

THE FURRIERS' TRADE IN THE REGION OF THE TIRNAVE RIVERS

SUMMARY

The furriers' trade, of old Romanian tradition, was in the past, as it is still to-day, a particularly valued occupation in all the ethnographical areas of Romania.

In the region of the Tîrnave rivers, the number of artisans who have practised this trade up to the present day is considerable. Furriers, as for instance those from Rupea, Saschiz, Sighișoara, Mediaș, Blaj, Dumbrăveni, Tîrnăveni, Ighișu Vechi, Agnita etc. have brought the art of making and ornamenting fur clothing to a particularly thriving condition.

The summer and autumn fairs, the traditional popular performances, the pastoral feasts ("nedeia"), were so many opportunities for the furriers of the Tîrnave, as well as for those from Mărginimea of Sibiu, from Țara Oltului etc., to spread the knowledge of their skill all over the country.

By making various types of sleeveless vests („pieptar"), generally closed or split "pieptare" for all ages, the furriers of the Tîrnave: Romanians, Hungarians and Germans, contributed substantially to the definition of this part of the traditional popular dress.

The old furriers, now employed in the traders' co-operative guilds in several towns and villages on the Tîrnave rivers, next to the young ones who are trained into the secrets of the trade, bring forth new models in fur where pleasure and profit are harmoniously joined.

EXPLICATION OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 — Transylvanian "pieptare" (*Dăișoara*).

Fig. 2 — Small split "pieptare" (*Crihalma*).

Fig. 3 — Ornaments on men's "pieptare": 1. Hook and buttons; 2. Crowns and hooks; 3. "Eights" with "onî"; 4. Hemming; 5. Crests; 6. Slanting ornament („strîmbuleț"); 7—8. Roundabout crests; 9. The rose in the mould; 10. Machine-drawn lines.

Fig. 4 — Women's "pieptare" (*Mihai Viteazul*).

Fig. 5 — Detail on a man's "pieptar" (*Blaj*).

Fig. 6 — Flower on the bosom (*Dumbrăveni*).

Fig. 7 — Ornaments on Romanian "pieptare" (*Rupea*).

Fig. 8 — Man's "pieptar", modern type (*Dumbrăveni*).

Fig. 9 — Man's "pieptar" (*Ernea*).

Fig. 10 — The flower on the pocket of Romanian "pieptare" (*Rupea*).

Fig. 11 — Belts.

Fig. 12 — Woman and man in traditional dress (*Rupea*).

Fig. 13—14 — Lines („Șiruri"). Ornaments sewn on the fore of "pieptare" from the Tîrnave region (*Micășasa, Velț, Vișoara, Țacu, Jidvei*).

Fig. 15 — Romanian closed „pieptar" seen from the back, with „zăgărea", for the bride.

Fig. 16 — Romanian "pieptar", seen from the back.

Fig. 17 — Popular dress for bride and bridegroom (*Mateiaș*).