

DENVER ART MUSEUM

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Department of Indian Art

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Old Style

PUEBLO WOMAN'S COSTUMES

New Style

Leaflet No. 4

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PUEBLO INDIAN CLOTHING

THE PUEBLO INDIANS. When the Spaniards entered New Mexico and Arizona in the 16th century they found certain Indians living in some 75 towns of stone or adobe houses. The Spanish word for town being "pueblo" it was applied by the Spaniards to these towns, and the inhabitants came to be called Pueblo Indians. At present there are*27 pueblos, distributed as follows: In north central New Mexico, along the valley of the Rio Grande river, are 17 towns running from north to south in the following order: Taos, Picuris, San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Nambé, Tesuque, Jemez, Cochiti, Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Sia, Sandia, Isleta, Laguna and Acoma. Not far south of Gallup, New Mexico, lies Zuñi. In north eastern Arizona are nine towns of the Hopi Indians. The total population of all the pueblos is about 15,300. The Hopi are of Shoshonean stock, the Zuñi have their own distinct language, and the Rio Grande towns are members of four tribes, each having its own dialect: Keres or Queres, to which belong Acoma, Cochiti, Laguna, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Sia; Tewa to which belong Nambé, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Tesuque; Tigua, to which belong Isleta, Picuris, Sandia, Taos; Jemez. The last three tribes belong to the Tanoan stock.

MEN'S CLOTHING

HEADGEAR. For every day wear the only thing worn on the head is a narrow band of folded cloth to keep the hair in place. When the hair is long the knot is wrapped in a band of woven material or a number of heavy cords. In dances and religious ceremonies the head is often covered with a mask, of which there are many varieties in every degree of elaborateness. Masks are made of skin, cloth, wood and basketry and are highly decorated with paint, feathers, etc.

BODY COVERING. †Shirts of skin or cloth are universal, those of skin being worn in the ceremonies of the northern New Mexico pueblos especially. The Hopi wove blue woolen shirts which were used extensively by the other pueblos. Such shirts have sleeves and long tails hanging well below the waist. Skin shirts are of similar pattern, the tails being usually somewhat shorter. They are commonly decorated with fringes. When trousers or kilts are not worn the breech cloth is universally used. In northern New Mexico it is of flannel and very wide and long, hanging nearly to the ground. Elsewhere it is of white cotton, and short and narrow. For dances or ceremonies the body is usually bare, and the embroidered or painted kilt of cotton reaching from waist to knees, replaces the breech cloth. Belts and sashes, both of cotton and wool, either white or colored, are worn with the kilts.

A robe of some sort is common. Formerly they were made of rabbit skins cut into narrow strips and woven, cotton, cloth with feathers interwoven, and different kinds of dressed skins. These robes were gradually replaced by woolen blankets woven by the Navaho, Hopi and Zuñi. Robes are very conspicuous nowadays at Taos, where half the population, called the summer people, are almost always wrapped in a white sheet, while the other half, called the winter people, wear bright red flannel blankets in the winter and light

*44 if colonies are counted. See Leaflet 45-46.

†Embroidered cotton shirts were certainly made at Acoma and Jemez, and possibly elsewhere. Shirts with drawnwork fronts are made in several towns.

weight cotton blankets in the summer. Wherever robes are used they are either wrapped closely about the body, often covering the head, or are more or less folded up and carried about the waist or over one shoulder.

LEG COVERINGS. Loose white cotton trousers, about ankle length, split up the sides a foot or so, and fastened at the waist under the shirt tails, were common among the western pueblos, especially among the Hopi. In northern New Mexico hip length leggings of skin or colored flannel were preferred to trousers. Knitted stockings of blue or black wool, made without feet or knees, were in more or less general use. Narrow woven bands were used for garters.

FOOTGEAR. Moccasins of hide were universally used. The soles were of hard rawhide and the uppers of soft buckskin, usually colored and sometimes beaded. Ceremonial moccasins are often extensively decorated with paint, fur, beads and porcupine quills.

MODERN CLOTHES. Garments of white manufacture, such as felt hats, cotton shirts and overalls, and shoes have largely replaced the native costume except amongst the Hopi and the very conservative old people in some of the other more remote pueblos.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

HEADGEAR. Nothing is made for wear on the head alone except the tablitas worn during certain dances. These are pieces of thin flat boards, from one to two feet high and wide and carved and painted in many different ways. They are worn upright on top of the head at right angles to the length of the skull. In the Rio Grande pueblos a fold of a large shawl is usually pulled up over the head. Large squares of calico or silk are also draped over the head.

BODY COVERING. The body was covered with a blanket, four to five feet long and about three feet wide. This was wrapped around the body under the left arm and over the right shoulder, and fastened together on the right shoulder and down the right side. Often the lower part of the right side was sewn together, leaving only the upper right hand corner open. A long, narrow woven belt was wrapped several times around the waist. Nowadays a sleeved garment of manufactured cotton is very generally worn under the blanket. It often is trimmed with lace around the bottom and shows below the blanket. Cloth of white manufacture, cut in the shape of the blanket, and worn in the same manner, usually replaces the native garment in the Rio Grande pueblos. Fancy aprons are often worn.

The native dress for ordinary use was woven of wool, either from black sheep or dyed black or dark blue, by several of the western pueblos, especially the Hopi, and traded to the Rio Grande peoples. These dresses are called mantas. They were decorated along the edges with patterns woven in the fabric or embroidered with red, blue or green wool. The latter are from Acoma or Laguna. Diamond

and diagonal weaves were common. Such dresses are now woven at Zuni or by the Hopi, Acoma and Laguna no longer making them. Excepting in two Hopi villages they are now used only on ceremonial occasions. The Hopi still make large numbers of white cotton shawls and robes for bridal trousseaus. The long edges are decorated with wide red and blue stripes or with elaborate embroidered designs. They are also used at ceremonies. †

FOOTGEAR. Formerly the women went barefoot, only wearing moccasins when the weather necessitated it. Two types of high top combination moccasin-legging are used. The unmarried women wear a moccasin with an attachment similar to a spiral puttee, reaching to the knee. They are made of soft buckskin, colored white with pipe clay. They are very full and make the wearer seem to have very fat legs. Among the Zuñi the fullness of the leg-wrapping is an indication of the hunting skill and prosperity of the woman's husband or father. The married women wear a full top boot, also colored white, and very loose fitting above the ankle. They have several wide folds below the knee and are held in place by a buckskin thong.

JEWELRY. Both sexes are fond of jewelry, wearing silver necklaces, belts, bracelets, rings, buttons, etc., made chiefly by the Navahos and Zunis, and necklaces and earrings of shell and turquoise.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING. Children wear miniature reproductions of the garments worn by the adults. Up to the ages of 8 to 10 the children of both sexes go naked in the summertime. This is especially true in the more remote pueblos.

Compiled from the following sources by Jean Allard Jeançon and F. H. Douglas.

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†Cotton articles are woven and embroidered at Zuni. Acoma formerly produced them. See reference 6.