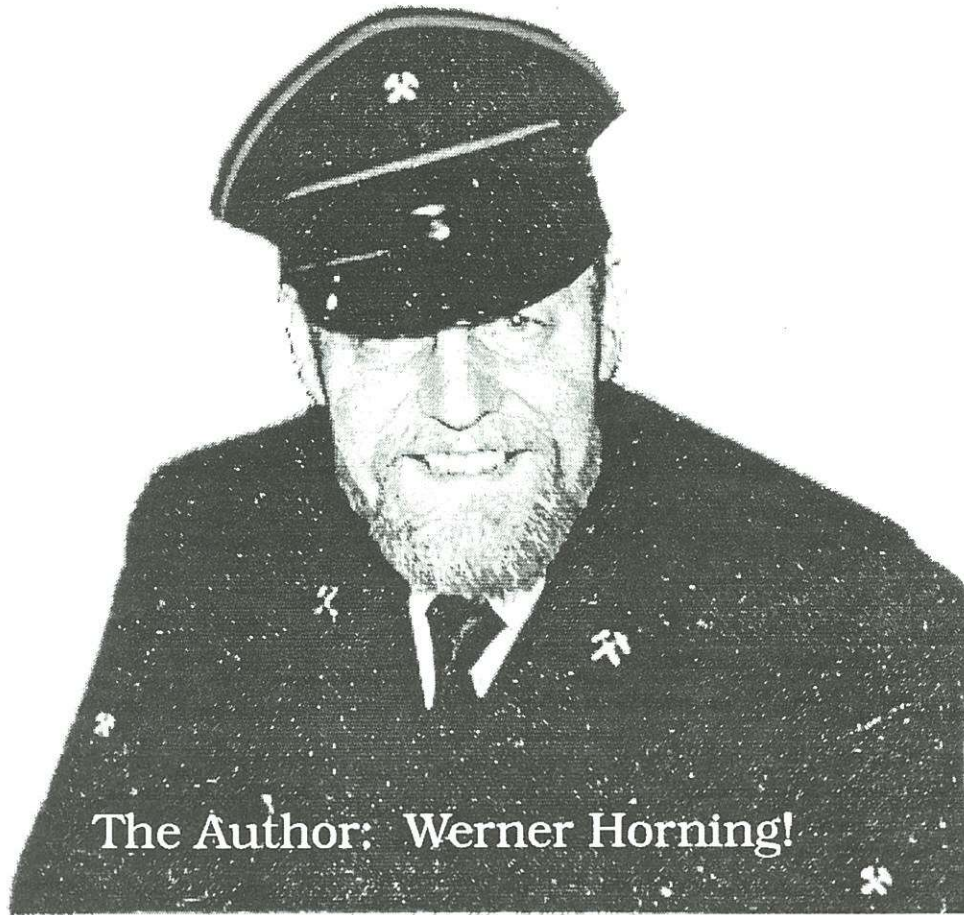


The Evolution of Miners' Dress to Traditional Costumes



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It was customary in the Middle Ages through the 1800's in Europe for working people to wear special dress relating to their profession. For miners the 'uniform' was different for each mining region. There were also differences depending on whether the miner was dressed for work, private functions, or festivals.

First of all, the special dress identified the miner. No one was allowed to attack a miner as he was protected by law.

During the 13th Century the miners working dress was registered in Germany and Austria. The earliest was the hooded white "Gugel" dress (Latin: cucullus, cuculla = hood). This was worn for over four hundred years. After 1650 miners began using black dress as many illustration show.



Miner with early "gugel" hood.

