

A STUDY OF PEASANT HEADDRESS IN GERMANY  
AND CENTRAL EUROPE

By

BESSIE SETTLE ELDER

Bachelor of Science

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College

Stillwater, Oklahoma

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R. B. McIntosh  
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## PREFACE

Many changes are taking place today in the clothes which the people of the more remote districts of practically all countries in Europe have, until comparatively recent times, kept the same for generations. Fabrics made by modern looms are fast replacing the cloths woven by skillful fingers in modest cottages; machine made laces and embroideries are within the reach of the inhabitants of the most remote mountain hamlets, where formerly designs and patterns for these decorations had been cherished in families or parishes for many years. Modern aniline dyes have almost entirely displaced the native dyestuffs formerly gathered and prepared by family industry.

The barriers responsible for class distinction in dress are gradually breaking down and democracy in dress as in other phases of national life is coming to the fore. The peasant girl strives to look as much as possible like her cousin who lives in town, and usually only on festival occasions does the peasant now display the traditional dress which has been worn for generations.<sup>1</sup>

The headdress is perhaps the most distinctive article of the peasant costume and this study of the different types worn in the Central European nations was made with the view of gathering descriptions and illustrations of the very interesting headdresses to be found in that region.

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Evans, *Costume Throughout the Ages*, p. 191.

The nations and provinces mentioned in this study are on the basis of boundaries set up at the end of the World War in 1918 and prior to the invasion of Austria by Germany in 1938.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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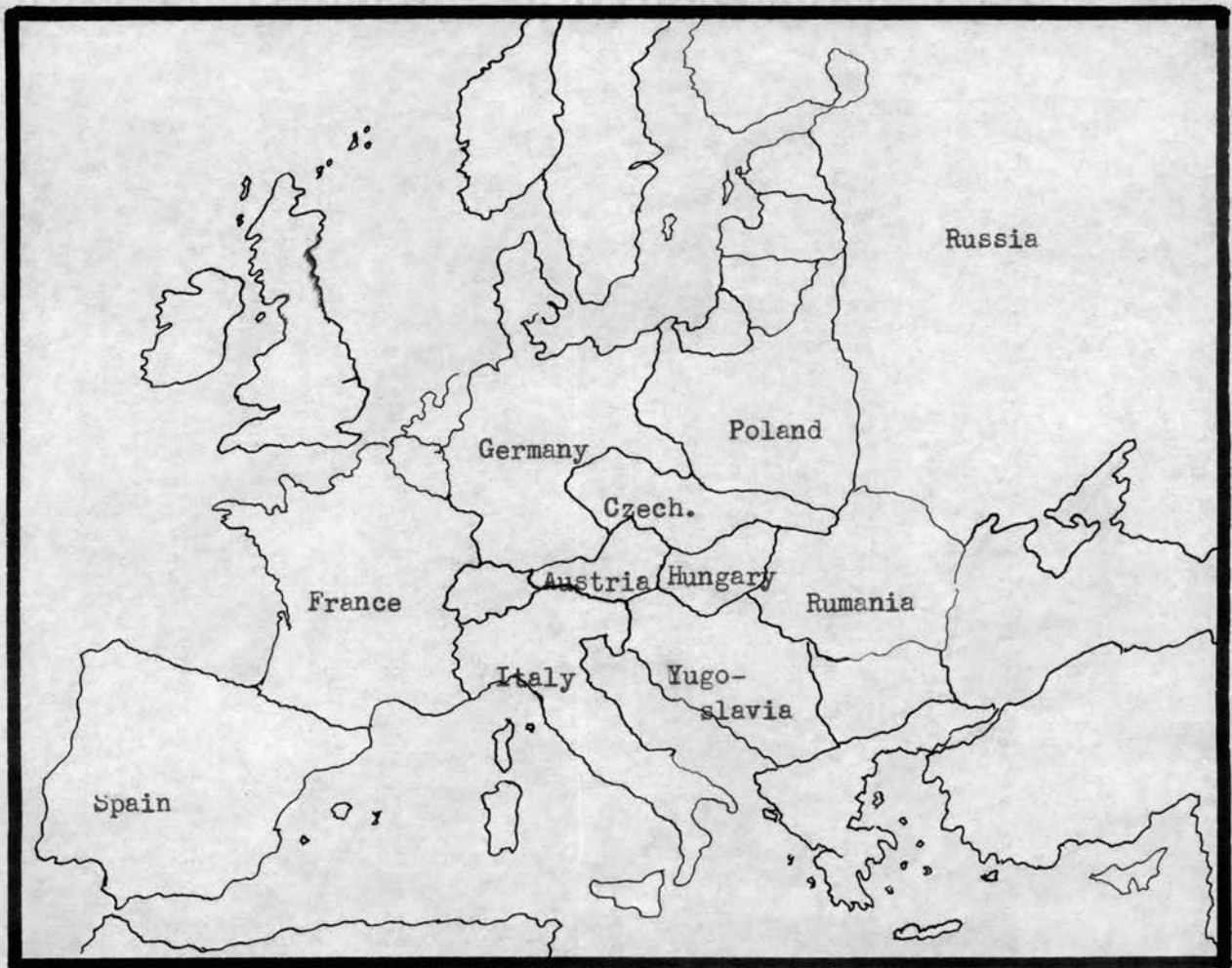
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EUROPE

1920 - 1938





A STUDY OF PEASANT HEADDRESS IN GERMANY  
AND CENTRAL EUROPE

Chapter One

GERMANY

The colorful costumes of rural Germany are symbolic of traditions centuries old. Though today Germany is one of the most highly industrialized and highly mechanized countries in Europe, there are scores of peasant communities where the old costumes are still worn, particularly on special festival occasions. Among the most impressive of these is the harvest festival at Beuckeburg in northwestern Germany which is attended by thousands of peasants.<sup>1</sup>

An interesting Beuckeburg peasant headdress is a low cap closely embroidered with gold or black pearls, with a very broad starched ribbon which stands away from the cap like a pair of wings. A correspondingly broad ribbon ties under the chin.<sup>2</sup> (Plate 1b)

The closely pleated mantle, gathered in with velvet, worn by the women in Schwelm, northwestern Germany, is made of black woolen material and is used as a mourning garb. Upon the lowering of the coffin, the women conceal their faces completely under the mantle.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Leon Daniel, "Photographs by Schall." *Travel Magazine*, LXVII (May, 1936), p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Hans Retzlaff, *Deutsche Baerstrachten*, p. 63.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 31.

