

How Was Kateri Dressed ?

In a letter of October 14, 1682, two years after the death of the Lily of the Mohawks, Father Claude Chauchetière tells us how the Indian women were clad :

If you wish me to tell you something about the manner in which the Indians dress—although, had I time, I would have preferred painting some for you—you must know that it is not Wanting in taste, especially on feast-Days. The women have no other Head-dress than their hair, which they part over the middle of the head, and then tie behind with a sort of Ribbon, which they make out of eel-skin painted a bright red. I myself have often been deceived, and have taken it for a real Ribbon. They grease Their hair, which thereby becomes as Black as Jet . . . On sundays and feast-days, the men and women wear fine white chemises; and The women take wonderful care to clothe themselves so modestly that there is nothing indecorous or uncovered about them,— for they closely fasten the chemise. This falls over a petticoat, consisting of a blue and red Blanket, a brasse or more Square, which they fold in two, and simply gird around the waist; and the Chemise which falls over this sort of petticoat, reaches only to the knees. The Indians have often asked us if there were any vanity in their dress. They are not accustomed to wear these except in going to church, on Communion and feast-Days. On the other Days they are poorly but modestly clad.

(Jesuit Relations, Thwaites Edition, Vol. 62, pp. 185-187.)

The oldest known picture of Kateri, published in *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses* of 1717, with an article on the Lily of the Mohawks by Father Pierre Cholenec, S. J.



*Catherine TegahKoiïta Iroquoise
morte en Odeur de Saincteté dans le Canada*