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AESTHETIC ASPECTS IN REPRESENTATION LACE FROM TRADITIONAL MOLDOVAN TOWEL

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Interest in national values increases with interest in culture, diversity, national identity. The handcrafted Moldovan towel (romanian – "prosop") is part of the national heritage of the Republic of Moldova. He belongs to the group of ceremonial textiles and represents a symbol of national culture. A special significance has the handcrafted towels, made of vegetable textile fibers. Of great interest are the laces (horboțică) with which their terminations are decorated. Towels decorated on two sides, on 3 and 4 sides, are identified. Depending on the occasion, they vary according to the complexity and type of ornamental elements used, but also their width. For example, towels given by young married people to godparents have ornaments reproduced in lace such as peacock, turkey, cuckoo, complex floral ensembles, with a width of 30-40 cm.

Key words: indoor textiles, towel, towel, ornamental motifs, embroidery, crochet lace, vegetable fibers, fabrics.

INTRODUCTION

There are various names, according to geographical areas: towel (northern and central areas), *peșchir* (southern area), handkerchief (Transnistria), napkin, handkerchief, cloth, patch etc.

The main materials used to make towels were: wool, hemp, flax, cotton, borangic. They were made by weaving in two, three, four or five threads, chosen over threads, chosen between threads, crocheted, braided, etc.

PURPOSE

The research objective in this study aimed to identify the compositional and ornamental structures of handmade lace present in the traditional Moldovan towel, the techniques, their dimensions, determinants, reasons used, their significance and their predestination.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study focused on the analysis of about 380 towels, 180 from the Museum of Ethnography in Călărași, the other part was collected from the field by their owners, being kept in the family as very valuable elements used in various important life events: birth, engagement, marriage, marriage, death. The towels included in the study date from the beginning of the century. XX, 50s-60s.

The study involved the application of the method of organoleptic analysis focused on the following reference criteria:



- the dimensional characteristics of the towel;
- the dimensional characteristics of the lace;
- evaluation of fibrous composition;
- analysis of the chromatic solution of the threads from which the towel was woven;
- weaving technologies;
- analysis of the ornamental decoration;
- how to obtain the ornamental decoration on the towel;
- ornamental motifs on the towel and those crocheted in lace;
- the fineness of the lace crochet;
- complexity of ornamental elements;
- the compositional structure of the towel and lace;
- the number of decorated sides; analysis of crochet technologies and elements used.

Focusing on the towels identified in the central area of the Republic of Moldova led to the following findings.

The diversity of ornaments applied on towels include motifs: phytomorphic, geometric, geomorphic, avimorphic, zoomorphic, anthropomorphic, religious, astral, scheomorphic and social.

The ornamental elements identified in the examined towels, woven and crocheted, represent not only decorative elements but also spiritual means of communication about the one who made them. The symbols express the cult of soil fertility, feminine sensitivity, power, eternity, death, water, thought and knowledge.

Among the most frequently noticed motifs in hand crochet and embroidery are: the tree of life, the lost path, the vine leaf, the grapes, the vine, the bride's crown, the rooster, the peacock the pigeon, the roses, the bouquets, the oak leaf and hora.

From a chromatic point of view, the ornaments made on towels have colors: red, black, yellow, green, blue and which vary depending on the area and their age. The dimensional characteristics of lace vary depending on their destination. The wedding towels are decorated with laces 30-40 cm wide and avimorphic motifs, the towels for the boys' army party had laces 10-15 cm wide and the motifs represented geometric and zoomorphic figures. In the towel for religious rituals the applied lace was about 15-20 cm and the motifs being astral, scheomorphic and social.

Field investigations revealed an impressive number of towels with a wide variety of lace finishes. These are shown in Table 1.

The ornamental, structural diversity of the laces in the traditional towel, highlights the multitude of motifs identified in the woven, embroidered textiles, in the folk costume, etc. The presence of phytomorphic motifs was noticed: flowers, leaves, vines, geometric motifs: rhombus; avimorphic motifs: peacock, rooster, pigeons; the tree of life, etc.

Towels used for funerals are very simple, not decorated with lace and not decorated with ornamental elements. At the death of a man/woman, a towel is attached to the cross of the deceased who accompanies the deceased to the place of burial being called „altita” and which can be decorated with lace only on the heads.



Table 1 - Towel towels, their destination and characteristics

Crochet lace	Destination and characteristics
	<p>Ritual, wedding towel, woven in a quadrille with crocheted lace, in three parts. There are avimorphic motifs - peacocks that have the meaning of birds of heaven. It is a towel identified in Calarasi, Republic of Moldova.</p>
	<p>Ritual towel or iconic towel. Woven fabric in the heel. It has three-part lace, decorated with avimorphic motifs, butterflies considered as protective spirits that signify the immortal soul. Such decoration is specific to the center area.</p>
	<p>Towel woven in a quadrille, with lace on four sides (all around) so the status of the groom at the wedding was highlighted. Towel identified in Ialoveni, Republic of Moldova.</p>
	<p>Cloth towel in quadrille, with three-part lace, scheomorphic motif, combined with phytomorphic motif, flower in vase. The width of the lace is 25 cm. It is a towel identified in Ialoveni, Republic of Moldova.</p>
	<p>Towel in chairs. Garnished with 3-part horbotica, 30cm wide. The ornamental motif of the lace represents the image of the apple blossom, a symbol of righteousness. It is a towel identified in Molovata village, Dubasari district, Republic of Moldova.</p>



	<p>The bride's towel, made of woven cloth in the house, in a quadrille, with a 3-part watch, 27cm wide. It has present the phytomorphic ornamental motif, the tree of life and the avimorph motif, the pigeons - the protective bird of spirituality, in Christianity, it signifies love and peace. The meanings of the ornament are related to the joints of the new family.</p>
	<p>Decorative towel for clothes, made of canvas woven in a frame, decorated with lace on two sides, the motif are spiders, which means inspiration, veneration. The towel was identified in Roșcani village, Strasen district, Republic of Moldova.</p>

According to some ancient beliefs on this canvas lies the soul of the dead until at the funeral. The research undertaken in the center of Bessarabia in the interwar period, also nuanced rather the symbolic function of the high, being interpreted as the wings with which the soul flies in the world of beyond [2].

CONCLUSIONS

Knowing the language used in the towel, when making it, the significance of the ornaments found in the Bessarabian towels with crocheted lace that have their own calligraphy you can identify the passions, the spiritual world of the one who made the examined towel. Various ornaments predominate in the lace of the towel: anthropomorphic, scheomorphic, vegetal, avimorphic, religious, ancestral. From the decoration with vegetal ornamental elements are relevant the compositions of buds, flowers, leaves, branches, flower vases and the tree of life. Religious ornamental elements include: the cross, the prescurea, the candlestick. After all, all these reasons reflect the spiritual context of the Bessarabian people.

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