

BYZANTINE

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History

With the expansion of Roman Empire towards east, there was no luxury that the Romans could not adopt. And then the centre of govt. itself moved east with the establishment of a new capital on the basphorus:-----

Byzantium – it was founded by emperor Constantine in AD 330, also known as Constantinople was the capital of eastern part of roman empire which was divided in 395 AD

The power of the eastern empire increased and that of Rome dwindled and the western empire finally came to an end .

The eastern empire of Byzantium was cut off from the west and become more and more affected by oriental influences.

After the fall of Rome, Byzantium became the centre of civilized world and fashion.

The simplicity of roman dress gave way to the gay coloured fringes, tassels and jewels of the east.

The most striking feature of Byzantine costume

is the rich colour, gold embroidery and jewels developed from that worn in the last phases of Imperial Rome.

The costumes pictured in mosaics have ecclesiastical appearance (and the emperor had considerable religious power and was considered to be christ's representative on earth). The basic garments of early Byzantium were similar to those of the late Roman empire.

COSTUMES OF MEN

- Tunic- The undergarment was a simple tight-fitting tunic with long sleeves and varied in length from knee to ankle.
- Robe- Over this tunic was worn a tunic-robe similar to Dalmatica with loose sleeves. In the 5th and 6th centuries, tunica talaris was still ornamented with square circular or rectangular applications of embroidery, borders at hem, sleeves and neck.
- Paludamentum/cloak was worn over it.
- The undergarment was usually white but the tunic and robe was much decorated.



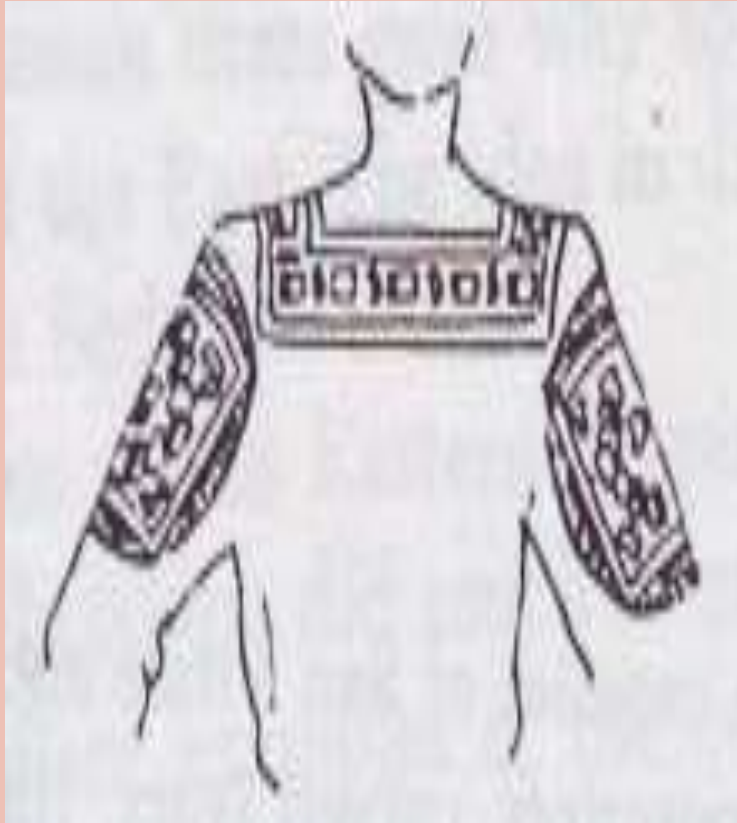
Tunic
Or Dalmatica
with
embroidery at
neck,
Sleeves and
hem

Segmentum- was decoration worn on sleeve of tunic or dalmatica

Undergarment – chemise

The most significant break away from the roman

mode of dress was abandoning of the toga (toga picta) although it was retained as the official dress of consuls in Byzantium until the middle of 6th century AD and only emperor wore it in purple but the tunic robe was much decorated.



