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UKRAINIAN CLOTHING IN HISTORY, SOCIAL LIFE, AND ART

Traditional Ukrainian apparel, the roots of which can be traced back to the times of Kievan Rus, has many stylistic varieties. Its look depends on the ethnographic region, even though a homemade shirt, made of homespun cloth, has always constituted the basis for both male and female wardrobes. The main feature of this shirt (*vyshyvanka*) is the embroidery on the neck, cuffs, and hem.

A girl is supposed to wear a shirt without outerwear, while a married woman has to cover her head with a shawl and supply the outfit with her waistcoat and maxi skirt. Meanwhile, the highlight of the clothing are accessories like belts, jewelry, and headdresses (a shawl or a floral wreath), decorated with ribbons and fresh or artificial flowers, not to mention the abundance of beads and *ducats* (coins), which determine the women's status. Men's traditional clothing is simpler: they resemble the outfits of other Slavic nations but differ in the way they are worn. Thus, there are two main elements: a linen shirt and cloth pants, distinguished by the kind of embroidery.

The styles of male dress worn in the later periods of Ukraine's history were very diverse. The main elements of the dress were the shirt, trousers, cloak, sheepskin vest (*kozukh*), overcoat, cap (*klobuk*), footcloths, stockings, and boots. The clothes worn by the princes and boyars were influenced by Byzantine fabrics and ornaments.

In the Cossack period, the nobility dressed according to the prevalent fashion in Europe, in costumes of the Renaissance style, except for certain departures demanded by the severe climate (long overcoats and sheepskin jackets). The Cossack officers and common Cossacks adopted these clothes for military needs (short caftan or *zhupan*, wide trousers or *sharovary*).

In general, Ukrainian folk dress can be classified into several regional groups. The most varied and fully preserved clothing originated in the 17-18 centuries. Women wore a shirt with wide sleeves, a wraparound skirt (*plakhta*), a bodice (*kersetka*), and different outerwear, including the narrow waistcoat (*yupka*), coat (*svyta*), fur coat (*kozhuskanka*), and a complicated headdress (*ochipok*).

Every Ukrainian since ancient times had a festive shirt. These shirts are always performed in white. Even the poorest resident necessarily had a festive light shirt, which was reserved for special and solemn occasions. Almost every family in the wardrobe keeps linen Ukrainian embroidered shirts. These shirts are usually white or gray tint, as it was made of unbleached linen. Linen shirts have traditionally been considered as a sign of an average level of affluence. Red color has always been considered a symbol of love, fun, serenity, and happiness. Black color symbolized grief and misfortune. Ukrainians used similar colors of clothes in the days of mourning and funerals. In some parts of Ukraine, black shirts could be worn by older men.

The multiple ornaments and patterns that were used in national dress, have a wide range of symbolic meanings. The main options for embroidery are geometric, zoomorphic, vegetable,

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and floral. Ornaments, which denotes fire (diamond-shaped lattices and icons of the sun with dots and rays), have always been considered masculine signs. Signs of the earth in the form of straight lines are traditionally female. On such embroidered shirts are often depicted waves, spirals, and signs of water. Berries, flowers, and grapes are often in the form of the most common patterns. For example, the poppy is a flower of war. Therefore, when a man died in the family, the widow embroidered a shirt with bright red poppies. Guelder rose was often used on Ukrainian embroidery among married women because such a berry was always considered a symbol of the immortal race and motherhood. Children were forbidden to wear clothes with similar patterns. Shirts with patterns in the form of hops were characteristic outfits for single guys. Hop was associated with youth and love. The image of grapes on a white background served as a symbol of a prosperous, joyful, and full-fledged family life.

In addition, one of the most important and notable attributes of the Ukrainian costume is the wreath. It has a beautiful and magical history, but few know that each flower carries a certain message. The wreath should have 12 different flowers. The immortelle was believed to help from various diseases. The lover and cornflower are about tenderness, devotion, beauty, and fidelity. The yarrow occupies an important place among other flowers. This plant sprouts everywhere, wherever it is brought by the wind, so it symbolizes disobedience. The periwinkle is a sign of life. The chamomile is identified with kindness, tenderness, and health. In the wreath, a daisy symbolizes fidelity. The apple and cherry blossom characterizes the mother's love. The viburnum symbolizes beauty and youth. The poppy is connected with war. The rouge, the peony, and the mallow characterize faith, hope, and love. The hop is the symbol of the mind. This element must necessarily be present in the wreath of an adult woman.

Recently, traditional Ukrainian clothing has conquered the hearts of the world's most fashionable people, thus making it popular beyond the traditional concept. The reasons for such a success include simplicity in form, a slender silhouette, a variety of symbols and ornamentation, and the rich colors used.

The New York Times announced that embroidered shirt is the trend of the season in 2018, embroidered shirts by Ukrainian designer Vita Kin have become the main decoration of the Colette store, whose concept store is located in Paris.

In 2017 the collection of Valentino presented impressive interpretations of ethnic clothes very similar to Ukrainian embroidery.

Today, this decoration technique develops in three main areas: authentic costumes, modern imitation of traditional patterns, and designer works, inspired by tradition.

Ukrainian national garments were widely described in the world's literature. Especially, in Mykola Hohol's works, which adroitly emphasize not only the original style and peculiarity of the outfit but its connection with spirit and sacred tradition. For instance, there are some quotes to confirm it.

“My irrepressible wife...Unfortunately, to my regret, we forgot she was sitting right on the top of the cart, wearing a green fur coat (kozhushanka), which was lavishly decorated with many red marks. Her priceless skirt (plakhta) dappled like a chessboard. I felt something inexplicably unpleasant looking at her plumpy face that was slightly wrapped with a colorful complicated headdress (ochipok). I had a strong wish to

shift my glance to my lovely daughter”. “Suddenly, she felt that someone pulled her embroidered sleeve of vyshyvanka. The girl turned back and saw a tall young man in a white shirt with big bright eyes looking right at her. She hadn’t enough nerve to say anything, the heart was beating like never before, like never before in grief, pain, or joy.”

The typical folk costume was formed on the apparel basis of the Poltava and Kyiv region, which was widely popularized by the Ukrainian theater at the end of the nineteenth century. Most of the simplest and prettiest motives were implemented by some talented artists as Mykola Pymonenko (“Fortune-Telling on Christmastide”), Ilya Repin (“Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks”), and Taras Shevchenko (“Kateryna”).

The aspects of the material and spiritual heritage, which were mentioned before, are incredibly precious for Ukrainian identity representation in the worldwide circle. The specific features of the Ukrainian folk apparel denote not only the external difference but also its connection with customs and traditions of our ancestors, which we follow and respect.

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