Traditional costumes of my region

Gently opening a one hundred years old oak chest, that reawakens with soft creaks, we discover the history and identity of the person to whom it once belonged. From the first sight of its contents we learn of the person's status, lifestyle and typical activities.

Women's Turopolje folk costume is comprised of *rubača* (a skirt), *oplečje* (a shirt with wide sleeves) and *fertun* (an apron). *Rubača* is a type of skirt with ornaments woven or sewn at the back side above the hem. An underskirt is worn underneath *rubača,* while *fertun* is worn over it. *Fertun* (the apron) is decorated with embroidery sewn or woven from colorful threads, silk or white cotton, or densely embroidered in red. The main jewellery is *kraluž* or *đunđ* - a necklace made of red corals, and a string of *škude* and *petokrune* (types of coins) on a metal chain or a black velvet ribbon. Women wear *turopoljska poculica* on their heads. *Poculica* is a small round cap covering only the hair fixed into *fanjek* (a bun). It is trimmed with narrow lace. Older ones are decorated with silk, wool or other thread, while newer have beads, artificial flowers and a tulle trim. Women's footwear is *opanci* (traditional leather shoes), tied or strapped at the front, or *šavronke* (boots).

Men's Turopolje folk costumeis comprised of *rubača* (a shirt), *gaće* (linen pants), *pantalone* (pants), *lajbek* (a vest), *podgutnica* (a short scarf), a belt, *čoha* (a coat), *škrlak* (a hat), *opanci* (traditional leather shoes), boots. *Rubača* is made of homegrown hemp fabric. *Lajbek* is worn over it. *Podgutnica* is tied around the neck. It is a colorful purchased ribbon arranged into four hanging parts with floral and grain ornaments. *Pantalone* are wide hemp pants. *Opanci* and boots are typical footwear. *Črni pusteni škrlak* (a black felt hat) is worn on the head. *Čoha,* a white cloth coat, with a large abundantly ornamented flat laid collar, is usually worn as a cloak, but the sleeves are put on in winter.

Turopolje folk costumes are truly beautiful, and even though they are no more than things put in their place by human hands, their presence still speaks to us. To take a piece of woven cloth, touch it, smell it, is to arouse curiosity about its origin and to oblige yourself to take care of your heritage.

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