SEGMENTUM

EMBROIDERY

WORN ON

SLEEVE OF

TUNIC

OR

DALMATICA



Tunic
embroidered at
hem and sleeves

Paludamentum
fastened at right
shoulder

Jewelled Collar



Knee length Tunic
with embroidery at
Sleeves and hem

Paludamentum/Cloak
Long robe clasped at
right shoulder with a
brooch

The toga was replaced by a cloak.

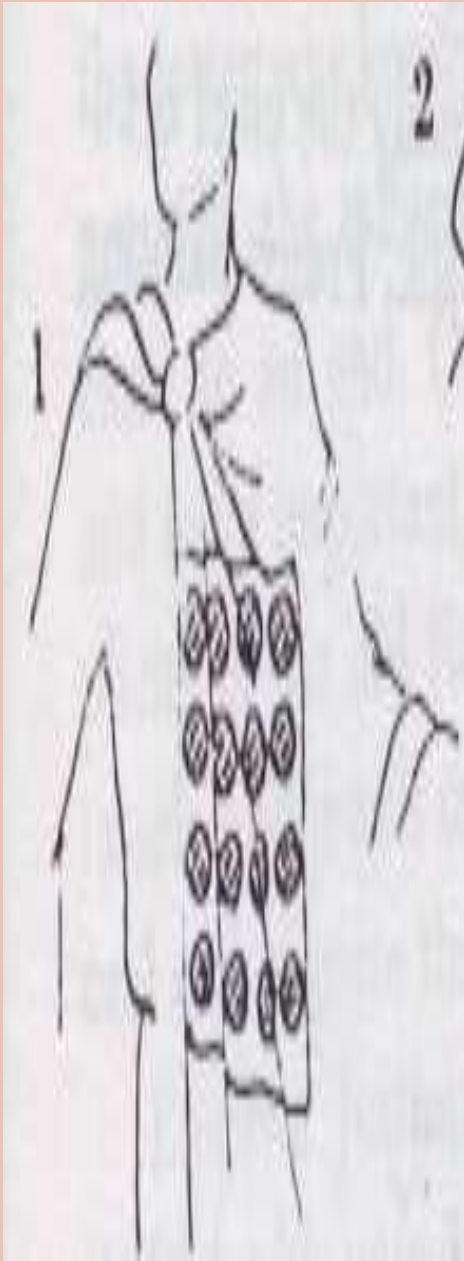
There were three basic styles of cloaks all derived from roman cloaks and were highly decorated.

Paludamentum/cloak-the simplest cloak was a rectangle piece of fabric which was worn round the shoulders and reached the ground. It was fastened at the right shoulder with an elaborate brooch.

An oblong ornamentation of gold, enamel and jewels called the tablion, decorated this mantle about the half way down the straight edge which hung in front and also that at the back. An excellent example is that worn by the Emperor Justinian in the famous mosaic from the church at san vitale, Ravenna

Tablion

An oblong ornamentation of Gold, enamel and jewels.
It decorated the Mantle half way down the straight front edge and also at the back





The Emperor Justinian

The emperor is wearing a white knee-length tunic, girdled round the waist and decorated with the segmentae embroidered in gold.

Paludamentum is lined with silk and is fastened on the right shoulder with a jewel from which three strings of pearls hang.

The tablion has a gold ground and a pattern of small birds in circles.



Paludamentum With Tablion

Tablion-very elaborate oblong decorations embroidered in red and gold on the back and front of the imperial paludamentum. Purple mantle of emperor had gold tablion and white mantle of high official had purple tablion.

Men of lesser rank wore a semi-circular cape of similar dimensions and fastened it at the right shoulder.

The third type of cloak was similar to the roman paenula, a circular cape sewn up at front with an aperture for the head. It was sometimes provided with a detachable hood.

Pallium--The only garment included in Byzantine costume which is derived from toga is the Pallium.

Pallium is not like the roman cloak of the same name but was a simple band of stiff cloth about 8" wide which was wound round the neck and body in a number of different ways. This was the outcome of toga picta which by 6th century had become a long narrow stole. Pallium was richly decorated and worn by Byzantine emperor and later by kings of Western Europe as a part of their ceremonial dress.

Pallium



COSTUME OF WOMEN-

In the beginning (5th and 6th century AD) stola and chiton was worn which was girdled.

