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Ornamental Motifs of Hutsul Folk Embroidery in Transcarpathia (The Yasinian Center) at the End of the 19th to the Middle of the 20th Centuries

T. Ya. Sologub-Kotsan

Transcarpathian Museum of Folk Architecture and Life

Kapitul'na Str., Uzhgorod, 88000, Ukraine

E-mail: sologubt@rambler.ru

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Т. Я. Сологуб-Коцан

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The author provides complete information on the ornamental motifs, the art features and the symbolism of embroidery of Yasinian Hutsuls, who lived in the villages of Black Tysa, Yasyňa, Lazeshchyna, Stebny, Kvasy, Sitno, Trostianets and Bilin. In this research, the data have been aggregated on the basis of literature and various sources, the author's own observations and samples of Hutsul folk embroidery from the collection of Maria Gritsak (the stock collection of the Transcarpathian Museum of Folk Architecture and Life).

Samples of apparel embroidery are represented in the said collection. Among them, the most interesting are “ustavki”, (a square-cut and embroidered upper part of the sleeve), plastrons of men's shirts, cuffs (“doodiky”/ “doody”) and narrow collars (“dog collars”).

The Yasinian County embroideries are extremely expressive and picturesque and are notable for various colors. Ustavky of women's blouses in this county are wide, they are like bands consisting of two or three ribbons, one of which is wider than the other two. A rhombus and its various types are the main ornamental motif of the Yasinian

embroidery.

There were two main types of embroideries: cross-stitching and “nizinka”. Stalk stitches or narrow strips (“putky”) were used as a structural framework. The green, black, red (the 19th century), red-cherry and orange (first half of the 20th century) color scheme was dominant in that county.

The ornament, like all the other art forms, is a peculiar form of an imaginative reflection of reality. It undergoes changes depending on socio-economic and cultural development of the society. New socio-economic conditions and artistic conceptions naturally and inevitably give rise to new forms of ornaments and their new stylistic features. Each historical period is characterized by certain types of ornaments that have common stylistic features, regardless of what products they decorate. In this case apparel embroidery of Yasinian Hutsuls is no exception.

Keywords

Hutsuls, embroidery, ornamental motifs, colour scheme, shirt, ustavka, plastron, collar, cuff.

Tatyana Ya. Sologub-Kotsan, The Transcarpathian Museum of Folk Architecture and Life (Ukraine).

E-mail: sologubt@rambler.ru