PLATE 1

a. The Borten. Siebenburg-Saxony, Germany.

b. Beuckeburg, Germany.

Retzlaff, Hans. Deutsche Bauerntrachten.





The distinguishing sign of the respectable young woman in the region of Siebenburg-Saxony in Treppin, northwestern Germany, is the "Borten" -- a black velvet cylinder which is open on top. Bright colored ribbons are attached at the back and hang down over the shoulders. (Plate 1a)

In Hessen Nassau, also in northwestern Germany, a round, box-like affair, probably three inches in diameter and less in height, is perched on top of the head with streamers falling down the side. Colorful head shawls are also used.<sup>4</sup>

In the Thuringia Forest, Central Germany, the head-dress is a bonnet with puffings of ribbon, -- sometimes intermingled with feathers and lace, --across the front and many long streamers of wide ribbon falling at the back below the hips. This headdress does not interfere with the wearing of long gold ear-rings as do so many of the caps.<sup>5</sup>

Peasant headdresses are prominent in Silesia, in the eastern section of the nation, and the shoulder collar may be a continuation of the ruffled white cap. They are tied under the chin with heavy embroidered silk ribbon, which has broad ends hanging down smoothly to the knees.<sup>6</sup>

The most striking feature in the dress from the

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<sup>4</sup> Mary Evans, *Costume Throughout the Ages*, p. 216.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 214.

<sup>6</sup> Retzlaff, *op. cit.*, p. 121.



district of Ochesenfurt, southwestern Germany, is the peculiar coiffure. Two broad braids are woven out of from twelve to fifteen strands of hair, and are then placed on the back of the head giving the appearance of a cap.

In the Bavarian Alps both kerchiefs and hats are used as head coverings. The kerchiefs may be arranged in a great variety of ways. The black or green felt hats worn in Schliersee are similar to those worn by the men; the one common to the neighborhood of Jachenau has a high, straight crown draped with a green ribbon and enlivened with metallic tassels on the right-hand side.<sup>7</sup>

The Wendish women of the Spreewald, near Berlin, wear headdresses that are often two and one-half feet wide.<sup>8</sup> They may be made of printed or white material measuring slightly over a yard square. This square is folded into a triangle and placed on the head so that the center point hangs down the back of the neck with two ends from the side knotted at the back of the head but under the hanging point.<sup>9</sup> Some of these squares of material are embroidered and others are edged with fringe.

The costumes of the Black Forest in southwestern Germany vary roughly with the conformation of the land and

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<sup>7</sup> Evans, op. cit., p. 215.

<sup>8</sup> Harriet Geithmann, "Ströbeck, Home of Chess.", *The National Geographic Magazine*, LIX (May, 1931), p. 645.

<sup>9</sup> Evans, op. cit., p. 213.

there are generally only slight differences between those worn in the several villages of a valley. The traditional local costume is still worn on Sundays and holidays and the women enjoy a variety of headdress.<sup>10</sup>

In Badenese Hanauer, a strip of land along the Rhine, married men stand no chance of being mistaken for bachelors, for their hats of black felt are turned up in front while those of the single men are turned down, and on the wedding day flowers are worn on the bridegroom's hat. In the winter the Hauensteiner wears a fur cap with a velvet crown instead of the hat. Another type of headgear is a cap of Phrygian shape, gaily striped in red and white, which is seen along the Rhine valley and as far inland as the Prechtal and Renchtal.

The married woman wears an enormous bow of black ribbon, with fringed ends, which is posed on top of the head almost hiding the real cap which has shrunk to a small pointed crown heavily embroidered with gold thread. She coils up her hair behind this erection, while the girl wears hers in two long plaits decorated with streamers of black ribbon.

Hanauerland, the low fertile district between the Rhine river and the mountainous part of the Forest, is the section in which the bow is worn as the headdress. In the village of Offenburg (Plate 2a) there is merely a very broad black

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<sup>10</sup> Kathleen Mann, *Peasant Costume in Europe*, Vol. 1, p. 66.

ribbon tied around the head and into a bow in front; while in Markgrafferin (Plate 2b) a long stiff ribbon bow is worn on the crown of the head and framed in silk fringes falling to the shoulders.

In Mulheim (Plate 2c) a double stiffened bow and short fringes are worn; and in Stauffen (Plate 2d) the unmarried girls wear a ribbon looped under the plait behind and tied into a bow in front. The matron wears a ribbon cap with an embroidered crown and a large bow in front. (Plate 2e) The unmarried girl of Rottweil wears her hair in two plaits with large bows of ribbon tied at the ends. (Plate 2f)

The costume of the peasant in the Renchtal district, which runs southeast from the valley of the Rhine, is very simple and gains charm more from line and color than from any display of ornamentation. The maiden wears a straw hat which is extremely shallow and balanced on her head in an unattractive manner. For ornament it has seven large shaggy pompons of red wool, with yellow and green centers. Four of these are plastered on the crown and the other three are attached to the back of the brim. The cap of the married woman consists of a band of picot-edged, watered ribbon around the head, and forming a bow in front, the ends of which fall back over the plain crown.<sup>11</sup> The men of this valley wear a broad-brimmed black beaver hat on Sundays and in summer; otherwise a fur cap is more usual, or

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<sup>11</sup> Dora W. Pettigrew, *Peasant Costume of the Black Forest*, pp. 20, 78.



