

Maltese Traditional Costumes



Ghonella

The ghonella was a black dress with a hood suspended by 2 wooden sticks held by the wearer herself. It was worn by woman in the 19th and early 20th century. In the past 50 or so years the ghonella was lost in history and no longer worn due to it's heavy construction and cost to make.



Kabozza

The Kabozza was a cape worn by men. It was worn in the winter. It was a thick cape worn to keep warm during harsh winters. Interestingly it was also worn during funerals on the inside of funeral clothing to keep warm.



Maltese Lace

Lace making (bizzilla) was mastered in Malta by the mid-17th century and is still popular today. Adapted from Italian, Genoese lace of being tightly woven, Maltese lace commonly bears the Maltese cross within its designs to distinguish it from others.



Knights Garments

Although history books are a little fuzzy regarding dates, the Knights Hospitaller, the Order of St John, ruled Malta from 1530 to 1798 but, from as far back as 1248, the Pope allowed knights to wear sleeveless surcoats instead of the customary long-sleeved robes.

