

Happi

(Outer Robe for a Male Role in the Noh Theater)

Japan, 19th century

Silk, gold leaf paper strips, satin
and supplementary weft weave

Gift of Mr. Robert Allerton, 1946

(424.1)

The outer robe, or *happi*, is usually worn in Noh by a martial character such as a demon or samurai warrior. Its wide sleeves are often folded inward to create an exaggerated shoulder line symbolizing samurai armor. This elegant example depicts stylized clouds and mist design brocaded in gilt paper strips. The costume is appropriate for the character of a powerful but sophisticated warrior in a ceremonial scene.

Kariginu

(Noh Theater Formal Outer Robe for a Male Role)

Japan, 19th century

Silk, gold leaf paper strips, satin and supplementary weft weave

Gift of Mrs. Charles M. Cooke, 1928

(2557)

The *kariginu* depicted during the Heian period (794-1185) was similar in cut and design to this Noh robe, which is based on the actual hunting costumes of high ranking courtiers and samurai generals. This example, stunningly decorated with golden cranes and plum blossoms, is appropriate for an auspicious festive scene. The crane represents long life, while the plum blossoms symbolize wisdom and bravery.

Kariginu

(Noh Theater Formal Outer Robe for a Male Role)

Japan, 19th century

Silk, gold leaf paper strips, satin and supplementary weft weave

Gift of Mrs. Theodore S. Cooke, 1937

(5689.1)

This ancient design of undulating lines (*tatewaku*) appears in woven textiles and lacquerware of the Heian period (794-1185). The flowing design creates a vibrant effect as the pattern shifts along with the movements of the person wearing it. During the Edo period (1603-1868) edicts banning luxurious kimonos were issued by the Tokugawa government as a measure to restore the failing economy. Noh costumes, however, were excluded from these edicts, and beautiful garments such as this continued to grace the Noh stage under the powerful patronage of Shoguns and high-ranking samurai.

Happi
(Outer Robe for a Male Role in the Noh Theater)

Japan, 18th century
Silk, gold leaf paper strips,
satin and supplementary weft weave

Gift of Mr. Robert Allerton, 1946
(426.1)