



OBJECT ID	2004.9.9.B
OBJECT NAME	Shoe, Tsarouxia
MATERIAL	Cotton; Leather
ACCESS POINTS	Personal Artifact Pom Pon Red Leather Sequins Tsarouxia Tsarouxia Shoe White Leather

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Children's Evzones shoes. Red leather with white trimming and black sole. Pom-pom is white, red, and blue. The shoe's opening is embellished with nine sequins.

ORIGIN

Tsarouxia is a type of shoe, which is typically known nowadays as part of the traditional uniform worn by the Greek guards known as Evzones.

Tsarouxia are typically made of a number of pieces of stiff leather hand-sewn together and have a characteristic pointy nose, usually covered by a large woollen pom-pom. The latter was a relatively late addition, originally a way of making the shoe nose waterproof, but increasingly became an essential feature for their decoration.

Their origin is obscure and goes back to the Byzantine times, with influences from styles imported by neighbouring tribes, including the Turks. Originally, various types of similar shoes were worn all over the Balkans, but tsarouxia are mainly associated with the Greeks. They were the most common footwear worn by both urban and rural Greeks, mainly men, but also many women.

After the Greek Independence in early 19th century, their use was limited to isolated rural areas and nomadic populations, seen by westernised urbanites as a sign of uncouthness and backwardness. In a version with reinforced sole, they remained the issue boot for the Evzone units well into the 20th century, though after First World War were gradually replaced in active service by the standard laced boot. Tsarouxia provided a clear link with the origin of the Evzone uniform in the traditional Greek costume, and the fact that Evzones were largely enlisted from rural mountainous regions of Greece. Nowadays are almost exclusively used by the Presidential guard and in various traditional festivals and dances along with other traditional Greek garments.

CITATION

Shoe, Tsarouxia, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/03/24.