The long talaris was worn under it with palla as an outer wrap.

Paludamentum was worn only by the empress.

Towards the end of 11th and in 12th century women still wore a light ,tight sleeved chemise reaching the ankle. over this they wore a tunic gown shorter in length and with shorter sleeves so that a band of undergarment was visible.



Chiton girded at waist



Stola



a tunic gown
shorter in
length and
with shorter
sleeves so
that a band of
undergarment
was visible.

The outer garment could be girdled or not according to the width of the material used. Women are also depicted wearing a veil with a long piece of material from it falling behind or folded forward and draped over the forearm.

HEADDRESS-Byzantine men and women went bare headed except for the emperor who wore a crown and the farmers who wore Petasus-A wide brimmed type of hat.

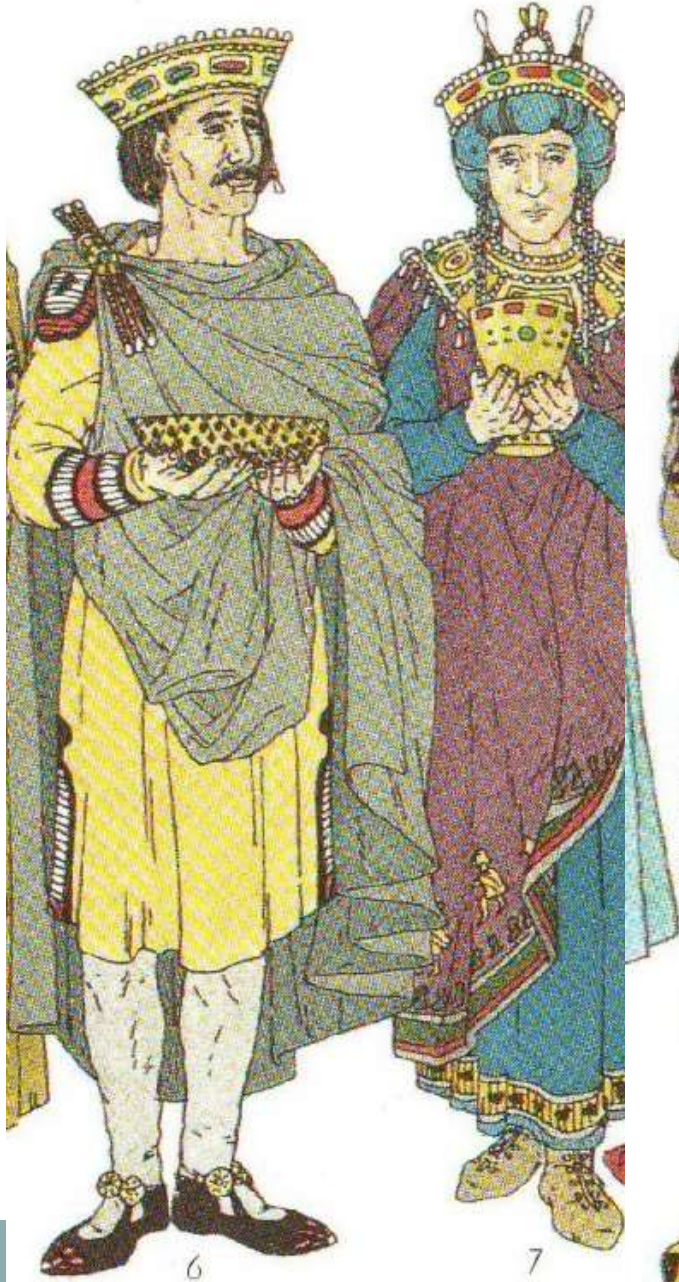
Hood attached to semi circular cloak was used when needed to cover the head. Men's hair was generally cropped or bobbed.

Women- the turban headdress (oriental influence) consisted of a cap fitting the head surrounded by a thick roll of material.

