



2022年中国艺术传播国际高峰论坛
暨中国数媒创艺与元宇宙发展专题研讨会

CHINESE ART COMMUNICATION INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT FORUM

论文集

主办单位：全国高等院校计算机基础教育研究会

中国电子影像行业协会

安徽财经大学

承办单位：安徽财经大学艺术学院

协办单位：中华传统艺术的当代传承研究课题组

2022/10/28-2022/10/30

中国·蚌埠

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ANTROPOLOGY OF ART AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: PHILOSOPHY AND SYMBOLISM OF EMBROIDERY

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Abstract. *The article is devoted to the study of the history of the development of embroideries, as well as to identify the original nature of Ukrainian embroidery. For Ukrainians, embroidered shirts are not just clothes. This is something very special: personal, native, sacred. Embroidery - as a symbol that preserves its roots, identity, self-understanding. This is our history: mythology, religion, the ancient art of our ancestors, the soul of our people. Moreover, our genetic code is encrypted in the embroidery. Embroidered shirts have long been worn by men, women and children. Serfs and lords, burghers and peasants. They wore them on holidays and every day. The status and origin of the owner could be determined by the embroidered shirt. Comprehensive analysis of embroidery is one of the ways of access, approaches to understanding the cognitive space of the Ukrainian people, in which information has been accumulating for centuries.*

Key words: *ornament, embroidery motifs, region, decorative art, patriotism, technology.*

Relevance: *Recently, interest in ethnographic motifs in clothing, interior, and everyday life has been increasing, but there is a lack of knowledge about the meaning of individual symbols on the embroidery. The topic is extremely relevant, because today people decorate with embroidery not only clothes, but also cars, phones, bags, and even do not think that each embroidered ornament has its own*



meaning and, under certain circumstances, its own power. Although the fashion for vyshyvanka covered all spheres of human life, it was primarily a manifestation of patriotism and belonging to the Ukrainian people. Vyshyvanka is a symbol of the Ukrainian people. It is worn not only on Independence Day or other public holidays, but also on many different solemn events: on birthdays, at work. Some have

introduced Vyshyvanka into their everyday life as everyday clothing. More and more often you can meet a couple of brides and grooms in embroidered wedding clothes.



Many Ukrainian ethnographers paid attention to the study of this topic. "Vyshyvanka is the genetic code of the nation" is a saying that is now known to everyone and has become popular. These words belong to Lesya Voroniuk, the founder of the Vyshyvanka holiday. "Vyshyvanka for me is pride for the beauty of my country!" – says Vyacheslav Uzelkov, a Ukrainian boxer, walking out before the fight in an embroidered shirt. "An embroidered shirt for me is a shirt made by my mother's hands!" – Vasyl Virastyuk, Honored Master of Sports of Ukraine, also likes to appear in public in national clothes.

"Vyshyvanka is a document of the Ukrainian people! This is a charm! All the magic, love and history of each region of my beloved country are in the ornaments!" – this is how Ksyusha



Zhdanova-Formanchuk, a theater and film actress, lovingly speaks about the Ukrainian shirt.

"Vyshyvanka for me is a symbol of the beauty and national identity of the Ukrainian people." – Ulyana Smirnova, the world champion in karate, also posed in the photo in an embroidered shirt. [11].



Purpose: to get acquainted with the main philosophical motives of folk ornament, the meaning of color in embroidery, as well as with the symbolism of Ukrainian folk embroidery.

Tasks:

- to investigate the meaning of the symbols of the Ukrainian Vyshyvanka;
- describe the meaning of the most used ornamental symbols and signs;
- find out why for centuries an embroidered shirt was considered the strongest human amulet;
- get acquainted with the history of the development of embroidery, its original character.
- to investigate how embroidery was reflected in the works of Ukrainian writers.