PLATE 2

a. Offenburg

b. Markgrafferin

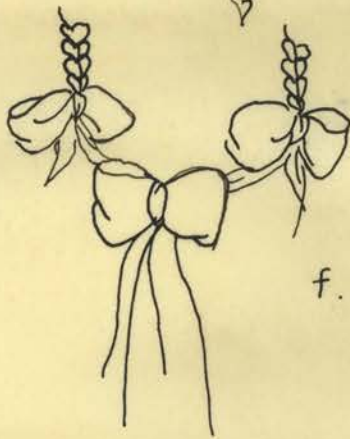
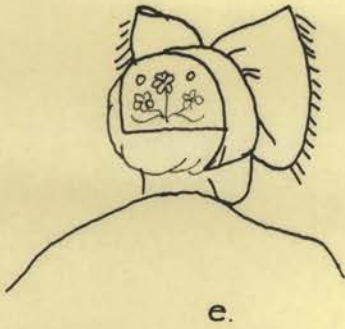
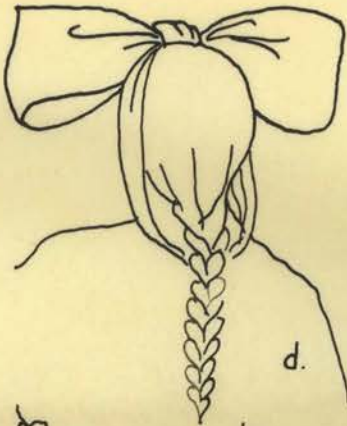
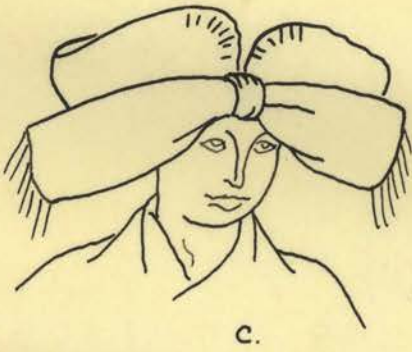
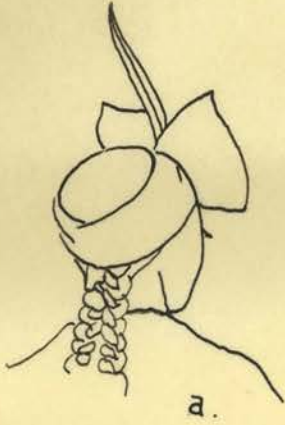
c. Mulheim

d. Stauffen

e. Stauffen

f. Rottweil





one of Phrygian shape.

The village of Schutterwald lies between the Rhine river and the mountains, near Offenburg. The costume worn by the women there is a particularly graceful one. The cap, like the one typical of Hanauerland, has a peaked crown and a black ribbon bow in front; but in this case the bow is quite small and limp, while the crown has grown and is magnificently banded with scarlet, yellow, and green.<sup>12</sup>

In few other places so far north as Germany do straw hats form such an interesting and important feature of the costume. Those from Hornberg, between Gutach and Triberg in the north central part of the Forest, are of white straw, quite plain, except for the four groups of small woolen pompons, red or black according to the single or married state. After the girl is married she must wear black pompons on her hat. The one worn at Lehengericht in the Kinzigtal district is yellow and has in addition to the traditional woolen balls a network of fine black straw around the crown and a black ruche encircling the top and forming a cross. Those seen in the Glottertal are of more wearable dimensions. One has loops of colored ribbon coming from the center of the crown, and held down by a circle of small white flowers; and another has a brim bound with ribbon and a feather rising from the back of the crown. They both bear long streamers of ribbon floating behind.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 26.

The hat worn by the Hausbergen woman is white, and has around the top of the crown a blue ruche with small pink flowers set in it. A pleated ribbon in the form of a fan covers half of the top, and ruffles and a rosette of the same trim the front and back respectively.

In the far northeastern part of the Forest at Freudens-  
stadt, the hat is white and its ornaments are all in black. A pleated ribbon is worn around the shallow crown with ornaments of black ribbon at the back of the brim.

Close by, in the province of Rotenberg, the cap worn by the women has a broad band of stitched ribbon dipping over the forehead, the crown of damask or figured velvet, and it has a bow in the back with streamers which tie under the chin. The hats are of white lacquered straw, the top of the crown is covered with a flat rosette of ribbon and encircled by a silk ruche; and its sides have a sort of coarse net over them, on which are spaced six small red wool pompons. Three much larger red pompons are balanced on the back of the brim, and connected with the general scheme of decoration by three black cords.<sup>13</sup>

One of the prettiest types of headdress worn on the Wurttemberg side of the Black Forest is the "halo". They are of closely woven threads on wire, gold or silver for the girl, and black for the older woman. A frill of white muslin is worn around the face and up the back where there

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p. 36.



is a bow and streamers of broad ribbon.

The Schramberg hat, in the northeastern part of the Forest, is always black. The bonnet part is of velvet which ties under the chin with picot-edged ribbons, while the fan-shaped "halo" is made of stiffened net which stands out quite flat and is bound with broad velvet ribbon. The little crown is embroidered with metal threads and sequins, and the four wide pieces of moire ribbon fall in uneven lengths to the waist behind.

