

The leggings discussed in this article were formerly on display at the Kiwanis Museum at Indian City, Anadarko, Oklahoma. At the outset, the writer must apologize for the fragmentary nature of this note. Because the leggings were photographed in a display case it was impossible to determine details of construction and dimensions of the leggings as well as the reverse side decoration, if any. Also, the leggings were photographed with black and white film with notations taken on beadwork colors, etc. It was the writer's intention to return at a later date and photograph the leggings with color slide film. On his return, however, he discovered that the leggings had been removed from display, the explanation being given that a leaky roof had caused the leggings to be water damaged. Therefore, the author has been forced to rely on his somewhat sketchy notes of ten years ago and the original black and white photographs for the preparation of this article. It is hoped that the extraordinary beauty and craftsmanship of these leggings will be sufficient for the presentation of this information in this incomplete form.

The leggings, according to the display information, formerly belonged to the Kiowa leader, Apiatan (Wooden Lance), when he was a young man. Apiatan (or Apeahstone) was a well respected leader of the Kiowas during the reservation period and played a critical role in the Ghost Dance religion controversy of the late nineteenth century. For more information on Apiatan one should consult James Mooney's monograph: The Ghost Dance Religion, BAE Annual Report # 14 part 2, pp. 907-914.

Whatever the provenance of these leggings they are obviously an extraordinarily fine example of a style of legging popular on the Southern Plains in the late nineteenth century. In construction, the leggings are similar to the Kiowa tab leggings detailed by Jerry Smith in previous articles. They differ, however, in that although they are tab type leggings, there is an additional triangular area, or "flap," from which the twisted fringe emanates. In this respect these leggings are similar to those described by Smith in Volume VI # 8 and 9 of "Moccasin Tracks." Indeed, Apiatan's leggings appear to be a combination of these two styles: a highly decorated side flap with the addition of a highly decorated pair of tabs characteristic of the more modern Kiowa legging style. It is quite possible that these leggings represent a midpoint in the evolution of the modern Kiowa tab legging. Because the flap probably made movement cumbersome, especially in dancing, it was likely eliminated so that the legging could be worn seam forward and out of the way of one's fellow dancers.

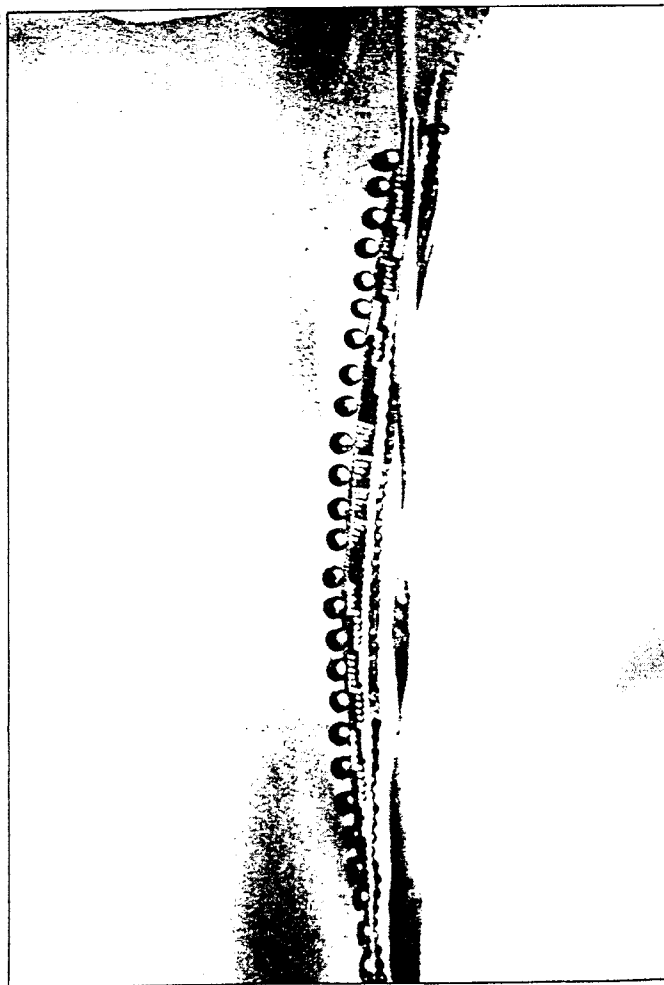
The materials used for the legging construction are two native tanned buckskins. The hides appear to be very softly tanned and are made from the entire hide, the exception being the tabs which are added separately. The entire legging is dyed yellow except for a thin line between the nickel silver spots and beadwork which is dyed verdigris green. It should be noted that there is a slight flaring to the side flap that produces a "bell bottom" effect. The leggings are sewn together with an undetermined thread at intervals of approximately two inches. There are also two long thongs hanging from the lower half of the legging. It would appear that these thongs were used as garters, the flap brought forward with the thong being wrapped around the lower leg and tied in place. This would certainly have made the leggings less awkward to wear when dancing.