Presenting main material. *Vyshyvanka is a spiritual symbol of the Ukrainian people, the native land, the parental home, the warmth of the mother's hands, it is a kind of spiritual charm. The art of vyshyvanka occupies an honorable place among folk crafts that actively influence the formation of national self-awareness. As it was a hundred years ago, the vyshyvanka becomes what it was for our ancestors - a talisman, a connection with the family. Ancient people knew about the power of wishes no less than we do. Their talismans were shirts, and embroidered patterns were a symbol of a happy future. [10]. Among the variety of Ukrainian decorative arts, artistic embroidery occupies one of the leading places. This is a beloved and long-spread type of folk art. Once upon a time, judging by the number and perfection of embroidered towels, shirts, tablecloths that a girl prepared for her wedding, her industriousness was judged [12].*

The history of the development of Ukrainian vyshyvanka. Vyshyvanka came to us from long ago, from past generations. It is not known for sure where the tradition of embroidery comes from. However, there is evidence that the Scythians still wore embroidered shirts (Herodotus notes this in his travel records). Ornaments on Ukrainian shirts that have been preserved over the past several hundred years vividly testify to their similarity with the symbols of Tripoli culture.

The first vyshyvanka had a more mystical meaning than today. Slavic peoples wore embroidered shirts to protect against evil. In order to navigate life correctly, to be educated people, one needs to know not only one's past, but also the past of one's Motherland, the people. And that's why embroidery can tell us about our roots, about modernity, and look into the future. [3].



Today's popular inscriptions, such as: "for luck, for fate", our ancestors encrypted in the signs of ornaments. So, an embroidered eight-pointed star meant God, the Sun, a wavy line - the infinity of life, grapes - a symbol of well-being. An embroidered towel can be both a blessing and a curse. It so happened in Ukraine that long ago women were very fond of embroidery and used it to decorate their clothes and homes. Traditions were formed that there was no house without an embroidered item, and no girl or woman without embroidered clothes. As soon as people learned to make clothes, there was a desire to decorate them. With the appearance of the first stitch, it became possible to create icons, patterns, and then drawings on fabric. Before the engagement, every girl had to sew a shirt for herself and her husband. Poorer girls sewed at least 10 shirts, and wealthier girls 50-80. In some regions of our country, this tradition has been preserved to this day. Shirts had different purposes: everyday, festive, wedding, harvest, etc. And each shirt is long hours of painstaking work. A magical power has long been attributed to a shirt, and a number of beliefs, customs, and rituals are associated with it. The girls competed among themselves in the skill of

spinning, weaving, and embroidering.



Embroidery is the technique of decorating a textile or other product using different types of stitches with threads, as well as pearls, beads, and precious stones. The art of embroidery has been practiced since ancient times and has never been interrupted. Symbolic elements of modern patterns of Ukrainian embroidery resonate with the ornaments used to decorate the dishes of the Trypilian tribes (the late Neolithic era and the beginning of the Bronze Age). The ancient Scythians decorated their clothes with embroidery. The Arab traveler Ibn-Fadlan (10th century AD) in his story about the Rus notes that they wore embroidered clothes. [7].



"Sample of vyshyvanka in the Kyiv movement"

During the times of Kievan Rus, the art of artistic embroidery reached great prosperity. A school was established in St. Andrew's Monastery in Kyiv, where young girls learned to embroider with gold and silver. Hapting gained considerable popularity in the 16th - 17th centuries. in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Korka and other cities. The embroidery shop was established in 1658 in Lviv.

At the turn of the 18th - 19th centuries. embroidery, including quilting, was actively engaged in landlord and monastery workshops. Among the large number of embroidered products, tablecloths, towels, sheets with artistically refined ornamental compositions stand out.

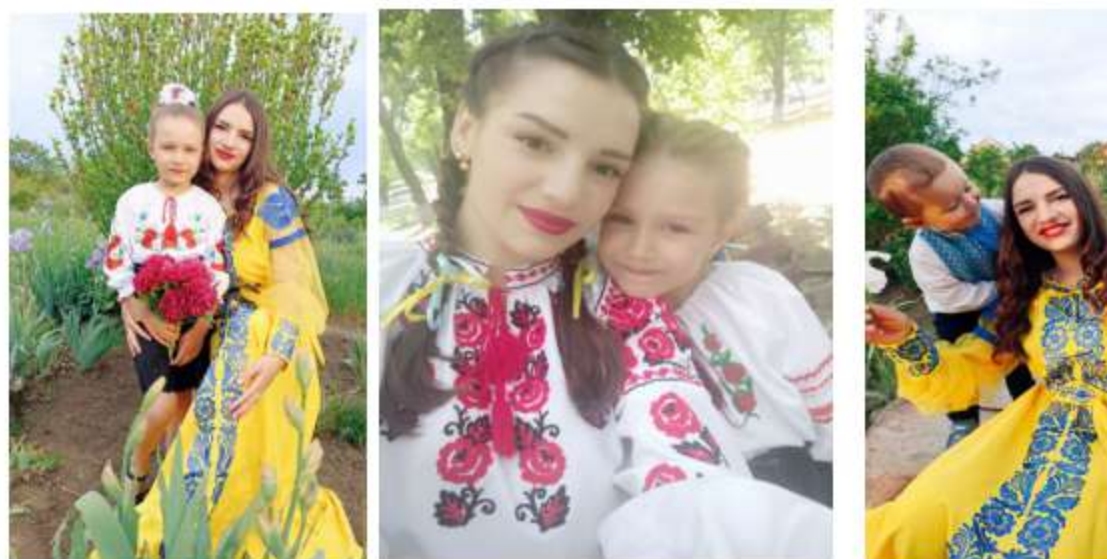
Currently, embroidery is practiced throughout Ukraine. Most of the embroidered products are made at home.

