



Conclusion and Tibet Textiles Imports and Trades with China

Now we have circled back to the beginning of the exhibit with this silk brocade Tibetan chuba made from Chinese silk. The top of the robe is brocaded in a four-petal shape with dragons and clouds, which was a popular design in Ming court costume.

You may notice that this textile consists of two brocade panels that have been stitched together. The four-petal brocade pattern on each panel was perfectly matched in the middle, even though they were woven separately. Each of the panels was woven from more than ten thousand threads, a technique that demands advanced technology and delicate craftsmanship to produce in such high quality brocades.

Through my analysis and research, I suspect that the silk in this textile was imported from the Chinese imperial court. Only an official weaving factory would have had the technology required to produce such high-quality silk. Tibetan people often received Chinese silk as gifts from China's imperial court. The dragon brocades were so popular within the Tibetan aristocracy that recipients were encouraged to visit China's imperial court year after year.

Thank you for joining the University of Alberta Museums on this audio tour of **Dragons on the Tibetan Plateau**. The 11 textiles featured in this exhibition are all from the Mactaggart Art Collection, which contains more than 1,000 rare works of art, including textiles, costumes, paintings, handscrolls, albums, engravings, and other artifacts from ancient and modern East Asia. The collection was generously donated to the University of Alberta starting in 2005 by Edmonton philanthropists Drs. Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart. The collection furthers our knowledge of East Asian cultures, and informs the research of students and scholars world-wide.

The Mactaggarts began collecting and documenting Asian art in the early 1960s. Over the next 40 years, they put together one of the world's finest privately-held collections of East Asian art and starting in 2005, they began the donation to the University of Alberta.

Please fill out a visitor survey, which can be found via a link at the bottom of this webpage. If you have any issues with accessing this exhibition or survey, please contact museums@ualberta.ca