

# Research on the Bohemian Style Clothing

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**Abstract**—Bohemian style is one of the classic styles in fashion design. The bohemian style does not simply refer to the national costumes of the Bohemian locals, but is also a product of a modern multiculturalism that incorporates a multi-ethnic style. The origin, formation and characteristics of bohemian style clothing determine Bohemian's style connotation of promoting freedom, maverick, personal independence of conduct, emphasizing self and presenting individuality, which caters to the aesthetic needs of modern people. This kind of psychological need has become popular as a kind of emotion that people in the city are eager to pursue, and for the bohemian style itself, it will always prevail as a kind of spirit and a way of life.

**Keywords**—bohemian style; origin; formation; characteristics; popular

## I. INTRODUCTION

The style of clothing design can be understood as the overall characteristics of the clothing conveyed in the clothing design work and the representative artistic characteristics presented. This artistic feature can be derived from the development of history and national costume culture, and has a strong artistic appeal, giving people a visual impact and a spiritual resonance. The fashion design style refers to the value orientation, intrinsic character and artistic characteristics of the clothing of an era, a nation, a genre or a person in the appearance and content, which also reflects the distinctive characteristics of the times. Bohemian style clothing has accumulated historical and cultural cognition. As a popular style and fashion trend, it has been popular in the fashion world and served an inexhaustible source of design inspiration for designers, which can be called one of the classic styles in fashion design.

## II. THE ORIGIN OF BOHEMIAN STYLE

Bohemian is a place in the central and western Czech Republic, which was originally part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is a multi-ethnic tribe, a gathering place for the Gypsies all over the world. There are many controversies about the origins of the Gypsies, and it is widely accepted that the Gypsies originated in the northern part of ancient India (now the Indus estuary in central and southern Pakistan). Some people left India about 1000 years ago. They rode or walked in a caravan or walked, lived a wandering life away from home, and engaged in occupations such as divination, animal husbandry, and art, belonging to

the wandering nation scattered around the world. Because most of the Gypsies who wander in the world gathered in Bohemia, there is such a vague definition: Bohemians are the Gypsies, namely the Tziganes, who like unfettered life, so they wander to every corner of the world, and have left their footprints and traces from Russia to India to Morocco in North Africa, more often in Europe. The Gypsies who arrived in Europe were not welcomed and had been subjected to radical nationalist discrimination and persecution. In order to avoid persecution, the Gypsies began to seek protection from the nobility and the ruling class, and some of the Gypsies living in the Czech Republic received protection letters and privileges granted by the nobility. When the Gypsies with the protection letter arrived in France, the French called these Gypsies "Bohemians." Since then, in the eyes of most French people, the Bohemians are wandering, free, and unrestrained Gypsies.

The Gypsy is a wandering nation in nature who likes wandering all year round. They have formed their own unique way of life in the process of wandering around the country, and strictly guarded the inner nature of the wandering and the longing for romance. In the process of wandering, they wrote about the historical development process of generations of Gypsies. Many of them were ridiculed, despised, and reviled, and lived a life that only the nation can understand. This special living way of nation has created the musical talent of the Gypsies. They are good at singing and dancing performances and their performances are extemporaneous. When the music rings, they dance to express their emotions. Everyone uses their music to express their emotions and express their spirit, which is a national integrity that belongs to the Gypsy people. The Gypsies are free and easy, enthusiastic, independent, and optimistic and this innate national character directly affects their style of dress.

## III. THE FORMATION OF BOHEMIAN STYLE

More than 1,000 years ago, after the Gypsies were defeated by the Muslim countries, the nomadic style of clothing formed by the migration from northern India to Bohemian Europe was called Bohemian style. The formation of bohemian style is a process of constant adaptation and running-in.

Gypsies like pure colorful clothing such as red, blue, yellow, and green, and they are good at mixing these bright colors together, which not only give people a strong visual

impact, but also have artistic beauty, reflecting the wisdom of the Gypsies. The desire for beauty, the advocacy of freedom, and the pursuit of individuality of Gypsies gradually make their costumes develop to an artistic design style pursued by designers. Drape, tassels, sequins, exaggerated decorations, and strong color contrasts naturally create a free, unruly and rebellious style of clothing, which reflects not only the Gypsies' perception of beauty, but also their psychological state that arises during the long-term wandering process.

A erratic nation that likes wandering around without fighting power has to constantly adjust the relationship with the local people and minimize conflicts or eliminate conflicts in order to get along well with the locals and live in harmony, which is a cultural adjustment process. In terms of clothing, it is constantly absorbing everything. When the Gypsies wandered into a new place, they would be exposed to the locals' clothing styles and buy local people's clothing to solve problems such as keeping warm. In the process of staying in the local area, they will continue to accept, criticize, integrate and choose the styles of the local costumes according to their own traditional costumes. The Gypsies collected the local characteristics of the various regions they passed through during the wandering process, so when they reached Central Europe, their costumes were already a fusion of various ethnic styles. The pleated skirt should be a local Slavic character, but East Slavic and later Russia also use similar costumes; tassels and pendants may come from Persia in the Middle East and Morocco in North Africa; various shiny fragments and jewelry are probably brought from India. The bohemian style is complex. They will never pursue good quality clothing, so they are only constantly removing and supplementing the clothing, thus forming a complex style of clothing. They can't keep the costumes bright and beautiful all the time, because the colorful costumes will become old and gray in the process of continuous wandering, but they will try to restore the worn out clothes as beautiful as possible.

