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ROMANIAN CRAFTS

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'Gheorghe
Șincai'
Technological
High School

Târgu Mureș,
Romania

POTTERY



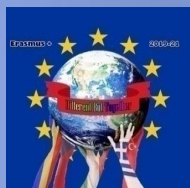
Situated between craft and art, pottery is an occupation through which - since the ancient times - earth, water and fire have caught soul in the hands of the Romanian craftsmen. Pottery appeared as a craft in Romania thousands of years ago.

The Cucuteni (a place in Romania) earthenwares and painted ceramic figures are older than the Egyptian pyramids.



Currently, in Romania, there are three large centers where this craft has been preserved.

1. Horezu - located in the Oltenia area: the specific element of Horezu pottery is the rooster which has ancient ritual meanings, fulfilling a warning function: it protects from the unknown, it ensures the victory of light over darkness.





2. Corund - located in Transylvania: The Corund pottery is specific to the Hungarians living in Romania. This pottery is characterized by stylized floral and zoomorphic designs using different colours, such as: white, red, brown, blue (Cobalt) or multicoloured.





3. Marginea - located in Șuceava County, the Moldova area: the pottery made in this area is black.





WOOD CARVING

For making small objects to houses and churches, wood was the main raw material of the Romanian culture. It was used everywhere in the Romanian household. Craftsmen have made wooden objects as useful as beautiful. These objects have been used in kitchen (spoons, bowls, forks), in agriculture (forks, rakes, ox carts, wheels) and as furniture items (cabinets, beds, dowry boxes).



Specific to our country are the carved wooden gates which can be mostly found in the Maramureș area. The gates are bigger than the houses behind them. The gates have a protective and purifying role: protection for those who live in the house and purification for those who leave and return. The pillars of the gate make the connection between heaven and earth. The sculptures on it have certain meanings, thus: the sun represents life; the tree of life is the symbol of growth; the snake is the guardian of the house; the wolf tooth stands for power.



DECORATING EGGS

When celebrating Easter, eggs are painted mostly in red all over the Christian world. A specific tradition of the Romanian people is the decoration or writing of eggs - it is a custom dating back to ancient times. It is a testimony of Easter customs, of faith representing an element of spiritual culture.



Symbols and meanings of decorations:

- vertical straight line = life;
- horizontal straight line = death;
- double straight line = eternity;
- the line with rectangles = thinking and knowing;
- slightly wavy line = water, purification;
- spiral = time;
- double spiral = the connection between life and death.

Red signifies life, black fertility, yellow brings wealth and blue is the symbol of water.

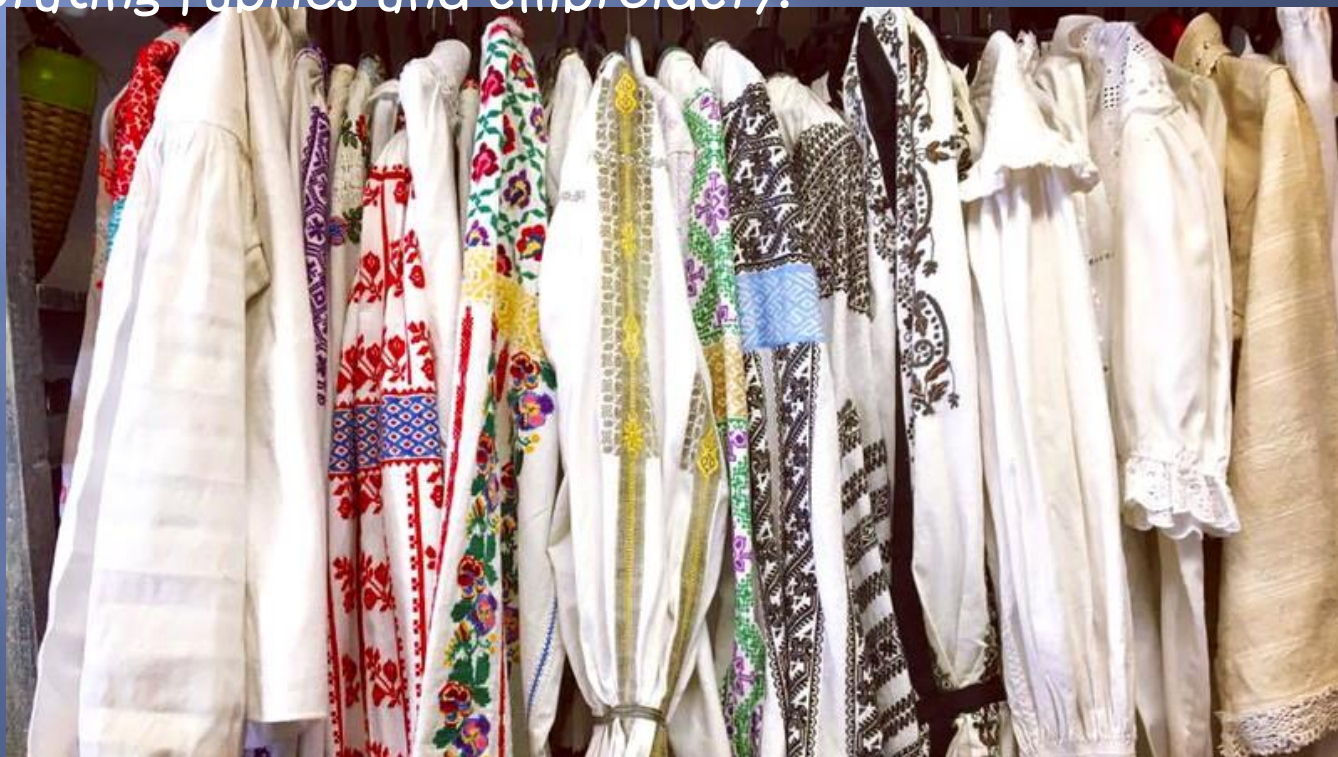
The most beautiful Easter traditions are kept in Bucovina. Specific to Bucovina are the eggs decorated with beads.





THE CRAFT OF SEWING FOLK COSTUME

"IA" is the traditional Romanian blouse, a heritage that celebrates the art of hand sewing and raises it to the rank of art. The making of the traditional Romanian folk costume started from producing the raw materials in the households of the peasants; but it evolved over time - representing today a real mastery both in obtaining and decorating fabrics and embroidery.



The Romanian "IE" stands out for its beauty, especially due to the patterns of ornamental seams and the colours of the threads. One of the most used stitches is the spiral which represents eternity, the passing of time, life and energy. This symbol has been used since the Cucuteni culture. The cross is a frequent stitch and represents man's faith in God. The form of the "IE" itself takes the shape of the cross.

