



INTRODUCTION TO Late Sixteenth Century Men's Clothing

1570-1600

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First Printing 🍷 Clothiers' Seminar 2018



Today's Goal

- Introduce the many options in styles, cuts, and decorations of the clothes gentlemen wore in western Europe, c.1570-1600
- Share resources to learn more
- *Not: teach anybody to pattern or sew a damn thing.*



In Other Words:

You want garb options?

*We got your garb
options right here.*

(Suck it, Anglo-Saxons.)



Your Lecturer

History nerd.

Research monkey.

Not a tailor.

Don't give him fabric.

Hugo has brought his late sixteenth century interests into the SCA and, for good or bad, decided to double down on his focus by fully embracing the quite-silly clothing of the era.



Agenda

- Foundational Assumptions
- The Gentleman's Wardrobe
 - Doublets & the Upper Body
 - Ruffs & Cuffs
 - Breeches
 - Legs & Feet
 - Headwear
 - Outerwear
 - Decoration & Construction
- Resources

Disclaimer:

This is a lot of content to work through in fifty-five minutes.

It's likely we'll either speed through some sections or not get all the way to the end.

A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern surrounds the central text.

FOUNDATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS



*You will look ridiculous.
Embrace that shit.
It's awesome.*



You'll learn to like the bizarre fashion. Really.

I've gotten used to the era's sartorial excesses and idiosyncrasies.

Where before I would have gone, "WTF?," now I appreciate.

Acclimation

: the process or result of acclimating;
especially : physiological adjustment by an
organism to environmental change

Desensitization

: to make emotionally insensitive or
callous; *specifically* : to extinguish an
emotional response (as of fear, anxiety, or
guilt) to stimuli that formerly induced it



So Why Go Late Sixteenth Century

- This is a Society where we already dress up in funny clothes, so why not go for broke?
(I like big hats, and I cannot lie.)
- The late sixteenth century was utterly fascinating
(This is clearly Hugo's bias coming through.)
- The unique, special snowflake factor
- Bewildering number of options in clothing styles and ways to decorate it
- Copious amounts of ready documentation



Common Clothing Misconceptions

Pop culture may have us thinking of certain fashion trends that were not a part of the late sixteenth century, such as:

- Landsknechts (too early)
- The Three Musketeers (too late)
- Jacobite Scots in Kilts and Pirate with Eyepatches and Parrots (too, too late – as in centuries late)
- Leather Pants, Leather Doublets, Leather Everything (sexy, but not generally historical)

A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern surrounds the central text.

THE GENTLEMAN'S WARDROBE



In Summary

- Underlayers: long “shirt” and underpants
- Breeches (aka upper hose) of some sort
- A doublet, occasionally with a second layer
- Ruffs and cuffs, always
- Flat soled shoes; rarely boots
- Fancy hat... or really fancy hat



THE WARDROBE

Doublets & the Upper Body



The Basics

- Doublets were the basic, universal piece of upper body clothing in the era.
- Through the 1570s they were generally fitted to the body with relatively straight waistlines.
- 1580s saw the growth of the padded arms and “peascod” belly with a more angular, pronounced waistline.
- 1590s saw the heavy padding and voluminous cuts start to fade, but the angled waistline remained, which grew sharper into the 1600s.

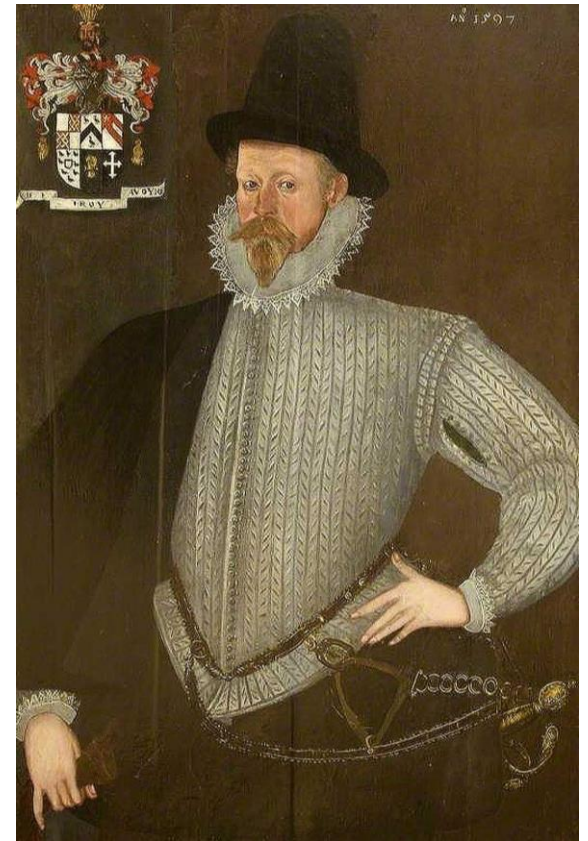
Straight Waistlines

The relatively unpadded, straight-waisted doublet had retained a basic shape from the 1540s into the 1570s.



Pointed Waistlines and Cuts

The pointed waistline existed in the 1570s, but eclipsed the straight-waisted doublet in popularity by the 1580s.





Peascods

A Particular style of pointed waist doublets with an exaggerated belly often seen with voluminous or padded sleeves. The iconic look of the 1580s.

Could range from a slight pad and point to the stomach to grotesquely distended with overly-large padded sleeves.

Rarely reproduced by modern reenactors.



