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## A medieval treasure in the tomb of Enrico VII

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## *A medieval treasure in the tomb of Enrico VII*

The sarcophagus of Emperor Enrico VII has not been opened since 1921 when it was moved to Pisa Cathedral, but the opening of the tomb last year led to research that uncovered the real importance of the entombed treasures, which have been guarded in the coffin for seven centuries. When the seals of the last search area were broken the mortal remains of the emperor appeared inside the coffin, wrapped in a shroud on which lay the crown, the scepter and the orb.

The shroud was a most unexpected find: a rectangular cloth three-meters long of a reddish nut-brown (originally red) and blue, it is rare testimony to the noble production of silk textiles dating back to the beginning of the 14th century. The element which makes this relic singular, if not



unique, is the selvedge edge along the length of the fabric and the checked bands at the shorter ends delimiting the beginning and end of the piece: this effectively defines the size of the shroud and can supply important information about its precise function.

Given the exceptional nature of the objects and their historical context, it was decided to place the items from the tomb in the Museum of the Cathedral.

Read more at: [http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2014/05/a-medieval-treasure-in-tomb-of-enrico.html#.U8\\_e17Hw\\_cs](http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2014/05/a-medieval-treasure-in-tomb-of-enrico.html#.U8_e17Hw_cs)