

OBJECT ID	2010.30.16
OBJECT NAME	Purse
DATE CREATED	1960s
MATERIAL	Wool
OBJECT ENTITIES	Salimbene, Suzanne (owned by) Salimbene, Suzanne (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Purse Sarakatsani Wool Purse

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Blue and white woven fabric with geometric pattern, originally used as legging, sewn at sides and bottom edges to form sealed purse. Green and gold thread detailing at center. Green and white tassles along sides and bottom edge. Beige lining. Twisted thread handle.

The center of the purse is a small navy square with a gold cross in the middle. The square is surrounded with a row of white that branches off in the middle of each of the sides of the square. The white lines from new squares that only have three sides because the there is a large white diamond surrounding the pattern. Each partial square has a gold cross in the center. The small triangles formed by the white lines are filled in with green yarn. The white outline of a diamond surrounding the square pattern is pointed so it looks like little white triangles coming out from the line. There is more background of navy blue. Then another white line that is in a diamond shape followed with more navy blue. Then two parrell white lines following in the diamond shaped, there are vertical short, white lines that come from the horizontal lines. In the bottom corners there is a white line after the verticle lines. Then there is a row of white triangles that is at a diangle connect the long to short side of the triangle. In both bottom corners there is a white "H" with a white cross on the inside. There is a little hook is above the "H" that is connected to the white triangle line. The top corners is a white line on both sides that is at a diangle a white triangle line follows

it. Along the top of the bag is a row of "X"s that have a white line running through the center of the Xs. There is a wavy white line that runs like a half an inch from the top. The top of the purse is navy blue. The back side of the purse is the same.

There are hunter green and white tassels on the sides and bottom of the purse. There are two tassels connected with a string that is tied to the purse. There are two stings that the shoulder straps of the bag. The string is white, brown, hunter green, and light green.

The interior of the bag is light brown fabric.

ORIGIN

The donor lived in Greece from 1965-1982 and wore and owned the Sateataski costume.

This style of purse came from the Sarakatsani people. Sarakatsani are indigenous people from Greek. They are nomatic people who live half the year in the mountains. Their art (song, pottery, dance, clothing design) resembles the geometric art of pre-classical Greece. Furthermore, Sarakatsani still practice traditional folk medicine. They are Greek Orthodox Christians and associate with Church of Greece. They begin their migration up the mountains on Saint George Day in April and return to the low plains on Saint Demetrius in October. Sarakatsanies have lived in countries surrounding Greece (Bulgaria, Albania, Republic of Macedonia). However, now there are only measurable numbers of people in Greece and Bulgaria. For women's outfits there are thirteen parts. Most items are made from hand-wooven wool.

This purse was made from tow gabis which are knitting leggings. The footwear is made in two parts the gabis and the Kaltsounia which cover the feet. The Gabis can be worn when barefoot to keep the legs warm.

There have been significant decreases in the population of Sarakatsani due to urbanization. Many have willing left; however, others have left because there is not enough open land to support their lifestyle

CITATION

Purse, 1960s, *National Hellenic Museum*, https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/. Accessed 11/10/26.