



Thobe

Date

ca. 1870

Primary Maker

Artist unrecorded

Medium

Indigo dyed linen, silk embroidery

Description

long dark blue (has a heavy denim-like feel/texture and color) dress with bright mostly red and pink embroidery around collar, along each side, and at the bottom on the

back. Original accession record data: Bartlett List No. 15. Collector: Grace S. Whiting. Accepted by R.B.I. Locality: Palestine Original Loan No. L52/4/1-31 (23). Old #3375 Thōb (late nineteenth century) This winter dress of indigo blue, handwoven linen is certainly not from Ramallah proper. It belongs to a type worn only in the surrounding villages of Upper Judea, but as far away as Abu Shusha near Ramla in the Coastal Plain. In addition to the usual embroidered sections (qabbeh, sleeves, front and back seams of skirt, and diyāl), there are five vertical bands of embroidery on both side panels. The middle band is composed of symmetrical branches with the feather design on top, alternating with flowers. On each side of it there are two identical bands of flowers with a space between each band. The outside bands, both doubled, are stylized vines with lush clusters of grapes, somewhat different from the classical Ramallah grapevine motif. The diyāl is not composed of the usual palms, but of the moon-with-feathers motif. It is topped by a row of feathers, above which is a row of cypresses, a quite common design. The embroidery throughout is mainly red and magenta silk thread with touches of orange, shades of green, and purple. Length: 140 cm. Width: 77 cm. (Palestinian Costume and Jewelry, Yedida Kalfon Stillman, 1979 ISBN: 0-82630490-7)