

The Garments Representations on the Mural Paintings at the Caves of Dunhuang

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Dunhuang located at the east end of the Silk Road was not only a meeting point for various peoples but also a melting-pot for the cultures of Eurasia especially the Chinese, Indian and Persian cultures. Because of its geographic location as the joint-point of many caravan routes, Dunhuang functioned as a turntable for the intercultural exchange of eastern and western traditions. This can be evidenced through the mural paintings and the sculptures in the caves of Dunhuang.

This thesis aims to understand the Chinese and Central Asian societies and to bring the intercultural exchanges to light, researching the Chinese clothes of the 4th - 10th centuries.

I first examined the prototypes of the Chinese clothes of that period, and second, analyzed the details and transformation of the clothing styles on the Dunhuang mural paintings. Furthermore the clothes found on other mural paintings from Central Asia were compared with those from Dunhuang for this extensive study.

The study is divided into the analysis of the Chinese men's clothes, Chinese women's clothes and clothes from surrounding Central Asia. In addition to clothes, the hats, shoes and hairstyles are analyzed in detail.

In conclusion, the typology of the clothes of the various social levels in China and Central Asia was synthesized and the exchange of the clothing styles in Eurasia was clearly evidenced.