

Inside the Royal Wardrobes

royal couture as a form of
expressing
personality traits

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A glimpse of the royal couture, types of fabric used, and their clothing styles as a form of expressing their personality traits.



Royal fashion has always been the focus of the world, particularly the fashion industry. Adored as a symbol of sophistication and elegance, royal clothing styles have been an eye catcher for fashionistas and celebrities. Fashion savvy people follow the ideas and looks of the royal clothing styles to experience and enjoy the lavishness of the kings and queens. Though much associated with the royal families, and not meant for commoners, still people are always interested to know and follow their fashion styles.

Regal trends have come through sea changes in the span of time, keeping in par with conventional traditions. Their robes are adorned with gold thread, pearls, and expensive stones making it a complete; imperial outfit. Many of their attire are praised as exquisite creations by today's fashion designers. Imperial costumes are also a form of expression of their personality. Taking themselves to bask in glory or power, they ensured that their legacy would remain for eternity.

Fabrics preferred by the Imperials:

Much of the costumes in ancient times were made using organic materials. Four major types of fabrics used are cotton, linen, wool, and silk. Nature of these materials makes it complicated for preservation as they are biodegradable. Ancient Peruvian imperial textiles consist of elaborate fabrics, their textile designing to underpin and shape all kinds of material culture. They clothing styles provide evidence of development in their textile technology over the millennia.

Aristocracy clamors for the durable corduroy fabrics which were once considered as a luxurious indulgence of fastidious royals. It was introduced by the Italian merchants to the fussy nobles of Europe. It is even debated to have originated from the French "corde

du roi” which means “cloth of the king”. Later on, during the course of time, it became to be known as poor man’s velvet and was adopted by the working class due to its warmth.

Mughal rulers paid special attention to fabrics with dying, patterning, and embroidery. Woolen clothes were also preferred by them. Silk was a main fabric for the Mughal imperials, and during their era, silk fabrics gained international fame. Mughal clothing styles introduced intricate clothing patterns and delicate embellishments. Their clothes were accentuated with alluring beads, sequins, and mirror works reflecting their rich heritage and cultural history.

Queens with the Alpha attitude:

Much talked about royal costumes are of the queen’s. Reigned at a time when men held supremacy and a woman possessing such authority and power is seldom heard of, these queens used their femininity, and intelligence to achieve what they wanted. Much powerful were they, that they literally shook the foundation of the world. These queens rivaled their male counterparts, and used their clothes to express the same.

Cleopatra VI is one of the famous figures of antiquity. She was a queen who refused to settle for less, and made her country one of the world’s powerful civilization. Outsmarting her rivals, she proved to be a force to be reckoned with. Apart from her intelligence, much of her charm lies in her costumes which portrayed her divine status, an exotic glamour, and furthered her cult.



Cleopatra VI

Queen Elizabeth I

Her clothing style were Hellenic Greek in origin consisting of a soft linen or silk under dress and a long over robe known as the stola. Over this, she wore a draped outer cloak called the palla. Hues of scarlet, violet, mari-gold, hyacinth purple sea green and crocus yellow that are much associated with the royal class were used in her costume. Designs in her apparels were in deeper tones. Robes were made from the finest linen with glistening white, crocus yellow, and red. The costume was bordered with flowers and fruits.

British queens were known as trend setters for centuries. The magnificent wardrobes of the royals kept them apart from the simple citizens. Queen Elizabeth I underscored her power by wearing severely cut and sweeping robes. Her clothing styles were used to create a distance between herself and the others. Skirts of the monarch were held apart by a rod at her waist, and had unprecedented proportions beneath. Her outfits were indication to others not to come closer to her. To contrast with her gloomy attire, she tailored her gowns in white with bows and gold embellishments. High necked ruff or Stuart collar was one of Elizabeth's favorite accessories. Though she was a fashion icon, her style could never be imitated.

Fashion paints an ageless beauty:

Elizabeth II's colorful mix of candy shades keep her at the forefront of enduring trends. Her couture gained her an immediate recognition throughout the world. Her opulent coronation gown embroidered with the empire emblem made a huge impact on the haute couture segment.



Elizabeth II

Princess Diana

Princess Diana captured the imagination of countless artists, fashion designers and authors with her timeless beauty and style. Knowing how to use the language of fashion for herself, Diana created a long lasting impression in the fashion world. Her strapless black cocktail dress, fine fabrics, and sheath dresses increasingly emphasized her image.



Mughal clothing style

Mughal era was a period when the lifestyle was relaxed which led to the inspiration of artisans. They had great interest in painting, jewellery, music, and particularly clothing. Clothing patterns of the Mughal queens teamed with wispy lace incorporations rule the fashion world even today.

Laces were used as detailing along the blouse and dress with scalloped hems; detailing in the garment. The design elements over the eyelets on the garment impart a trendy look. Clothes were created using sequins, beads and crystals adding an extra glimmer and a snazzy look.

Medieval King's clothing styles:



King John of France

Duke of Berry

Duke of Orleans

This is a period which lasted up to the 15th century. Clothing fashion of this period was highly influenced by the kings and queens of this period. It was highly sophisticated, and only the creamy class was able to dress in fashionable clothes. Their costumes were elaborated with animal fur, silk cloaks, mantle of scarlet satin, and embellishments with peacock feathers. Profuse luxury was seen in their fur clothing. As per the royal document details, for making a suit for the King John of France, skins of 670 martens were used. Another note states that the Duke of Orleans purchased 2,790 ermine skins for his costume. The Duke of Berry procured nearly 10, 000 marten skins from a distant Northern land for his surcoats.

Apart from this, gold, silver, pearls and other precious stones were lavished on clothes. Massive gold belts were worn to support the clothes. Costumes of the kings were more transparent than others to show his wealth and status.

Ancient imperial costumes provide a view of their culture and tradition. Their clothing choices further enhance their celebrated physical charm making them an icon of attractiveness.

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