

Comparative Study on Traditional Embroidery Stitches (Braids) of Crafts in Some Countries in Asia

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses comparing Mongolian coin table stitches to traditional stitches in Japan and Korea as well as finding similarities and differences between those stitching techniques and tools. The study includes the origin of the Korean and Japanese traditional stitches, stitching techniques, and ornaments. Also, we studied how lifestyles appear in the stitches. To assist comparison and analysis, we collected relevant historical facts, books, literature, and videos. We found a few similarities in traditional stitching techniques in Mongolia, Japan, and Korea. Although these are knotting stitches, tying, and using hands to twist thread to do even stitching techniques, also uses round stitching tables – although stitching in different countries has its unique qualities. The article covers traditional stitching techniques and tools to make braids and their specific details in some Asian countries.

KEYWORDS

Comparison in Traditional Hand Braids in Mongolia; Japan and Korea; Features and Similarities; Threads Created with a Coin Table.

1. INTRODUCTION

Considerable amount of literature has been published on knitting and braded composite. According to study, knitted fabrics and items are created by inter-looping yarns into a series of interconnected loops. (Enkhmaa, 2001, хууд. 10). According to literature, the oldest knitted artefact is considered to be a child's sock, dating from Greek BC. Another find was some knitted socks from Egypt dating from 2nd Century CE. (Эрдэнэцэцэг, Цэцэгээ, Мягмарсүрэн, & Энхтүвшин, 2023, хууд. 150). These artefacts suggest that humans had used knitted objects and garments from pre-historic times. Moreover ancient military uniforms such as mufflers and balaclavas have been found, knitted with copper and iron.

Humans have developed knitting techniques using a single needle or a pair of needles and macrame from time to time and passed the features, patterns, pictures, decorations and unrepeated elaborations down from generation to generation. By studying Mongolian artefacts and knitted items in museums in Mongolia, we can divide usages into four categories. (Цэвээн, бас бус., 2018, хууд. 30)

2. TRADITIONAL MONGOLIAN HAND-STITCHES AND KNITTING RIBBON; KNITTING WITH CIRCLE STITCHES NAMED A COIN TABLE

Before discussing the history of knitting in Mongolia, we consider what the Zoos shiree/coin table stitches name comes from. The term related to coins, which have a fundamental function in regulating the uniformity or density of the interlock, and in connection with iron works in Mongolia:

There is extensive historical evidence that Mongolia developed large handicrafts of light metals such as black steel, and copper, as well as aluminum in the 13th C. For example, a large number of rusting bullets, ploughs, and spears, were found in Kharkhorum, as were also numerous copper objects found in sand in Orog lake in 1957, and coal ash remains from metal processing of copper, iron and steel, found in the west of Orkhon valley.

In 1962, between the south side of Toson lake and the north side of the Avarga natural spring, Archeologists found remains of smelt iron ore - the "Aurah city " iron smelting furnace site which is mentioned in the Mongolian Secret History. That suggests that Mongols had produced iron 600-700 years before European countries. (Tseren-Ochir.Ya, 2018). From these points, It is clear that Mongols had made various kinds of coins since ancient times.

The first major form of Mongolian national culture is traditional craft. Traditional crafts have many varieties, used a variety of tools, and a rich treasure trove that has been created in the history of its development. One of the traditional crafts is Zoos shiree-Coin table circle stitches which is a kind of traditional decorative art. It is distinguished by its knitting techniques, tools, and materials. It was made in different models such as simple, decorative, patterned or with sewing boxes, etc.

The art of coin embroidery reached its zenith between the 16th and 19th centuries, with a significant number of ritual objects among the historical artifacts known today. The Bogd Khan's Palace Museum houses various items adorned with coin table embroidery. For instance, there is a small household ornament that was played with by the Bogd Khan at the age of five, which is embellished with coin table embroidery (see image 1). Additionally, items such as traditional Mongolian boots worn by the Bogd Khan, the hem of his robe, ceremonial shawls, a tobacco box, a drumstick holder, and beauty accessory containers used by Queen Dondogdulam are also crafted and decorated using this intricate technique.



Figure 1. A house with braided decorations

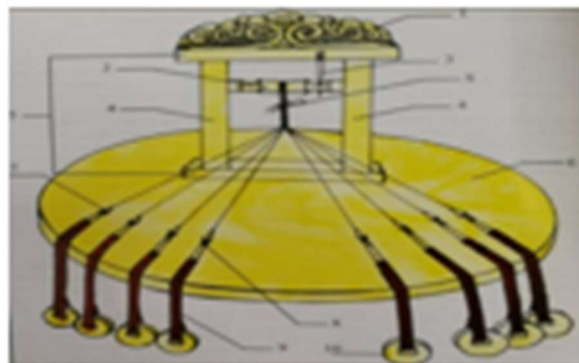


Figure 2. Coin Table

Figure 1 The ger where the Bogd khan played when he was five years old. Figure 2 Parts of A Coin table -Zoos shiree 1. Top 2. Knitted ribbon 3. Stick 4. Columns 5. Links 6. Main body or surface 7. Roll for thread/bobbing 8. Tightener 9. Tie 10. Coins



Figure 3. Knitting/braid patterns created with Coin table

2.1. Traditional Japanese Hand braid- Kumihimo

The traditional Japanese hand weaving technique is referred to as Kumihimo (組紐). The term "Kumi," derived from the Japanese verb, means "to braid," while "Himo" translates to "string." Kumihimo is crafted using a wooden frame. This form of hand weaving has a rich history dating back thousands of years and employs multiple strands depending on the desired width and intricacy of the weave. Each strand is prepared by bundling together several layers of thread. During the manual braiding process, various patterns and designs are created. Traditional Japanese hand weaving, Kumihimo, encompasses a variety of styles. These include: Marudai, Ayatakeidai, Takadai, Karakumidai, Kakudai