The Schapbachtal costume is very interesting even though it is a sober one. Today the cap is made of black watered ribbon, with two flat loops brought forward from the top of the crown, and a little eye-veil of stiffened net. The crown is of black velvet, embroidered with silver thread and sometimes a few colored sequins are used. The designs used for this circumscribed shape are always satisfactory and decorative.<sup>14</sup>

S. Georgen in Wurttemberg, east central section of the Forest, has one of the most beautiful costumes in that region. Each component garment has character and charm, and the whole effect is one of sober richness. The Hippe is the headdress peculiar to the village and is worn impartially by Roman Catholics and Protestants. It consists of a band of stitched black ribbon, brought low over the forehead and giving way at the back to a crown of quilted velvet or brocade. There are three pairs of ribbons attached

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 52.



to it, one pair tying under the chin, the next falling down the back where they form a bow and ankle-length streamers, and the third, much narrower and shorter, making a small bow on the back of the crown. The ribbons are picot-edged and are also used to decorate the hair which is worn down in two plaits.<sup>15</sup>

The marriage crown is one of the most interesting headdresses worn by the peasant. The Schappel, worn in S. Georgen is a small crown of metal and metal wire, into which are inset jewels of semi-precious stones, glass, and mirror. Common things are used precisely the same way as is the lovely Manchu headdresses, with regard only for their fitness and beauty, and not for their commercial value. The bush which springs from this crown is also on a frame of wire, but completely covered with leaves, flowers, and fruit, each full of originality and the loving patience of the maker. Whether they be of real pearls, false pearls, glass, paper, or silver, the effect is always in perfect harmony. Some of these bridal crowns are centuries-old family heirlooms, but they are still being made in the more remote villages. They are of an immense weight, and are secured to the head by broad ribbons which flutter out behind. (Plate 3)

The hats worn by the Roman Catholics in this community are of black straw. The sides of the brim are caught up and attached to the crown by broad black ribbons with a bow

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid, p. 52.

PLATE 3

The Schappel  
S. Georgen Bridal Crown

Pettigrew, E. W. Peasant Costume of the Black Forest.





at the top. It is not tied under the chin but is worn over the S. Georgen cap.

The Protestant woman of S. Georgen wears a hat quite different from that belonging to the Roman Catholics. It is of straw too, but it is lacquered white outside and yellow inside, and, though taller in the crown and smaller in the brim than most of the straw hats seen in the Forest, it has the same woolen pompons for ornament, but they appear flattened into rosettes. They are, as usual, red for girls and black for married women and are linked around the crown by a broad ribbon. There is also a curious pattern on the brim, formed by twisted strands of fine black straw.<sup>16</sup>

On the southern edge of the Forest the Rickenbach cap is worn by both the young girl and the matron, but the method of wearing it is altered after marriage. On a cap of black figured velvet is superimposed a band of flowered damask over the forehead, from which two wide ribbons spring. The girl knots these at the nape of the neck, and allows them to fall free, while the married woman crosses them at the back of the head, and brings them around to the front to be tied into a bow. There is also a little horn-shaped crown which is entirely covered with beads, sequins, and embroidery.<sup>17</sup>

A feature seen only in the hill villages of the region northwest of Triberg, which is located in the central section

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p. 56.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 54.

of the Black Forest, is the top hat of lacquered straw worn by the women. However, the lacquered hat assumes a great many forms and colors for so small a radius. For instance, in the Elztal, it is very high in the crown and bright scarlet; whereas in the neighboring valley of the Frechtal it becomes orange. In Furtwangen it is a pale yellow and turns up at the sides, while in Waldkirch and Simonswald a much brighter yellow is favored. A deep yellow hat is worn in the village of Schonach, often over a small black cap -- not a becoming arrangement, especially in combination with the silk muffler which is wound several times around the neck.<sup>18</sup>

One of the few villages where the older form of the male costume still holds sway is Oberprechtal in the Elz, which is in the north central section of the Black Forest. The top hat of the men is of black silk and trimmed with a ribbon and metal buckle. The woman's headdress consists of a white lacquered straw hat worn over two caps, one red which ties with a bow under the chin, and the other made with two big loops of black ribbon with streamers falling behind.

Gutach, a village in the north central part of the Forest, is perhaps the most widely known village because of the straw hats worn by the women there. The groundwork is of straw, lacquered white both inside and out, and eleven large woolen pompons are displayed on the crown and

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid, p. 60.

brim arranged in the form of a cross which is presumably of religious significance. The balls are not entirely for either religious or decorative purposes, however, for their color is symbolical of something else, and undergoes some decidedly ambiguous changes -- red is worn only by the maiden, while black may equally well mean marriage, mourning, or dishonour. The hat is extremely heavy, and is quite often discarded, leaving the black cap which is always worn beneath it.<sup>19</sup> (Plate 4)

Ribbon caps are worn in the villages of Todtmoos (Plate 5a and 5b), Schweningen (Plate 5c), and Schiltach (Plate 5d).

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid, p. 70.



PLATE 4

Gutach  
Black Forest, Germany

Pettigrew, D. W. Peasant Costume of the Black Forest.



PLATE 5

a. Todtmoos

b. Todtmoos

c. Schwenningen

d. Schiltach

Black Forest, Germany

Pettigrew, D. W. Peasant Costume of the Black Forest.





a.



b.



c.



d.

## Chapter Two

## AUSTRIA

Austria has always been a favored vacation land of the people of Europe and of tourists from other nations. The quaint costumes and interesting headdresses of the peasants may be seen on Sundays and other holidays.

The unmarried girl of Murau, central Austria, wears a black velvet cap with a high crown which slopes to a peak in the back. The crown is trimmed with two bands of gold ribbon, and the cap is held on the head by two black ribbons which tie under the chin. When the Murau girls attend weddings they wear flower decked, lace headdresses with long ribbon streamers which fall below the waist.<sup>1</sup>

In the village of Mondsee, also in central Austria, on Sundays and other religious holidays the unmarried girls wear chaplets of white wax flowers in their hair. The married peasant women wear the "bridal crown", a black glazed linen affair bound tightly over the head with unbecoming streamers sticking out like elephant ears. It puts a premium on the unmarried girl because of its sheer ugliness.<sup>2</sup> (Plate 6)

Details of masculine dress vary in the different

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<sup>1</sup> Melville Bell Grosvenor, "Styria, A Favored Vacation Land of Central Europe." *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXII (October, 1932), p. 436.

