



FOLK CLOTHES FROM A FORGOTTEN BULGARIAN VILLAGE - VLADICHENTSI VILLAGE, DIMOVO MUNICIPALITY (BULGARIA)¹

Abstract: This mini-study is published under a research project to the Research Fund, Ministry of Education and Science (KP 06 OPR 05/6). It aims to draw readers' attention to a forgotten segment of the everyday life of people from a poor village with declining functions in Northwestern Bulgaria. His name is the village of Vladichentsi. The scientific interest in the specific folk costumes in the village is currently lacking. There is also a lack of scientific literature. Interesting information and photos can be found in the State Archives, Vidin, as well as from the preserved photos of the locals from the village of Vladichentsi.

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In this sense, the topic we outline here is unexplored, specific and rich in content, which we hope will still interest Bulgarian theologians, ethnologists, historians and archaeologists. The everyday segment of the life of the people in the village of Vladichentsi has its important place in the study of the traditions, way of life, culture and life of the people of the last century. In short, we will try to outline in general terms more characteristic of the clothing of the villagers over the past century in order to gain a fuller picture of this important segment.

During the meetings with the villagers we talked about the way their everyday social life went, about the typical clothes and the elements of it preserved to this day. It turned out that most of the people in the village have not preserved their original costumes, typical of Northwestern Bulgaria, and more precisely of the Vidin region. Some of them shared that they inherited them to their children. These and other circumstances prevented us from photographing the original costumes typical of our village. At this stage we will be satisfied only with a hatched exposition of certain segments, related to detailing the description of the Bulgarian folk costumes from our region, which, we assume, were also popular in the village of Vladichentsi. Indirectly about the type of national costumes we can get an idea from the study of Margarita Nikolova "Folk costumes from Vidin district".² It does not show costumes from the village of Vladichentsi, but those that are similar in type to those from the village. The parallels in the names of the individual components of the folk clothing in the village of Vladichentsi are transmitted by Svilena Nikolova (a native of the village, but a resident of Vidin).

In her research, Margarita Nikolova provides detailed information about the folk clothing in the Vidin region. The rich photographic material provides³ a broad basis for the development of its overall vision.

In this case, we will focus on women's and men's clothing, outlining their more important characteristics.

The women's folk clothing from the Vidin region is characterized by a two-layer structure, consisting of outer and lower garment. Depending on the type of outerwear, there are two types of

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² Nikolova, M. Folk costumes from Vidin district. S., 1983.

³ The study contains photos of whole costumes or their elements, shape, cut, decoration, accessories and more.

costumes - 1) with a front and back apron and 2) with a dress. "In the villages with the use of both costumes the sukman is worn during the cold months of the year."⁴ In the village of Vladichentsi there are no costumes with sukman. Of interest is the shirt, which is named differently in different parts of the region.⁵ In the village of Vladichentsi its name is "shirt". In the neighboring village of Izvor, there is also a shirt with an upper set, known as "barchanka". "Vulnenik" is known by several names,⁶ but in our village the name "vulnenik" is used. Also common are costumes with two aprons - with a straight front apron and a finely pleated back. The later versions of the front aprons are preserved to this day - velvet or fabric, on which a color print is applied.

Men's folk clothing is represented by the typical white dress costume. Characteristic of them is the combination of a shirt similar to a tunic with red embroidery, white tight pants (benevrets)⁷ and outerwear.⁸ In the village of Vladichentsi, the Benevrets are known as "brevenets". The white outer garment is known as "jamadan".⁹

Of interest to us is a reference from the village of Mali Drenovets, which is located less than 1 km from the village of Vladichentsi. To a large extent, the description available in it could be related to the more typical for the village of Vladichentsi. In the archival document "National Primary School" St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Mali Drenovets village, Archar municipality, Vidin district" we read the following description of the women's and men's national clothes: "The clothing of the population is diverse. Old women wear woolen skirts, flannels, covered with black, brown and white scarves - towels. They put on shoes. Girls wear dresses or woolen skirts, do not wear veils. In winter they wear shoes in fur coats, and in summer - in scarves and rubber slippers. The old men wear white woolen clothes, long body-hugging trousers - benevrets, an upper belt and a short white dress - jamadan. In winter they wear a long white sleeveless dress - iris. They wear white-threaded tsarvuli - navushta. They wear a simple leather hat on their head. The young usually wear black clothes, trousers, a coat and a top with a leather collar - a fur coat. Their hats are plain caps and less often leather caps. They wear rubber boots without ties."¹⁰

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, "with the establishment of the capitalist socio-economic conditions, the tradition of folk clothing was interrupted"¹¹ The reasons for this are many, but most of them are related to the inability to adapt this type of clothing to the challenges of the new age.

⁴ Nikolova, M. Cit. cit., p. 7.

⁵ The shirt in women's folk clothing is called "shirt", "asparagus", "burchanka".

⁶ In the Vidin region, wool is also known as "curtain" or "mesal".

⁷ "Benevtsi" vm. "Poturi".

⁸ Nikolova, M. Cit. cf., p. 24.

⁹ In the "National Primary School" St. St. Cyril and Methodius", village of Mali Drenovets, Archar municipality, Vidin district" (F 24K, op. 1, a. e. 40, 3 l. back) the men's upper white garment is written as "jamadan". The village of Mali Drenovets is located less than 1 km from the village of Vladichentsi.

¹⁰ "National Primary School" St. St. Cyril and Methodius", the village of Mali Drenovets, Archar municipality, Vidin district" (F 24K, op. 1, a. e. 40, 3 l. back).

¹¹ Nikolova, M. Cit. cit., p. 25.

CLOTHES IN THE VILLAGE OF VLADICHENTSI IN THE BEGINNING AND MIDDLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Children with national costumes, typical for the beginning of the 20th century in the village of Vladichentsi. Personal archive of Giurgina Nikolova



Residents of the village of Vladichentsi with the typical clothes from the beginning of the 20th century. Personal archive of Tsvetana Mladenova

