

Updated Progress Report

Embroidered and Painted Silk Tapestry from China

Location: Ethnological Museum

Inventory Numbers: 126363, AS2355, 5968

Provenance: Beijing, China

Date: 1852

Materials: silk, cotton cloth, ink, gold thread

Dimensions: 475 x 297 cm

Conservator: Martina Brunori

2014

All the following operations were planned from the beginning of the restoration and subsequently carried out:

- A preliminary meeting with curators and delegates of each department involved
- Samples were taken for scientific surveys and analysis
- Anoxic disinfection was done to insure against further entomological (insect) attacks
- Research was carried out to select materials suitable for the consolidation of the work in question, such as neutral silk organza for support, silk organza yarn for stitch yarn and curved suture needles (normally used in surgery)
- Photographic and graphic documentation was done in order to understand the state of conservation at the time of restoration
- Dye tests were done on the selected cloth chosen as support, in order to earmark the appropriate color which will optically aid in repairing the gaps in the silk

2015

The lining of the rough canvas was detached at the same time as the four vertical silk bands (both elements compose the tapestry). These were dismantled in order to facilitate cleaning and consolidation operations. Cleaning of the first banding was performed by vacuum suction with the help of a micro-nozzle covered with a protective gauze. Patches found from previous restorations were removed. The banding was then positioned on the dyed support fabric and fastened by parallel vertical seams, each separated by a space of 5 cm. To repair the numerous lacerations a "cut" point technique (as it is called in fabric conservation) was performed, using silk yarn of suitable strength and color.

2016

After consolidation of the first banding and the initial restoration of the second one, cleaning was done, unsuitable excesses were eliminated, and then attached to the silk support.

2017

Consolidation operations continued on the second banding, using the point technique and the vertical seams.