



Nancy Spies

A Query

An article about two Ifriqiyān church treasuries by Isabelle Dolezalek (2013) lists one complete inventory of 12th-century liturgical textiles from the cathedral of Mahdiyya in modern Tunisia which were brought to Sicily while under Norman rule.

I have been able to translate and decipher most of the textile terms, but one continues to elude me. The term is "catafitti" and appears in the following listing:

17. Est alia cappa catafitti cum tribus tasellis auri frisii (Dolezalek 2013, 99).

Its meaning is unclear to Dolezalek. One person has speculated that "catafitti" is an orthographical drift from "catapicti", meaning "figured all over". Another person has cited the article by Antonio Garzya (2004) where "catafitti" means "stoffa" ("material").

Any suggestions would be gratefully received. Thank you.

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Bibliography

Dolezalek, I. (2013) Textile Connections? Two Ifriqiyān Church Treasuries in Norman Sicily and the Problem of Continuity Across Political Change. *Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean*, 25:1, 92-112.

Garzya, A. (2004) Appunti sui greco dell'Italia byzantina. *Bolletino linguistico campana* 5-6, 57 n. 14.