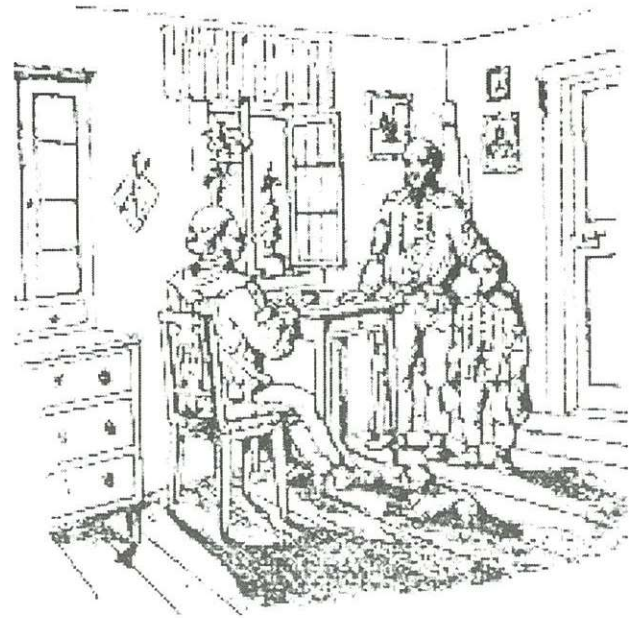
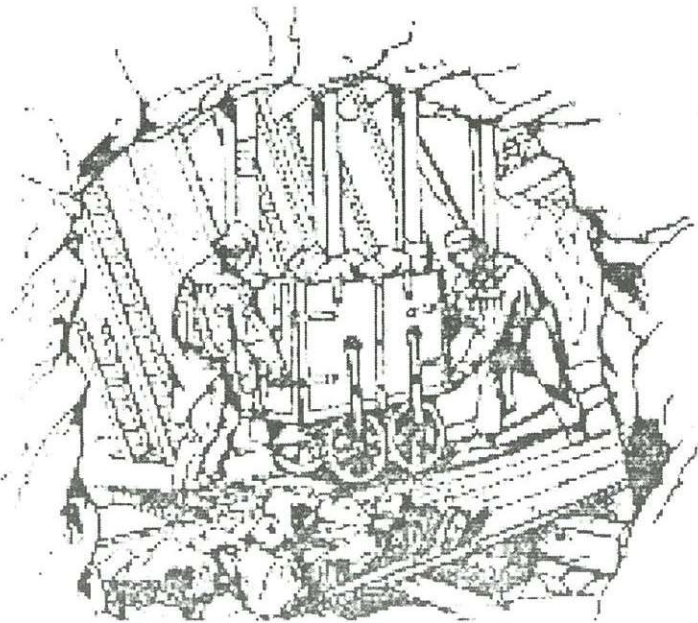


Left: Figurine of miner wearing the white "gugel" work clothes.

During the 17th and the 18th Century the Europeans believed it necessary to distinguish between the particular professions by their robes. By law, the miner was ordered to wear a special dress known as the "Berghabit". Often they were required to wear the dress in private life too. This was thought to instill a sense of pride and self-esteem for the profession otherwise distinguished by hard labor and hazard.

Miners' parades were held in Saxony/Germany under the rule of August the Strong. In 1719, the parade numbered 1,300 miners, in 1733 there were 2,500, and by 1769 more than 3,000. It was from this that the parade uniform arose.

Mine employees became civil servants in different ranks, while the true miners became "belonging to a lord" workers. From this point on, the buttons of the uniform bore the "Schlagel und Eisen" (crossed hammers). A ranking system was developed similar to military hierarchy. By 1844, in the county of Hannover there were 13 different ranks .



Miners in their work dress, worn even at home.

During the industrial revolution the uniform became more and more a traditional costume. But in 1890 with accession to the throne of William II. in Prussia, new orders were given with regard to the miners uniform.

In 1953 a work-group of mine officials recommended a "traditional costume" for miners. These different types for different grades are still in use today.



