



Thobe Malakeh Abū Warda

Date

ca. 1930

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

linen, silk, metallic thread

Description

Woman's, "Thob". Wedding dress (?) of Bethlehem villages. Black maroon and green striped linen and silk. Pointed sleeves and side panels of maroon . Seeves, side

and shoulder panels in variation of Bethlehem villages "Tree of Life" design. FA. 72.25-19 Thōb Malakeh Abū Warda (ca. 1930) (Plate 6) A much later version of dresses nos. 2027 and 3906, this is a simple village variation of the Bethlehem style. Unlike any of the preceding dresses, there is embroidery on the yoke (khalfiyyeh or toq) as well as on the other insets. Length: 137 cm. Width: 96 cm. The thob malakeh abū warda or "flowered royal fabric." It is similar to the malakeh but has a design of small red flowers in the stripe. Women in Bethlehem proper did not, at first, use this type of cloth. It was originally made for peasants in villages throughout Central and Southwestern Palestine who wanted to imitate the Bethlehem fashion for their bridal costume. These fabrics were woven into standard lengths of five or six yards, which was adequate for one dress. At the end of each piece silver weft threads were woven into the fabric. This part of the cloth is called muqaṣṣab ("brocaded with metallic thread," qaṣab). The metallic thread (used in lamé fabrics) was first imported from Germany, later from France. The brocaded end piece was used for the diyāl, the back hem panel of the Bethlehem dress. Bethlehem dresses were made up of many individual pieces. (Palestinian Costume and Jewelry, Yedida Kalfon Stillman, 1979 ISBN: 0-82630490-7)

Dimensions

overall: 1 M 37 CM X 1 M 43 CM (FROM SLEEVE TIP TO SLEEVE TIP)