Peplums (the Skirt of the Doublet)

Treatments ranged significantly from none, to small, to long. Some were cut into multiparts or had other decoration.



Hanging Sleeves

Hanging sleeves on the outer doublet – either functional or draped from the back of the shoulders – appears to be relatively common in the 70s and 80s.



REBODY

Jerkins, Jacks, or Sleeveless Doublets

Adding a second, sleeveless (or short-sleeved) layer over a doublet was very common. Could be leather or fabric.

<http://garb4guys.blogspot.com/2008/02/doublet-jerkin-or-jack.html>





On Belts

Note the portraits you've seen, and pay attention to those upcoming for this detail: *belt size*.

Late sixteenth century men's belts were fairly small, and they could be so because breeches were held up by being tied ("pointed") to the doublet.

<http://garb4guys.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-beginners-guide-to-girdles-belts-in.html>



ELEMENTS OF MEN'S CLOTHING

Ruffs & Cuffs



Ruffs & Cuffs Basics

- They were worn by middle class men and up as a regular, daily piece of clothing.
- If you want to be accurate with your clothes, you need them.
- Ruffs trended in upwards in size, peaked in the 1580s, then started getting smaller but there are clear exceptions, particularly with the Dutch.
- Could be items separate from the shirt.



General Typologies

- Collars:
 - Ruffs: Circular pleated collars
 - Figure Eight
 - Loose or Tight Pleating
 - Starched or Not
 - Horizontal Pleating
 - Falling Band
- Cuffs:
 - Figure Eight (Similar to the Ruff Style)
 - Gauntlet Style

Figure Eight Construction

While the most popular type of ruff, details in width, height, stiffness, and density of pleating varied.



The Infamous “Head on a Plate” Ruffs

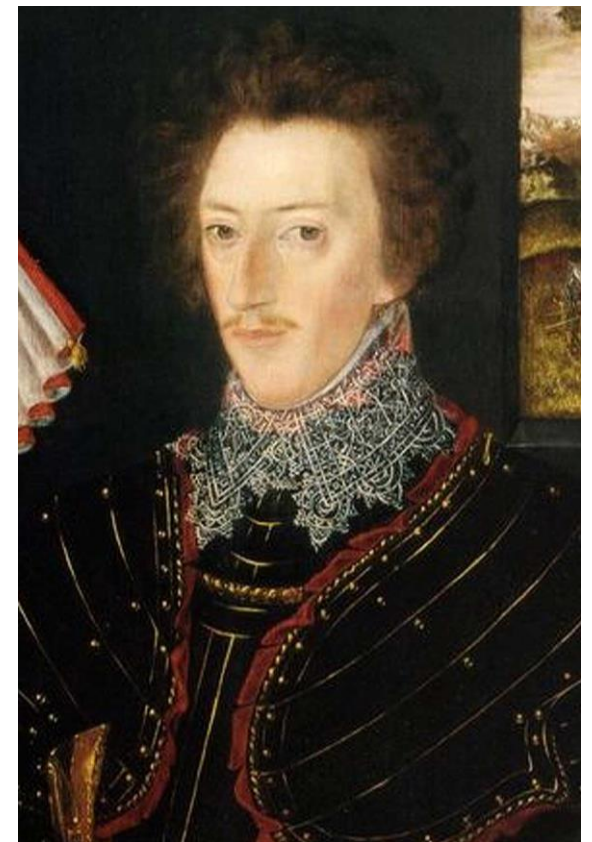
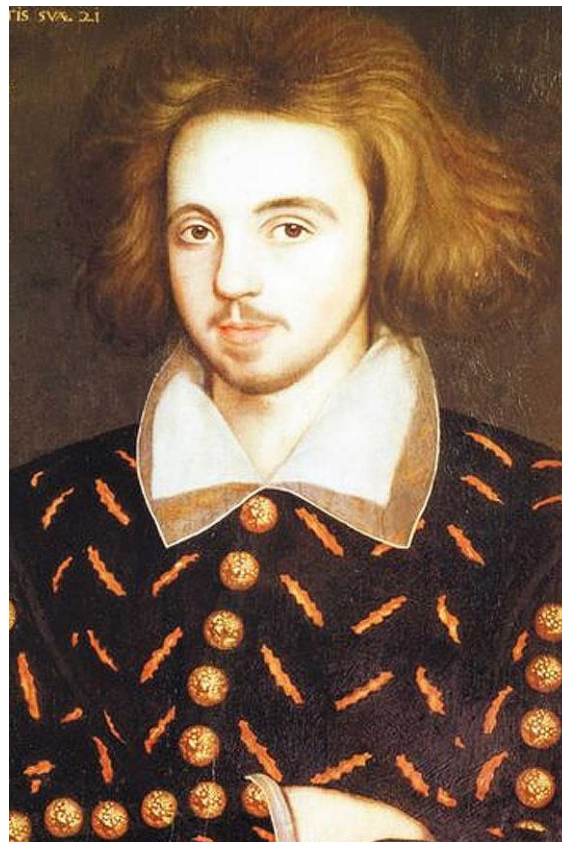
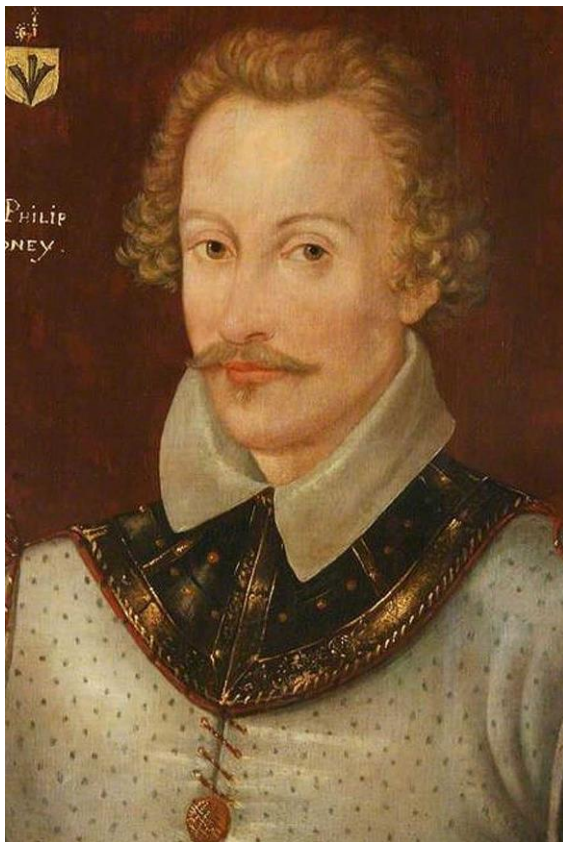
Example of the extreme size some ruffs were in the 1580s.

