

Is that a napkin on her head? Demystifying Safavid Women's Headwear
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Braid case – “Cap” with long tube case at end. Cap portion is attached to top of head and hair is braided then tucked into the case, which may be stuffed from where the natural hair ends to make it appear as if the hair is longer. Can range from 8-10 feet long. Ends decorated with tassels made of horse hair, silk fringe, pearls or other gemstones. Often depicted in miniatures draped over a shoulder, “tucked” into the waist sash, or hanging over an arm.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Čarqad /chahr-kahd'/ – Square veils, of varying sizes, folded into a triangle, or may have been just a triangle, similar to the modern *babushka*, one or more may be worn. Could be pinned to braid case or worn alone, tied with a short or long fabric band or tied or pinned under the chin. Sometimes the ends were left to hang freely. Made of linen, cotton, silk. Most often white, frequently embroidered. Upon occasion miniatures depict colors other than white.

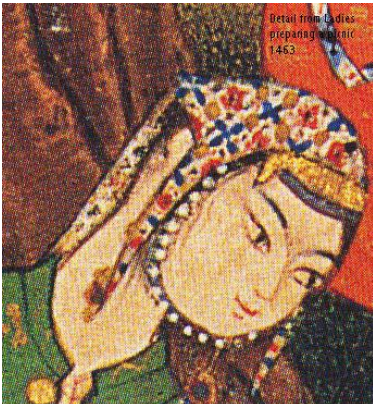


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Čarghat /chahr-gaht’/- May have been similar to the modern hijāb, a hood-type garment made out of a white, very light silk, linen, or cotton. Edges may be plain, or adorned with lace or gemstone beads. May also have been a long scarf or Čādor wrapped around the head and neck.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Čādor /chah’-dur/ - Long silk veil, used to wrap and cover the body when out in public. Depicted in miniatures in white and other colors.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Taj-Kulah /tahzh-koo’-lah/- Crown-hat. Worn by the Sultan and members of the royal family.



Fig. 10

Fishtail Taj-Kulah - Worn only by princesses in Persian miniatures.

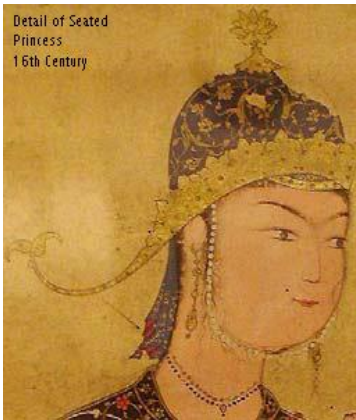


Fig. 11

Tiara - Worn by female nobility. Several styles, from full circle tiaras to those that are only in the front forehead region, which may tie on in the back. These may be cast metalwork, leather, or silk; the latter two may be embroidered with silk floss and/or gold work mixed with various gemstones.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Aigrette /ā-'gret, 'ā-/ - feather plume, often jeweled, adorning a veil or crown



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

My reconstructions



carqad and aigrette



carqad and carghat



braid case and carqad



cador, carqad, and aigrette

Sources:

Ashby 'Satine' McKenney, Urtatim Al-Qurtubiyya, Names for Ottoman Turkish & Persian Garments

Master Safi al-Khansaa', 16th Century Safavid Persian Headwear: Part I; Styles for Women

Chardin, J. (1988). *Travels in Persia. 1673-1677*. New York, Dover. Republication of the edition published by The Argonaut Press, London, 1927, as *Sir John Chardin's Travels in Persia*.

Scarce, J. (2003). *Women's clothing of the near and middle east*. London, England: RoutledgeCurzon.

Images:

Figs.1 & 4 Detail from *The Lovers*, 1565-1570, Mizra Ali, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Fig. 2 Detail from *Woman Applying Henna*, late 16th century, Iran, Unknown Artist, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Fig. 3 Detail from *Ladies Preparing a Picnic*, Qazvin, c. 1575, Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Fig. 5 Detail from *Young Lady Styling Her Hair*, c. 1590, Isfahan, Iran, Sadiqi Beg, Paris, Louvre Museum.

Fig. 6 Detail from *Woman with a Spray of Flowers*, c. 1595, Isfahan, Iran, Smithsonian collections.

Fig. 7 Detail from *A Woman Counting on Her Fingers*, 1628, Iran, Riza Abbasi

Fig. 8 *Lady Holding a Sprig of Flowers*, late 16th century

Fig. 9 *Woman with a Veil*, 1590-1595, Isfahan, Iran, Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian.

Fig. 10 Detail from *Nushade Shows Iskander His Own Portrait*, 1539-1543, Iran, London, British Library.

Fig. 11 Detail from *Portrait of a Young Woman*, 1540, Collection of L. Cartier, Paris, France.

Fig. 12 Detail from *A Young Man Offering a Pomegranate to a Lady*, 16th century Iran, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Fig. 13 Detail from *A Woman Detained by a Kneeling Youth*, c. 1590's, Bukhara, Uzbekistan, Freer Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian.

Fig. 14 Detail from *Woman in a Green Coat*, 1590, Iran

Fig. 15 Detail from *A Woman Adjusts her Aigrette*, 1590, Isfahan, Iran