

From the Skin Out

Kingdom Costumers Guild



12th Night

2010

From the Editor

Greetings unto the Guild,

This will be my last Issue of From the Skin Out.

I have enjoyed putting out this newsletter off and on for 9 years, perhaps in the future there will be another opportunity for me to show my support and creativity.

So long and thanks for the Fish.

Regards,

Baroness Anastasia Alexandrovna Andreeva (OL)



Easy-to-make period garments & accessories to help you look more the part of a medieval man or woman (or child).

Parte XII: Turkish Women's clothing

After taking the summer off...I have returned to your Murmurs to write about another new discovery of mine—real Middle Eastern garb; Turkish Clothing! This started simply as a bit of research for the Journeymen's level for the Costumer's Guild Challenges, and has turned into a fun romp through the Middle East.

I started by searching for images online for various Middle Eastern cultures, and decided that I like Turkish the best. The layers and fit seem flattering on most every body type, and the cut and construction is all rectangular with only a few gussets and gores. The most unusual are the trapezoidal shaped armpit gussets.

The layers are pretty simple. First, you start with the baggy pants. These are called 'salwar' in some cultures, but in the Ottoman empire, they're called çakshir. There's a great pattern for it available at <http://www.feoragdubh.eastkingdom.org/Patterns/salwar.gif>. It's easy to make, takes about an hour, and is almost fool-proof! (Make a test pair out of cheap muslin first!) They're not as baggy as the 'Harem' pants, and they provide a more comfortable fit and require less fabric. This is great news if you want to make them out of silk...and why wouldn't you?



Next is the gömlek, the undertunic. Usually this is made from very fine, sheer fabric. Muslin or linen would work well if it's fine enough, or a fine

silk fabric. This often had bell sleeves and reached just below the knees. An extant Persian pirihan (undertunic) can be found here:

http://www.geocities.com/anahita_whitehorse/kamiz.html.

It's made from a fine cotton material and is embroidered all over, and unlike the Turkish version, this has very long, narrow sleeves. It is, unfortunately, unfinished so the neckline construction is unknown, but it does give us some insight on the process of construction.

After you have your baggy trousers and undertunic on, now it's time for the first layer. This is the Chirka, or the fitted short jacket. It has half- or three-quarter sleeves and can be made in a variety of colors in a fairly durable fabric. Some of these were stopped just below the hip; others went down almost to the knee. The cut on this jacket is also rectangular construction and is meant to fit snugly around the torso, and gape open at the bust line. This can provide support for the...ahem.. the girls. If you are especially 'blessed', you may need additional support by modern means. Many of the images from the period, I have read, were made by European artists who did not fully understand cut and construction, so they may appear as if they were cut differently with rounded necklines and such. Following the patterns *should* give you a good end result.



On top of the chirka goes at least one more layer; the entari. This is an ankle

or floor length jacket that is cut in the same manner as the chirka, except the sleeves are 3/4 or full length. It wasn't uncommon to wear more than one entari, so feel free to make several!

One thing to keep in mind is that each layer should be made of materials that will slide against one another—two layers of cotton or wool, for example, may have a sort of Velcro effect, sticking and bunching while you walk. Alternate the fabrics between “sticky” and “slippery” by adding silk or linen linings.

Finally, all you need now are some accessories, like belts and veils. Now you look fabulously authentic, and not like an escapee from the circus. Decorate your camp with lush carpets, silk pillows, and lounge in the summer sun (or the feast hall) with the rest of your harem...

...sharing a brass bowl full of chocolates!



Sources:

All of my research was done online...but using information from the best Costumer Laurels in the Known World

Mistress Agnes Cresewycke of Lions Gate had a series of images posted that showed the layers:

<http://vanagnessayem.livejournal.com/180015.html>.

Mistress Laurellen had images on her site that showed cut and construction

http://www.renaissancetailor.com/demos_turkestani.htm

Anahita (from another Kingdom) has images from period of the various parts

http://www.geocities.com/anahita_whitehorse/ottofemcloth.html.

Images from 9000 Years of the Anatolian Woman, ISBN 975-17-1186-X

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