

Research on Manufacturing Technology and Cultural Connotation of Guangxi Rongshui Miao Brocade Strap

Ning Yun

Guangxi Vocational and Technical College, Nanning, 530226, Guangxi, China

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Abstract: Miao brocade straps are made purely by hand, and the production process is complicated. It integrates the main production processes of Miao brocade, supplemented by weaving, patchwork, and Miao embroidery. The steps are complicated and the construction period is long. A complete Miao brocade strap is composed of strap core, strap hand and a strap cover. As a carrier of the transmission and inheritance of Miao culture, Miao brocade straps are not only daily necessities, but also a testimony to the continuous integration and common progress of the Miao and Han, Dong, Yao, Zhuang and other ethnic groups. It has extremely rich cultural connotations.

1. Introduction

The Miao brocade harness is a tool used by the Miao people in Rongshui, Guangxi, China to carry children. It is also called Shuoba, Shengba, and Baaiduo (Rongshui Miao dialect). The strap was called “infant” in ancient times, and it is also called back fan today. In “The Analects of Confucius • Zilu”, there is “if there is no such thing, then the people of the Quartet will succumb to their sons and die.” Straps have been around since ancient times, “back” and “generation” are homophonic, meaning “passed on from generation to generation”. After the birth of the Miao children, the Miao Jin strap vividly embodies the love between mother and child that cannot be conveyed in words. The Miao mother weaves stitch by stitch, and the brocade weaves the lotus pattern, which is intended to look forward to family harmony, and children grow up healthy and happy in a harmonious family. The brocade weaves the pattern of fish, expressing the hope for many children, and also expressing the wish for the healthy growth of children [1]. The exquisite patterns sewn and woven through so many days and nights reflect the silent love of Miao mothers. The Miao brocade strap is a kind of wedding gift in the Rongshui Miao area. It is one of the necessary dowry for Miao women to marry. It is mainly distributed in Rongshui County, Sirong Township, Xiangfen Township, Antai Township, Anhui Township, and Gunbei Township, etc., is a kind of folk crafts with a long history, exquisite craftsmanship, and connotation of Miao culture [2].

2. The Historical Origin of Rongshui Miaojin Strap

According to historical documents and Miao people’s word-of-mouth information, the ancestors of the Miao nationality first lived in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River. Their ancestors were Chi You. They moved to the Jiangnan Plain during the “Three Miao” era, and then gradually moved south and west due to wars and other reasons Migrate, enter the southwest

mountainous area and the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Since the Ming and Qing dynasties, a part of the Miao people migrated to Southeast Asian countries, and in modern times they migrated to Europe and America from these places [3].

It is difficult to verify when the Miao brocade came from. According to an older Miao ama in Rongshui, Miao brocade has been closely related to the lives of the Miao people since ancient times as a gift given by the natal family to their daughter when they married. In Tiantou Village, Sirong Township, Rongshui, almost every Miao woman is a master at making Miao brocade straps, including the selection of fabrics, weaving strap cores, frame patterns of stitched prismatic strap cores, weaving strap making hands, etc. , All proficient. As an indispensable ceremonial article of the Miao family, the sales range of Miao brocade straps has expanded from Tiantou Village to Hemu, Yongle, Sanfang and other towns, and even sold as handicrafts to Liuzhou, Nanning, Guilin and other places. The Miao people in Rongshui have a custom that Miao brocade straps must be given to grandchildren by grandmothers, and they are given away when their daughters get married. Therefore, the brocade pattern in the Miao brocade strap not only has auspicious patterns, but also the character of happiness, which embodies the grandmother's reluctance to her daughter, and also embodies the infinite love for the grandson. In the process of ethnic cultural integration, although Han culture has penetrated deeply into the lives of the Miao people, it still cannot impact the Miao people's love for Miao brocade straps. Even the Han people in Rongshui have followed the Miao people's use of Miao brocade straps [4].

