

JEWELRY

JEWELRY HAD GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR JEWISH WOMEN IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. IT WAS USED BOTH FOR DECORATIVE REASONS AND TO DISPLAY THE SOCIAL POSITION OF THE WOMAN AND HER FAMILY AS WELL AS HER MARITAL STATUS. THE WOMEN WERE GIVEN JEWELRY AS GIFTS ON OCCASIONS SUCH AS WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS AND BIRTHS. IT WAS KEPT AS A FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR THE FUTURE AND WAS ONLY DISPOSED OF IN HARD TIMES.

FOR THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE 19TH CENTURY ... JEWISH WOMEN WORE LONG CHAINS, NECKLACES, PEARLS AND FLOWERS ORNAMENTS HATS, AND BROOCHES WITH POSY MOTIFS. IN GENERAL SUCH JEWELRY REFLECTED EUROPEAN AND SPANISH INFLUENCE, HOWEVER, WOMEN CERTAINLY FOLLOWED THE FASHION OF THE DAY.

IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THE MOST IMPORTANT JEWEL A WOMAN RECEIVED WAS THE OĞADERO, AN ORNAMENT MADE OF CLASPS AND CHAINS AND CLOSED IN FRONT LIKE THE MANIA DE CATON. THIS GIFT WAS GIVEN TO HER BY HER HUSBAND.

A SET OF TWO BRACELETS CALLED THE MANIA DE CATON (OR MANIA DE MENTEŞE IN SALONIKA), WERE WORN ON EACH WRIST. EACH CONSISTED OF TWO PARALLEL CHAINS MADE OF SILVER, GOLD, OR PRECIOUS STONES. THEY WERE GIVEN TO THE BRIDE BY HER FATHER AND SHOWED THAT SHE WAS MARRIED.

A LELAL CONSISTED OF CHAINS OF VARIOUS LENGTHS, WHICH WAS FASTENED TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HEADDRESS WITH CRESCENT SHAPED PINS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WORD WAS DERIVED FROM *HILAL* IN TURKISH MEANING CRESCENT.

THE CHAINS CALLED (KADENA, KORDON, KOLANA, FILAR) HAD DIFFERENT NAMES REFLECTING THEIR TYPE, OR THE REGION THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY USED IN. THE CHAINS EXTENDED AS FAR AS THE KNEE IN SOME CASES, AS MAY BE SEEN IN THE EARLY PERIOD ENGRAVINGS. IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THEY WERE ATTACHED TO A DRESS OR WOUND AROUND THE NECK SEVERAL TIMES.

IN İZMIR AND RHODES, MARRIED WOMAN WORE A PIN IN THEIR TOKADO CALLED A ROZETA (MEANING ROSE IN SPANISH), USUALLY MADE OF GOLD AND DIAMONDS AND SHAPED AS A ROSE, FLOWER, STAR, CRESCENT, OR BIRD. A WOMAN WOULD REMOVE HER ROZETA TO MOURN THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND. IN SALONIKA, PEARL PENDANTS (YEDEK) WERE FREQUENTLY ATTACHED TO BOTH SIDES OF THE KOFYA AND MET AT THE FOREHEAD. GOLDEN COINS AND PEARL NECKLACES (YADRAN IN SALONIKA, GERDAN IN ANATOLIA, AND MANAJO IN RHODES) WERE ALSO VERY POPULAR AMONG JEWISH WOMEN.

PEARL NECKLACES WERE ALSO VERY POPULAR. THEY WERE CALLED YADRAN IN SALONIKA, GERDAN IN ANATOLIA AND MANAJO IN RHODES. LUCY M. J. GARNETT, WHO PAID A VISIT TO OTTOMAN TERRITORIES IN 1891 WROTE, "PEARLS ARE A PASSION FOR JEWISH WOMEN

OF SALONIKA NO MATTER FROM WHICH CLASS. THEY SPEND ALL THE MONEY THEY HAVE ON THE ORNAMENTS THEY WEAR ON THEIR HEADS AND NECKS."

*ADAPTED FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH COSTUMES FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
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