

Clothing Features of Greek Orthodox Woman Immigrants in Konya (Iconium)

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Abstract : When the immigration is considered, it has been found that communities were continuously influenced by the immigrations from the date of the emergence of mankind until the day. The political, social and economic reasons seen at the various periods caused the communities go to new places from where they have lived before. Immigrations have occurred as a result of unequal opportunities among communities, social exclusion and imposition, compulsory homeland emerging politically, exile and war. Immigration is a social tool that is defined as a geographical relocation of people from a housing unit (city, village etc.) to another to spend all or part of their future lives. Immigrations have an effect on the history of humanity directly or indirectly, revealing new dimensions for communities to evaluate the concept of homeland. With these immigrations, communities carried their cultural values to their new settlements leading to a new interaction process. With this interaction process both migrant and native community cultures were reshaped and richer cultural values emerged. The clothes of these communities are amongst the most important visual evidence of this rich cultural interaction. As a result of these immigrations, communities affected each other culture's clothing mutually and they started adding features of other cultures to the garments of its own, resulting new clothing cultures in time. The cultural and historical differences between these communities are seem to be the most influential factors of keeping the clothing cultures of the people alive. The most important and tragic of these immigrations took place after the Turkish War of Independence that was fought against Greece in 1922. The concept of forced immigration was a result of Lausanne Peace Treaty, which was signed between Turkish and Greek governments on 30th January 1923. As a result Greek Orthodoxes, who lived in Turkey (Anatolia and Thrace) and Muslim Turks, who lived in Greece were forced to immigrate. In this study, clothing features of Greek Orthodox woman immigrants who emigrated from Turkey to Greece in the period of the '1923 Greek-Turkish Population Exchange' are aimed to be examined. In the study using the descriptive research method, before the '1923 Greek-Turkish Population Exchange', the clothings belong to Greek Orthodox woman immigrants who lived in 'Konya (Iconium)' region in the Ottoman Empire, are discussed. In the study that is based on two different clothings belonging to 'Konya (Iconium)' region in the clothing collection archive at the 'National Historical Museum' in Greece, clothings of the Greek Orthodox woman immigrants are discussed with cultural norms, beliefs, values as well as in terms of form, ornamentation and dressing styles. Technical drawings are provided demonstrating formal features of the clothing parts that formed clothing integrity and their properties are described with the use of related literature in this study. This study is of importance that it contains Greek Orthodox refugees' clothings that are found in the clothing collection archive at the 'National Historical Museum' in Greece reflecting the cultural identities, providing information and documentation on the clothing features of the '1923 Greek-Turkish Population Exchange'.

Keywords : clothing, Greece, Greek Orthodoxes, immigration, national historical museum, Turkey

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