The original character of Ukrainian vyshyvanka. Ukrainian embroidery is one of the types of folk decorative art of Ukrainians; an ornamental or plot image on fabric, leather, made by various manual or machine types of manual labor of Ukrainian women, and in particular, girls.



In each region of the country lived a certain ethnic group, which had its own local patterns and traditions.

Creative communication with other peoples had a certain influence on the technique of artistic embroidery of masters of Kyivan Rus, but it remained original at its core. The people created, found and approved their own original style. Unknown artisans painstakingly developed a variety of established embroidery techniques that, thanks to the persistence of traditions, have reached our days through centuries. Of course, over time, the skill of embroidery improved. People's experience has preserved the most typical, most expedient, high artistic taste ornament samples, their colorfulness, embroidery techniques [1].



Revival of Ukrainian national embroidery. Ukrainian embroidery is a self-expression of the Ukrainian people, it is a reflection of values, traditions, culture and history. And in addition, vyshyvanka is now a fashionable trend all over the world. At the time of the revival of spirituality, the return to the folk roots, we are gradually heading towards the knowledge of ourselves, the history of our people. We turn to face the nation, traditions, because we know that "without roots, nothing will grow." Vyshyvanka is used in Ukrainian folk life primarily on items of clothing, mainly on women's and men's shirts. In addition, embroidery is common on household items such as pillowcases, towels, etc. In ancient times, Ukrainians expressed themselves thanks to patterns embroidered on men's or women's shirts. Casual and festive shirts were worn. Vyshyvanka came to life among Ukrainians with a new wave. It was mentioned by Herodotus and many travelers. Over

the centuries, people have created and perfected various embroidery techniques. Each ornament on the shirt was not just like that, but had a special place, meaning and magic, as Ukrainians believed that this or that pattern carries a certain protective power against misfortune and evil spirits [8].



The main motifs of Ukrainian embroidery. In ancient times, the main motifs of embroidery reflected elements of the symbolism of various ancient cults. Over many centuries, the immediate concrete meaning of the symbols on embroidery has been lost, but the traditions of their use have not disappeared. According to the motifs, embroidery ornaments are divided into three groups: geometric (abstract), plant, zoomorphic (animal).

1. Geometric ornament is the most common ornament of Ukrainian embroidery, common to all East Slavic peoples. The main elements of this ornament are rhombuses with "Zakaryuks" These rhombuses, according to ancient Slavic belief, embodied the goddess of the earth and served as a good protective symbol that brings happiness and protects fertility. It is the personification of fertility that explains the wide distribution of amulet ornaments in ceremonial clothes. On women's clothing, embroidery was located on headdresses, chests and shoulder pads, and on men's - on shoulder pads, as well as on the sleeves and hem of the embroidered shirt.



2. Plant ornament. At the heart of the floral ornament is the desire to bring the beauty of nature into the embroidery. Such motifs as "grapes", "hops", "oak leaves", "periwinkle" and others are often used in Ukrainian embroidery. Some of them bear the imprint of ancient symbolic ideas of the people. So, the motif "periwinkle" is a symbol of unfading life, the pattern "apple circle", divided into four sectors, with embroidery of opposite parts in the same color, is a symbol of love. In modern embroidery, the ancient symbol "tree of life" is also found, depicted mainly in a stylized form of leaves and branches [9].



