

OUTERWEAR ARKHALIG

FABRIC - VELVET, SILK

SEWING TECHNIQUE - GULABATIN (GOLD OR SILVER EMBROIDERY), TAMBOUR EMBROIDERY (DOLDURULMA TIKMA)

LENGTH - 80 CM. EARLY 18TH CENTURY

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN, ETHNOGRAPHY FUND

Azerbaijani national clothes were created as a result of a long evolutionary process; being one of the enduring ethnic signs, they fully reflect the national identity of the people. Samples of national clothes kept in museums of the republic are unique for their beauty, elegance, the richness of ornamental motifs and high performance. Venetian traveler Marco Polo (13th century) praised the beauty of the weavings of the Azerbaijani cities of Shamakhi and Barda, while English traveler Anthony Jenkinson (16th century), who visited Azerbaijan, wrote that “the governor was sitting in a rich tent sewn with silk and gold” and his clothing was embroidered with pearls and jewels.









One of the most common types of shoulder outerwear in all regions of Azerbaijan was the «arkhalig». The presented model is made of dense dark-colored velvet and embellished with embroidery. The technique and composition of Azerbaijani embroideries have their roots in antiquity. For embroidery they used locally-made silk and wool threads and fabrics such as taffeta, darai and velvet made in the cities of Shamakhi, Ganja, Sheki and others. The favorite motifs of Azerbaijani embroideries were the rose, narcissus, carnation, flowers of fruit trees such as the pomegranate, plum, quince and so on. The general pattern was interspersed with geometric patterns, lines, zigzags and polygonal rosettes. In clothes, gulabatin and doldurulma tikma were used to create bright, sophisticated and whimsical patterns on a dark background.