

# Man's At-home Robe (*Banyan*)

UNDERTAKING THE MAKING  
LACMA Costume and Textiles Pattern Project



## NOTES:

1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. Eighteen  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thread-covered buttons border the overlap of a double-breasted front closure in two rows of nine. The proper-left front edge has nine  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-long buttonholes. There are no interior buttons or buttonholes to fasten the underlap.
4. Two  $9\frac{1}{2}$ -inch openings along the side-seams access built-in pockets. Each upper pocket is attached to the banyan front, while each under pocket is not attached to the banyan back, creating a side slit that provides access to breeches worn underneath.
5. The banyan is lined with linen plain weave; the collar is lined with silk damassé.
6. The banyan is fully padded with a loosely-woven wool plain-weave interlining.

*Man's At-home Robe (Banyan)*, textile: China, 1700–50; robe: the Netherlands, 1750–60, silk satin and silk plain weave (damassé), center-back length: 50  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (127.64 cm), purchased with funds provided by Suzanne A. Saperstein and Michael and Ellen Michelson, with additional funding from the Costume Council, the Edgerton Foundation, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer, Maureen H. Shapiro, Grace Tsao, and Lenore and Richard Wayne, M.2007.211.797, photo © 2010 Museum Associates/LACMA

European men wore an at-home garment called a *banyan*, influenced by East Asian and Persian robes. This hand-sewn example was made of green silk damassé woven in China. Tailored in the Netherlands to mimic Persian robes, the cut and construction of this banyan, particularly its button closure, is characteristically European. It is fully interlined for warmth.



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