

## Zarduzi

Zarduzi refers to a form of embroidery with gold and silver thread - a very ancient kind of needlework. Historical records give the evidence of the existence of gold embroidery as early as in the medieval times. This kind of needlework was widespread in many parts of the world, and Tajikistan was not an exception. However, its special embroidery techniques and national patterns make the golden-embroidered products a unique and original.

The design and patterns for gold embroidery is first drawn on the cardboard than cut and put on the surface of the fabric than covered with the gold thread. Another technique was to make patterns from the thick cotton threads.

There are wide varieties of the patterns used in gold-embroidery items; these are natural floral patterns or other abstract patterns.

In Bukhara and other cultural centers of the Central



Asia the art of gold embroidery applied to costume design has a centuries old history. Written sources inform on existence of the gold embroidery from the 14th century, and in its own turn, ornaments and colors of wall paintings related to the 6th - 7th centuries prove that gold embroidery had already existed in the Early Medieval periods.

Gold embroidery had reached its blossom in the 19th century. It decorated the costume of rich citizens. Particularly in the courts of the local rulers there were special workshops supplying the court with the items.

This golden-embroidered technique differs much from other kinds of embroidery, since a golden thread is difficult to run through a material and therefore masters of gold embroidery have to apply thoroughly the thread smoothly on the surface of the fabric. Meanwhile, the gold should not be erased from the threads. This labor-consuming process takes a lot of time (sometimes years!), so hand-made golden-stitch embroidery is highly valued products and much more expensive those of machine embroidery.