<sup>2</sup> Florence Polk Holding, "The Salzkammergut, A Playground of Austria." *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXXI (April, 1937), p. 449.

PLATE 6

Mondsee, Austria

The National Geographic Magazine, LXXI (April, 1937).





sections of the mountainous Tyrol district of southwestern Austria, but essential elements are much the same. Either a very broad-brimmed hat (Plate 7) or a headgear similar to the "overseas cap" with no brim at all is worn. The color of the jacket and the hat band sometimes serves to distinguish the people of a particular village, but green is a general favorite for trimmings.<sup>3</sup>

The peasants of Zillertal, in the Tyrol, wear a large black felt hat with a tall crown and broad brim, which is decorated with a huge bunch of flowers on the front of the crown and two gold tassels which is a distinguishing mark of the village. The men and women wear hats which are very much alike in appearance.

The men and women of Innsbruck, in the Tyrol, wear a black felt hat with a rather narrow brim and a tall peaked crown. The men have a long feather standing up at the back of the crown.<sup>4</sup>

In the village of Scharnitz the women wear a black felt hat with a stove-pipe crown and a wide brim. A double silver cord is tied around the crown and two silver tassels hang off of the right side of the brim. On the left side of the crown there is fastened a black feather and a

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<sup>3</sup> Cornelia Stratton Parker, "Entering the Front Doors of Medieval Towns." *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXI (March, 1932), p. 373.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 377.

PLATE 7

Pfitsch, Austria

Pustertal, Austria

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.





small bunch of flowers.<sup>5</sup>

The beard of the chamois is much sought by huntsmen. It is worn at the back of the crown of a broad brimmed felt hat.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 367.

<sup>6</sup> Grosvenor, op. cit., p. 436.

## Chapter Three

## HUNGARY

For six days in simple garb, Hungarian women of the countryside spin, bake, churn, and work with their men in the fields. Sunday is for parade as well as for prayer and for rest. Prideful dressing takes hours, and the seven or eight cotton petticoats, starched and pleated preclude sitting at Mass. The procession homeward is as much a rite as an American Easter Sunday parade.<sup>1</sup>

Mezőkövesd, in northeastern Hungary only a few hours from Budapest, is a district famous for the costumes of peasants. Unmarried girls there wear the "parta", a kind of crown made of gold lace and adorned with bright colored ribbons (Plate 8), and it is only after the marriage service that the young girl may put up her hair and wear the distinctive headdress of the married woman. The long braids are placed under a cone-shaped basket, and when on the street a satin shawl is worn over it. The head is given a very peculiar cornucopia shape. (Plate 9b) "To tie up a girl's head" is another way of saying "to marry her", and "a girl who has kept on her parta" is a polite description of an old maid.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Margery Rae, "A Sunday in Mezőkövesd." *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXVII (April, 1935), p. 490.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth P. Jacobi, "Hungary, A Kingdom Without a King." *The National Geographic Magazine*, LXI (June, 1932), p. 712.

PLATE 3

Mezőkövesd, Hungary

The National Geographic Magazine, LXI (June, 1932).





PLATE 9

a.

b.

Mezőkövesd, Hungary

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.



Another type of headgear peculiar to Mezokövesd is a small tasseled woolen shawl, deftly twisted so as to form a sort of skull cap in front, while all around the long tassels hang loosely.<sup>3</sup> (Plate 10)

The bride may wear an elaborate wedding crown of tinsel which is not as heavy as it looks,<sup>4</sup> or she may wear a crown effect made of very beautiful lace.<sup>5</sup> (Plate 11) Headdresses similar to those worn by the girls of this community are found today on the women of Central Asia.<sup>6</sup>

The young men wear a high crowned, small brimmed, derby-like hat of green felt. (Plate 12). It has a wide band of brown felt around the base of the crown and feathers of varying size and color are perched on the side. The hat is held in place by an elastic band.

The boys are not slow in flirting with the girls, but the Sunday parades are not courting parties. Etiquette does not permit any promenading couples. Not even the married couples walk together.<sup>7</sup>

The women of Sarkoz, in southeastern Hungary, wear

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<sup>3</sup> C. Townley-Fullam, "Hungary: A Land of Shepherd Kings." The National Geographic Magazine, XXVI (October, 1914), p. 368.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 374.

<sup>5</sup> Melville Chater, "The Danube, Highway of Races." The National Geographic Magazine, LVI (December, 1929), p. 664.

<sup>6</sup> Jacobi, op. cit., p. 702.

<sup>7</sup> Rae, loc. cit.

PLATE 10

Mezőkövesd, Hungary

The National Geographic Magazine, LXVII (April, 1935).





PLATE 11

Mezőkövesd, Hungary

The National Geographic Magazine, LXVII (April, 1935).



PLATE 12

Mezőkövesd, Hungary

The National Geographic Magazine, LXI (June, 1932).





dainty caps with extremely fine white embroidery on a black ground.<sup>8</sup> (Plate 13)

The married woman of Sopron, western Hungary, wears a tight fitting red cap beneath her head shawl. (Plate 14) The shawl may be white or red. Unmarried girls usually wear their hair in braids down their backs.

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<sup>8</sup> Charles Holme, Peasant Art in Austria and Hungary, p. 39.

PLATE 13

Sarkoz, Hungary

Mann, Kathleen. Peasant Costume in Europe, Vol. 1.





PLATE 14

Sopron, Hungary

The National Geographic Magazine, LXI (June, 1932).



