

LITHUANIAN TRADITIONAL ORNAMENTS AND COSTUMES

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Abstract: Clothing are used for different purposes: to protect body from cold / hot and injuries, to show wearer's identity or to highlight individualism. The entire ensemble of a costume and ornaments works as a tool to distinguish whether a person comes from a village (rural costume) or a city (urban costume). Even more, some characteristics express the identity of a person's ethnicity, religion, age, social class, etc. The informal traditional costume was worn every day working the everyday work. Formal traditional costume was worn during different solemn occasions.

Keywords: Lithuanian national costume, national ornaments, colours.

National costume acted like an "identity", it was two types of costumes – informal for everyday usage and formal for special events.

The informal traditional costumes were used every day, working the everyday works and were, therefore, simpler and more practical, meant to be easily adaptable to the work performed by the individual. These clothes were usually manufactured from inferior, faster-wearing, cheap, worse raw materials (low quality wool, hemp, etc.), also taking into account the climate conditions of the region. Due to that the everyday (informal) clothes remain until these days in lower amount than the formal costumes.

Formal traditional costumes were worn when going to church or during weddings, funerals, christening, etc. These clothes were manufactured from higher quality, more expensive and durable raw materials. Besides, formal costumes were worn rarer, were more protected, therefore, these clothes remain in larger amount until these times [1].

The same traditional ornaments and colors were used for both types of costumes. It was only one difference – for informal costumes were used darkness colors and less ornaments than for formal costumes. Herewith, the ornaments were the same and for both kinds of costumes were used woven special sashes which was like identity not only person who wear this costume, but also this women who weaved sashes [2].

The costumes of the large Lithuanian region of North-East part are analyzed in this work. The region was chosen not only due to large geographical area, but also due to preservation of traditions in folk culture and clothing even until beginning of 20th century [3]. The analysis has been done from several museums exhibits from North and East Lithuania cities.



Figure 1 Examples of North-East Lithuanian national costumes

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