Also note the gauntlet cuffs in the middle portrait.



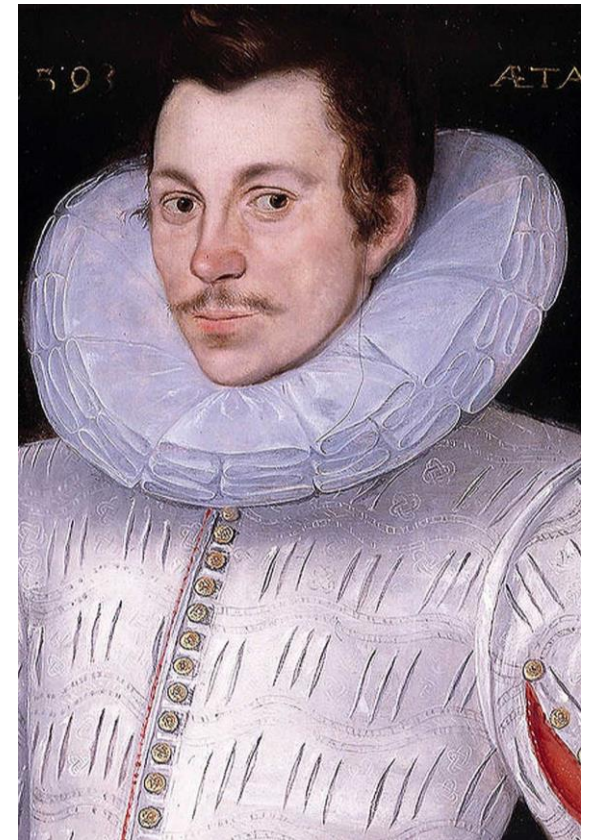
Falling Band Collars

Less frequently seen than the larger ruff collars, but the falling bands are found all throughout the era in various styles.



Loose, Horizontally Pleated Ruffs

These begin to appear in the late 1580s.
Don't seem to ever be stiff or starched.