3. Application of Miao Brocade and Embroidery in Miao Brocade Strap

Guangxi Rongshui Miao Brocade Strap combines Miao Brocade, embroidery, patchwork and other crafts, and organically combines them. The brocade and embroidery of the Miao nationality are closely related to the national culture. The brocade of the Miao nationality is mainly made of colorful patterns, showing a rich artistic effect. The colorful brocade is generally woven with white noodle threads as warp threads and red, green, yellow, purple and blue colored cotton threads as weft threads. Its fabrics are multicolored and colorful. Apart from geometric patterns, the exhibited themes include many art troupes about ancestors, gods, birds and beasts, flowers and trees, and the starry sky. There are many artistic themes, and the structure is very precise and rigorous. The embroidery is matched with the silver ornaments of the Miao people, and it is matched with a wide variety of colors, forming a national cultural costume and living customs, and becoming an important part of the development of the Miao culture. Its embroidery has many crafts and styles.

3.1 Lock Embroidery

Lock embroidery is one of the traditional stitches of ancient Miao embroidery. It is made of loops of embroidery thread. The embroidery pattern is like a chain. Because of its appearance, it has the shape of a braid. It is also called a braid stitch. This is one of the main stitches used in embroidery in my country from the Shang Dynasty to the Han Dynasty. The series of embroidery unearthed from the Mawangdui Han Tomb in Changsha, Hunan, and the bronzes unearthed from the Fuhao Tomb in Yinxu, Anyang, Henan, have traces of stitch stitches.

3.2 AppliquÉ

Applique embroidery is also called applique show in the folk. It is often used in straps. The embroidering method is to cut the sticker canvas according to the size of the pattern and stick it on the embroidery surface, so that the bulge of the pattern becomes three-dimensional, and then various Stitch overlock. This kind of embroidery method is relatively simple, the pattern is

dominated by block faces, and the style is unique and generous.

3.3 Pile Embroidery

Piling embroidery is also called “stacking embroidery” in the folk. The theme is mainly fish and bird patterns, and the sense of space is rich. It is often filled with triangles and pressed into a quadrilateral pattern, and continuously stacked to form a neatly balanced square picture with the same size. The arrangement is neat and beautiful, and the arrangement on the embroidery cloth is neat, regular and tight, with a very strong three-dimensional effect.

The pattern of the brocade is woven with a brocade machine (of course, it is also done by a simple weaving machine, the warp is stretched well, and the weft is woven one by one, so we rely on weaving wefts of different colors to make the pattern) The pattern of brocade is generally two-sided continuous, showing a row of patterns, and in a row, the same pattern is repeated continuously as a unit (Figure 1).



Figure .1 Two Continuous Patterns of Brocade

The combination of these geometric patterns and richer themed embroidery makes the traditional fabrics and clothing aesthetics of the Miao nationality achieve both practical and beautiful effects.

4. The Manufacturing Process of Miao Brocade Strap

Since the development of Miao Jin straps, it has the characteristics of batch production and partial reproducibility. Every artist who makes straps has mastered the production mode. Miao brocade straps are made purely by hand, and the production process is cumbersome. In addition to the Miao brocade-based production process, it also combines the production processes such as weaving, patchwork, and Miao embroidery. The steps are complicated and the construction period is long. Thus, a complete Miao brocade strap is formed by a complete system consisting of strap core, strap hand and a strap cover.

