Survey of Late Sixteenth Century Men's Clothing, 1570-1600

CHEAT SHEET

THE LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY WAS A TIME OF OUTLANDISH AND EXCESSIVE FASHIONS - WHAT BETTER FOR A SOCIETY WHERE WE DELIBERATELY DRESS UP IN FUNNY HISTORICAL CLOTHING? THIS SURVEY WILL INTRODUCE THE ELEMENTS OF A GENTLEMAN'S WARDROBE IN WESTERN EUROPE FROM 1570 TO 1600 AND COVER THE MANY, MANY INTERESTING CLOTHING OPTIONS A REENACTOR HAS WHEN SELECTING A SUIT OF CLOTHES FOR THIS ERA.

The Elements of a Gentleman's Wardrobe

- **Underlayers:** Long "shirt" and boxers-style underpants
- **Doublet & the Upper Body:** Doublets with either straight waistlines or pointed waists (peascod styles have particularly pronounced and padded waists as well as sleeves). Jerkins or sleeveless doublets were frequently worn as a second layer.
- **Ruffs & Cuffs:** Worn universally by the middle class upwards. If you want to be accurate, you need them. Could be pleated figure-eights in construction or fold-down "falling bands" and gauntlet-style cuffs. Size and decoration varied, which peaked in the 1580s with the "head on a plate" style.
- **Breeches:** There were several different options for covering your legs, specifically trunkose (though the popular image of "pumpkin pants" fell out of fashion while shorter trunkhose – often with canions – grew in popularity), pluderhosen, and venetians (of both fitted and baggy varieties). Codpieces trended towards smaller, less conspicuous sizes before being replaced by button flies.
- **The Legs & Feet:** Nether-stockings went to the knee or further up, sometimes going over the canions. Sewn-together hose was predominant, but knitted varieties also were used. Shoes were primarily of slip-on style like modern espadrilles, but latchet shoes slowly emerged in 1570s.
- **Headwear:** A wide variety of hats – often with ornate decoration and plumage – were worn. The "pizza box" flat cap gave rise to the "bag hat," but relatively modern styles of felt and beaver hats with varied crown heights and brim widths were also very common.
- **Outerwear:** The Little Ice Age required warm clothes, and this was reflected in a variety styles: hip capes, Dutch cloaks, and robes and coats with varying lengths and sleeve treatments.

Historical Costumers & Groups of Note

- The "Bees" of the Elizabethan Costume group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/293742273995/
- **Drea Lead:** http://www.elizabethancostume.net
- **Dan Rosen:** https://www.facebook.com/oldenglandgrownnew
- **Margaret Roe:** http://makerenaissanceclothing.com and http://renaissancepatternmaking.com
- **Matthew Gnagy:** http://themodernmaker.net
- **Louise Pass:** https://www.etsy.com/people/woodsholme
- **Tudor Tailor:** http://www.tudortailor.com
- **Tammie L. Dupuis:** http://www.renaissancetailor.com
- **Lynn McMasters:** http://outofaportrait.com

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If You HAVE QUESTIONS, Please Contact Hugo van Harlo

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