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# MANCHU COSTUME DESIGN CULTURE SPIRIT

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### ABSTRACT

As One Of The 56 Ethnic Groups In China, Manchu Has A Long History And Rich Cultural Traditions. Manchu Clothing, As An Important Part Of Its Culture, Carries Rich Spiritual Connotation. From The Aspects Of History, Costume Elements And Social Significance, This Paper Probes Deeply Into The Spiritual Connotation Of Manchu Costume Culture, Aiming To Show Its Unique Cultural Value And Significance Of The Times. As One Of The Minority Nationalities In China, Manchu Has A Long History And Unique Cultural Heritage. As A Part Of Manchu Culture, Manchu Clothing Plays An Important Role In The Long History, Reflecting The Manchu People's Life Style, Aesthetic Concepts And Values. This Chapter Will Introduce The Research Background, Purpose And Significance, As Well As The Structural Framework Of The Paper.

Keywords: Manchu, costume, costume design, Manchu spirit.

### Introduction

### Historical evolution of Manchu clothing

This chapter will review the historical evolution of Manchu costumes. The historical evolution of Manchu clothing is a wonderful and changeable process, which profoundly reflects the Manchu people's lifestyle, social status and cultural inheritance. From the early nomadic life to the establishment of the Qing Dynasty, Manchu dress has undergone many stages of change and development, and gradually formed a unique style. Cultural change is eternal, according to Teacher Araten: "There is no nation that does not change, and there is no culture that does not change." Cultural change is the theme of all cultures: gradual and slow change may be imperceptible to those living in today's society, but human society is in constant change." [1]

# The original costume of the nomadic period

In the early history of the Manchu people, due to the characteristics of nomadic life, the Manchu people mainly relied on fur and other natural materials to make clothing. Their clothing focused on practicality, using capes and fur robes made of animal fur to protect themselves from the harsh weather. These primitive costumes, though simple, reflect the Manchu people's adaptation to the environment and creativity. Mohe was later a Jurchen nationality, while the Jin Dynasty was founded by the Manchu Jurchen nationality. In the early Jin Dynasty, due to the low level of social productivity and poor level of social and economic development, the Jurchen people generally wore simple clothes. Under the control of the ruler, the Jurchen people moved southward and lived together with the Han people, forcing other ethnic groups to wear Jurchen clothes, cut off their hair, wear a short scarf and wear a left skirt. After entering Yandi, the Nuzhen people began to imitate the Liao Dynasty and pay attention to the dress etiquette system. Referring to the simple



style of the Song Dynasty dress system, the basic styles of the Jin government were narrow sleeves, disk collar, sewn armpits, etc. <sup>[2]</sup>

# Influence of court dress in Qing Dynasty

With the establishment of the Qing Dynasty, the court dress began to have a profound influence on the Manchu dress style. The court dress of the Qing Dynasty focused on etiquette and solemnity, combining Manchu dress elements with Han dress traditions. The nobility of the Manchu began to wear magnificent clothing such as robes and python clothes, reflecting their social status and power. This influence of the court also made the Manchu costumes gradually show the characteristics of magnificence and complexity.

## Unique interpretation of folk customs

As a folk art, embroidery embodies the national culture and spiritual world of Manchu people. In Manchu culture, the Manchu embroidery pattern is also one of the most representative characteristics of the folk traditional art culture, it is practical, even in clothing and daily necessities is everywhere. It not only adopts the advantages of Han embroidery such as Shu embroidery, Su embroidery and Canton embroidery, but also closely combines it with the living habits and aesthetic concepts of the nation, thus forming its own charm and characteristics. <sup>[3]</sup>

In the Qing Dynasty, although the court dress had a great influence on the Manchu people, the folk dress still retained its unique customs. Especially in rural areas, the Manchu people still retain their traditional dress habits, such as robes, jackets, etc., while integrating more folk elements in patterns and colors. These folk costumes are not only practical, but also reflect the aesthetic concept and cultural inheritance of the Manchu people.

### Revival and innovation in the modern era

With the advancement of modernization, Manchu clothing has experienced a series of revivals and innovations. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Manchu people began to gradually abandon their traditional costumes and wear modern Western-style clothes. However, with the new understanding and emphasis on traditional culture, Manchu clothing has gradually ushered in a wave of revival. People begin to pick up traditional clothing elements, combine them with modern design, and create a new type of clothing with both traditional and fashionable characteristics.

In general, the historical evolution of Manchu clothing is a process of constant change and development. From early primitive costumes to the influence of the Qing court, to modern revival and innovation, Manchu costumes have played an important role in history. This evolution process not only reflects the diversity and inclusiveness of Manchu culture, but also shows that Manchu people cherish and inherit traditional culture. By combing and studying the historical documents, we can better understand the development track of Manchu clothing and reveal the cultural context and spiritual connotation behind it.