4.1 Strap Core

The strap core has two sizes, one is narrow and the other is wide. The narrow size is 30*30cm, and the wide size is 30*50cm. The material of the strap core is Miao brocade, and the design of Miao brocade consists of the main pattern in the middle of the strap, the characters “xixi” and “dog teeth” around it. The main patterns include animals such as birds, butterflies, plants such as rose flowers, leaves, wind, rain, thunder and lightning, fishing nets, etc., reflecting the daily life of the Miao people, perhaps the beautiful insects, fish, birds and beasts seen during work, or the head up The beautiful natural landscape of the mountains that I saw is reflected on the Miao brocade strap. Since the principle of weaving Miao brocade is warp and weft, the patterns of these strap cores of Miao brocade are mainly rhombus. Through the design of the tortuous shape, a unique decorative pattern is formed, which has a strong regional culture and national significance. There is another

5cm wide “dog tooth” pattern beside the Miao Jin, which surrounds the strap core. The pattern is jagged because it resembles a dog's teeth, so it is commonly called “dog teeth”. The “dog tooth” pattern is composed of small triangles of balanced size, and the triangles are composed of patchwork of different colors. The colors are bright and bright, which complements the Miao brocade pattern in the middle. For the convenience of carrying children, there is a hip drag under the core of the strap. The size is 5*35cm, and the material is dark red or dark purple brocade. These monochromatic brocade fabrics are also woven with a brocade machine. The yarn is soft and flexible. After weaving, the brocade is breathable and sweat-absorbent, which is very suitable for fabrics for straps.



Fig.2 Strap Core

4.2 Strap Hand

There are two left and right hand straps for binding purposes. The size and shape of the left and right sides are different. There are three colored patchwork decorative areas of 20*30cm on both sides of the strap hand. The color depends on the mood of the producer. Therefore, there have never been two straps that are exactly the same. The strap hand on the left is trapezoidal, measuring 250*35*30*250cm; the one on the right is slightly shorter and also trapezoidal, measuring 230*35*30*250cm. It is especially worth mentioning that there is a small pocket with a size of 25*25cm at the end of the left hand strap. This pocket is used to hold some children's common items, such as handkerchiefs, but in the custom of the Rongshui Miao people, this Pockets also have special uses. The married daughter brought the doll back to her natal home for the first time. When the doll left her grandmother's house, the grandmother would put glutinous rice, cured fish, eggs, etc. in the doll, which meant that the doll grew up safely, happily and healthy.

4.3 Strap Cover

The strap cover is a single individual, composed of a 40*40cm square strap cover, plus two decorative lines. The craftsmanship of the strap cover is Miao embroidery, with auspicious patterns that the Miao people love, such as flowers. The two decorative lines are made of Miao embroidery and beading techniques, and the patterns are mostly roses and other flowers with gorgeous colors. Most of the plant patterns in the decorative lines are derived from flowers and plants in life, some are abstract geometric flower patterns, and some are plants in a certain state, such as vines, leaves, branches and so on. The strap cover is nailed to the strap core with two pins. When the child is asleep, turn the strap cover over to protect the child from shade and insects. The two decorative lines can be inserted into the sides of the strap and will not fall off. Miao women can carry their children while doing farm work, which is convenient and comfortable, which reflects the wisdom of the Miao people.

5. The Cultural Connotation of Miao Jin Strap

Rongshui Miao Autonomous County is located in the mountainous area of northern Guangxi, with relatively blocked traffic. Except for the county's high-speed and train connections, the remaining dozens of towns and villages have only county and provincial roads. The Miao people in the mountainous areas have long lived a life of slash and burn. The kind-hearted and hardworking Miao people blend their own national culture with the culture of the Han nationality and other nationalities, and condense the rich national culture of the Miao nationality and its intelligent creation thoughts in the Miao brocade belt. As a carrier of the transmission and inheritance of the Miao culture, the Miao brocade strap is not only a daily necessities, but also a medium for the transmission and inheritance of the Miao culture. It is the continuous integration and common progress of the Miao and Han, Dong, Yao, Zhuang and other ethnic groups. Witnesses have extremely rich cultural connotations.

6. Conclusion

The Miao brocade belt, a cultural and artistic product with Rongshui Miao characteristics, contains a series of cultural significance and spiritual connotations. It is not only a testimony to the culture and folk customs of the Rongshui Miao ethnic group, but also the generations of the Rongshui Miao ethnic group for thousands of years.

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