

Kazakh traditional clothes for men

The set of men's costume consisted of underwear — zhezde (a shirt — koilek, trousers — dambal), the upper shoulder clothes — beshmet (light and tight undercoat/ under tunic to knees), shekpen (homespun caftan) and wide trousers that filled in boots. Basic elements of this set remained invariable throughout centuries. Social distinctions were shown here only in materials from which sewed a suit set, its decoration and quality.

A shirt, long to knees, with a turn-down or high collar, a shoulder seam, a little sloping shoulder, sewed from a white canvas, with a section on breast. The wedges in the form of triangles serving as a gusset were under sleeves. Trousers “with a wide step” had a rectangle appearance with two long and slightly narrowed from top to bottom trouser-legs, with an insertion wedge in connection.

Usually, on top of a zhezde Kazakhs put on light, tightened on a body and extending from top to bottom over clothes and wide trousers. These clothes could be with the hoses inserted into an armhole and without sleeves. Depending on it, in the first case it was called “beshmet” and in the second “camisole”. Sewed it from thin woolen cloth — mauta, velvet, silk, preferentially blue, brown and dark green color. Beshmet is decorated with the high collar from the same fabric, the edge of a hem and sleeves were sewed with band, slightly below waists there were pro-carved pockets without valves. Wide trousers sewed from the same material, as beshmet with an insertion wedge for convenience during horse riding, the upper edges of trouser-legs turned in order that it was possible to pass the corbel replacing in this case a belt throughout them. They had no fasteners and buttons.

Depending on a season beshmet, a camisole and others — could be warmed.

Over the beshmet Kazakh people used to wear shekpen — a spacious straight cut gown, with long and wide sleeves, made of camel's fur, or caftan — the robe of the same cut of dense material lining.

During the winter men wore a coat made of sheepskin or wolf's fur called — “ton”, hat made of fox's fur called — “tymak” and heavy leather boots — saptama. Sheepskin coat was quite often replaced with a fur coat — kupi (kush), covered with shekpen. S.Rudenko, who in 20s of the 20th century studied Kazakh traditional clothes on the basin of the rivers Uila and Sagyza, considered kupi as property of Kazakhs and their ancestors [1].

Covered fur coats — ishik, sewed from skins of valuable animals were highly appreciated among the feudal nobility. The most elegant fur coats were sheathed at the edges by fur of an otter, marten. The men suits, which include different camisoles, trousers decorated with embroidery made of skins of foals and saigas were widely popular. Felt raincoat — kebenek (kebentay in Semirechie), was one of the ancient Kazakh men's suit, which was sewed preferentially from thin white

felt with pile on the front side. It had size 60x60 cm in size. Received felt was piled by felting rough wool on a semi-ready basis. It was contracted into a pipe, repeatedly poured with hot water and rolled by forearms of hands.

Unfortunately, samples of kebenek did not reach us. About its cut we can only judge by the stories of eyewitnesses. It was wide and long, with cut section behind together with trousers from the same material. It had closed and high collar which replaced hood. Kebenek which was put on clothes safely protected the rider from a wind, rain and snow.

In the south part of the country the suit was light. It is due to a settled and semi-settled lifestyle of the population and climatic conditions. The clothes of zhigit (a young man) was consisted of the short, fitted under tunic with the length slightly lower than hips from wooden fabric, rarely from a velvet of dark cherry and dark blue or brown colors (they are the main tone of a men's suit of the South of Kazakhstan) with direct sleeves and on an undercoat.

The shirt for it was sewed from fine cotton fabric, with a high collar and an oblique fastener on center, trousers from light-beige or gray fabric, without section from below because they refueled in easy boots high-heeled. The suit was surrounded with a belt. On the head they used to wear felt hat trimmed with velvet under which wore a round skullcap. Wide trousers with section below in a set of a national suit belonged to elderly people, who suffered from completeness, hunters who had to constantly move astride, to the national storytellers, singers improvisators who appeared in front of the audience, sitting within many hours in a row. They were worn, without filling in boots, and sections were made for convenience.

Men's suit was not always buttoned with belt and the belt was mandatory element. The most ancient of them was "ksebelbeu" (kise belbeu). Unlike other types of belts, for instance "beldik", it had the leather suspension firmly attached on thongs, so-called "okshanta" in the form of an ancient powder flask, "kyn" — shealth, etc. Belts were decorated with metal plates.

Elder Kazakhs always wore a round skullcap called takiya, even during behind a meal. All other headdresses were worn over it. The simplest decoration of a skullcap was a pattern line on cap-band, and with threads on an apex. Younger people wore embroidered with silk, gold or silver threads takiya. Headdresses did no differ with their variety. Kalpak — a felt hat, borik — a cap with a fur edge, and tymak — a cap with earphones and lower back. The feudal nobility had a high, sewed from velvet and decorated with gold thin thread hat on felt basis — murak, which worn on top of cone-shaped cap with a fur edge.

Men's shoes of elderly Kazakhs consisted of masi (мәсі) — ichig (the type of light shoes) on which were worn kebis (кебіс) — galoshes leather put on. All men without exception wore leather boots — koksair, which externally did not differ from regular ones. Usually they were sewed from shagreen leather of green color which received, pouring millet on the softened skin and squeezing it by gravity. The Kazakh boots of ancient type, had no left or right one, it allowed to wear them longer. The exception was the high-heeled boots inlaid with multi-colored leather.

The most primitive footwear which poor people used, were shokay — leather sandals which were produced from rawhide skin, as well as belts, and also sharyk, which were worn over it when walking on stones taluses.

Literature:

S. Rudenko, Sketches of life of Kazakhs of the rivers Uali and Sagiz/Kazakhs. Materials of Special Committee on research of federal and autonomous republics, Leningrad, Publisher: Academy of Sciences of the USSR, 1927, 3rd ed., p.7-32.

Materials provided by Scientific Advisory Council of Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, article from the book of the Professor A. Kalybekova “National wisdom of Kazakhs about education”, p. 249, Almaty, 2011.