### **METHODS**

When studying the cultural spirit of Manchu clothing design, appropriate methods must be adopted to ensure the comprehensiveness, accuracy, and reliability of the research. This article includes a literature review method, which aims to understand the history, development, and characteristics of the cultural spirit of Manchu clothing design by consulting relevant books, journal articles, and research reports. This method can provide a theoretical basis and research background, providing guidance for subsequent research. We also used the research method of



survey questionnaires to design and distribute questionnaires to understand the cognition, attitudes, and preferences of different populations towards the cultural spirit of Manchu clothing design. By collecting and analyzing questionnaire data, the influence and popularity of the cultural spirit of Manchu clothing design in contemporary society can be revealed.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## **Elements and Significance of Manchu Costumes**

This chapter will analyze the elements and significance of Manchu costumes in depth. Various elements of Manchu clothing, such as clothing styles, patterns, colors, etc., contain rich cultural connotations. In addition, Manchu clothing also carries multiple meanings such as ethnic identity, social status and religious belief. Through the interpretation of various elements, explore the value and role of Manchu clothing in cultural inheritance. As an important part of culture, Manchu costume contains rich elements and profound meaning. From the style, pattern, color to the way of wearing, every detail carries the Manchu people's aesthetic concept, historical memory and value concept.

### Patterns and ornamentation

The pattern and decoration of Manchu clothing is one of its unique features, reflecting the Manchu people's perception of nature and life. Common patterns, such as "gourd pattern" and "flower pattern", mostly express luck, prosperity and happiness in abstract and symbolic forms. These patterns are not only decorative, but also cultural inheritance, integrating the emotions and beliefs of the Manchu people. The creation principle of auspicious patterns requires that auspicious intentions can be seen and expressed, and auspicious culture has been widely used because of auspicious patterns. [4]

## Symbolism of color

The color choice of Manchu clothing also has deep symbolic significance. Red is often used for wedding occasions, representing joy and happiness; Yellow symbolizes wealth and official luck; Blue represents peace and quiet. The use of different colors in Manchu clothing not only beautifies the appearance, but also conveys people's good wishes and emotions for life.

## Fashion style and social status

The style and form of Manchu clothing often reflect social status and identity. The aristocracy often wears splendid clothes and jade belts, highlighting its noble status; Ordinary people pay more attention to practicality, choosing robes, skirts and so on. These different clothing styles not only represent the difference in social status, but also reflect the level and structure of Manchu society.

### Cultural identity and ethnic characteristics

As the symbol of Manchu culture, Manchu clothing carries the cultural identity and ethnic characteristics of Manchu people. Wearing traditional Manchu clothing is not only an external decoration, but also a pride and recognition of their cultural identity. The selection and inheritance of this kind of clothing strengthened the ethnic cohesion of the Manchu people and promoted the inheritance and development of culture.

### Manifestation of religion and belief



Manchu clothing also often reflects religious beliefs and spiritual expressions. The patterns and decorations on some garments may represent mythological stories or religious symbols, carrying the faith and reverence of the Manchu people. These religious elements give Manchu clothing a deeper meaning, connecting people with the mysterious world.

#### **Inheritance of traditional culture**

The elements and significance of Manchu costumes reflect the deep heritage of Manchu traditional culture. By inheriting these elements, the Manchu people not only continued their own historical memory, but also passed on their cultural wisdom and emotions to future generations. This heritage is not only a tribute to the past, but also a promise for the future.

In short, the elements and meanings of Manchu clothing are multi-dimensional, and they convey rich cultural information from patterns, colors, styles and other aspects. These elements not only reflect the aesthetic concept, but also the social status, cultural identity, religious belief and the inheritance of traditional culture. Through the in-depth analysis of Manchu costume elements, we can better understand the rich connotation and diverse features of Manchu culture.

## Manchu costumes and social changes

As an important form of cultural expression, Manchu clothing is closely related to social changes, and its evolution is not only affected by internal cultural inheritance, but also affected by external environment. This chapter will deeply analyze the relationship between Manchu dress and social change, explore the evolution of Manchu dress in different historical periods, as well as its role and influence in social change.

## Change of times and change of dress style

In different historical periods, the political, economic and cultural environment of society will change, which will affect the style and form of clothing. For example, after the Manchu established the Qing Dynasty, court dress had an important influence on Manchu dress, making it more focused on etiquette and gravitas. With the gradual modernization of society, Manchu clothing has also undergone a series of changes, from the traditional robe, python clothing gradually evolved to adapt to the modern life of the new clothing. This change not only reflects the spirit of The Times, but also reflects the Manchu people's pursuit of fashion and individuality.

### Social status and dress symbol

Manchu clothing in different historical periods is not only a kind of clothing, but also a symbol of social status and identity. In the Qing Dynasty, the Manchu nobles wore magnificent robes and python clothes, which highlighted their special social status and power. With the change of society, this dress symbol has also changed. In modern society, the Manchu people gradually abandoned overly gorgeous clothes and paid more attention to personality and practicality. Therefore, Manchu clothing not only reflects the evolution of social status, but also shows the change of people's values.