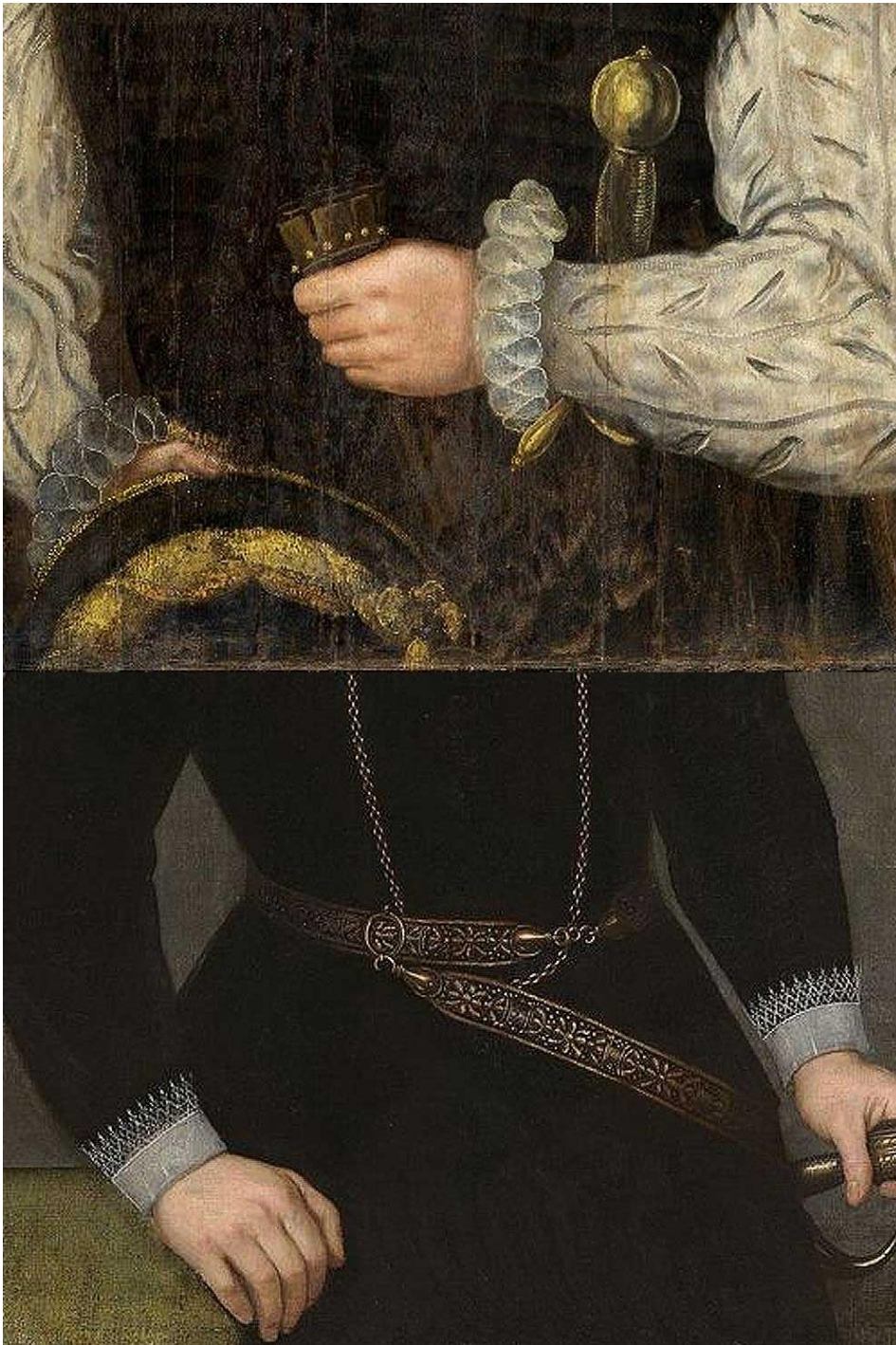


Cuffs

Two general types of cuffs that mirror the types of ruffs worn: figure-eights and folding-back gauntlet styles.

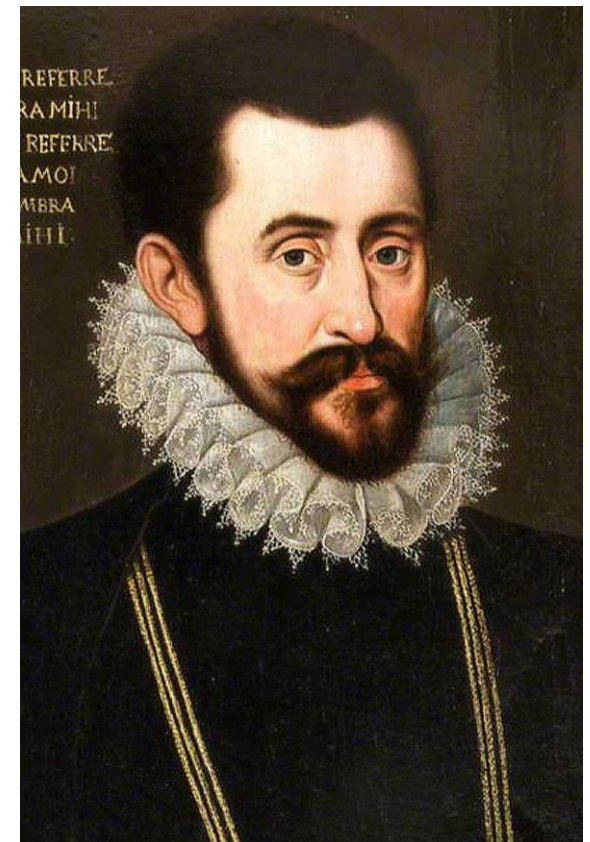
The figure eights were significantly more popular.

Gauntlet-style cuffs remained small through the end of the century.



Lace Decoration

Lace was a popular way of decorating ruffs and cuffs and was used in various ways: from small trim to a significant percentage of the side of the ruff or cuff.



Embroidery Decoration

Ruffs and cuffs could also be embroidered with ornate patterns. Blackwork was the most common, with others very rare.

Blackwork



Redwork



Patterned





Did the collar and cuffs
always match?

Overwhelmingly so,
but not *always*.



Ruff & Figure Eight Cuffs

The most widespread combination across the late sixteenth century, although the style and size of the pleating varied.



Falling Band & Gauntlet-Style Cuffs

Became a more popular combination later in the century.



Mismatched Ruff with Gauntlet-Style Cuffs

Occasionally seen, but comparatively rarely.



Mismatched Falling Band with Figure Eight Cuffs

Exceptionally rare – this is the only documentation I've seen of this combination.

Unknown Artist, *A Man* ca. 1591.
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wien
GG_2816





ELEMENTS OF MEN'S CLOTHING

Breeches



The Basics

- While men's doublets remained fairly consistent through the era (even accounting for waistlines and padding), there was a greater variety in types of breeches worn:
 - Trunkhose (and the fitted canions attached to the bottom hem that reached to the knees)
 - Venetians of varying sizes
 - Pluderhosen



