

Métis Mittens

Mittens and gauntlets were an important article of clothing for the Métis in the winter. The style that they wore was a mix of First Nations and European style. They were typically made with home-tanned Caribou or Moose hide and lined with fur for warmth.

Métis style mittens and gloves were longer in the wrist and were decorated with embroidery, ribbons and/or beadwork and often had a neck string. Decoration would be found on the top, cuff and even the thumb. Most often they would be adorned with Métis style floral work but could also contain elements that were more spiritual that served as a prayer and hunting tradition. Mittens were colorful in design so that they could easily be found if dropped in the snow.

Highly decorated mittens were popular for those who ran dog-sled teams. They would have paired nicely with their teams beautiful tuppies.

North Island Métis (NIMA) publishes a monthly newsletter.

Go to NIMA's website (www.nimetus.com/newsletters) to read current and past newsletters.

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North Island Métis



NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS

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**NORTH ISLAND
MÉTIS**

Métis
Mittens



McCord Stuart Museum

Métis Christmas Mittens

In this book, written and illustrated by Leah Dorion, it talks about how Métis families would have mittens in a box by the door for any visitors that needed a pair. The mittens were created with love, and often were decorated with a heart on the thumb, to remind the wearer that they were loved.

Métis women would have made mittens for their husband and other male family members as a New Years Eve gift. Embroidered mittens were, and still are, a very special gift to receive.



Southern Michif

Lii pchit mitern - mittens

l'ivayr - winter

kiishinow - cold

la niizh - snow

lii raachet - snowshoe

lii shyaen di trenn - dog team



McCord Stuart Museum



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Getting Started

- Leather
- Fur or fabric for lining
- Embroidery thread, ribbons and/or bead for decoration
- Wool for a neck string
- Needles
- Sinew



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