The fringe treatment is of two types. The side fringe is not added separately but is cut directly from the legging, itself. It consists of two pieces of fringe rolled or twisted together and held in place by an overhand knot tied at the very end of the fringe. These side fringes are approximately 1' long, dyed yellow, and are of the very finest quality of craftsmanship. There is also a shorter fringe (approximately 3" - 4") at the bottom edge or "stirrup" of the legging. This fringe is made up of strands that have been twisted singly rather than in pairs.

The tabs, as noted previously, have been added separately. These are long triangular pieces of buckskin decorated with two rows of lazy stitch beadwork converging into a section of stripe beadwork at the apex of the tab. Attached to the end of the tabs are two gourd stitched tassels of a spiral or "barber pole" design ending with singly twisted buckskin fringe. The tabs are edgebeaded with large brass beads and the front tab of each legging is additionally decorated with small nickel silver spots on the inner side of the beadwork. The back tabs, though beaded, are lacking the nickel silver spots.

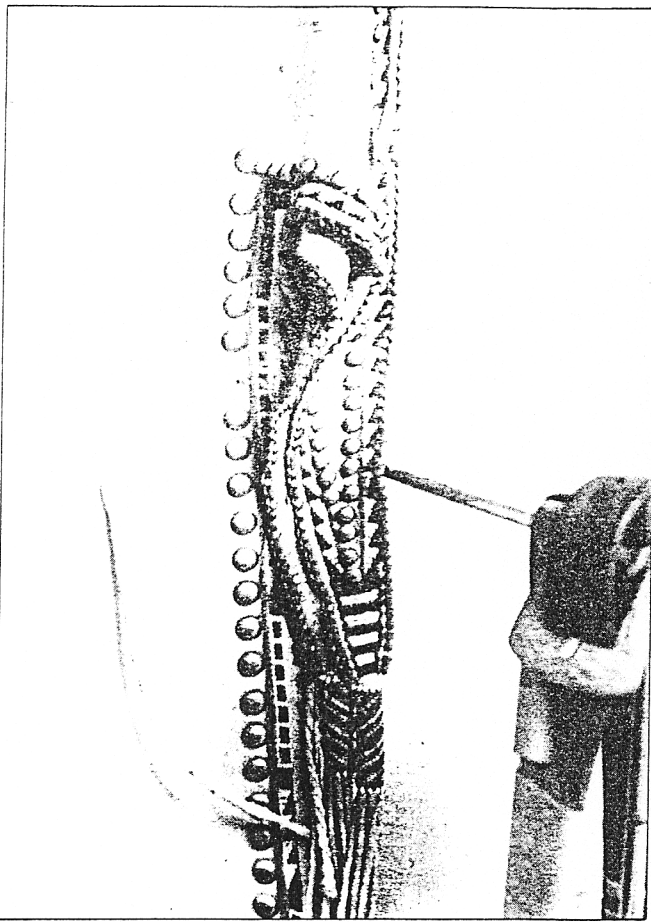
The beadwork decoration consists of a single lane of lazy stitch beadwork that runs along the legging's perimeter for the full length including tabs, lower flaps, and bottom stirrups. This beaded lane is made up of a series of small design motifs such as squares, triangles, hour glasses, and stripes using 4/0 Italian beads in the typical Southern Plains colors of wine red, pony trader blue, greasy yellow, etc. What

FIGURE 1 FULL VIEW OF LEGGINGS SHOWING FLARING "BELL BOTTOM" FLAP.  
FIGURE 2 DETAIL OF UPPER AREA OF LEGGING.

