



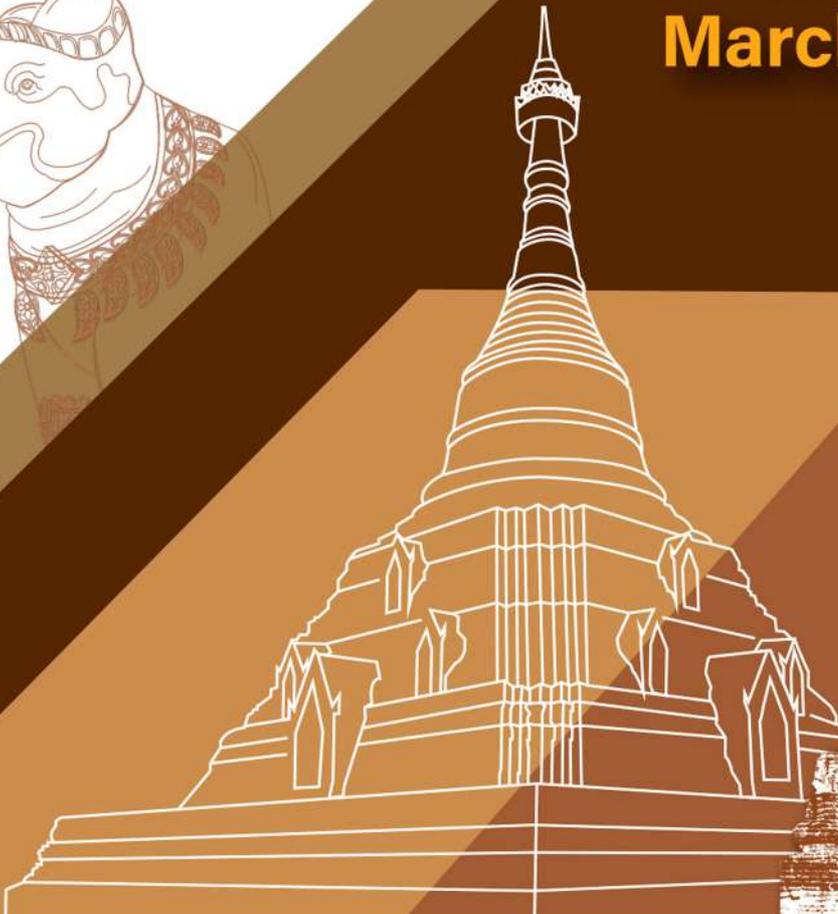
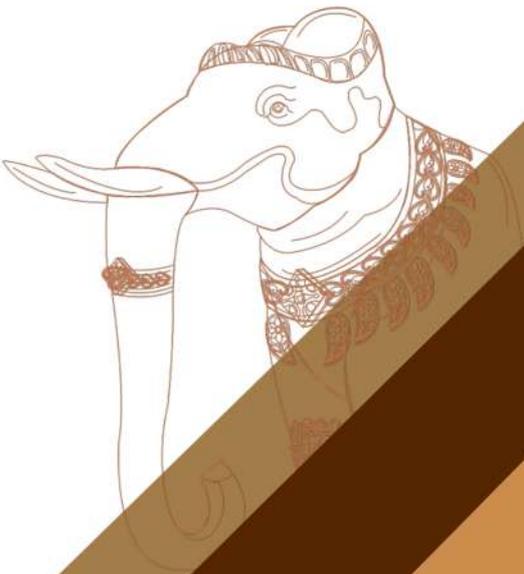
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Mien Embroidered Cloth in Kamphaeng Phet Province

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Abstract

Kamphaeng Phet Province, Thailand, is a land of diverse ethnicities and races scattered in every area and every province. Kamphaeng Phet province is another place that has Mien ethnic groups in Ban Sak Ngam sub-district, Khlong Lan district. In addition, Mien or Yao people live in Chiangrai, Phayao, Nan, Chiangmai, Tak, Phetchabun, Lampang and Sukhothai provinces. Mien has a style of dressing and using colors that are somewhat different, but only a little. Mien people are originally settled in the area of the Yangtze River, China, which is known as Yao. "Mien" is a name that is given by the government. Sometimes, they are called "Ew Mien" that means human migration of 12 Mien tribes going down to the south about the 15th-16th century. They entered to Vietnam through Laos and also northern Thailand. They came to live in Thailand in the past about 100 years.

