

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2014
The Culture and Arts of Japan
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

KIMONO STORIES: FOUR CENTURIES OF JAPANESE FASHION

Sharon Takeda, LA County Museum of Art

March 28, 2014

CHRONOLOGY

Heian Period	794-1185
Kamakura Period	1185-1333
Muromachi Period	1333-1568
Momoyama Period	1568-1615
Keichō Era	1596-1615
Edo Period	1615-1868
Kan-ei Era	1624-1644
Kanbun Era	1661-1673
Genroku Era	1688-1704
Meiji Period	1868-1912
Taishō Period	1912-1926
Shōwa Period	1926-1989

PEOPLE

- Fujiwara Kintō (966-1041), aristocrat who compiled Japanese and Chinese poems in the *Wakan rōeishū*, c. 1013
- Gion Nankai (1677-1751), artist
- Hishikawa Moronobu (1618-1694), *ukiyo-e*-style painter and printmaker
- Ihara Saikaku (1642-1693), poet and novelist
- Matsumura Goshun (1752-1811), artist
- Mitsui Family, owners of Echigo-ya clothing store
- Miyazaki Yūzen (died 1758), Kyoto painter credited with developing the *yūzen* paste-resist dyeing technique
- Ogata Kōrin (1658-1716), artist
- Sakai Hōitsu (1761-1828), artist
- Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616), first shōgun
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-1598), great warlord who helped unify Japan prior to the Edo period
- Utagawa Toyokuni III (1786-1864), artist

SELECTED JAPANESE GARMENT TERMS

FURISODE (literally, swinging sleeves): A form of *kosode* with long, hanging sleeves and a small wrist opening. Worn primarily by young girls

HAKAMA: A pleated, bifurcated lower garment variously described as full-cut trousers or a divided skirt

HAORI: An outer garment of carrying lengths worn over the *kosode* or kimono and similar to it in cut

HITOE: An unlined garment

JŪNI-HITOE (literally, twelve unlined robes): A sixteenth-century term for the most formal version of the *kasane shōzoku*. The actual number of layered robes varied from five to twenty but was established by edict as five in the Kamakura period.

KASANE SHŌZOKU (literally, layered clothing): The dress style of the women of the Heian-period aristocracy. The essential element of this style was the layering of garments to display set combinations of colors

collectively known as *kasane no irome* (sets of layered colors). These combinations were given poetic names referring to natural phenomena, particularly flowers.

KATABIRA: An unlined summer *kosode* originally made of silk; in the Kamakura period versions made of fine bleached bast fiber (*asa*).

KIMONO (literally, thing to wear): A general Japanese term for clothing that came into use in the Meiji period to distinguish indigenous dress from Western-style clothing (*yōfuku*)

KOSODE (literally, small sleeves): The predecessor of the modern kimono. The “small sleeve” refers not to the length of the sleeve, but to the small wrist opening, which is the *kosode*’s salient characteristic and which distinguishes it from the *ōsode* (literally, large sleeves).

ŌSODE (literally, large sleeves): A general category of garment characterized by having the wrist opening that extends the full width of the sleeve; worn by the aristocracy in the Heian period.

UCHIKAKE: Outer robe with long, trailing hemline

SELECTED READING LIST

Brown, Kendall H., and Minichiello, Sharon A. *Taishō Chic: Japanese Modernity, Nostalgia, and Deco*. Exhibition catalogue. Honolulu: Honolulu Academy of Arts, 2002.

Dalby, Liza Crihfield. *Kimono: Fashioning Culture*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2001.

Gluckman, Dale Carolyn, and Takeda, Sharon Sadako. *When Art Became Fashion: Kosode in Edo-Period Japan*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1992.

Ishimura Hayao, and Maruyama Nobuhiko. *Robes of Elegance: Japanese Kimonos from the Sixteenth-Twentieth Centuries*. Exhibition catalogue. Raleigh: North Carolina Museum of Art, 1988.

Minnich, Helen Benton, in collaboration with Shōjirō Nomura. *Japanese Costume and the Makers of Its Elegant Tradition*. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1963.

Stinchecum, Amanda Mayer. *Kosode: Sixteenth-Nineteenth Century Textile from the Nomura Collection*. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Japan Society and Kodansha International, 1984.

Takeda, Sharon Sadako. *Miracles and Mischief: Noh and Kyōgen Theater in Japan*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, 2002.

Van Assche, Annie, ed. *Fashioning Kimono: Dress and Modernity in Early Twentieth Century Japan*. Exhibition catalogue. Milan: 5 Continents Editions, 2005.