## Chapter Four

## RUMANIA

By the treaty of Trianon, in 1920, Rumania gained the districts of Kalotaszeg and Transylvania from Hungary. Of the traditional Hungarian peasant costumes those of the district of Kalotaszeg, in the County of Kolozs, now in Rumania, are among the most beautiful.<sup>1</sup> The headdress consists of a colored handkerchief edged with a fringe, tied or draped around the head. On Sundays, for church-going, the girls put on the "párta", a kind of crown made of gold lace and adorned with bright colored ribbons. Brides have long and beautifully embroidered veils, which they continue to wear for several months after marriage when they go to church.<sup>2</sup>

In Transylvania the married women wear white muslin head-cloths beautifully embroidered with white thread. The girls wear a headdress made of a high band of black velvet stretched tightly over some stiff material. These high crowned hats have no brim and are adorned at the back with colored ribbons which hang free.

Like most peasant youths, the Saxon-Transylvanian adorns his hat with flowers, which are generally twined by the nimble fingers of his sweetheart.

In the districts that are truly Rumanian the headdress

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<sup>1</sup> Mann, op. cit., p. 69.

<sup>2</sup> Holme, op. cit., p. 44.



in very many of them consists of a piece of soft light linen or silk of oblong shape, from twenty to twenty-four inches in width and from one to three yards in length. Nothing is more astonishing than the different graceful and dignified effects a woman can produce by twisting the same piece of material around her head and face. (Plate 15). In other districts, there are regular made-up headdresses of silk or linen, cotton or hemp, embroidered and woven, sometimes enriched with gold or silver thread or with pearls for the wealthier women.

The wearing of a headdress throughout the country is the obligation of matrons and widows. Spinsters go bare-headed with a flower in their hair and a plait down their back tied with bows of variegated ribbons, which produce a brilliant effect.<sup>3</sup>

Through many photographs of the late Dowager Queen Marie we have become quite familiar with the particularly graceful headdress, the "marama", which is worn by Rumanian matrons. This is a long veil of thin white cotton or silk, embroidered and studded with sequins, which may be tied in many different ways. Sometimes a floating end hangs down behind, nearly reaching the hem of the heavy fur-lined coat which is worn on high days and holidays, while the other end is wrapped around the face and neck, leaving the forehead, nose, eyes, and mouth uncovered. At other times

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<sup>3</sup> George Oprescu, Peasant Art in Roumania, p. 44.



PLATE 15

Rumania

Opreescu, George. Peasant Art in Roumania.



it covers the head and part of the ears, and is tied at the back, both ends floating out behind. In other districts it is almost square and is knotted under the chin.

In the mountains of the interior of the country the headdress assumes a weird shape. The veil is placed on a pile of false hair covering the ears, with coiled plaits, or on an arrangement of wooden horns which are adjusted on the head and covered with the fine fabric. These amazing horns are sometimes comparable in shape and size to a riding saddle, and are hardly smaller than the saddles used in Rumania for the diminutive mountain ponies.<sup>4</sup>

In the Banat and the neighboring Hateg district, in western Rumania, the veil is replaced by a headdress which differs for working days and holidays. The ordinary cap, which is also worn by middle-aged women, suggests the form of headdress which is sometimes seen in Brittany. It consists of a thin round skull-cap with black, dark brown or red embroidery on a cream ground, made up on a wooden or wire form. The designs of the embroidery is done in satin stitch and is scalloped around the edges. The other cap, which is worn on holidays, is made up on a small wooden frame lined with black velvet. Long fringes of many-hued silk hang down behind. A square piece of material, interwoven with gold and silver thread in a geometrical or floral pattern is used. The square is edged all around with a strip of the same material, running out into a loose fringed

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 53.

tongue which hangs down in front. Frequently between the material and the fringed edging a space is left, into which gold and silver coins are sewn side by side like the metal scales on breastplates. The coins which sometimes weigh from four to five pounds tinkle their accompaniment to the slow but vigorous rhythm of the dance in which the Banat woman delights. The young women like to use bright colored silk, while the older women keep to quiet colors, dark browns, blues, violet and a deep red.<sup>5</sup>

A tall cap of black lambskin, or a broad brimmed hat of black felt is worn by the men.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 60.



## Chapter Five

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Republic of Czechoslovakia, composed of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia, has a variety of interesting headdresses.

In the Bohemian and Moravian provinces the women wear small linen caps which are beautifully embroidered with colored thread. (Plates 16 and 17). They are gathered at the back with a ribbon which is tied and the ends allowed to hang almost to the waist.

A kerchief which may be folded in a variety of ways, each of which indicates the village or district from where the wearer comes, may be worn over the embroidered cap and tied in an intricate knot at the back or simply knotted under the chin. The kerchief may be embroidered (Plate 18) and edged with lace to match the cap, or it may be of bright red or yellow cotton similar to the bandanna.<sup>1</sup>

The young man of Moravia wears a very small felt hat which may have an embroidered band for trimming, or a smart feather and a bunch of flowers. He may wear a pill-box felt hat with red wool tassels decorating the top.

The headdress of the young unmarried girl consists of a tall crown richly embroidered, and from the top hang hand-woven ribbons of varying colors and lengths, these sometimes extending below the waist.<sup>2</sup> A wide silk ribbon

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<sup>1</sup> Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 244.

<sup>2</sup> Mann, *op. cit.*, p. 79.

PLATE 16

a. Embroidered cap.

b. Embroidered cap.

Czechoslovakia

Bossert, H. T. Peasant Art in Europe.