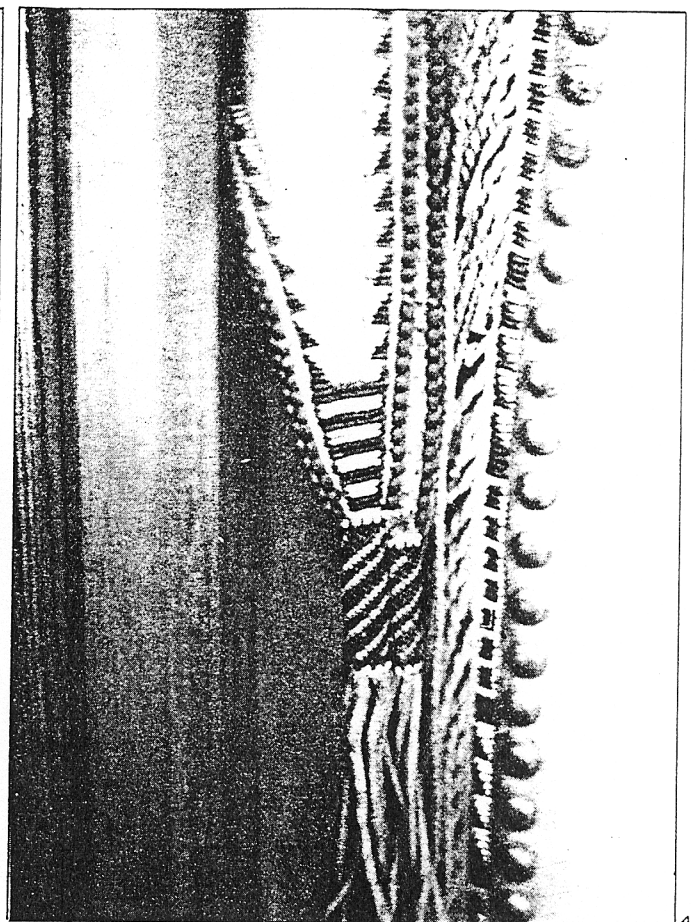


**ELABORATE PAIR**

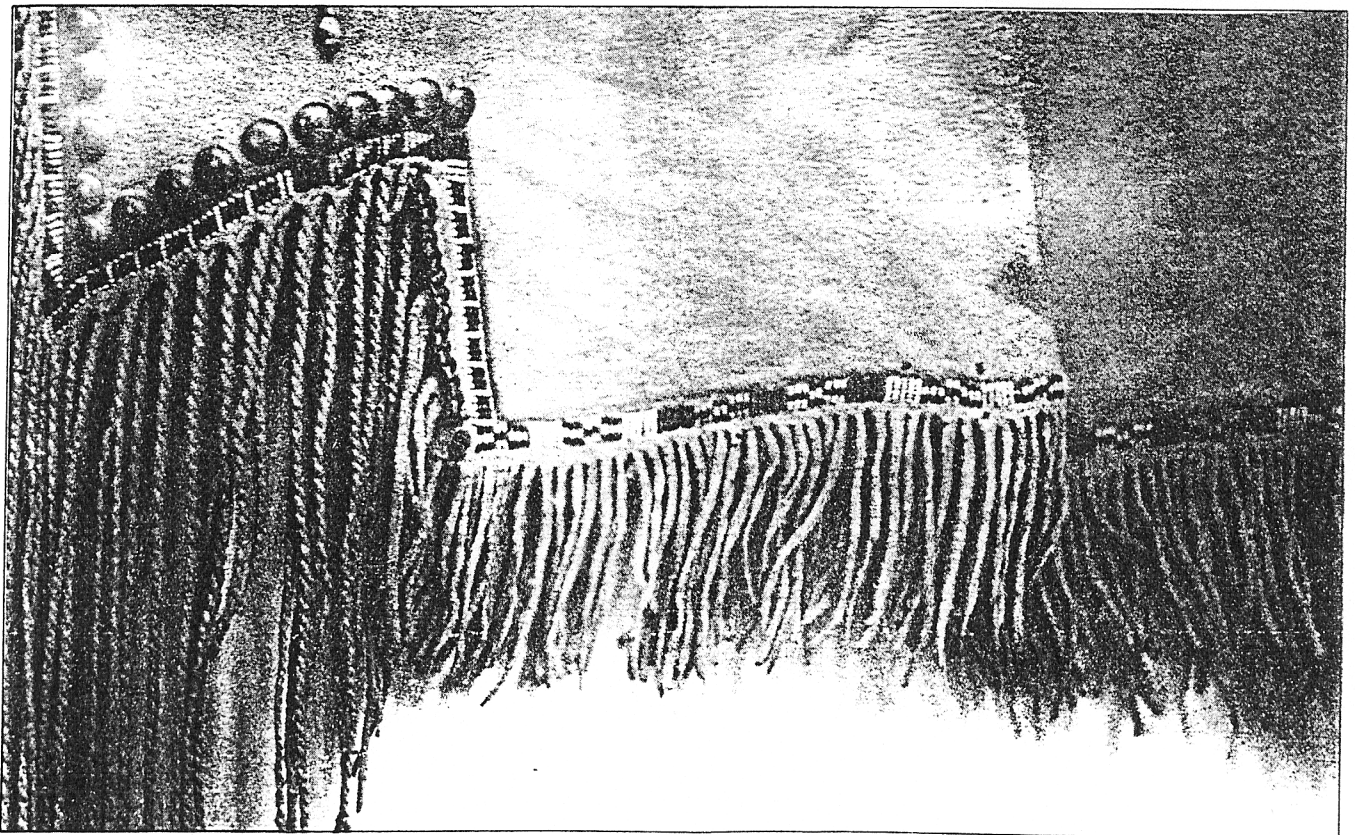
*Jim Cooley*



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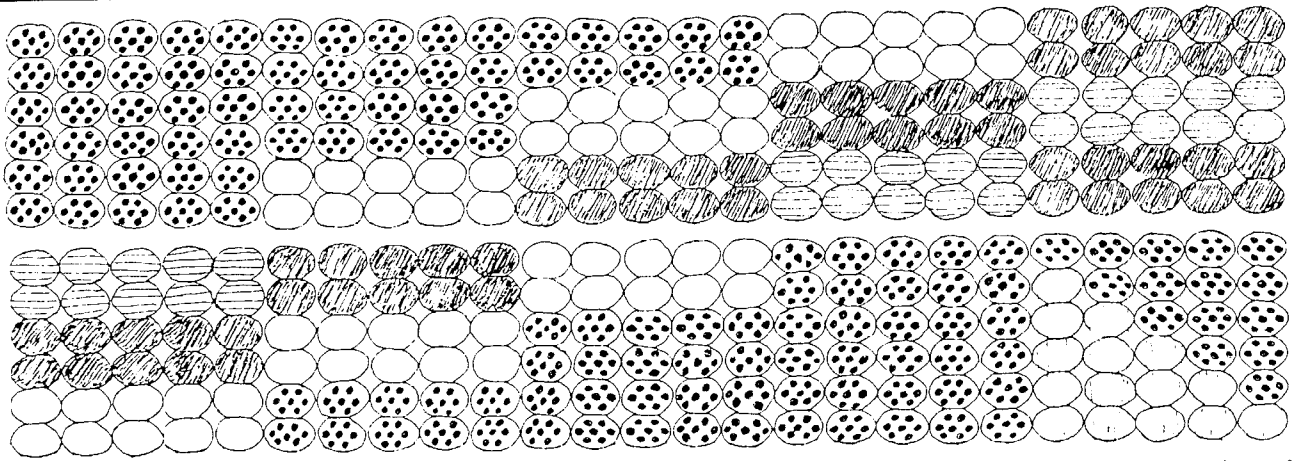
