

## **The analysis of synthetic dyes in an embroidery of Emile Bernard (c. 1892)**

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### **Abstract**

Research focused on early synthetic dyes is presented. A selection of 65 dyestuffs, produced in the period of 1850-1900, was investigated previously [Van Bommel 2004]. Both non-destructive and destructive analytical techniques were evaluated for dyestuff identification. To establish the effectiveness of the selected dyes and the suitability of the analytical techniques, well dated objects have to be examined. Therefore, an embroidery designed by Emile Bernard (dated 1892) was studied; the results are presented in this paper. In 27 samples taken from the object, 13 different synthetic dyes and 3 natural dyes were detected, often in mixtures. Only two dyes could not be identified. The blue, mauve, purple and green colours were all severely faded whereas the red, pink and yellow colours turned out to be more stable.

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