



## **Making the Dragon: Pattern Making Techniques - 1**

The Yellow Silk Tibetan Chuba on the left side in the display case is embroidered with a dragon robe design and the Twelve Symbols of Imperial Authority from the Qing court. If you compare this robe to the image of the 'Embroidered Yellow Silk Imperial Twelve Symbol Robe', also from the Mactaggart collection, you will find they are very similar. The distinction between this chuba and the other dragon-robe image is the style of the robe, as this chuba is Tibetan.

According to the costume regulations in the Qing court, only the emperor's costume could use the twelve symbols on a dragon robe. The twelve symbols are positioned throughout the dragon robe: the sun and moon are on the shoulders; stars, mountains, dragons, bird, axe, and the fu symbol, are located on the upper torso the cups, seaweed, flames, and grain are located on the lower part of the robe.

The twelve symbols represent the emperor's virtue and these symbols demonstrate the monarch's exclusive authority through textiles. The recipient of this chuba with twelve symbols would also have held high status in the eyes of the Chinese imperial court. This reveals the close relationships between the receiver and Qing imperial court.