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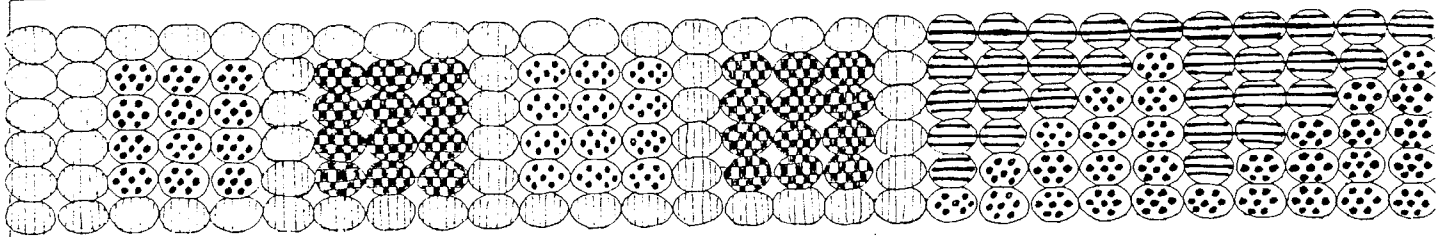
FIGURE 3 OUTSIDE TAB OF LEFT LEGGING.  
 FIGURE 4 INSIDE TAB OF RIGHT LEGGING. NOTE LACK  
 OF GERMAN SILVER SPOTS.

