



Thobe Abu Qutbeh

Date

ca. 1925

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

silk, velvet

Description

Dress. Hand loomed in Homs. Red and yellow stripes.

Yoke inset with brown, green and blue knit plaid, maroon velvet and silk with multicolored threads in couching embroidery; floral design. FA. 72.25-11 Thōb Abū Qūṭbeh

(ca. 1925) (Fig. 16) This is also a thob abū qūṭbeh or thōb shuqqa even though it looks quite different from dress no. 3370. It is made of handloomed silk from Homs in Syria. The cloth has narrow red and yellow stripes. In the twentieth century, names like shuqqa, shaqfeh, qūṭbeh all designate stripes. There is only one sā'id on each sleeve and only one bniqa on each side, rather than the usual three. The sawā'id are orange silk heremsi, the benāyeq, green silk heremsi. The embroidery on these insets and on the qabbeh is typical Bethlehem work. The couching is mainly in orange and purple silk and metallic thread. The slits on either side of the qabbeh are for nursing a baby. Since the breast is a symbol of motherhood (and of fertility) it is the only normally covered part of the body which a woman may expose in public. When a child needs to be fed or pacified, a mother will take it to her breast "unhesitatingly, in any place, at any time, and very often."⁵⁸ However, slits for breastfeeding are relatively rare on festive dresses such as this one. This particular dress was collected in the village of Bethany, two miles east of Jerusalem. It could be from anywhere in the Jerusalem area. Length: 127 cm. Width: 96 cm. (Palestinian Costume and Jewelry, Yedida Kalfon Stillman, 1979 ISBN: 0-82630490-7)

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Dimensions

overall: 1 M 27 CM X 1 M 31 CM