

"Montezuma wore the girdle and ample square cloak, *tilmatti*, of his nation. It was made of the finest cotton, with the embroidered ends gathered in a knot around his back. His feet were defended by sandals having soles of gold, and the leather thongs which bound them to his ankles were embossed with the same metal. Both the cloak and sandals were sprinkled with pearls and precious stones, among which the emerald and the *chalchivittl*—a green stone, of higher estimation than any other among the Aztecs—were conspicuous. On his head he wore no other ornament than a *panache* of plumes of the royal green, which floated down his back, the badge of military, rather than of regal rank.

"He was at this time about forty years of age. His person was tall and thin, but not ill-made. His hair, which was black and straight, was not very long: to wear it short was considered unbecoming persons of rank. His head was thin; his complexion somewhat paler than is often found in his dusky, or rather copper-colored, race. His features, though serious in their expression, did not wear the look of melancholy, indeed, of dejection, which characterizes his portrait, and which may well have settled on them at a later period. He moved with dignity, and his whole demeanor, tempered by an expression of benignity, not to have been anticipated from the reports circulated of his character, was worthy of a great prince."

The taste for display was by no means confined to the monarch, for it was visible in the dress of all ranks.