

NATIONAL COSTUMES IN UKRAINE

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National Ukrainian costumes came a long period of evolution from the ancient times until today. Historical epochs and events had a great influence on traditional clothing of this nation. We can divide Ukrainian fashion (not history) into two periods: costumes of Kyiv Rus epoch (9th-13th) and clothing of Cossack era (14th-21st). So, there were two different types of clothing, but they had some similarities (like embroidery, similar pieces of clothes, similar materials and so on).

The main feature of Ukraine's national clothes is the baroque style, which manifests itself in the exaggeration of general forms. Let us recall, let us say, the embroidered sleeves of a woman's shirt, the ornament of embroidery, laces, etc. Special decorative fabrics and different ribbons and threads of beads add festivity to garments [1].

The territory of modern Ukraine was the main part of Kyiv Rus in 9th-early 13th centuries. In Kyiv Rus, there was, of course, national clothing. It has preserved till today, even now Ukrainians admire the convenience and naturalness of Rus clothes. In those ancient times, people made clothing of homespun cloth, linen or hemp canvas.

The main parts of costume were shirt, trousers, coat, cloak, hat, leggings, stockings and shoes. Poor people wore only long shirts with or without a belt, leggings and bast shoes (or walked barefoot). They used overdress only in winter. Rich people, the prince, and his nobility wore long shirts as undershirts; also they wore coats and cloaks, hats and boots. All pieces of clothing for rich people were beautifully decorated and rather colourful. Actually, poor citizens of Kyiv Rus didn't colour the cloth for shirts. Only nobles wore clothes of red, green, blue, brown and yellow colours [2].

Men in Kyiv Rus wore knee-length shirt always belted, and tight pants named «porty». The shirt had very long sleeves to replace mittens. While working men

pumped sleeves. Shirts and pants were made of homespun cloth. Noble people wore also silk or woollen trousers on top of linen pants.

As an overdress people used warm knee-length (rich people had it up to the ankles) coat named «svyta». This coat was made of woollen cloth, sometimes it was furred. Svyta was worn also with a belt.

Women in Kyiv Rus also wore shirts as a main piece of clothing. But their shirts were longer – up to the ankles. Women always belted their shirts, the same as men did. Rich women wore two shirts sometimes, linen undershirt and more delicate linen or silk shirt on top. Another part of women's (only married women) clothing was a kind of skirt, called «panyova». It looked pretty much like an apron, but it was worn with a cut in front. Unmarried women wore another piece of clothing on top of a shirt. It was called «zapona» or «zanaviska». And it looked like a dress, without sleeves and cut into 2 parts from waist to the bottom. It was belted as well [4].

This period has transformed the national clothing of Ukraine, which is considered to be the traditional costume for this country until today. In the 20th century, such clothes lost their wide usage, but the 21st century brought a new wave of popularity for the Ukrainian traditional costume. In 2013-2014 young people in Ukraine often wear traditional embroidered shirts (and other pieces of clothing that have historical and symbolic meaning) every day.

Embroidery is one of the main characteristics of Ukrainian clothing. The patterns of embroidery are different for different regions of the country. And they're also very symbolic. There are guardian patterns, patterns that tell a specific story about the owner of the shirt, patterns that bring luck and so on. Usually, white cloth is embroidered with red and black threads, but there are also some variations: white embroidery on white cloth, black on white, red on black, blue on white and colourful (red, black, yellow, green, orange, blue etc.) patterns [2].

There used to be a tradition for Ukrainian men: they shouldn't take off their shirts in public. Often even their children have never seen them without a shirt. It was considered unacceptable. So, the main part of men's traditional dress in Ukraine is an embroidered shirt. Another required piece is trousers. They can be simple like a porty in Kyiv Rus which is made of linen cloth. More festive like a sharovary which is

made of coloured cloth, percale or silk. Sharovary is a kind of trousers which are very wide, belted on the waist and collected at the bottom near the ankles. Usually, they are red or blue. Ukrainian Cossacks wore sharovary because they were considered to be the most convenient pants [5].

Ukrainian women's costumes divide into 2 categories: costumes of married women and not married girls. The marital status of a woman influences the clothing much.

Unmarried girls in Ukraine wore more colourful and bright clothing, the decoration and patterns were larger and brighter. Girls also used much more jewellery. And they wore their hair uncovered, with wreaths, ribbons, and flowers in it.

Traditional Ukrainian women's garment consisted of an embroidered shirt, a skirt called «plakhta», an apron called «zapaska», a belt, sometimes shoes (often Ukrainians walked barefoot) and a headdress. A shirt could be short or long, up to the ankles. If the shirt was short, it was worn with a skirt (but it was uncommon among ordinary people). The long shirt was worn with plakhta and zapaska. This clothing was popular not only among ordinary people but among wealthy Ukrainians as well. Also, the long shirt could be worn without any skirts, just belted. Women used the same belts as men did [3].

Women's overgarment in Ukraine also was pretty much alike to men's outerwear in Cossack era. Women wore coats (called «svyta» and «kozhukh»), fur-coats, coats without sleeves (called «keptar»). All that clothes had a very little difference from men's overgarment.

Ukrainian women paid great attention to their hair. As we said earlier, unmarried girls used to wear their hair loose. They wore ribbons, wreaths of fresh or artificial flowers, of leaves and wheatears. Sometimes they braided their hair in one or two braids.

Married women always hid their hair. They wore different headdresses. The most popular was «ochipok»; this headdress had a lot of different forms. It sits tightly on the head and has a lacing on the back. Ochipok was made of linen cloth, silk, gold-cloth etc. It could be round, oval, cylindrical, with a wide top and so on.

Another popular headdress was «namitka». It is a piece of white cloth 1,5-2,5 m long and 0,6-0,7 m wide [6].

Ukrainian women, despite their age, liked jewellery very much. Traditionally they wore necklaces of coral, gemstones, glass beads and metal. Often girls and women wore coral necklaces with coins (called «dukachi») or small metal balls. Young girls used many beading threads; married women wore mainly only one thread.

So, ukrainian costume has had a hard way of evolution, but some of its elements, such as embroidery and decorations are present nowadays and they are popular not only in ukrainian designers, but also in collections of well-known celebrities in the fashion industry.

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