

## Abstract

The study “Liturgical Christian vestments in the Old Church period (centuries I - VI AD)” tries to reconstitute, based on existent documents, the clerical clothing of the early pagan times until the Justinian Byzantine era and in West, until the Carolingian period (with approximation). These documents fall mostly in what literature calls as "Palo-Christian art" – wall paintings, mosaics, carvings in stone, carved ivory diptychs; not the least, the documents that we used fall in the "minor arts" category, being usually clothing accessories: pectoral crosses, engolpions, rings, amulets, talismans, gems and cameos.

To all these we added as well actual textile relics and literary sources from that specific period.

Based on these documents listed above which form the frame of this work, we also used throughout the research, scientific literature. We have tried to reconstruct how the Palo-Christian clothing was looking like during I - VI AD centuries. Moreover we've attempted to find answers to sensitive questions such as those related to chronology and influences – coming from the Eastern religions or from the traditionally Greek – Roman environment, influences that would explain the birth and development of the clerical clothing as well as the Palo-Christian symbols on the garments and accessories, with possible implications for ritual and cult.

We have tried to cover in time and space the entire period proposed for research - the first six centuries of Christianity, with a clearly more pronounced emphasis on the historical, political and cultural space of the Roman Empire, the Western Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire and the future Byzantine Empire. To the extent to which we had access to documents, we covered as well the marginal spaces of the Christian world, the so - called "Eastern Christianity", distinguishing between the Byzantine cultural tradition and the local tradition: Ethiopia, Nubia, Armenia, Syria or Egypt.

**Key - words:** Palo-Christianity, Palo-Christian art, textiles, liturgical vestment, ancient Greek-Roman garment, toga, dalmatic, himation, pallium, chiton, tunic, tunic talaris, clavi, colobium, orbiculum, skaramanghion, orarium, paenula, paludamentum, head gear, phrygium, pilos, mitre, footwear, accessory dress, ring, necklace, pendant, amulet, talisman, glyptics, gems, cameos, fibula, buckle, bracelet, pectoral cross, cross hand engolpion, crosier, ornament, symbol, symbolism, cult objects.

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<i>Toga, chiton, himation, kolobus, colobium, tunica, tunica-</i> <i>talaris, tunica palmata, alba, paenula, casula, cappa,</i> <i>dalmatica, sakkos, planeta, pallium, palla, omophorion,</i>	

*sudarium, mappa, orarium, stola, epitachelion, cassock, rasa, amice, superhumeral, chlamys, abola, lacerna, birrus, paludamentum, skaramanghion, subcingulum (subcinctorium; zona), epimanikia, pera, subligaculum*

b. Headgear 131

*Pilos, petatos, phrygium, mitra, tiara, camelaucum, kalumaukion, epanikalumaukion, skoufos (skufya), cuculus, clerical tonsure, ricinum*

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*Sandals, calceus, crepida, callicula, campagus, soccus*

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