

The world of colours of Dominique Cardon and Iris Brémaud

Dominique Cardon presents her research work and that of Iris Brémaud, co-author of the book Paul Gout's 157 colours.



Iris Brémaud, colour engineer

« Iris Brémaud, co-author of the book, performed the colorimetric measurements of all the samples of dyed wool broadcloth of Paul Gout's manuscript. In the book, she explains the method used to precisely and objectively characterize all these colours, in the language of today's colorists. »

Dominique Cardon, colour historian

« I am an historian and archaeologist. For 50 years, I have specialized in research on the texts and textiles which help retrace the history of the discovery by humankind of the colouring resources offered by Nature to colour our world : our skin, our hair, the hair and leather of animals and all the textile fibres used to make our clothes, footwear, bags, carpets, hammocks, tents, sails, etc. I have studied and published dyed textiles from all over the world and from many different periods: the Bronze Age necklaces and belts in bright red wool threads

of the mummies discovered in the Taklamakan desert of Xinjiang (Photos below : D. Cardon/ Franco-Chinese Archaeological Mission in Xinjiang (MAFCX)) ; the purple mats, plaited in pandanus and resist-dyed with a liana by the women of the Vanuatu archipelago; the scarlet wool hoses dyed with kermes of the « Count of Year 1000 » of Toulouse; the blue-black cloaks and colourful underhelmets of Roman officers garrisoned in the middle of the Eastern Desert of Egypt in the early years of the Empire... » (Photos below right : D. Cardon).



A heritage nugget

« And eventually, one day, someone arrived with an extraordinary, anonymous, undated manuscript full of multicoloured dyed samples and asked me to examine it. » (Photo top left : D. Cardon).



A valuable and fruitful partnership

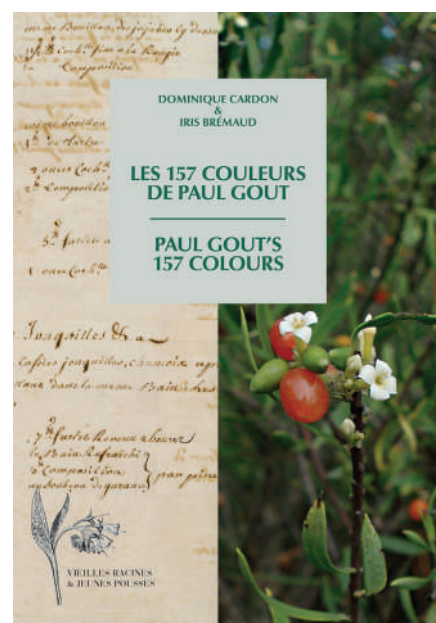
« Iris is a researcher in wood science. She studies how, all over the world, tree species produce woods with remarkable physical properties that make them precious for a wide range of crafts uses. (Photo of Christophe Hargoues/Photothèque CNRS).

Our common research field: dyewood trees. Several of them are mentioned in Paul Gout's dye recipes. Their colorants are not only great sources of dyes. They are the key to some important characters that make the woods of such trees indispensable for the making of some parts of various musical instruments.

In our bilingual English and French Cahiers/Workbooks *Couleurs d'autrefois pour verdir notre monde / Colours from the past for a greener world*, we wished to share our passion for colours, our love of plants and our admiration for the knowledge of dyers from the past with readers from all over the world with the same love and passion. »

Paul Gout's 157 colours

« This book pays tribute to a great creator of colours of the 18th century: Paul Gout, manager, master-dyer, and eventually co-owner of the Royal Manufacture of wool broadcloth of Bize, built by the bank of the Cesse river, between the slopes of the Montagne Noire and the sunny garrigues of the hinterland of Narbonne. »



Links to further information to the authors

Dominique Cardon

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=tsaconf>
<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/10791/book-review-for-workbook-antoine-janots-colours-by-dominique-cardon-and-iris-bremaud>
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00404969.2020.1799731?journalCode=ytex20>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMZ5wK6KlCM>

Iris Brémaud

<http://www.lmgc.univ-montp2.fr/perso/iris-bremaud/>

