



Ancient Japanese and Chinese Brocades, Japanese Color Prints: The Collection of Shojiro Nomura of Kioto, Nishiki and Kinran Brocades and Tapestries from 1400 to 1812, Rare Prints in Early Impressions (Some from the

By Anderson Galleries

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the ceremonial robe of a Buddhist Priest. It is usually formed of forty-eight pieces, and the strips are
arranged in the form of a rice field, symbolical with the growing of the seed of benevolence among
mankind. Tradition has it that Buddha wore only cast-off rugs, and this explains the fact that the
Kesa is made of small pieces sewed together. In Japan, where Buddhism was understood in its
highest sense, an elaborate ritual was developed. Rich brocades and embroideries were eagerly
sought after for Kesa and Altar Cloths. Indeed, we owe the preservation of many of the wonderful
brocades of early Chinese and Japanese production to the fact that the costly material was reduced
in value by cutting up and making into the Kesa and Ohi (or one-strip Kesa of the Jodo and Shinshu
sects). Had they been kept complete in Width...



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