

Room 6: Calligraphy

Transcription of the *Lotus Sutra*

N-12 *Hokke-kyo* (Lotus Sutra)

This scroll is from a complete eight-volume transcription of the *Lotus Sutra* on ramie paper that has been dyed yellow. The transcription was made with the aid of faintly ruled lines of ink between the vertical columns of text. Each vertical column contains exactly seventeen characters written in strong, bold brushstrokes, though in a less meticulous hand than the methodical, precise calligraphy that typified the Nara period (710–794). This discrepancy suggests that this transcription might actually be from the Heian period (794–1192).

第6室（书法）

—法隆寺传承的《法华经》—

N-12 法华经

此《法华经》八卷书写在以淡墨画出乌丝界栏的黄麻纸上，遵循一般的写经通例，每行写有17字。字体笔画较粗，运笔有力，八卷全由同一笔者书写完成。与字形端正齐整的奈良时代写经相比，此八卷笔致较为柔和，推测其书写时期有可能已进入平安时代。

제6실 | 서예 | 호류지에 전래된 법화경

N-12 법화경

황마지에 열은 먹으로 패선을 그은 용지에 『법화경』 8권을 필사한 작품으로, 한 행에 17자가 들어갑니다. 글씨가 약간 굵고, 힘있는 필치로 쓰였으며, 8권 모두 한 사람의 필적으로 되어 있습니다. 나라시대의 정돈되고 단정한 사경 작품과 비교했을 때 흘려쓴 글자 등이 보여서 헤이안시대에 걸쳐 필사되었을 가능성도 있습니다.

Room 6: Textiles

Multicolored Textiles from Hōryū-ji Temple and the Shōsōin Repository

This gallery presents textiles from two places in the ancient capital of Nara: Hōryū-ji Temple and a storehouse called the Shōsōin. The latter is located at Tōdai-ji Temple and includes many objects donated by the imperial family to the temple in the 8th century. This gallery shows how textile techniques and patterns changed from the Asuka (593–710) to the Nara (710–794) period and compares multicolored, compound-weave textiles that were passed down at Hōryū-ji Temple and the Shōsōin Repository.

Multicolored Textiles from Hōryū-ji Temple

N-41-1: Joku Mat; With flowers, birds, and butterflies design

Birds and butterflies appear between two kinds of flowering plants on this textile. The designs were woven using horizontal weft threads of two different colors.

N-45-1: Cloth Fragment; With flower design

Several different colors of weft threads were used to create this design. The floral motif is not a real flower, but rather, a stylized combination of several flowers that came to be known as *karahana*, or “Chinese flower,” in Japan.

N-46-1: Cloth Fragment; With lions and phoenixes design

Specific sections of the vertical warp threads were dyed in different colors to render the patterns on this warp-faced, compound-weave textile. Warp-faced compound weave is an ancient technique to create patterned fabric that was eventually replaced by weft-faced compound weaving, which allowed for larger and more varied designs.

N-46-4: Cloth Fragment; With flower design

A large, stylized “Chinese flower” was woven into this textile using a weft-faced compound weave. In the 8th century, monks often used these flowers to adorn sculptures of Buddhist deities.

N-46-5-2: Fragment of *Kanton*

This warp ikat textile was woven using a simple plain weave. The multicolor pattern was achieved

by dying specific sections of the vertical warp threads prior to weaving.

N-46-3-3: Cloth Fragment; With triangles and lozenges design

Featuring triangles and diamonds in a geometric layout, the patterns on this cloth were made by floating the weft threads over a changing number of warp threads as necessary to make the pattern.

N-305: Cloth Fragments; With tortoiseshells and flower lozenges design

Woven in warp-faced compound weave, this textile features flowers enclosed in hexagons.

Textile(s) featuring the same pattern can be seen in the Shōsōin Repository's collection as well.

N-306: Cloth Fragment; With six-petal flowers and birds design

Textile(s) featuring the same pattern can also be seen in the Shōsōin Repository's collection. This indicates that those textiles were likely made around the same time.

Multicolored Textiles from the Shōsōin Repository

I-337-156 Cloth Fragment; With six-petal flowers and bird design

Offset rows of six-petal flowers are set between a more detailed background design of birds and flowering plants atop a blue-green ground.

I-337-160 Decoration for Foot of Banner Leg

I-337-161 Decoration for Foot of Banner Leg; Twill with floral arabesque design on green ground

These pendent decorations adorned the bottom sections of a Buddhist ritual ordination banner (*kanjō-ban*) that was used in a ceremony held for Emperor Shōmu in 757, one year after his death.

I-337-172 Cloth; With flower design

Similar examples in the Shōsōin Repository reveal that this fragment was originally part of a sleeveless outer garment.

I-337-174 Pendant Decoration for Banner Canopy; Brocade with flower, bird, bead, and interlocking circles design on purple ground

This decoration was hung from a canopy atop a Buddhist ritual banner. The pattern features pearled borders around four ellipses enclosing birds and flowers.

I-337-180 Bottom Section of *Ban* (Buddhist ritual banner); Brocade with flower and bird design on light red ground

I-337-181 Bottom Section of *Ban* (Buddhist ritual banner); Brocade with deer and cloud design on yellowish green ground

I-337-194 Bottom Section of *Ban* (Buddhist ritual banner); Brocade with floral design on striped ground

I-337-195 Bottom Section of *Ban* (Buddhist ritual banner); Brocade with floral design on yellowish green ground

These pendent decorations adorned the bottom sections of Buddhist ritual banners that were used in a ceremony held for Emperor Shōmu one year after his death. The decorations display a variety of colors and designs.

I-337-231 Pendent Canopy Decoration; Brocade with flower, bird, bead, and interlocked circle design on purple ground

I-337-232 Pendent Canopy Decoration; Brocade with floral design on pale brown ground

These fragments were originally pendent decorations that were hung from canopies. In the design on I-337-231, birds are enclosed in ellipses formed by overlapping circles. This design was likely a predecessor to a later one seen on courtiers' clothing from the Heian period (794–1192) onwards.

I-337-225 Cloth; With flower design

Originally attached to the top section of a Buddhist ritual banner, this fragment features a red-and-yellow checked ground surrounding geometric, stylized flowers.