

FORMOSA FASHION: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF TAIWAN COSTUME

福爾摩沙時尚圖鑑

From colonization to modernization, witness the shifting tides of history through this colorful and reader-friendly guide to Taiwanese fashion of the past four centuries.

First, a quick fashion quiz! What do the following outfits have in common: the robes of a Dominican monk, the silk gown of the Ming imperial court, the kimono, the qipao, and the sailor-style uniform of Japanese school girls? The surprising answer lies in the rich tapestry of Taiwan history. As an island nation shaped by the rule of various external powers, the clothing donned by the Taiwanese of yesteryear transcended mere practicality – these varied outfits were faithful witnesses to the sweeping tides of history!

Unfolding chronologically, this accessible guide to clothing in Taiwan begins in the 17th century with the colonization efforts of the Spanish and Dutch. Subsequent chapters delve into periods of rule by Ming loyalists, the Qing Dynasty, and the Empire of Japan. Opening with a cultural and historical overview, each chapter unveils a tableau of full-color illustrations showcasing the garments worn by the various ethnic groups and social classes of each respective era.

Complementing the illustrations, well-researched explanations provide historical context and vivid anecdotes that shed light on the daily lives of the era's inhabitants. From the influence of Western attire during the Age of Exploration to the localization of traditional Chinese garments in Taiwan and their subsequent modernization, the great tides of history unfold within the microcosm of costume, illustrating the ways in which fashion is an expression of class, values, and cultural identity.



Category: History

Publisher: Linking

Date: 5/2022

Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan@taicca.tw

Pages: 240

Length: 70,000 characters
(approx. 45,500 words in English)

This comprehensive visual study of Taiwanese clothing from 1624 to 1945 combines meticulous research with a brisk narrative style. Whether you're an ardent fashion enthusiast or devoted history buff, this colorful, reader-friendly guide will instantly immerse you in Taiwan's vibrant history as seen through the kaleidoscopic lens of clothing.

Text by Taiwan Costume Story 台灣服飾誌

Founded in May of 2018 by Editor-in-Chief Tzu Ning and Art Editor Hsu Nan-Cheng, Taiwan Costume Story is dedicated to promoting understanding of the clothing styles prominent in Taiwan during the period from 1624 to 1945. The team continues to research the evolution of Taiwanese clothing and visually present their findings to stimulate public interest in this colorful and engaging aspect of history.

Illustration by Amoz 阿毛子

Cartoonist Amoz is the creator of numerous self-published comic books.