FIGURE 5 BOTTOM "STIRRUP" AREA OF LEGGING. NOTE  
 SINGLE TWISTED FRINGE.

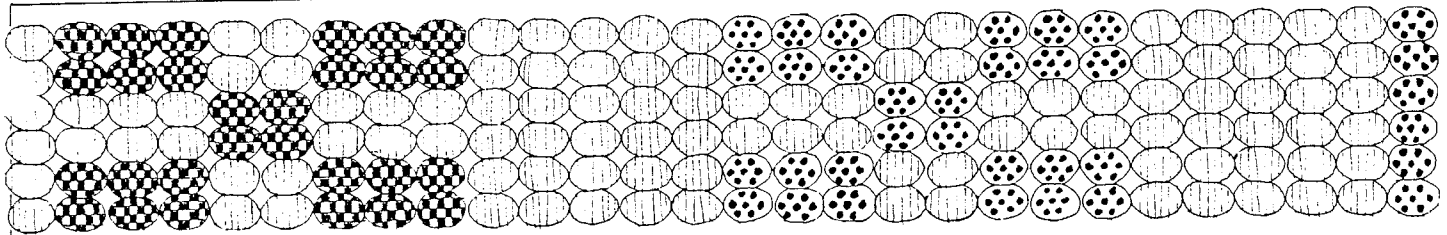


A

The last 5-row pattern is repeated three more times, then the whole pattern (with the zig-zags) is repeated, replacing the greasy yellow with pink. Also, the design is segmented into two parts. Left side of bottom panel should be matched up with the right side of the top panel.

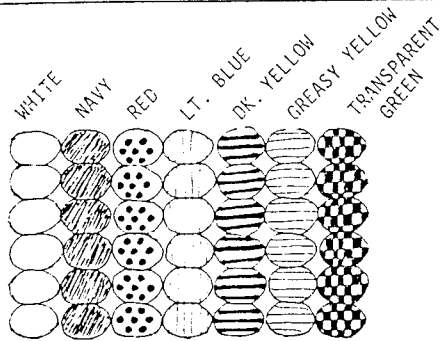


B



C

Again to complete pattern illustrated, place left side of bottom panel to the right side of the top panel of Figure C.



D

distinguishes this beadwork is its variety of design: instead of repeating a single design element the full length of the legging, the craftsman used several different motifs and background colors to create a dazzling effect. This beaded lane is further enhanced by a row of 3/8" nickel silver spots that extend the full length of the legging flap.

It is unfortunate that these leggings are no longer on public display. It is hoped, however, that this description, incomplete as it is, will be of interest to the student of Southern Plains material culture.

FIGURE A BEADWORK DESIGN FROM LEGGING FLAP.  
FIGURE B BEADWORK DESIGN FROM BOTTOM OF LEGGING FLAP.

FIGURE C BEADWORK DESIGN FROM BOTTOM "STIRRUP."  
FIGURE D COLOR LEGEND.