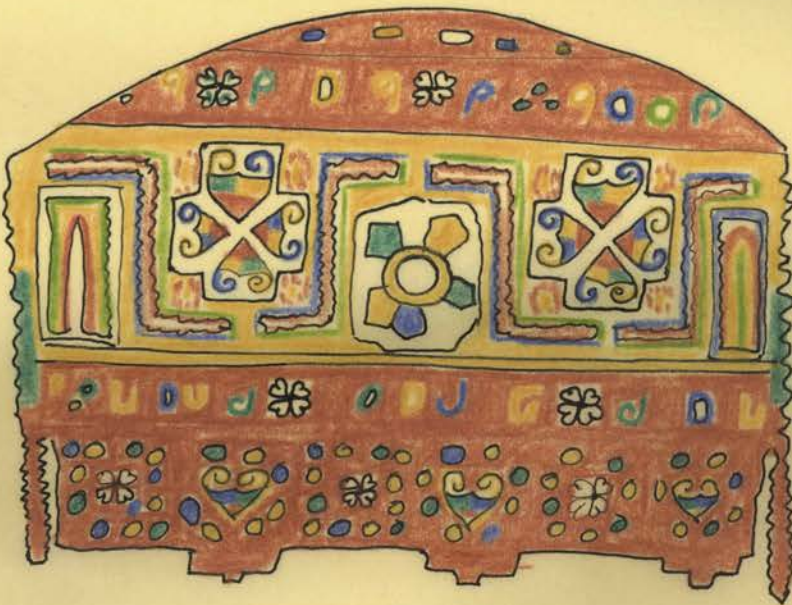




PLATE 17

Embroidered End of Headdress

Czechoslovakia

Mann, Kathleen. Design from Peasant Art.



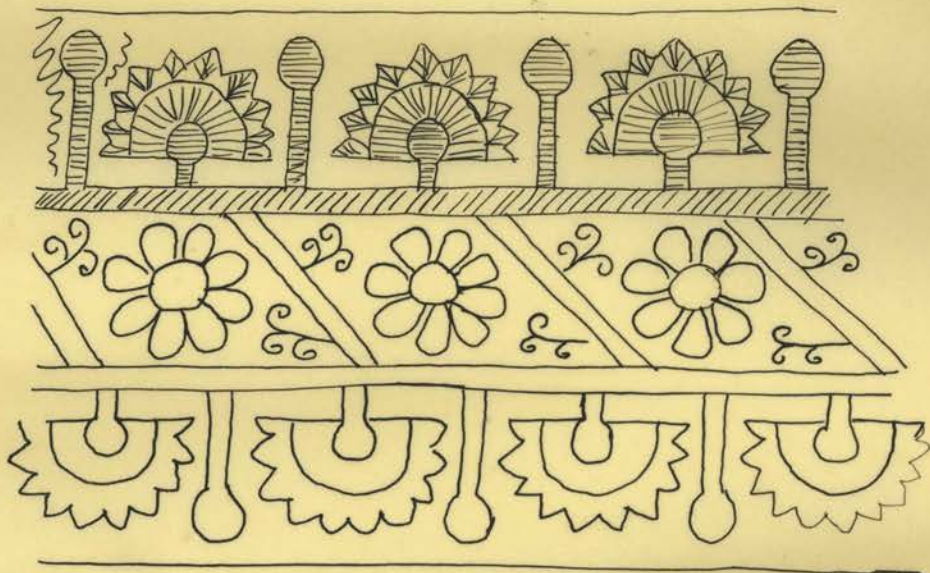


PLATE 18

a. Hutzul, Czechoslovakia

b. Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.



with original embroidery designs, tied around the head and long streamers falling down the back, is also worn in the Moravian and Slovakian districts.<sup>3</sup>

The bride's crown is made of tinsel, colored beads, leaves, flowers, and other things which may give a pleasing effect but must be of light-weight material so that the huge crown does not become too heavy to be worn.

Each little Slovak village, in the southern part of Czechoslovakia, has its peculiarities of dress. One can often tell from what village a girl comes by one glance at the way she folds her kerchief.

Some of the Slavic head shawls, which give a madonna oval to the broadest of peasant features, are neat white cotton with red polka dots or a dark gray design. Others are of shimmering white silk, embroidered with light tints or heavy designs in cream or white. Still others are cut plush with a heavy knotted fringe.<sup>4</sup>

The girl's headdress consists of a bonnet-shaped wreath of many colored beads which is fastened at the back with colored ribbons that hang to the waist.<sup>5</sup>

The shepherds of Slovakia wear a broad brimmed hat

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<sup>3</sup> Worth E. Shoults, "Hospitality of the Czechs." The National Geographic Magazine, LI (June, 1927), p. 728.

<sup>4</sup> M. O. Williams, "Czechoslovakia, Key-land to Central Europe." The National Geographic Magazine, XXXIX (February, 1921), p. 127.

<sup>5</sup> Shoults, loc. cit.



of rough leather, the crown of which is covered with brass studs to match the broad belt.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Williams, *op. cit.*, p. 144.

PLATE 19

a. Detva, Czechoslovakia

b. Kyjova, Czechoslovakia

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.



## Chapter Six

## POLAND

Due to its geographic position and the frequent use of its territory as a passage between Russia and Austria-Hungary, Poland in its national dress has adopted several features of those of its neighbors.<sup>1</sup>

In the region of the Hutsuls at the east end of the great Carpathian semicircle, sheepskin caps with ear flaps are worn by the peasant. The girl's red kerchief is tied on her head to form a many cornered headgear.<sup>2</sup>

In Kuyavia, in the great plains of Central Poland, the bridesmen dress in a most exotic manner. Their high cylindrical hats are adorned with a crown of flowers and myrtle twigs, which gives them a solemn air. The best man performs the time honored wedding dance with a glass of vodka kept in perfect balance on the brim of his hat.<sup>3</sup>

When setting out on a long journey the Kuyavian peasant wears a king of linen hood fastened on to a gaudy shawl by means of a number of white ribbons. The shawl is tied on the breast and the ends tucked under the belt. The hood protects the hat from rain and dust during the journey.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 234.

<sup>2</sup> Zofia Stryjenska, *Polish Peasants Costumes*, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 15.