### Cultural inheritance and innovation



With the development of society, the change of Manchu clothing is not only reflected in the form, but also reflected in the cultural inheritance and innovation. Today, with the challenge of traditional culture inheritance, Manchu costumes continue to inject new vitality through inheritance and innovation. People begin to pay attention to the protection and inheritance of traditional dress elements, but also try to combine them with modern design to create clothing that meets contemporary aesthetic and practical needs. This kind of cultural inheritance and innovation efforts, so that the Manchu dress in the social changes to retain the tradition, without losing the sense of The Times.

# **Cross-cultural communication and integration**

Under the background of globalization, Manchu clothing is inevitably influenced by external culture. Cross-cultural communication makes the clothing elements of different nationalities blend with each other and create new clothing styles. In the face of the impact of foreign culture, Manchu clothing not only maintained its own characteristics, but also absorbed the essence of other cultures. This cross-cultural integration not only enriches the connotation of Manchu clothing, but also promotes cultural diversity and exchange.

In short, there is a close relationship between Manchu clothing and social change. In different historical periods, Manchu costumes have changed with the changes of society, which is not only influenced by The Times, but also reflects people's values and cultural inheritance. Through the analysis of dress style, social status, cultural inheritance and cross-cultural communication, we can better understand the role of Manchu dress in social change, as well as its adaptability and continuity. The in-depth discussion of this relationship will help us to better understand the rich connotation and value of Manchu costume culture.

# **Contemporary Value of Manchu Dress culture**

This chapter will discuss the value of Manchu dress culture in contemporary society. Manchu costume is not only a historical heritage, but also a unique cultural resource. Through inheritance and innovation, Manchu costume culture has been disseminated and developed in contemporary society, bringing aesthetic enjoyment and cultural diversity to the society. This chapter will discuss the practical significance and future development direction of Manchu costume culture in today's society. In contemporary society, Manchu costume culture is still of great value and significance. First of all, as a part of the historical heritage, Manchu costume culture is the precious cultural assets of the Manchu people. By inheriting and displaying this cultural heritage, it can strengthen the cultural identity and pride of the Manchu people and promote the formation of ethnic cohesion. At the same time, Manchu costume culture is also an important part of Chinese national culture. In the society of multi-cultural coexistence, carrying forward Manchu costume culture is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between different nationalities.

Secondly, Manchu costume culture has significant value in the aesthetic field. As a unique form of artistic expression, Manchu clothing integrates rich patterns, colors and shapes, showing a unique aesthetic concept. With the vigorous development of the fashion industry today, Manchu clothing, as a unique fashion element, attracts more and more designers and consumers' attention. By combining traditional elements with modern design, Manchu costume culture not only brings aesthetic enjoyment to people, but also injects new creativity and vitality into the fashion industry.

In addition, Manchu dress culture also plays an active role in cross-cultural communication. With the further development of globalization, the communication and integration between different cultures have become closer. As an important part of Chinese culture, Manchu clothing can be used as a window for cultural exchange, allowing more people to understand and experience



the diverse culture of China. On the international stage, Manchu costume culture also has the opportunity to show its unique charm and enhance international cultural exchanges and cooperation.

In short, Manchu costume culture has extensive and far-reaching value in contemporary society. As a part of cultural inheritance, it carries the historical memory and cultural emotion of Manchu people. In the aesthetic field, it brings visual and aesthetic pleasure to people; In cultural exchanges, it is a bond that promotes cross-cultural understanding and friendship. Through inheritance, innovation and promotion, Manchu dress culture in the contemporary society constantly radiates new vitality and charm.

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter will summarize the content of the full text and emphasize the importance and value of Manchu costume culture. Through the comprehensive analysis of the history, elements, significance and contemporary value of Manchu clothing, this paper aims to present the spiritual connotation and cultural value contained in Manchu clothing culture, and provide new thinking and inspiration for its inheritance and development in contemporary society.

The academic circles believe that: "The development and evolution of Chinese clothing and clothing culture shows that with the spread of civilization and the progress of The Times, keeping out the cold is no longer the main function of clothing." Accordingly, a series of social functions such as politics and ethics of clothing and culture, as well as social functions such as the display of clothing, have become increasingly prominent and constantly strengthened, thus injecting unusually rich connotations into people's social life. <sup>[5]</sup>

The purpose of this paper is to show the rich spiritual connotation and cultural value of Manchu costume culture through the discussion of various aspects, we can clearly see the change and development of Manchu costume culture in different historical stages, and its well-deserved status in contemporary society.

As an important part of Manchu culture, Manchu dress culture not only plays an important role in history, but also plays an active role in today's society. Through inheritance, innovation and dissemination, Manchu costume culture can continue to bring cultural diversity, aesthetic enjoyment and opportunities for cross-cultural communication to the society. Therefore, the protection and promotion of Manchu clothing culture requires the joint efforts of the government, academia and all sectors of society to ensure that it can be inherited and bloom a new cultural light.

Through the research of this paper, we can have a deeper understanding of the profound connotation of Manchu costume culture, and can also provide reference and inspiration for the research of other nationalities' costume culture. Under the background of globalization, the research and inheritance of national dress culture is of great significance, which is not only related to the tradition of national culture, but also related to the common cultural heritage of all mankind. **References** 

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