Keywords: embroidery, embroidery of Kamphaeng Phet, Mien embroidery product

Objectives of the Research

This article has objectives to study 1. Wisdom of Mien embroidery cloth in Kamphaeng Phet province 2. Dressing style of Mien 3. Embroidery pattern and meaning of patterns 4. Mien embroidery product

Wisdom of Mien embroidery cloth in Kamphaeng Phet province

Mien people in Kamphaeng Phet province preferably set up their houses in hillside slopes, near forests and water sources by creating a one-story shelter on the ground. Across the main gate in front of the house, there is a shrine or ancestral shrine. Mien people have the art of creating patterns on the fabric that is known and accepted for their beauty, or it is called the embroidery pattern that appears on the fabric of the Mien people. Nowadays, it can still be found on almost every piece of fabric. It is an ancient pattern that has its own identity, and has been passed down from ancient ancestors, which is often associated and bound with legendary myths and beliefs that are based on cultural traditions, blending in with patterns that come from nature, surrounding environment, as well as the way of life, such as household appliances, wild animals, and also various plants with their exquisite and excellent skill. In addition, Mien people are skilled in making jewelry and silverware. In the beginning, Mien people used their own weaving. After immigrating to Thailand, it was discovered that the Tai Lue's hand-woven fabrics, which are inhabited in Myanmar and Thailand, are suitable for embroidery. Therefore, they bought Tai Lue's hand-woven fabrics to

be dyed and embroidered until becoming popular among the Mien people (Association of Education and Culture Center of Khao Khao Yai in Thailand, 2016)

Mien dress style

Mien dress style has the components that relate to embroidery, including inner headdress (Kong Jude). Some villages may use it in different colors, such as red and black. Currently, some Mien women do not like to use the inner headdress, but the outer headdress (Kong Pao) is preferable, it depends on each village. For example, Ban Pangka, Pa Klang village commonly used black hand-woven that made of medium or large size of cotton fabrics, which embroidered on both ends and also flap shirt. The sash used black hand-woven fabric, which looks like a headdress with embroidery at both ends. Tying the sash usually start from the front or back by having both ends tying together at the back to see the embroidery of the pants (Hao). Sewing Mien's trousers uses 5 pieces of fabric with 2 pieces of embroidery fabric by using black hand-woven fabric that almost embroider the whole one, it's left the sides. Traditionally, Mien menswear has 2 pieces, including a shirt that made of black fabric, and embroider on the shirt and pocket. When there is a tradition, Mian people will be sewing, embroidering, and coloring on various utensils that use in various ceremonies, especially in religious ceremony (Kua Tang) and wedding ceremony. Such as, Pha Tom Pha is a veil over the frame for placing on the bride's head during a large wedding ceremony, etc. The other importance of clothing that relate to traditions is marriage that must inform ancestors of both bride and groom to know by the groom will give the regional thread and woven fabric, or the equipment for embroidering a wedding dress to use for a wedding ceremony for the woman to embroider the bridal dress. The bride has to finish embroidering the wedding dress from the equipment that the man prepared for. Nowadays, Mien's dress in Thailand is mostly dressed in a similar way. There are only some differences between the headdresses of a woman, which dress according to one's own age. But, they still dress in traditional clothes. Moreover, there are some dresses according to the Thai people, as shown in Picture 1.



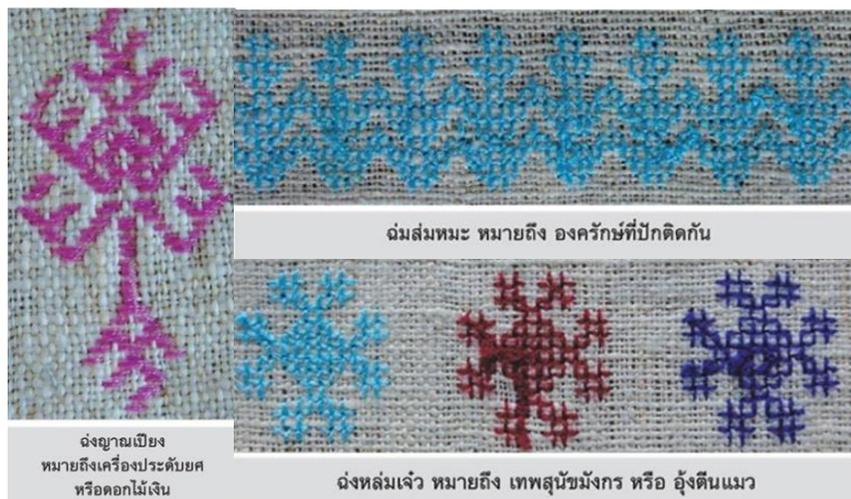
Picture 1 Mian people in Kamphaeng Phet province
(Department of Local Administration (n.d.)

