



## **Regulating Costumes During the Qing Dynasty - 4**

Among the three chubas in this display case, this blue brocade chuba is distinct in its colour and design. From the designs on this chuba, we can tell that it was initially a surcoat, called 'longgua', made for the Chinese emperor's concubine in the imperial court. We can determine this because the design is illustrated in the costume regulations. Once it was gifted to a member of the Tibetan aristocracy, it was later altered to become a man's chuba, as seen today.

We can see eight dragon medallions in the robe, four medallions surround the chest, upper back, and shoulders. Another four medallions are located on the lower part of the chuba, two on the front and two on the back. The medallions, featuring a dragon and clouds pattern, are woven into brocade with gold and coloured threads. The background fabric is made of dark blue damask with the same colour patterns. The damask and medallion brocade were woven in the same piece. The contrast colours between the damask and brocade make the medallions visually spectacular.