Sleeping coverlet

Place of origin: Sakai (possibly, made)

Date: 19th century (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Plain weave wadded cotton with a printed polychrome design and resist dyeing

Museum number: FE.155-1983

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

This over-sized kimono is not really a garment, but a form of bedding known as a ‘yogi’. It is thickly padded with cotton and would have wrapped around the sleeper, protecting her or him from cold draughts. The fabric is sarasa, a type of cloth inspired by the block-printed and wax-resist textiles of India and South-East Asia imported into Japan by Dutch traders. The large design on the back is the crest, or mon, of the family for which it was made.

Descriptive line

Yogi, plain weave wadded cotton with a printed polychrome design and resist-dyeing, Sakai (Osaka Prefecture), Japan, 19th century

Physical description

Wadded sleeping coverlet (yogi) cut in the usual kimono style but larger and with the sleeves fully sewn to the body. Additionally there is a vertical strip of material inserted down the centre back and lining. The yogi is a coverlet not an article of apparel.

The garment is of plain weave printed cotton (sarasa) with a small-scale design of checks containing flowers in brown, blue, yellow and green with a brown speckled ground. On the back, at the top, reserved in the natural un-dyed cotton is a large crest (mon). The lining, which also forms a very deep wadded hem (27 cm) and cuffs is dark green plain weave cotton.

All the seams have decorative stitching of alternate long and short running stitches in dark green twisted thread and there are further pale green quilting stitches in untwisted thread running across the garment. Both sets of stitching help to keep the wadding in place.

Dimensions

Length: 18 cm repeat, Width: 9 in repeat, Length: 46 cm repeat, Width: 22.8 cm repeat, Length: 62.5 in collar to hem, Length: 158 cm collar to hem, Width: 66 in including sleeves, Width: 167.5 cm including sleeves, Width: 30 in under arms, Width: 76.2 cm under arms, Width: 18.5 in silk, Width: 47 cm silk

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Object history note

Purchased. Registered File number 1983/2216.

According to the vendor, this sarasa is called Sakai sarasa after the town (near present day Osaka) where it was made. He gives it an early 19th century date.

Historical context note

For another yogi still with its wadding see Mailey, j. & Nishimura H., Tagasode: Whose Sleeves... Kimono from the Kanebo Collection, New York: Japan Society, 1976 p.54, plate 19. NAL Bibliographic Ref. No.: 78.N

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O74926/sleeping-coverlet-unknown/