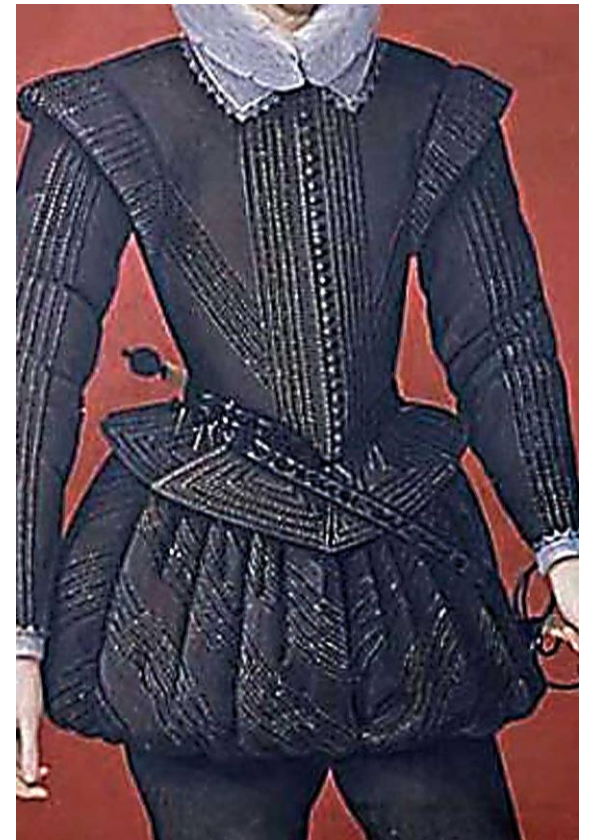
Trunkhose

One of the most recognizable styles of breeches in this era.

- Came in paned and non-paned versions.
- Length from above knee to mid thigh.
- Some have fitted knee-length extensions or sometimes it was just stockings.
- Poofy, mid-thigh “pumpkin pants” fell out of fashion by the 1560s.

More Varieties of Trunkhose

Fashion trends moved away from lower-thigh “pumpkin breeches” and towards shorter trunkhose, often with canions.



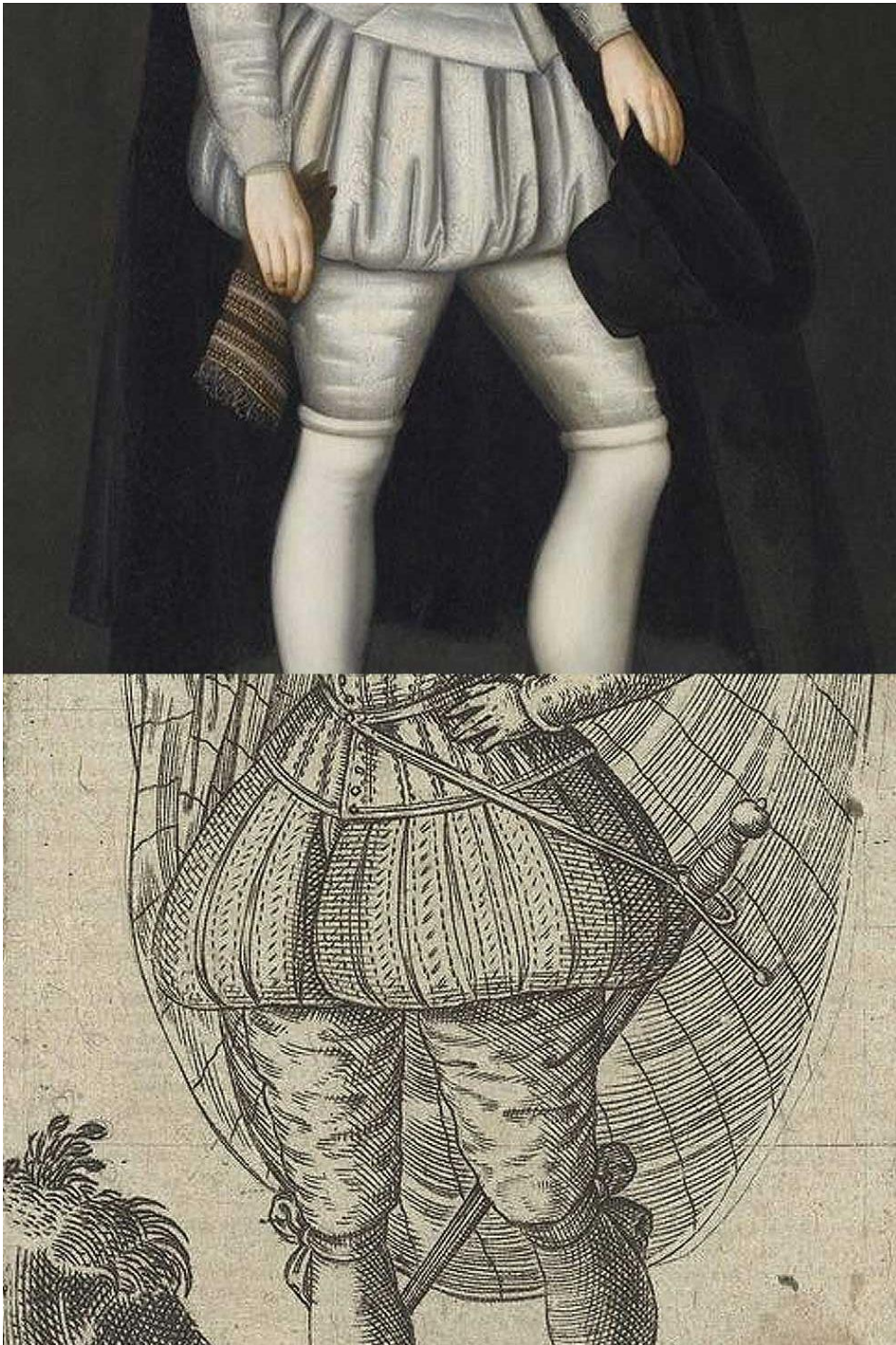


Canions

Fitted extensions attached the the bottom hem of trunkhose and went to the knee.