The Luovian peasant woman, in the southern part of the nation, wears a headdress composed of a stiff hat crown wrapped in a tinselled ribbon over which a red kerchief is bound in an oriental manner.

The cap worn by the peasants of Cracow has a square crown. It is called the "rogatywka" and was at one time worn by the higher classes of Polish society. (Plate 20a). The married women wear a characteristic bonnet. After the wedding ceremony "bonneting" takes place, the traditional confirmation of her having entered upon a married woman's life. Her wedding wreath is taken off, her hair cut, and a white lace bonnet is put on her head.<sup>5</sup>

The girls of Kurpie, near Wilno, wear a stiff bonnet with a covering of black velvet embellished with a tall cluster of artificial flowers and a bunch of colored ribbons. (Plate 20b).

The peasant farmer of the neighborhood of Lublin wears a broad brimmed high crowned straw hat with a wreath of grasses and wild flowers around the crown. The woman wears a double headgear, the upper part made of loops of bright colored ribbons rests on a sort of bonnet made of linen and hung with white bands reaching down to the knees and embroidered with red and blue at the ends.<sup>6</sup>

The "gorals" or highlanders of the Tatra mountains which separate Poland from Czechoslovakia, wears a small

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 12.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 15.

PLATE 20

a. Cracow, Poland

b. Kurpie, Poland

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.





round black felt hat the low crown of which is surrounded by a string of shells from the Black Sea. It is adorned with the feather of a falcon or of an eagle.<sup>7</sup> (Plate 21b) The girls of the Tatras mountains wear bright red kerchiefs knotted at the back of the head. (Plate 22)

Extremely bright crude colors are employed in the head shawls which the women of Lowicz wear to the market place. (Plate 21a). For use on Sundays they may wear a fringed white woolen shawl tied under the chin. The bridal crown of this region is made of stiffened muslin, tinsel and flowers. (Plate 23)

In the neighborhood of Wilno, a region of forests and lakes in northern Poland, the ancient headgear commands great respect. It is the so-called "namitka" a kind of white linen cloth wrapped around the head like a bandage. This is surmounted by a stiff sort of hat top called "czoko", which has side flaps and looks like a kind of bonnet; ribbons descend from it and hang loosely, while at other times they are gathered together in a knot.<sup>8</sup>

On the Baltic coast the Kaszubian women wear a stiffly pleated ribbon bonnet which is tied under the chin with a very wide ribbon.

One of the most beautiful headdresses of Poland is that worn by the Volhynian bride. It is a fairylike crown

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<sup>7</sup> Margaret Lathrop Law, "The Glamour of Poland's Countryside." *Travel Magazine*, LV (July, 1930), p. 27.

<sup>8</sup> Stryjenska, op. cit., p. 16.



PLATE 21

a. Lowicz, Poland

b. Tatras Mountains, Poland

Lepage-Medvey. National Costumes.



PLATE 22

Tatras Mountains

Zduny, Poland

The National Geographic Magazine, LXXV (June, 1939).





PLATE 23

Lowicz, Poland

The National Geographic Magazine, LXXV (June, 1939).



of woolen pompons and tinsel from which a cascade of many colored ribbons flow on to the shoulders.<sup>9</sup>

Men in Polish Silesia wear fur caps, while those in Zduny wear a low crowned black felt hat. (Plate 22)

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 15.



## CONCLUSION

The headdress is a very important part of the costume of the peasant and within each country it is used to indicate the district or region in which he lives.

In many cases the color of the decorations, or the color of the whole headdress, may indicate the marital status of the wearer. Usually the more somber colors are worn by the married men and women.

Straw hats are worn extensively in the Black Forest of Germany, and Poland. Those worn in Germany are usually decorated with woolen pompons or rosettes, red for girls and black for married women, or with black picoted watered ribbon. The hats may have high crowns, shallow crowns, broad or narrow brims. The hat worn by the peasant farmer of Lublin, Poland has a wreath of grasses and wild flowers around the crown.

Felt hats are found in all of the nations studied, black being used in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. Green and black felt is used in Austria. Peacock feathers are used to adorn the hat of the bridegroom in Poland while a falcon feather is used by the men of the Tatra mountains. Flowers are used in Germany, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria. The beard of the chamois and gold or silver tassels are used as ornaments in Austria.

Sheepskin caps with earflaps are worn by the men of Poland while black lambskin is used in Rumania, fur in



Germany, and the felt "overseas" cap is used by the mountain peasants of Austria.

The caps worn by the women of Czechoslovakia are of linen beautifully embroidered with colored thread, while those of Hungary are black with fine white embroidered designs. Many caps of ribbon are worn beneath the straw hats in the Black Forest. An embroidered cap or a black velvet cap is worn in western Rumania.

Head shawls or kerchiefs are used in many districts of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and to a lesser degree in Germany, Austria and Rumania. Those of Hungary are of satin or wool with a deep fringe. The women of Poland wear a fringed white woolen shawl on Sundays and holidays, and bright colored shawls to the market. The Czechoslovakian kerchiefs are embroidered linen edged with lace, or are of bright red or yellow cotton similar to the bandanna.

Soft light linen or silk veils are worn by Rumanian matrons and widows. Some of the veils are embroidered, some decorated with sequins, and others are enriched with gold and silver threads.

The elaborate bridal crown is used in all nations studied and varies but little in the materials used and the manner in which it is made.

Many modern designers turn to the interesting peasant headdresses for inspiration in line, color, and decoration for the latest fashion creations which we see coming from

Paris, London, and New York.

While the peasant costumes are so generally disappearing from use many private collectors and museums are endeavoring to preserve some of them. Good collections are to be found in the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; Ethnographic Museum, Vienna, Austria; Lessner's Private Collections, Budapest, Hungary; Narodni Museum, Prague, Czechoslovakia; and in other museums and private collections in Europe.

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