Figure 4. Marudai



Figure 5. Ayatakeidai



Figure 6. Takadai

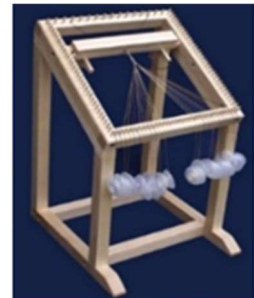


Figure 7. Каракумидай

Figure 4. Marudai. The marudai is made of wood and is a weaving table with a hole in the center, secured by four legs placed on a flat base. In other words, it is a wooden table with a round top that has a hole drilled through the center. It comes with both short and long legs. It is quite popular in the USA and European countries. The Japanese-style marudai is typically 16 inches (41 cm) tall and is used while kneeling or placed on a table, while the Western-style marudai is 26 inches (66 cm) tall, making it suitable for sitting on a chair while weaving. The threads used for weaving are called "tama" and are made by wrapping them around a specialized bobbin, which was historically made of clay.

Figure 5. Ayatakeidai. Ayatakeidai is a stand-alone table and it makes warp twin braids. Ayatakeidai is made by a weaver weaving from a chair at the back of a table. Ayatakeidai can be woven with up to 80 threads, and by placing the thread on the feather-shaped part, it can be woven to create various patterns. When knitting this, the artisan sits in a drinking position, an easy way to bend and braid. The knitting is tightened by hitting the knitting with a knife-shaped wood called a dedicated "Katana".

Figure 6. Takadai. Takadai is made of wood. Double and single knitting is possible. Many threads are wrapped in one reel to create various patterns. It differs from other tables in that the thread is symmetrically divided on the left and right sides, and the weaver sits in the middle on a chair and weaves. When weaving alternately from the left and right sides, place 3 from the right side to the left and beat it with a special wood. Then, from the left side, etc., various patterns are formed and braided.

Figure 7. Каракумидай. Karakumidai tables are made of wood and are characterized by standing to weave. There is no special tool to tighten the braids - it is done manually.

2.2. Traditional Hand Knitting of Korea.

The traditional hand knitting of Korea, which dates back to the Joseon Dynasty, tells the history of clothing, accessories, and cultural life of that era. It was used in various contexts, regardless of region or social class. Among these items, one type of strap was widely used for military swords. This knitting was done with multiple threads in frequencies of four, such as 8, 12, 16, and 20, as found in artifacts. During the Joseon period, 원다회 (Wondahoe) knitting was used as decoration at the end of sword handles, while 광다회 (Gwangdahoe) knitting was used to prevent slipping of the sword handle, and 환조 광다회 (Hwanjo Gwangdahoe) knitting was used to connect the sword to its sheath for carrying.

In addition to being used by the aristocracy for practical and decorative purposes, it also contained various symbols. The tools used for knitting are divided into two types based on their external shape: round (원다회) and wide flat (광다회).

Table 1. Comparison in types of hand stitching/braids

No	Differences	Mongolia	Japan	Korea
1	Design of the stitching/braiding tools	Circle or semicircle shaped	Circle or square with a hole in the middle	Cone shaped with central direction
2	Knitting techniques	It is possible to use 4 to 64 threads, creating patterns and decorations from a single color or a combination of colors. You can hold with 4 threads and hang or adjust with 8 or more threads to create the knitted fabric. Depending on the position of the threads, diagonal, wave, wall, and arrow patterns are formed. One silk thread is included in one skip.		A lot of threads can be rolled in a bobbing
3	Use	Used for decorating hems and decorations	Used for decorating hems, edges and decorations	Ready-made products such as belts, bracelets, and necklaces are knitted.
4	Material	Mainly use silk thread	Mainly use silk thread	Wide range of thin and thick threads

3. CONCLUSION

Similarities 1) All three originated a long time ago. 2) The method of preparing the yarn for knitting. 3) The method of preparing the yarn for knitting and securing it (or tying it). 4) The method of creating round knitting. 5) The method of creating flat, wide, and narrow knitting. 6) The color and frequency of the patterns created in the knitting.

Differences Coin table: When making flat knitting, only one thread is wrapped around one beam for preparation. The knitting is tightened by pulling it. It is knitted only by passing over and under a single thread. It is used solely for decorating items. The coin table is different in appearance and structure. Round, flat, and wave-shaped knitting is created with 4-64 threads. Coins are used to ensure the knitting is even. One stitch uses 5-7 coins.

The Marudai weaving machine weaves round, flat, and twisted/spiral patterns with threads ranging from 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32... up to 100. It is woven with a two-thread frequency, preparing multiple threads on one beam (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14) It prepares multiple threads on one beam (it can accommodate up to 10 fine threads) It can weave with any thread thickness, whether fine or thick. When tightening the weave, it is hammered and tightened with a special wooden tool. In addition to decorating items, it can be used for keychains, women's belts, and straps. Usually, the weaving is done over and under; in cases where a pattern is created, it is woven over and under with two or more threads. It can create both single and double weaves. The weaving table comes in various types. To ensure uniformity in the weaving, a beam called "Tama" is used. The Tama weighs 80, 100, or 240 grams.

Korean knitting: To make the braids smoother and tightenen, a yarn called "tama" is used. It is knitted with a frequency of 4 threads: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24.. As the number of threads increases, such as 16 threads for 3, 20 threads for 7, and 24 threads for 15, the shape and type of the pattern also increase. Knitting is done on round and square tables with a clockwise and counterclockwise motion of the hand.

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