Embroidery and the meaning of patterns

The embroidery is the creation of patterns on the fabric. These patterns were derived from the Taoist philosophy that related to the way of life, culture of community, as well as the history of the race and the constant awareness that he was descended from the emperor of China who had been privileged to settle anywhere in China without tax. It can be seen from the embroidery of Phan Ta Hu (The god of Mien people), guardian, and ornaments of rank, etc. These patterns are associated with emperors and legends, which is considered as an important symbol of Mien. Every Mien fabric from every area has to have all 3 of the above patterns. The color using of embroidery patterns has at least 7 colors of yarn. The Mien's main colors are red, yellow, blue, green, purple, black, and white. Each Mien embroidery fabric is like a work to show gratitude to the ancestors, and is a preservation of the precious wisdom of the tribes, which has been carried on. Some of Mien embroidery fabric may have more than 10 patterns in one piece, and take the time to create each piece for a period of years to finish. The patterns reflect the identity of the Mien tribe clearly, they will be known that the fabric of the Mien people when see it. These patterns are the traditional patterns that have been passed down from ancestors for hundreds of years. There are not only mandatory patterns, which are the identity of Mian fabric and come from the belief and pride of their own tribe, that must have in every piece, but the Mien women who embroider the fabric also add their own spirit and art while embroidering. That is to say, the Mien embroidery has clear patterns, relatively fixed, which has the embroidery elements as follow (Highland Research and Development Institute) (Public Organization, 2016)

1. The pattern that represents the Mien race
2. The pattern that represents belief and the way of life
3. The pattern that comes out from the creation of the person who embroiders

The pattern that represents the Mien ethnicity is a fixed rule that every person who embroider or every piece of Mien must be embroidered on the fabric, including gurdian pattern, ornaments of rank pattern, the Phan Hu Ta pattern, or cat's paws pattern. These represent to prestigious ethnicity that descended from the emperor. The legend that appears in a message or a book that uses Chinese ink to write on a long cloth tells that the Emperor's daughter, The Queen Ping Huang, who has to marry with a dog. Then, she had to leave the city to find a new address. In the said book, it was written that those who held this scroll can settle in the Kingdom of China without tax because these people are the members of the emperor's family, which The Queen Ping Huang bestowed 12 Mien families that came to live in Thailand, as shown in the Picture 2.



Picture 2 The patterns that represent to Mian ethnicity
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016)

The patterns that represent belief and way of life are as the first element; a mandatory embroidery that all of the people who embroider have to embroider these patterns, which are related to people, animals, plants, flowers, household appliances, such as saw-tooth pattern, popcorn pattern, tiger footprints pattern, pumpkin flower pattern, etc. However, the saw-tooth pattern is appeared in every Mien embroidery because it is believed that it can protect us from harmful things or prevent bad things from entering the wearer, as shown in the Picture 3.



Picture 3 The pattern that represents belief and the way of life
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016)

The pattern that comes out from the creation of the person who embroiders is still in the fixed rule. It is the use of the existing pattern in a variety of forms, or may create a new pattern, but must be in the matter of the way of life or surroundings, such as the flowers that are create from imagination and plan. If the fabric is very detailed, the embroidery will be exquisite and difficult. Therefore, the embroidery in this element shows patience, painstaking and many other things of the embroidery. To choose a partner of men, Mien people often take care and judge the embroidery on the pants that the woman wears because it is a reflection of character. This is the part that causes each piece of fabric that embroider with element 1 and 2: 70% and element 3: 30%, as shown in Picture 4.



Picture 4 The pattern that comes out from the creation of the person who embroiders
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016))

Mien embroidery

Mien embroidery is the embroidery from the back. (While embroidering at the back, the fabric is at the top, but the fabric will be at the bottom while embroidering at the front.) To get the pattern on the front when the embroidery is finished, there are 4 techniques and methods of embroidery as follow

1. Embroidery of Yew form is a line of embroidery. Mien embroidery on all types of fabric needs to embroider the line at the edge of the embroidery. The method is to pierce the top of the fabric, go through 4 cotton threads in the fabric, then pierce diagonally the needle over the cotton threads, and pull the needle up, then sew back 2 lines, and do this continuously until reaching the desired length, as shown in Picture 5.



Picture 5 Embroidery of Yew pattern
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016))

2. Embroidery of Giam pattern is a line that moves up and down according to the pattern specified along the horizontal path. The pattern that appears is the same as the pattern obtained from the junction technique. In the weaving, Giam will use to embroider on the end of pants, which is the beginning in embroidery, like practicing walking step that some are short steps and some are long steps. This pattern of embroidery teaches counting because the embroidery technique requires counting spaces, which is the beginning of women's learning in embroidery. The method is to

pierce the needle into the top fabric and insert the needle into the space between the cotton threads in the fabric, just like weaving that is lying down on the standing line, where the needle is inserted under the cotton line. How many lines will be inserted and how many crosses will depend on the pattern, which must be counted correctly. When the embroidery is finished, the front and back will get different patterns. Embroidery pattern that uses this technique include Chong, Che, Chong, Ong, Guang, and Chongsed. It is the pattern that is embroidered on the end of the pants, which these three patterns are mandatory patterns on every piece of Mian in any area, as shown in Picture 6.