Stockings were then pulled over the canions or under them.

Garters were often used to hold up the stockings.



Booty Trunkhose (Absolutely Not the Technical Term)

A distinct subset of trunkhose and stockings fashion.
The 1580s & 90s version of “I’m Sexy and I Know It.”



Pluderhosen

The baggy pluderhosen were popular in German lands throughout the century. By this era, they were no longer than knee-length.



Venetians

Behold: modern pants! Popular in the mid 1580s and 1590s. Could be relatively relaxed or tightly fitted (a popular French fashion).



“Baggy” Venetians

Became popular in the mid 1580s and continued into 1600s. Originally tapered to the knee, but grew more baggy.





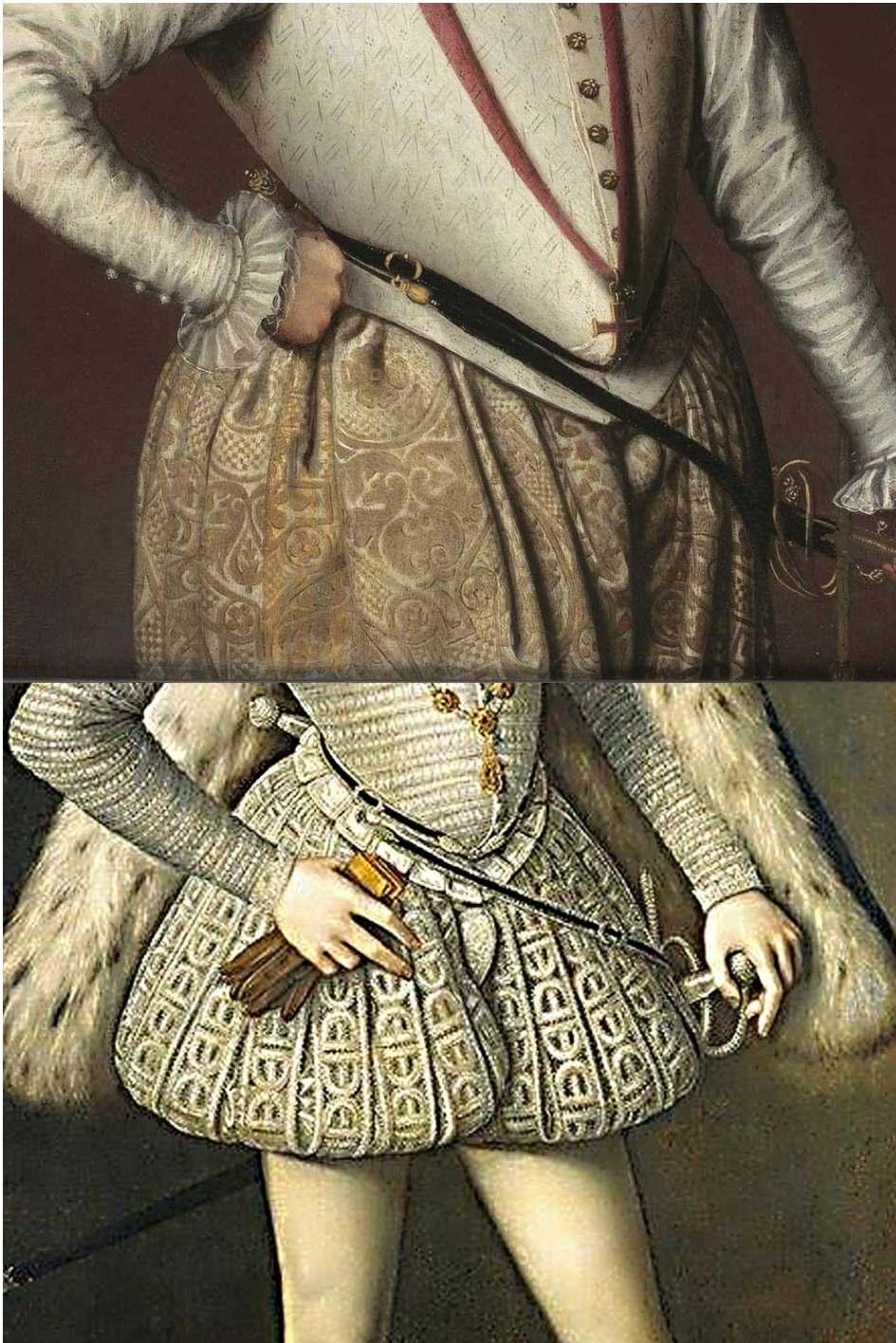
Codpieces

The size of codpieces was on a steady decline from the middle of the century onwards, and eventually gave rise to the button fly.

Exceptions were the bowed codpieces frequently seen on pluderhosen.

Simple instructions:

<http://bethsdress.blogspot.com/2006/05/codpiece.html>





ELEMENTS OF MEN'S CLOTHING

The Legs & Feet



The Basics

- Shoes were largely flat-soled and overwhelmingly of the slip-on style. Latchet shoes start to appear in the mid 1570s and slowly grow in popularity towards the end of the century.
- Boots were worn only for riding. Shoes vastly more popular.
- Hose, or nether-stockings, went to the knee (depending on breeches) and was secured by garters. With short breeches, the stockings may have gone all the way up the thigh and tied to the points of the doublet.
- Hose in this period was still largely cut and sewn, but knit hose get more popular as time goes on.
- <http://www.faucet.net/costume/research/hose.html>
- <https://www.sockdreams.com/m45s.html>
- <https://historicalitalianshoes.com>



Shoe Comparisons & Decoration

Top: Slip-Ons
Bottom: Latches

Slashing remained a popular way to decorate shoes.





