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### **TRADITIONAL JAPANESE COSTUME**

Nowadays everybody knows that the kimono is a conventional costume in Japan. It's difficult to identify someone who has never seen a kimono, even in photographs or films. But it is surprising that kimonos aren't the most ancient Japanese clothing, just like silk is not one of the earliest material from which clothing was initially made in Japan.

In accordance with archaeological remains in Japan, ancient Japanese costumes were made of cannabis and had a simple cut, which seems quite clearly. In Kyoto each of the three main social classes wore a different type of clothing. An illustrated scroll of *The Life of Priest Honen*, written around 1300, provides insight into each style of dress. Honen spread the ideas of Pure Land Buddhism (Jodo shu) to the public, and in a scene on the scroll showing 'The Mission Begins' Honen preaches to the crowd gathered around his box. Those closest to him are Buddhist priests and monks. Then there are the aristocrats, including the Shinto clergy, who are classified as aristocrats and dress the same way. The third group are the urban commoners.

First, the aristocrats: during some ceremonies, members of the imperial family still wear the same fabric and cut as a thousand years ago. The costumes of the princess and prince of Chichibu, uncle and aunt of the current Japanese Emperor Akihito, can be seen at the coronation ceremony of their brother, Emperor Hirohito,

in 1925. Along with the westernization of Japanese society after the 19th century, courtiers began to wear formal western dress for certain occasions. Therefore, today the royal family wears traditional court clothes mainly on the rare occasions when they participate in ceremonies associated with Shinto rituals. However, Shinto priests continue to regularly wear cut clothing with wide sleeves and round collars. Modern Japanese most often see the old court costumes worn by Shinto priests when ritual ceremonies are covered by the media.

The men's cut dress consists of a tunic with a rounded neckline and trousers. The model is believed to come from a Chinese court costume from the Sui and Tang dynasties.

V-neck kimonos are used in women's court suits. Interestingly, the short jacket and tail were used and are used exclusively for formal occasions: this indicates the importance attached to its Chinese origin.

Second, Buddhist clergy wear a distinctive outer garment dating back to ancient India: playing in Sanskrit, kesa in Japanese. Large patchwork fabrics are draped over the shoulders. In a Buddhist ceremony, many nuns wear a kesa by wrapping a wide cloth over the left side and over the right shoulder.

Kesa traveled from India through China and Korea and came to Japan with Buddhism in the mid-6th century. The Indian saree is easy to imagine because of its rectangular shape. Many ancient kasaya handed down in Japanese temples were brought from China as evidence of the transmission of the dharma from teacher to student. Such clothing has not survived on the continent, so the Japanese collection of ancient Buddhist clothing is important for studying the history of East Asian textiles.

Commoners, merchants, and artisans in the city wore clothing very similar to the modern kimono, but the same dress was also used as the lower layer of the court dress [3].

The conventional cut of the kimono is really distinguished from the European national costume. The kimono accentuates the wearer's shoulders and waist, concealing all other bends. The shape is flattened, with basic direct lines, because that is how the Japanese see the ideal of beauty. Whereas the Europeans loved the corsets and the curvy figures, the Japanese loved the flatted shapes.

Textiles from which kimonos are made are usually inelastic. The structure is rectangular and simple. This, by the way, helps save fabrics, because there is very little waste left after cutting the clothes.

The threads used to sew the kimono must be soft so as not to damage the fabric. Fabric in Japan was very expensive, so people appreciated it very much and treated it with care. Unfortunately, the use of such thin threads has caused many old kimonos to be destroyed over time.

The kimono belt, called the obi belt, was traditionally made from fine wool. Its role was further decorative. The belt adds a bit of bulk to the outfit. Obi is always richly decorated because it is a very important part of the costume. Its length can reach 3m or more. The obi knot previously identified a woman's social status and much more, but now women can wear any knot they want [2].

Since the days of Edo, the fashion for men's and women's kimonos has stayed largely steadily. In the end, the difficulty of wearing a kimono and the bulky sandals became an obstacle. The kimono went out of style at the time of the Meiji period (1868-1912), when the state inspired people to approve Western clothing styles [1].

Nowadays, Japanese people dress kimonos in daily life very seldom, saving them for events such as marriage, burial, tea ceremonies, or other special events such as summer festivals.

## REFERENCES

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