



Yunjin Brocade

云锦

Nanjing Yunjin (cloud pattern) brocade derives its name from the feature of being as splendid as the rosy clouds in the sky. It had always been produced exclusively for the imperial family in previous ages spanning nearly 700 years. The fabric made of silk, gold and silver threads with fine craftsmanship is exquisite, elegant and gorgeous. The superb weaving technique represents the highest level of the kind in ancient China.

The Qinhuai River in Nanjing City provides unique quality water for fabric dyeing. The water, containing Tannic acid, is alkaline, which plays a catalytic role in dyeing and makes the dyed fabric silky and glossy. From the Southern and Northern Dynasties to the Ming and Qing dynasties, Yunjin brocade had been using natural dyes, which were extracted from plants and produced in Nanjing.

The traditional production was developed on the ancient jacquard technology. The hand-woven Yunjin brocade is the most precious brocade, whose craftsmanship represents the achievement of ancient weaving technology in China. The weaving technology and unique design of the brocade is exceedingly complex and exquisite, and no modern machine has yet been able to replace the ancient looms, which is rare in the world. In the delicate production process, collaboration between a person sitting at the loom known as a thread puller and the other person sitting on the lower part of the loom called a weaver is the key. The daily output is about a five to six-centimeter piece of the material, and that is why an inch of the Yunjin brocade was said to be as valuable as an ounce of gold.

(Courtesy of the IP Protection Department of CNIPA)

云锦，图案典雅优美，色彩绚丽庄重，宛如天上的云霞，因此而得名。云锦专为历代宫廷所用，有近七百年皇家御用历史，其材质以真丝、金（银）线为主，工艺以纯手工挖花盘织，是中国古代织锦工艺最高水平的代表。

南京城里的秦淮河，其独特的水质为云锦材料的染色提供了很好的条件。水中含有的单宁酸成分，呈弱碱性，能够在染色时起到天然的触媒作用，使染色后的丝织物光泽丰润。云锦从南北朝到明清一直用天然染料。其中植物染料用得最多，原料基本由南京出产。

云锦传统生产工艺集成了中国古代织锦提花技术并有所发展。手工织造的云锦是织锦中最为珍贵的上品，其技艺可作为中国古代织造工艺的典型。其“挖花盘织”等织造工艺和“逐花异色”艺术风格所代表的流派在中国独树一帜，至今不能被现代机器代替，在世界范围也属罕见。在云锦的织造过程中，需要拽花工与织手两个人在织机上下互相配合，一天也只能完成5至6厘米的匹料，确实称得上是“寸锦寸金”。

（中国国家知识产权局知识产权保护司供稿）

