

Music, Literature, Dance and Fashion / Fashion

Although European styles influenced certain aspects of dress in the southern and eastern Mediterranean regions, rural fashions remained traditional and resistant to change. In Europe, sitters posed for portraits in “Eastern”-style dress and eventually designers such as Mariano Fortuny looked to North Africa and Ottoman lands for inspiration. Dress is a marker of identity in all cultures, and much of the 19th-century costume and jewellery that survives can be connected to particular religious or ethnic groups. With men’s clothing, the style of European military uniforms was adopted, but otherwise traditional forms of dress were maintained.



Working Number:	UK 019
Name:	Medjmouaï teçavir (Collection de costumes)
Holding Museum:	The British Museum
Date:	c. 1900
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	The print shows a meeting of ambassadors to the Ottoman court. These types of illustrations, published as collections and showing the differences between European and Ottoman clothing, were a source of influence and rich inspiration in Europe. From the 19th century onwards the influence was mutual, with garments from the Arab and Ottoman world appearing in European dress and European garments influencing Arab and Ottoman styles.



Working Number:	MC 011
Name:	Bridal coat
Holding Museum:	Museum of Macedonia
Date:	19th century
Materials:	Klashna – thick woollen fabric adorned with balze, silver and gold-wrapped thread, silver string, sequins, beads and pompons of wool
Curator Justification:	Wedding outfits, particularly for women, demonstrated family wealth, ethnic origin and religion. This bridal coat, which is especially rich in embroidered and appliquéd decoration of multi-coloured metal threads combined with jewels, provides a good example of cultural diversity in Europe and the Arab and Ottoman world.



Working Number:	JO 038
Name:	Headdress
Holding Museum:	Jordan Museum for Costumes and Jewellery, Department of Antiquities
Date:	Late 19th century – early 20th century
Materials:	Gold, silver, cotton fabric, silk; casting; hand embroidered
Curator Justification:	Headdresses are one of the most significant elements for determining ethnic origin, religious belief, gender and—in the case of women—even their marital status (single, engaged or married). For this reason, many of them have retained their traditional costume status in each region and, as they are especially rich in embroidery, beads, jewels and coins, they are good indications of both ethnic origin and family wealth.

This variety is common in Europe and in the Arab and Ottoman world.



Working Number: DZ 160

Name: 'Alimeh

Holding Museum: Musée Public National des Antiquités

Date: -

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Ottoman dress had significant repercussions in the Western world: the fabrics used (transparent chiffon, gauze and muslin), the cut (straight lines in some garments such as jackets) and the use of breeches, all of which attracted the attention of Europeans and inspired Western artists and designers.



Working Number: SP 111

Name: Hooded cloak (burnus)

Holding Museum: Museum of Costume, Ethnographical Heritage Research Centre

Date: c. 1910 – c. 1920

Materials: Silk, velvet; stencilled and printed

Curator Justification: “Egyptomania” and Orientalism were reflected in European fashion, their influences seen to evolve as decorative motifs and styles of clothing (i.e. the tunic and jellaba) were introduced. Fashion designers such as Mariano Fortuny combined decorative and design elements inspired by Arab and Ottoman garments to create unique pieces that reflect the importance of these cultures.