ELEMENTS OF MEN'S CLOTHING

Headwear



Hattery Basics

- A suit of clothes was not complete without the hat. Worn indoors, but court protocol varied.
- The “pizza box” flat cap, in use from the early decades of the century, was slowly declining in popularity, but remains an easy first option.
- Construction options are felted hats built upon wooden blocks or the wire and buckram approach (a conjectured method).
- <http://blog.americanduchess.com/2009/05/scratch-hats-how-to-make-structured.html>



Flat Cap

Popular from the second third of the 1500s onwards, although fashion trends start to move away from it by the 1570s.

However, it remains documentable through late in the century.



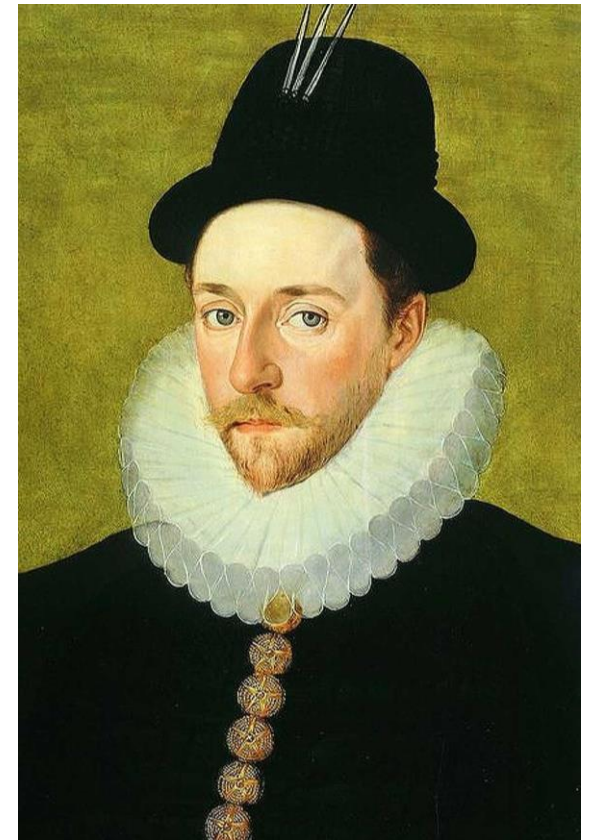
The “Bag” Hat

An evolutionary development of the “pizza box” flat cap that was popular mid-century.

These appear to be very similar in construction and made to stand up with a fuller construction.

Medium or Short Crowned Hats (e.g. Bowlers)

Arguably the most popular general style of hat, surpassing the bag hat, even. Many differences in crown and brim shapes.



Tall Hats with Wide Brims

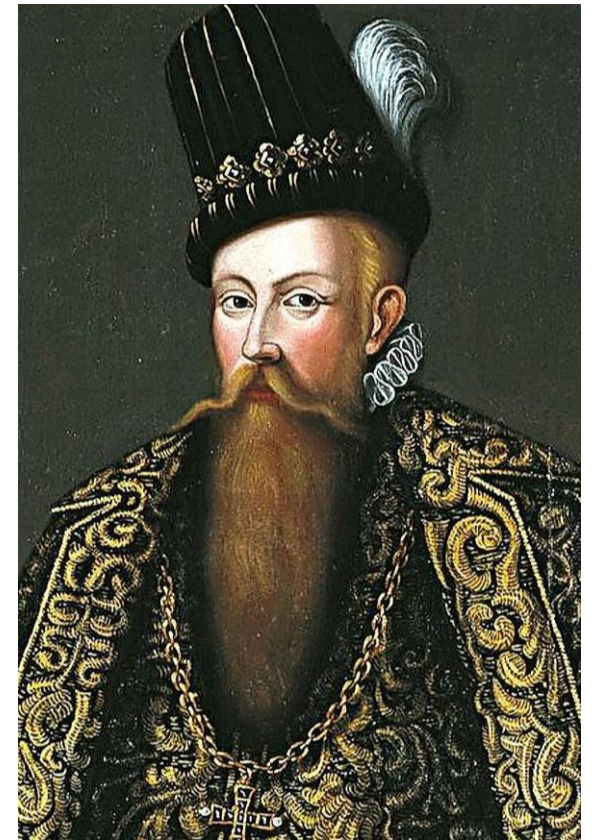
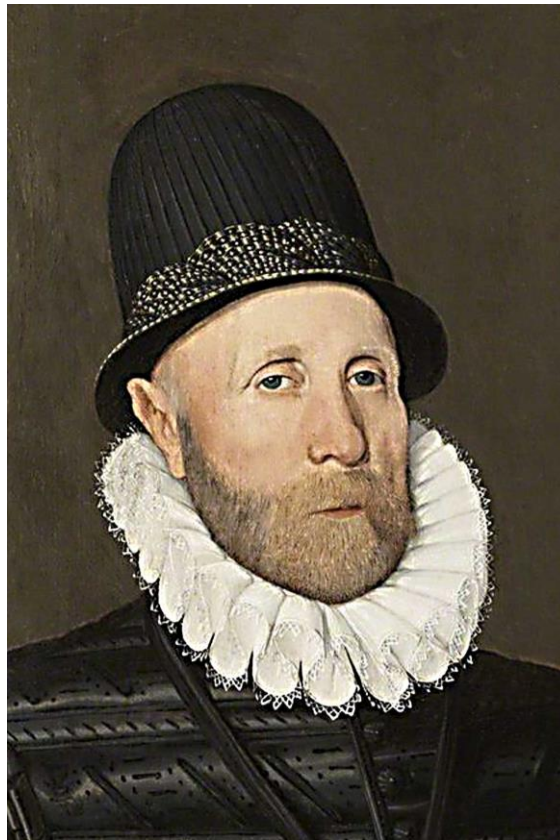
The height of the crown and width of the brim could become very large. These tall hats began to be seen in the 1590s.



