

Baro't Saya



Baro't Saya

Like their menfolk, the female indigenes of the archipelago, gradually cover their upper torso with short, sleeved collarless blouses called baro, through the 400 years of colonization. And what was, since ancient times, an all-purpose brief wrap-around skirt--metamorphosed into the long skirts called saya. Interestingly the saya was generally fashioned out of opaque plaid or striped cotton and sinamay varieties, while the baro was rather stubbornly made quite persistently of sheer fabrics.

This two-piece ensemble usually supplemented by the ancient tapis used as an overskirt, and eventually by the square kerchief called alam[ay worn so that it covers the bosom--would be the archetypal clothing if the India of the Philippines. The saya was to remain unelaborated until the period of intensified global trade. But to the baro was almost immediately devoted the most laborious artistry, expressed in embroidery and supplementary weft floats. The Spanish presence was echoed in the patterning of the baro: floriate, trellis-like, lace-like designs soon enough make for the standard "look."

Barbie in Baro't Saya



7355-9909

www.manika.com

BARO AT SAYA

During the Spanish era, the SAYA or skirt came into use. Some believe that the TAPIS (a darker and thicker material which had to be wrapped over the skirt which formed into an apron) was worn over the SAYA as an assertion of native pride. This was worn with a blouse called CAMISA or BARO. The BARO was influenced by the costume of the statues of the Blessed Virgin. The outfit has an extended train or COLA which the women looped around their arms while walking or dancing. This style gave birth to what will be known as the BARO AT SAYA.



60481-9909

www.manika.com

BARO'T SAYA W/O TAPIS

The Spanish rule brought about the introduction of Spanish ethics of female seclusion and modesty. Thus, this influenced the Christianized Filipinos to use a full ankle-length skirt or SAYA. The term SAYA is actually adapted from a popular costume worn by women during the high Renaissance, having the same name and consisted of a trailing skirt as part of its features.

The SAYA is worn with a blouse called BARO with which its butterfly sleeves is believed to be copied from the elaborate robe on the Nuestra Señora de las Remedios.

The PANUELO or ALAMPAY which is placed over the shoulders served as the attention getter of the fashionable attire by constantly exhibiting the most exquisite embroidery.

sources: <http://www.filipinoheritage.com/costumes/dress3.htm>, <http://www.manika.com> and <http://www.barongatsaya.com/s-cart/history.phtml>

Ref.: http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/Cynthia/costumes/baro_at_saya.htm