



Variations on the Dragon Pattern - 2

In Tibet, silks from China were highly valued. They were often repurposed, so they would not go to waste. This robe has been stitched together with fragments cut from wall hangings and chair covers made from Chinese silk tapestry.

There are many eye-catching patterns in this textile, such as dragons, phoenix, cranes, frogs, peonies, and other favourable patterns.

The front of the textile is stitched using the tapestry technique and features a phoenix in a garden pattern. This pattern was typical for the Ming dynasty. The most interesting images on the textile are the dragons. They have horse hooves instead of dragon claws; so, they are called a Qilin, not the dragon. This pattern was not commonly included on textiles as it was far outside the traditional dragon pattern designs.