

*European Galleries (Jun-Dec C&T Rotation)*, June 2, 2014-December 1, 2014

## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

English

*Chasuble*, late 1400s

Ribbed silk and wool ground embellished with metallic and silk yarn embroidery

Gift of Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf 15.011

This chasuble is decorated with embroidered elements cut from two ecclesiastical garments, an orphrey and the hood of a cope. The style of needlework, which is known as *Opus Anglicanum* or English work, is the generic name for all ecclesiastical embroidery that was produced in England from the medieval period until the reformation. The embroidered pieces were applied to the textured pink moiré ground fabric. All the figures in the embroidered pieces are framed by architectural features and placed against a luminous gold diaper stitch background. Saint Catherine is depicted with her attribute, the spiked wheel and the sword of her execution (see detail). Her dress is particularly lavish with an ermine trimmed hem befitting her stature as a princess.



French

*Baby bodice*, ca. 1790

Silk plain woven ground embellished with ribbon work embroidery

Museum Works of Art Fund 46.500

For most of the seventeenth and eighteenth century children were dressed much like their parents, in smaller versions of adult costume. In the eighteenth century, children's clothing underwent a gradual change from restrictive garments modeled after those worn by adults to apparel designed specifically for them. By the late eighteenth century, new philosophies of child-rearing gave way for clothes that were thought especially suitable for children. This silk embroidered baby bodice for a young girl shows the movement towards more humane styles of dress for the young, a separate bodice and skirt, while still retaining the luxury materials and decorations of adult fashions.



# RISD MUSEUM

Possibly Louis Marin Bonnet, engraver (inciser)  
French, 1736-1793  
Petitpierre Freres & Cie., manufacturer  
French, 1760 - 1791  
*Panurge in the the Isle of Lanterns*, ca. 1785  
Cotton; plain weave, copperplate printed  
Gift of Mrs. Constance Wharton Smith 58.165.54

Chinoiserie designs were much in demand during the eighteenth century, given the vogue for cotton or linen textiles, block or copperplate printed with floral or narrative motifs, as seen here. This textile would have been used as an expensive wall covering and bed hanging akin to a modern canopy. Such decorations were known as "décor a la chinoise" by French royalty and other wealthy Europeans - those who could afford such surprisingly opulent textiles. This textile design was based on a European opera filled with exotic themes by the composer André Ernest Modeste Grétry (1741–1813), "panurge dans l'Isle des Lanternes" Pangurge in the Isle of Lanterns.

