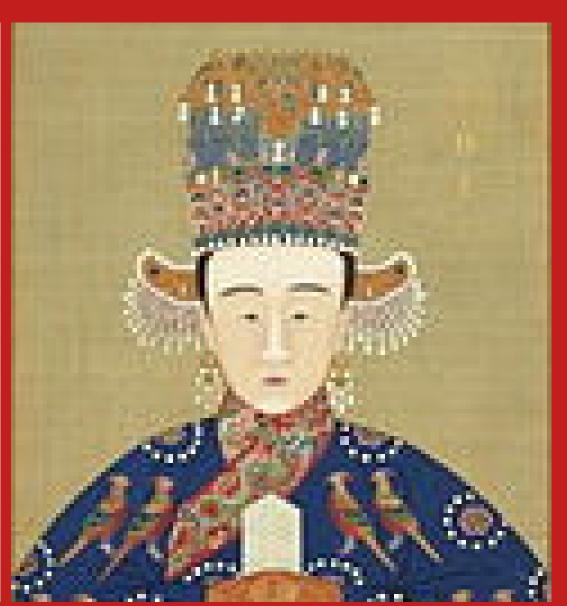# feng guan

what role did it play socially?

"*phoenix crown*"
these were headpieces traditionally worn by noblewomen beginning in the tang dynasty. in the ming and qing dynasty, they came to be popular among brides as an auspicious symbol of wealth.

sources
https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/12/23/fengguan-a-masterpiece-of-traditional-chinese-jewelry/
https://www.revolvy.com/page/Fengguan
https://www.topchinatravel.com/china-guide/chinese-wedding-dress.htm

empresses

feng guan originally began with empresses, and they were permitted to wear the most elaborate of headpieces. the phoenix and dragon motifs were reserved exclusively for wear by empresses. inlaid would be over 3,500 pearls and at least 150 gemstones.

princesses and noblewomen

they were not permitted the symbols used by the empress. instead, princesses adorned their feng guan with pheasants and noblewomen with only gemstones. for princesses, the number of pheasants was an indication of rank.

kingfisher feathers

kingfisher feathers were yet another display of wealth on the headpieces. their brilliant blue color was highly prized and feathers were imported from cambodia for use. tian tsui, the art of applying them, is prevalent not only in headpieces, but in furniture and the home.