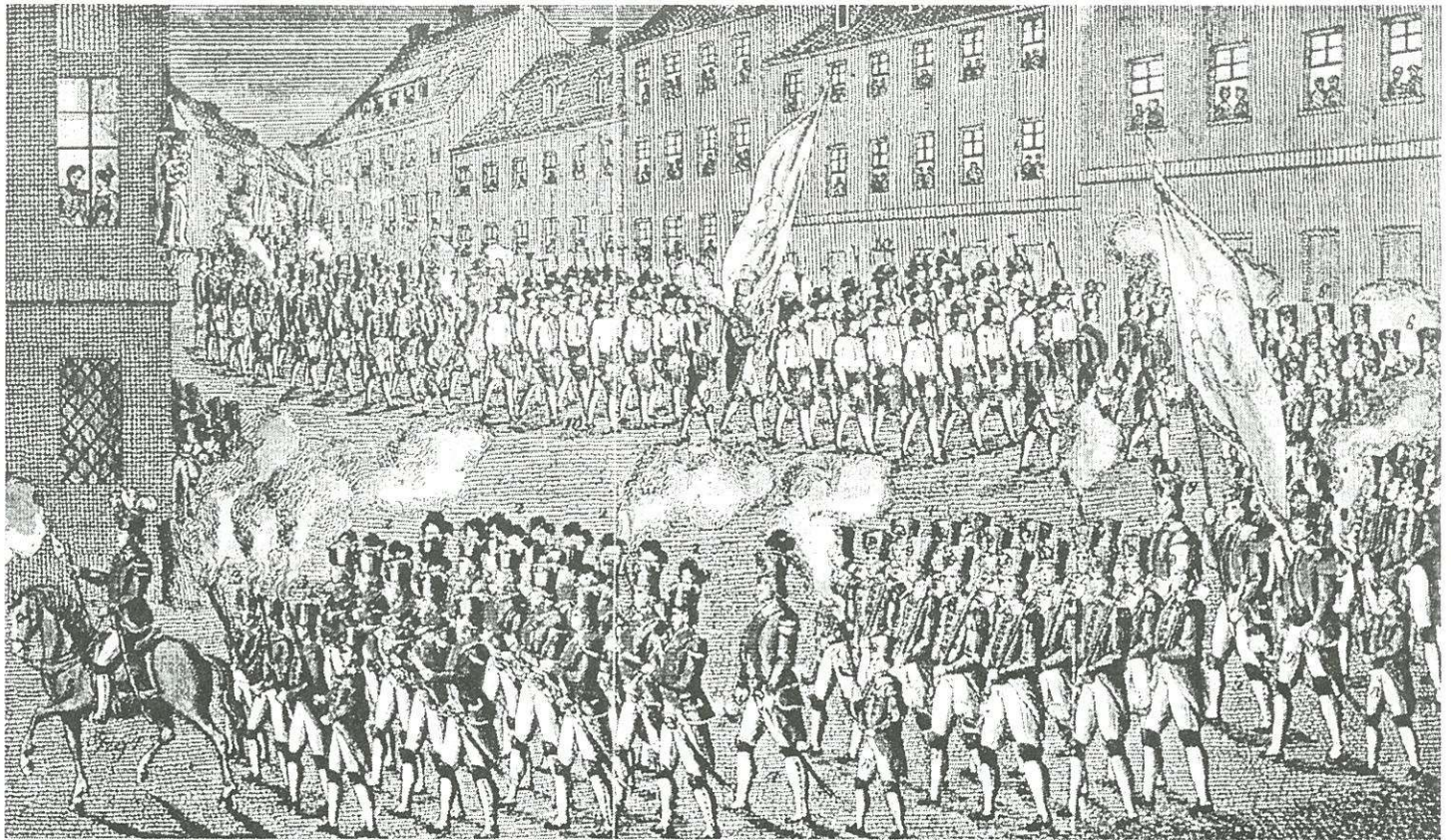
*Siegmund August Wolfgang,
Chief Inspector of mines,
~1800.*

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*Left to right; Miner with Working Dress, Deputy with Parade Dress, Miner with Parade Dress, Elder Dputy with Parade Dress, Under Manager with Parade Dress, Chief Inpsector with Pa-
rade Dress.*



Miners' Parade ~1830.



Left to right: Mine Inspector ~1719, Mine Surveyor, Miner.