

CRAPE (Fr. *crêpe*, OF. *crēpe*, crinkled, from Lat. *crispus*, crisp). A thin fabric made of raw silk which has been tightly twisted, without removing the viscous matter with which it is covered when spun by the worm. It is simply woven as a thin gauze, then dressed with a thick solution of gum, which in drying causes the threads partially to untwist, and thus gives a wrinkled and rough appearance to the fabric. It is manufactured both in black and colors. Black crape is usually worn as mourning apparel, a use of the material which originated at Bologna, Italy. The Japanese and Chinese crapes are often white or highly colored and sometimes are adorned with ornamental designs. Crape cloth is made to imitate the silk fabric by passing a form of woolen cloth through rollers which impart the crinkled surface.