



# KAZ SHAWL

Kubachi Village,  
Kaytago-Tabasaranskiy District,  
Dagestan Region, Russia

Early 20th century

*Cotton and passing threads, brocade,  
passing thread fringe, pattern weaving*

About the project

[https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/  
events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/](https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/)





SELECTED BY

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*Curator of the Textile Collection*



I was lucky enough to work in the ‘holy of holies’ of the museum — in the depository. Almost every item in the museum's collection has a great or small story associated with it. This could be a story about episodes from the life of the former owner, about the skillful work of the artisan who created this item, or it could be our personal memories that come to life at the sight of this item.

For example, Dagestan shawls from the textile collection remind me of the school holidays that I spent with my grandmother in Makhachkala. I remember how much I liked going to the market on Sundays, where the stalls were bursting with juicy fruits, fresh herbs and spices, and the rows were crowded with buyers, among whom one could always see mountain women who came from local villages. They were dressed inconspicuously, but against the background of simple dark dresses, bright headdresses always stood out: a shawl, a head cover or a headscarf. Their variety of fabrics and colours was no less striking than the ways of wearing them.

Years have passed, the images of mountain women erased from my memory, and only a long time later, when I started working with the textile holding, I learned that a Dagestan shawl can tell a lot about its owner — about what nationality she belongs to, whether she is married or of marriageable age; and some hats indicate what area she comes from. For example, the traditional head cover *kaz* allows us to identify a resident of the Dagestan village of Kubachi. These covers with passing thread embroidery, elegant borders and fringes remain a mandatory element of the Kubachi bride's dowry. Local girls learn to embroider *kaz* from childhood, using fringes from shawls handed down by their grandmothers.

The exhibited *kaz* was made in the early 20th century. But even today one can find a Kubachi woman in such a veil. It can be matched with traditional dresses and modern clothes, high-heeled shoes and fashionable bags.