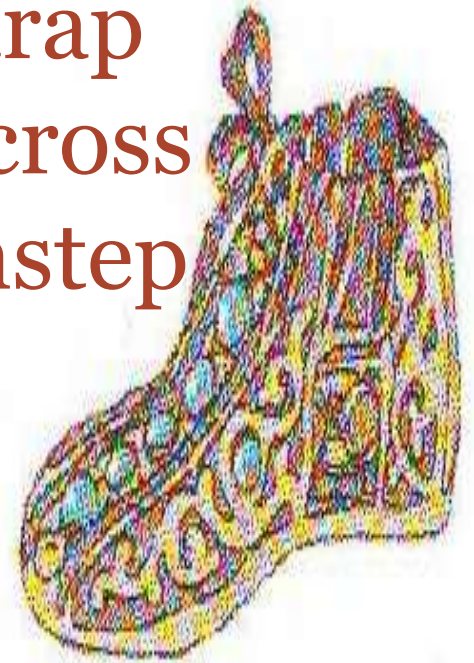
A moderate stephane could be worn (with the rolled back type of hair dressing) also a veil.

Women retained the elaborate hair styles of imperial period sometimes held in place with a turban and sometimes with an ornamented band fastened round it with a veil depending from it.

Footwear- Men's shoes show a distinct eastern influence with calf length boots and shoes richly decorated with gems. Women wore soft shoes with leather soles and a strap across the instep with (jeweled sometimes) fastening on the outside.



Foot Wear
Jeweled
Shoes
Slippers with
strap
across
instep

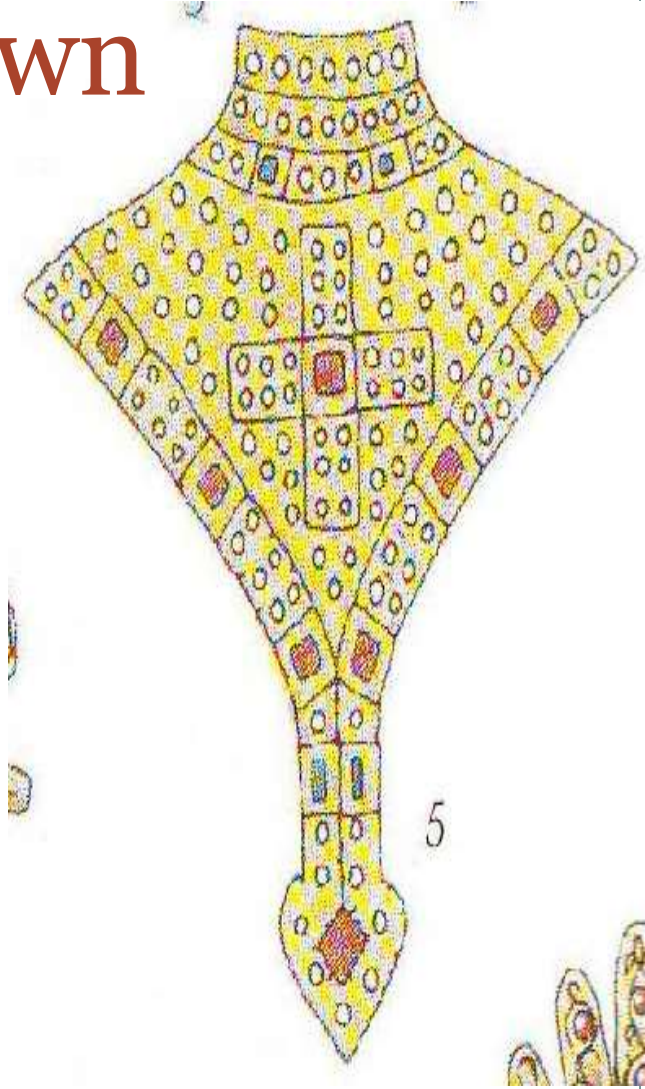


JEWELLERY- The Byzantine love of colour was also apparent in their jewellery. The Ravenna mosaics depict jewels of great magnificence. Gold and precious stones were used but it is cloisonné enameling that distinguished the Byzantine jewelry. The forms used were inherited from Rome but decoration showed the influence of east and west on earrings, brooches, mantle fastenings jeweled ends for belts, pectoral crosses and large jeweled collars were the chief items of jewellery. Rings were often set with the wearer's seal or with cameos or intaglios.

Jewelled Crown

and

Collar



Jewellery

