Design
Place of origin: Lyon (designed and made)
Date: 1769 (designed and made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: painted in gouache on ruled copper engraved paper
Museum number: T.410-1972
Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case 3H, shelf 18

Public access description
This design is a preparatory technical drawing for a patterned silk. It acted as instructions for the weaver about how to tie up the threads on the loom and then weave in the pattern. It belongs to an archive of similar designs commissioned by a silk manufacturing partnership active in Lyon — the most prestigious centre of the silk industry in Europe from the 1660s onwards — and corresponds in style to the 1760s when patterns were curvaceous. The partnership was called L. Galy, Gallien et cie from 1761 until the beginning of 1771 and it was one of Lyon’s 400 manufacturing concerns mid century. It kept good records, noting on the back of the designs the number of the design and minimal instructions on how it should be woven.

This design was for a patterned silk with a plain background, approximately 54 centimetres wide. It would have had this motif repeated across the width at least twice. In Lyon, manufacturing regulations dictated the widths in which such silks might be woven.

Descriptive line
for woven silk, 1763, French; Galy Gallien, feathers flowers lace meanders

Physical description
Mise-en-carte or draft for a woven silk, painted in gouache on ruled paper. Pattern of feathers, flowers, and lace meanders. On the back an inscription in black ink.

Dimensions
Width: 53 cm, Height: 31.7 cm

Museum number
T.410-1972

Object history note
Made for the firm of L. Galy, Gallien et cie., this and the other designs of this type were passed down through the partnership. They subsequently came into the hands of a designer by the name of Robert Ruepp of 7 rue Bergère in Paris who exhibited silks at the Great Exhibitions in Paris in 1900 and in 1925. They subsequently came into the ownership of Sir Frank Warner (of Warner and co.) and then in 1972 into the collections of the V&A.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O285110/design-unknown/