

Not everyone in the Netherlands is dressed in wide black fisherman's trousers, nor does everybody walk about in yellow clogs. On the contrary, these age old national costumes are now confined to certain rural districts and vary greatly from province to province, and even from village to village. In Holland, which has an area of only 13.000 sq. miles there are at least 50 different types of costume. For instance, although the famous village of Volendam and the well known former island of Marken are only three miles apart as the crow flies, the distinctive dress of these two villages is completely different.

avi

and

Should you ever visit the many picturesque little towns and villages of Holland and admire the beautiful costumes, remember that they are all made, embroidered and initialled by the women themselves with their own hands (no sewing machines for them!) and that every fold is still made in the traditional manner with the finger nail.

It would be impossible to estimate the number of working hours which have been put into the making of these lovely Dutch national costumes.

ZEELAND (ZUID-BEVELAND)

In the province of Zeeland, and especially on the island of South Beveland, one finds the costliest, and most intricate costumes. In this area, too, the traditional wearing of the time honoured national costumes is still kept up even by the young. The Zeeland head dresses are marvels of technical skill and exquisite work.

One of the most interesting items is the "casque", a metal headband designed to make the under cap stand out. It is usually made of silver, or, among the prosperous Zeeland folk, even of gold. In front the casque is kept together by a clasp, with two projecting gold plates on either side of the head. From the South Beveland costume illustrated here, it is possible to see at a glance to which Faith the woman belongs. The head dress itself is the same, but the Catholic woman leaves the back of the neck open, while the Protestant closes it. Therefore, the Catholic is able to wear the beautifully worked antique gold clasp of her five tiered red coral necklace (it has six tiers on Sunday) at the back of her neck, while the Protestant has to wear

it in front.

Madyre B. Barner

Albert Him W

ma