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# Indigo: Egyptian Mummies To Blue Jeans



## Synopsis

Praise for the U.K. edition: Thoroughly satisfying. -- Crafts All those working with indigo or merely interested in the cultural history of that dye must read this book. -- Textile Forum Indigo: Egyptian Mummies to Blue Jeans tells the compelling story of the world's oldest and best-loved dye, the iconic blue behind one of the world's ubiquitous fabrics: denim. Brilliant photographs and eloquent text describe the process of making indigo dye from plants and how indigo is used. It weaves stories of indigo's producers, its cultural traditions and history, its importance in global trade, and the modern textile artists and fashion designers who are reviving indigo for sustainable development. The book covers: Indigo's history, dating to ancient times The botanical sources of indigo, including woad Uses of indigo in traditional medicine and religious practices The chemistry of indigo and the technology used to extract it Production and dyeing methods The commercial indigo industry, past and present The health consequences of making indigo Modern and future applications of indigo Indigo's continuing appeal and the iconic blue jean Indigo tells fascinating stories from the history of the dye, such as the recent discovery of 17th-century Spanish galleons in the Caribbean carrying hundreds of chests of raw indigo, which the author successfully used to dye 21st-century fabrics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A magical topic. Full of fascinating facts and inspiring images from the world over, this is my reference book on indigo. Keep coming back to it for history and ideas on colour, plants and organic processes, dyeing techniques and patterning, cultural traditions. I lost my original copy, and was delighted to find this latest edition has a fascinating new chapter on blue jeans and the future of

natural indigo - currently being revived in France, India, Japan and many other countries serious about ethical, ecologically sound, sustainable production. Also a really important education project with young people of Harlem NYC for which Balfour Paul was consultant, initiated by Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road team - connecting everyday blue jeans to history of world trade, including slavery.

If you have ever been interested in how our color pallet came about you will treasure this book. it is a must have to any dyers library

Very good copy and informative book about the process of indigo dying. It is a British Museum publication and very well researched. Not much about the pigment for painting but mostly concentrated on the coloring of cloth world wide.

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The author clearly has spent her professional life fully researching indigo, it's origins and history. Terrific book for dyers and those wishing to understand the all aspects of this amazing blue dye!

If you are really interested in the influence this one dyestuff has had historically and culturally, this book is an excellent source. The photographs and illustrations are great and the layout and quality of the printing is quite good. The writing is academic and a bit ponderous. There are levels of detail that many of us, who just want to become better informed, could do without. There is also very little material on the current state of the art for current indigo usage in industrial production. We are presented a lot of material about native and small lot dyeing that could have been placed into better perspective with at least a photograph and short write-up of a modern continuous denim dye range as a contrast. An informative book, but certainly NOT light reading!

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