

## Room 6

### Textiles: Large Buddhist Ritual Banners (*Ban*) and Dyeing Techniques

#### **N-316: Fragment of Twill-Weave *Ban* (Buddhist Ritual Banner)**

Buddhist ritual banners called *ban* were used to decorate Buddhist temples. This banner is missing its upper section and most of its lower section. Each elongated rectangle of the middle section is framed by two strips of cloth, with different colors for the inner and outer strips, and decorated with round, gilt-bronze metal fittings.

#### **N-319-62: Fragment of Large *Ban* (Buddhist Ritual Banner)**

This is also a large Buddhist ritual banner, but it has only a single color, a brownish yellow. Each of its rectangular sections in the middle is framed by one strip of cloth. Free-hanging strips, called "arms," extend horizontally from the sides.

#### **N-29: *Tandai* Mat, With parrot design in *rōkechi* (wax resist dyeing)**

The pattern on this textile alternates between two repeating motifs: a pair of waterfowl (the use of "parrot" in the title is a misnomer) facing each other in an eight-pointed shape, and a design of wreathing vines with a butterfly above. The motifs are not uniformly placed, suggesting that they were stamped individually for wax-resist dyeing, using a single mold for each motif.

#### **N-319-44: Fragment of *Ban* (Buddhist Ritual Banner): "Banner Leg" With diagonal crosses design in *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing)**

#### **N-319-45: Fragment of *Ban* (Buddhist Ritual Banner): "Banner Leg," With diagonal crosses design in *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing)**

This fragment is from the bottom section of a silk banner. The diagonal stripes were created through a tie-dyeing technique called *kōkechi*. Usually, this technique was used to make dot patterns, but in this work, it is believed that the cloth was rolled up diagonally and bound with thread or string to create its bold design.

#### **N-319-91: Fragments of Pendent Ornament of Canopy, With *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing) on yellowish green ground**

#### **N-319-93: Cloth Fragment, With *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing) on dark green ground**

#### **N-319-94: Fragments of Cloth, With *meyui* motif in *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing) on yellow ground**

#### **N-319-124: Fragments of Cloth, With *meyui* motif in *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing) on green ground**

*Kōkechi* was an early tie-dyeing technique in which small areas of cloth were gathered into bundles and thread was wound around them to prevent certain areas from being dyed. This was done by hand, and it was impossible to obtain a uniform result. On this piece, some of the dots are square-shaped or elliptical. The amount of thread used in each winding also subtly altered the resulting dots.

#### **N-319-95: Fragment of Cloth, With *kōkechi* (tie-dyeing) on purple ground**

The tie-dyeing technique *kōkechi* was usually used on plain-weave silk. This is a rare example of the technique applied to twill-weave silk.

#### **N-319-96: Cloth Fragment, With flowers, birds, and a cloud in block printing on light brown ground**

On one edge of this cloth, ink prints of flowering trees and plants are visible. On the other edge, a pair of birds are facing each other. A cloud-like design is placed in the open space in the middle. Comparisons with similar fragments indicate the pattern was originally quite large. It is unknown whether the pattern was made with a stamp or by brushing ink over a paper stencil.