Our ancestors were much closer to nature than we are now. Therefore, on their clothes they depicted the beauty they saw around them: grapes, hops, periwinkle, poppies, viburnum bunches,

oak leaves, etc., although at first glance they are not always easy to recognize. People believed that the plants on the embroideries would be talismans and sources of energy for them: the periwinkle was a symbol of undying life, the apple circle brought love.



3. Zoomorphic ornament. Zoomorphic (animal) ornaments were depicted in embroideries: horse, hare, fish, frogs; from birds - rooster, owl, pigeon, cuckoo; from insects - fly, butterfly, spider, flying beetles. In many cases, zoomorphic ornaments are peculiar, peculiar to this embroiderer, images that reflect her individual vision of the pattern. In such ornaments, hare and wolf teeth, bull's eye, carp scales, ram's horns, etc. appear in various, often whimsical weaves (however, preserving the traditional requirements for the composition). Zoomorphic embroideries depict totemic and solar animals, as well as animals that mark the three tiers of the "tree of life." Sometimes embroiderers use individual motifs that are characteristic of a certain person's vision of the pattern.



Comparative characteristics of embroidery of the regions of Ukraine. Each region of Ukraine can boast of its own unique embroidery. They differ in style, color, embroidery method, ornament and patterns.



Vinnitsia region. In Vinnychyna, they did not limit themselves to the color scheme. But on every shirt you can find a color that leads - prevailing in the patterns. Almost all performance techniques and styles of displaying elements were expertly combined here: bottom, cross, painting embroidery, laying, carving; various types of nets. Individual ornaments of the composition were framed and connected with contour seams.

Volyn region. The shirts have clear, geometric patterns, and the simplicity of the composition adds sophistication to the embroidered items. The white and gray cloth is embroidered with a red thread. Plant motifs are preferred in the south of the region.

Dnipropetrovsk region. The cuffs of the shirt sleeves and the neckline were embroidered with colored threads and black pleat. The men's embroidered shirt was dominated by red and black colors.

Donetsk region. The combination of red and black was also loved here. The embroidery was decorated with netting and carving.

Zhytomyr region. A small cross and "understatement" - this is how they embroider in Zhytomyr Oblast. Red with black or blue completely cover the sleeve of the shirt. The most common motif is a rosette and a rhythmic repetition of a simple pattern - broken lines, octagonal stars, rhombuses and others.

Transcarpathian region. Here, the people did not limit themselves in the choice of colors, but the most common colors were still red and black. And they embroidered a zigzag shape like this called "doodles", or curves. The shirt of this region can be found both embroidered only with white threads and multi-colored.

Zaporizhzhia region. The shirt was made in red and black tones, with a dominant red. The patterns were simple — large and geometric. Usually, embroideries were decorated with plant motifs — flowers, viburnum, and others.

Ivano-Frankivsk region. The embroidery of this region is considered the richest in decoration and execution. Different colors are used, as well as ornaments.

Kyiv region. In the Kyiv region, geometric patterns of plants were embroidered in white, coral-red, or black colors. Preference was given to white with splashes of green and red. Hops, stylized bunches of grapes, rhombuses, etc. were flaunted on the embroideries. For a certain period, blue twisted cotton threads "zapolochi" were also used for embroidery. However, over time they were replaced by black ones, as the blue ones faded quickly.

Kirovohrad region. The embroidery of the Kirovohrad region has very realistic ornaments: if a bunch of grapes was embroidered, there was even the shine of grapes and thin tendrils. Red and black colors were loved here as well.

Luhansk region. The shirt, mostly of the Poltava type, was decorated on the lower edge with a braided "net". The originality of the embroidery is laid in multi-colored ornaments made with a small cross and half-cross, sometimes with a coarse thread. Geometric and plant-geometric patterns dominate. Here they boldly combined red with blue.

Lviv region. In this region, they like to combine several different patterns at once. Geometric ornaments are spilled on the white canvas, which create a casual, light look of the clothes. In order for the embroidered elements to stand out and become voluminous, a blank canvas is left between the patterns.

Mykolayiv region. Shirts of different cuts had a variety of necks — with a narrow or wide stand-up collar, with the end of the stand with a gathered slyarochka, with a laid-out collar, and

others. The peculiarity of embroidered dresses was given by a square cutout around the neck and sleeves, which were sewn straight with a free end, without assemblies in the wrist. Colors are red, black, and sometimes gray, gray-blue.

