique resource for identifying the styles and ethnic associations of textiles in public and private collections, as well as a document of vanishing weaving traditions.

Fundraising Goal: \$12,000

How to contribute: Donations of any amount are welcome and will help us to produce this important work. You can donate via the Tracing Patterns Foundation website:*

<https://tracingpatterns.org/donate/>

Acknowledgement: Donors who give \$500 and above will receive the gift of a copy of the limited edition hard-cover version of the print book, as well as an acknowledgment in the book.

*TPF is a registered 501c(3) non-profit and donations are tax-deductable for US citizens. Closing date December 31 2022.



BORNEO IKAT WEAVING: STYLE VARIATIONS, ETHNICITY, AND ANCESTRY

Traude Gavin writes: ‘over the past forty years, numerous publications on the weaving traditions of the Indonesian archipelago also included the Iban people of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Several monographs on Iban textiles also were published, including my own contribution *Iban Ritual Textiles* (2003). The textiles of closely related groups in West Kalimantan so far have not received the same kind of sustained attention, partly because of the lack of any comprehensive field research in the region. While some specimens of West Kalimantan textiles have been held in Dutch collections since the 1940s, my research carried out between 2005 and 2009 is the first field documentation of these textiles. Based on my research, this study presents examples from several West Kalimantan groups, including the Bugau, Banjur, Mualang, Kantu’, Desa, Demam, Senangan, Sebaru’ and Ketungau Sesat peoples. It also documents the style variations particular to the Balau Iban, a Sarawak group.

This study provides a record for ethnic groups in Sarawak and West Kalimantan of textiles that many of the groups themselves no longer possess. It also provides a tool for identifying the ethnic association of specimens in museum and private collections where most of these textiles are being kept today. Finally, it corrects misleading terminology and erroneous identifications that have appeared in recent publications showcasing textiles from West Kalimantan groups.

Field data documenting textiles and close to 300 illustrations form the core of this study. The principal focus is the identification of style variations unique to specific ethnic groups. Such characteristics of style can serve to index ethnic affiliation and ancestry. The complex issue of ethnic labels and identity—above all their inherent impermanence and flexibility—is placed into historical perspective from pre-colonial times to the present, reflecting the increasing frequency of intermarriage and multi-ethnicity. A significant contribution of this publication to the field of Iban textile studies is that it shifts the focus from solely the Iban to encompass the extensive complex of related peoples in West Kalimantan, thereby making a step towards adjusting the dominance of the Iban in the ethnographic literature.’





Traude Gavin is an independent scholar with a focus on the ritual textiles of Iban and Iban-related groups in Borneo. She received her Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Hull in 1995, based on her field research in Sarawak between 1986 and 1993. She was guest curator of an exhibition of Iban textiles at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History in Los Angeles in 1996 and author of the accompanying book, *The Women's Warpath*. Her Ph.D. dissertation *Iban Ritual Textiles* was published by KITLV, Leiden, in 2003 (co-published by Singapore University Press in 2004).

Her recent field research has been on textiles of Iban-related groups in Kalimantan, Indonesia. The research was supported by a grant from the ASEASUK Research Committee on South East Asian Studies. In 2018, she was the Visiting Senior Fellow in the Indo-Pacific Department of the Yale University Art Gallery to research their substantial Borneo textile collection.