After continuous integration, a new style of clothing belonging to the Gypsies with various national costume elements was formed. This is a bohemian style. Jewelry is constantly developing, updating and perfecting in this process of integration. In order to escape the war and the famine, the Gypsies left their homeland and wandered around. The lifestyle of Gypsies created bohemian style. The bohemian style costume is gorgeous and complex. It always manifest its own personal independence of conduct, shows the romantic, enthusiastic, and unrestrained style, and become the name of freedom, ease, passion and enthusiasm. The bohemian style represents a maverick lifestyle that represents the development process of a nation.

#### IV. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BOHEMIAN STYLE CLOTHING

Bohemian style clothing does not simply refer to the costumes of the Bohemian locals, but a style of clothing that retains some nomadic characteristics. It is a modern multicultural product combining multiple ethnic styles in many regions. It is both a kind of national style and a

blending form of various national styles. Russian pleated wavy dress, Moroccan leather tassels, pendants and beads, Indian beaded, colored stones and sequins, bright hand-decorated and rugged fabrics, laminated lace, batik print, cutout design, handmade string knots, embroidery and beaded strings, irregular patterns, and other styles of fabrics are all classic elements of bohemian style, with Gothic complexity in tailor. It pays attention to the design of neckline and waist. It does not stick to the consistency of the treatment of details, and emphasize more on the uniformity of the overall style of clothing.

- The overall shape of the garment emphasizes comfort and looseness. The upper wear is dominated by horizontal neck, V-neck and U-neck. The bottom is represented by A-shaped dress. The dress is knee-length or over the knee, with wide skirt hem many layers of drape and transversal.
- The fabrics are mainly natural fabrics such as cotton, wool, hemp, leather and fur, and some even use fabrics containing Lycra, chemical fiber and metallic materials.
- The color of the clothing is relatively simple, bright and light. White, red, green, gold, brown, and blue are all representative colors and common colors, emphasizing the contrast of colors.
- Clothing patterns mainly use ethnic patterns, pay attention to exaggerating the pattern, and emphasize the color and decorative effect of the pattern; such as randomly arranged pattern, wide stripes in the horizontal direction of a variety of colors.
- The detail decoration is mainly local decoration, concentrated in the neckline, cuffs, parts of the front piece, waist line or skirt, using large number of design elements embroidery, beads, sequins, tassels, lace or burrs (draw the weft or warp), etc. to decorated.
- They often wear a large number of accessories in the neck, wrist, fingers, ears, ankles, waist, etc., and even wear several bracelets, necklaces or rings at the same time. The jewelry materials are mainly made of metal and colored stones. The shapes are mostly exaggerated and the specifications are relatively large, with strong national style is strong. The bag and belt are also inlaid with a lot of decorations.

#### V. THE REASONS FOR THE PREVALENCE OF BOHEMIAN STYLE

The bohemian style of the clothing presents a diversity of features, making it easier to meet the different preferences and aesthetic needs of various consumers and be in line with the psychological needs of modern people. This psychological need will more or less reflect the connotation of style of Bohemianism pursuing freedom, independent mind, vagrancy, wildness, self-esteem, enthusiasm, and presenting individuality. Bohemian style clothing is precisely the embodiment of this psychological need. Today's

Bohemian is no longer simply a popular style. It represents a way of life, a kind of emotion pursued by people who are busy in the city. As a kind of spiritual life, a cultural way, and an emotional catharsis, bohemian style has always been respected by people, and it will prevail as a popular trend and popular style.

The connotation of bohemian style is the pursuit of excellence in the details of the clothing. The wild and free wandering color is the main body of color, paying attention to the rendering of details. The details such as drape, tassels, beads, exaggerated decoration and strong color contrast naturally creates a free, unrestrained and romantic style of clothing, which not only reflects the Gypsies' perception of beauty, but also reflects the psychological state they have produced during the long-term vagrancy. The desire for beauty, the advocacy of freedom, and the pursuit of individuality of Gypsies gradually make their costumes develop to an artistic design style pursued by designers in fashion field and become the coordinates of multiculturalism in international apparel design. It is widely used in design and is enduring.

The bohemian style has been used very early in international fashion design and is the main style of international fashion. It has become an indispensable term in the fashion world. Advocating freedom and romance is the most impressive impression it leaves on people. Bohemian style clothing has become a popular fashion style and a popular style when national costumes prevail. In today's fashion industry and even the entire fashion world, a new wave of bohemian styles has been set up. In addition to retaining the exotic atmosphere of the past, a lot of fashion elements are added, and many complicated decorations are deleted, retaining the unique romantic spirit of Bohemia. Whether it is upper wear, dress or lazy casual trousers, or designs elements with exotic folk styles including totems, embroidery, sequins, beads, tassels and multi-layered piles, they all reveal strong features romantically, and show a wandering bohemian trend.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Today, the great integration of the world nation makes the bohemian style more diversified. The inclusive and anti-traditional nature of the bohemian style makes it possible to continue to combine many new elements in diversity of expressions and performance materials, constant change and update, integrate the essence of the world's national culture, and complete the evolution of bohemian style.

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