



ΑΙΘΙΟΠΙΚΟΙ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΙ የኢትዮጵያ መስቀሎች ETHIOPIAN CROSSES

Γράφουν ο Δημήτριος Καλογερόπουλος και η Nora Kanatsouli

Σήμερα θα ασχοληθούμε με τους περίφημους αιθιοπικούς σταυρούς γνωστούς για την ποικιλομορφία τους και τα σχήματά τους, είναι δε απaráμιλλης ομορφιάς και τέχνης!

Φτιαγμένα από ξύλο, σίδηρο, μπρούτζο ασήμι και χρυσάφι είναι μοναδικοί στο κόσμο κυρίως γιατί την τεχνολογία που χρησιμοποιούν.

Τους σταυρούς αυτούς, τα παλιά τα χρόνια, τους πουλούσαν κυρίως τα καταστήματα στην Αντις Αμπέμπα, στην λεωφόρο Χαϊλέ Σελασιέ στην πιάτσα καθώς και στην περιοχή του μερκάτο.

Ήταν δε αραδιασμένα στις βιτρίνες στα διάφορα καταστήματα που πουλούσαν κοσμήματα, από αυτά ξεχώριζε το μεγάλο γνωστό κοσμηματοπωλείο, χρυσοχοείο του Teklu Desta. Στις βιτρίνες κ στα ράφια του βλέπαμε τα διάφορα χειροποίητα κοσμήματά, κυρίως χρυσαφικά, κ ειδικά τους σταυρούς που έφτιαχνε ο ίδιος.

Στην συνέχεια η Νόρα θα μας εξιστορήσει την πορεία που ακολούθησε η κατασκευή των σταυρών αυτών ανά τους αιώνες, την διαφορετικότητα τους και την ελευθερία που είχαν οι κατασκευαστές να τα φιλοτεχνούν σε σημείο που ο κάθε σταυρός να διαφέρει από το άλλα.

Γνωστότεροι σταυροί είναι κυρίως του Αζούμ κ της Λαλιμπέλα.

Τέλος, έχουμε συλλέξει μερικές φωτογραφίες από τους σταυρούς αυτούς που πραγματικά εντυπωσιάζουν.

Δημήτριος Καλογερόπουλος



After Armenia, Ethiopia is supposed to be the second country to have embraced the Christian faith. During its 1600-year-old history, the Ethiopian church was largely isolated from outside influence until the early fifteenth century, and after two centuries of European contact with its inevitable conflicts, another two centuries of isolation followed. It is only natural, therefore, that the Ethiopian crosses differ from European Christian crosses and have their own unique stylized design.

Ethiopian crosses are made from elaborate intertwined geometric patterned latticework, baroque style or filigree work, their intertwined lattice style representing everlasting life. Not only a sign of faith but also of pride, each one is a unique work of art created by the artisan and no two crosses are exactly identical.

There are three forms of crosses: the processional cross, the hand cross and the pendant cross

THE PROCESSIONAL TYPE are huge elaborate pieces that can be mounted on a staff, used in church ceremonies and carried in processions through towns and villages to bless the faithful on feast days - especially during the two important Church festivals, namely the Finding of the True Cross by the empress Helena and the Exaltation of the Cross.

HAND-HELD blessing crosses are personal objects owned by every Ethiopian priests. These are carried during religious ceremonies. Their latticework form is characterized by the handle which ends with a squared base, representing the Ark of the Covenant. Until recently they were often made by the owner using any material which was at hand.

But the small PENDANT CROSSES, are the most common and popular. Worn by every Ethiopian Christian, but especially by women, they are received at baptism and worn around the neck as a talisman and symbol of faith. Since they are also used for personal ornament they are available in a great many styles and forms. But the most sought after crosses, are those made prior to the 20th century in small village communities which reflect the skills of local metalsmiths. In the past a favoured material was the Maria Theresa Thaler. With a high silver content, a conveniently round shape and standard thickness, jewellers did not have to work hard to form a cross shape, and indeed some of those 'antique' Ethiopian crosses still bear the imprint of the original coins.

Nora Kanatsouli



Αναγνώστης

