Embroidered Jacket: Turkish Rococo

Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, Mayo Clinic Proceedings features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.

Historically, embroidery in the Middle East has been a long-standing tradition among both royalty and the general population. Documentation first appeared dating from the 16th century in reports of court artisans hired for their needlework. In the late 17th century, European influence affected traditional Turkish designs, and by the 19th century, the new style was commonly referred to as Turkish Rococo.

This wool and gold-threaded jacket from the Mayo Clinic art collection belonged to the 32nd Sultan in the Ottoman Empire who was the first Sultan to visit Europe (descriptive plaque). Its style reflects that of the “Cemaat-i Zerduzan,” who mastered the use of gold thread in their patterns. The technique used was placing gold threads on top of the material in parallel lines, which were secured in place by other invisible stitches.
Embroidered Jacket was donated to Mayo Clinic in honor of Dr Charles W. Beatty from the Al-Bahar family of Kuwait. It is located on the 12th floor of the Gonda Building, Mayo Clinic campus, Rochester, Minnesota.