Odesa region. Traditional Odessa shirts with puffs were sewn from white cotton fabric. The standing wide collar was densely gathered into small "wrinkles", which were edged with a thin scar. The upper edge of the sleeves was gathered, and the lower one was embroidered with a geometric plant pattern in the cross stitch technique. The main colors were mainly red, black, blue and yellow. The edges of the sleeves were finished with a narrow strip.

Poltava region. A traditional embroidered shirt in the Poltava region was usually embroidered with white threads using the smooth technique. Very rarely embroidered with gray or red threads. Patterns were lined with black or colored stripes.

Rivne region. The white thread of the pattern was also the main one on the white linen cloth. The shirt had almost no various additions and colored decorations.

Sumy region. Sumyshchyna, a neighbor of Poltava region, echoed a lot - here, too, they embroidered with white threads, finishing the edges of the ornaments with black.

Ternopil region. An expressive relief pattern - such were the embroidery in the Ternopil region. Ornaments were embroidered with cotton threads with thickened stitches. Certain patterns were traced with colored cotton threads along the entire sleeve of the shirt. Vyshyvanka from the city of Borschiv are especially famous. They are distinguished by densely embroidered sleeves, which are usually embroidered in black. Here he is associated with the black pages of the region's history - he was often attacked by Turks and Tatars.

Kharkiv region. The multi-colored shirt of these regions was embroidered with a thick thread, thanks to which the ornament acquires relief. A feature of embroidery is polychrome patterns made with a half-cross or a cross. There is no need to look for a specific range of colors or a pattern unique to this region.

Kherson region. The shirts were lavishly embroidered with floral ornaments in red and black tones.

Khmelnyskyi region. In the Khmelnytskyi region, shirts were embroidered with coarse thread in the cross-stitch technique. The dominant color was black, and it was rarely combined with splashes of red or cherry.

Cherkasy region. Geometric and plant motifs on the embroidery were made with red thread.

Chernivtsi region. The embroidered jacket has richly embroidered sleeves with characteristic diagonal stripes. They also used the technique of smooth, small cross and twisted seam. Ornaments were applied mainly with black and burgundy threads, which stood out well against the background of colorful clothes. Some embroidered with silk threads. Beads, silver and gold threads, silk, wool and sequins were used for decoration. Specially flowered shirts were also embroidered here.

Chernihiv region. In the region, people liked to "play" with a nice shirt, so they embroidered it with very small stitches, which gave the embroidered item an extraordinary look. The pattern was made with white threads with colored elements, the ornament had a vegetal or abstract appearance. Embroidered with beads is also traditional here [4,5,6].



Conclusions. And nowadays, embroidery has not lost its relevance. The same wedding ceremonies do not take place without embroidered towels. Embroidered pictures, enclosed in a frame, can be a highlight in a modern home interior. A blouse or shirt embroidered with silk or beads will become not only a stylish wardrobe item, but also a great gift for any holiday, because ethnic motifs are always in fashion. Secrets of Ukrainian embroidery are passed down from generation to generation: from grandmother to daughter, from daughter to granddaughter. Each region has its own style and embroidery technique. Almost every region has its own embroidery colors. By the color of the threads, we can find out where this or that embroidery, shirt or napkin was embroidered. Ukrainian folk art has gained wide recognition in our country and abroad. Its eternal images, convenient forms and dynamic motifs of the ornament contain symbols of the mysterious, magical nature, the complex interweaving of our history, the peculiarities of everyday life, the kindness and generosity of the soul of the Ukrainian people.



Vyshyvanka became not just a piece of clothing or a work of art. Ukrainian embroidery is a kind of family amulet, a symbol that has passed through generations, unites the family and is honored as a shrine. Having such beauty, we receive the energy of our ancestors, are proud of the past and proudly look to the future.



"To be born in a shirt" means to be happy in life, to wear a shirt means to be protected by forty energies from all evil. In the mysterious language of embroidery, the Ukrainian needlewoman conveys many wishes for a person's family well-being and a good life.



Today, Ukraine has clothed the whole world in vyshyvanka. World designers dedicate their shows to them, everyone wears them: from children, artists to politicians on weekdays and on holidays. It is vyshyvanka that makes Ukrainians so invincible, indomitable in spirit and helps them to persevere in the most difficult times of Ukrainian history.

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