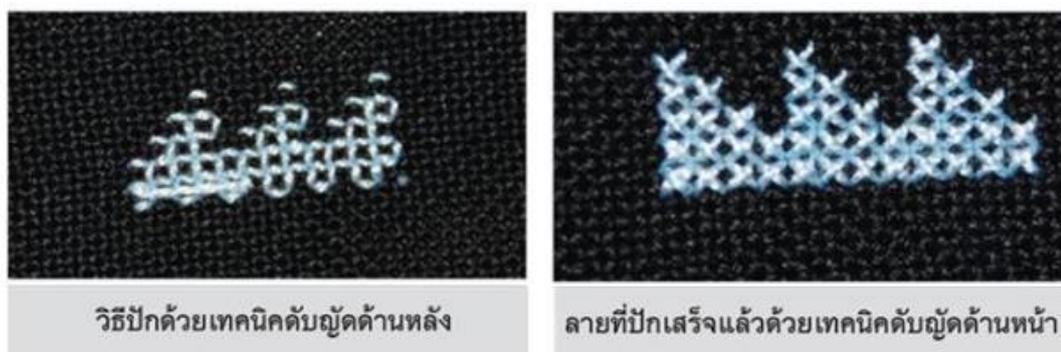
Picture 6 The embroidery of Giam pattern
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016)

3. The embroidery of Tew pattern will get an image that similar to the plus sign (+) when finishing embroidery, but it is a embroidery of four threads that are separated from one point. The method is to pierce the needle onto the top fabric, and insert the needle through 2 cotton threads on the fabric. Then, insert another needle through the cotton thread. Continue to do this while stitching horizontally and vertically. This embroidery has to keep moving forward until it meets to become the pattern. This technique is the most difficult embroidery that requires attention and good planning to be successful. Therefore, the pattern that uses this technique is usually embroidered with a single pattern and used a single color, such as Phan Ta Hu pattern, guardian pattern, and ornaments of rank, etc. This technique will get both the front and back with the same pattern. New generation of Mien women are not able to do it because this technique is a difficult technique, and they turne to use Dab Yad technique that is cross-stitching, which is easier to replace, as shown in Picture 7.



Picture 7 The embroidery of Tew pattern
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016)

4. The embroidery of Dab Yad pattern is cross-stitching. This embroidery technique is generally known because it is used in many different embroidery works. The methods are to pierce the needle into the fabric up and down by crossing the cotton threads on the fabric 2 treads at a time to make the threads that are embroidered become a cross. When the embroidery is finished, the front and back patterns will be different. This technique is often used to embroider single pattern, such as saw-tooth pattern. Another one is combination pattern, such as the pumpkin flower pattern, which is often used in many colors. This technique is not preferable to embroider in bride's dress because cross-stitching is considered overlapping and filling. So, will Giam and Tew techniques are the only techniques for this case. This is also not popular for those who are beginners because it's easy; beginners should start to learn difficult things first by starting from Giam and Tew, then go to Dab Yab, as shown in Picture 8.



Picture 8: The embroidery of Dab Yab pattern
(Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization, 2016)

Conclusion

The study of Mien embroidery cloth in Kamphaeng Phet province consists of 1. Wisdom of Mien embroidery cloth in Kamphaeng Phet province found that the embroidery that appears on the fabric of the Mien people is an ancient and unique pattern that inherited from ancestors of ancient times. It is relevant and bound to legendary myths and beliefs that are insinuated from tribal cultural traditions that are blended with patterns and derived from nature and the surrounding environment as well as the way of life. 2. Dressing style of Mien is divided into 2 parts, including women's dress and men's dress. Currently, Mien's dress in Thailand is mostly dressed similarly, but there are only some differences between the headdresses of a woman, which dress according to one's own age, but, they still dressed in traditional clothes. There are some parts dressed in Thai style. 3. Embroidery pattern and meaning of patterns found that they consist of 3.1 Pattern that represent to Mien ethnicity. 3.2 Pattern that represent to beliefs and lifestyles. 3.3 Pattern that comes from the creation of the person who embroider. 4. Mien embroidery It was found that there are 4 techniques and methods of embroidery, namely 4.1 the embroidery of Yew patterns 4.2 The embroidery of Giam pattern 4.3 The embroidery of Tew patterns 4.4 embroidery of Dab Yab pattern.

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