Toques or Tocados

High crowned tall hats with small or no brims.

Most popular in the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and France.





House Caps

Appears to have been developed very, very late in the century, with most extant examples being dated to the early seventeenth centuries.

Embroidery could be black or redwork or full color.

<https://www.pinterest.com/hugovanharlo/garb-house-caps/>





ELEMENTS OF MEN'S CLOTHING

Outerwear

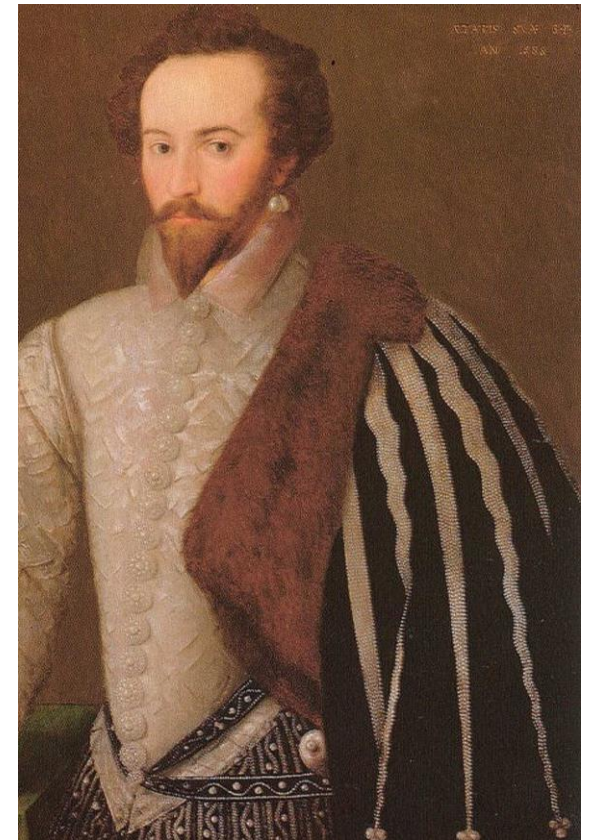


The Basics

- The late sixteenth century was during the Little Ice Age, and consequently, there was widespread use of – and options for – outerwear.
- Hip length garments such as the cape and “Dutch cloak” were the most popular option, but actual coats and even long robes can be found in art from the period.

Hip Capes

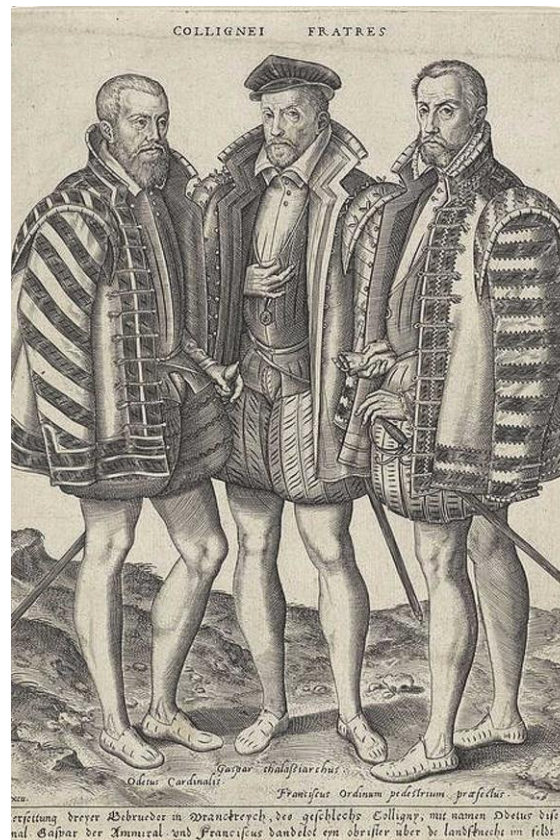
The most popular – and iconic – piece of outerwear for the late sixteenth century man. Worn over both shoulders or just one.



Dutch Cloaks

Similar to hip capes, but with sleeves (functional or ornamental).

May or may not be actually Dutch in origin, but Hugo is vicariously taking credit for them, anyway.





Long Coat

While most coats and capes were to hip length, here is an example of one that reaches to mid-thigh.

From *Il Libro del Sarto* (*The Tailor's Book*), c.1580, Venice





Early Cassocks

The iconic “Three Musketeers” styled cassocks don’t appear until the early seventeenth century, but this represents an evolutionary step starting around 1590.

Note the button and tie closures at the neck and wrists.

Up for debate: are these sleeved or sleeveless?

Pepys Collection STC 20126.7, *True Portraiture of the Valiant English Soldiers*

Long Robes

Less often seen compared to hip length outerwear, but they were still in use. Heavy black robes were worn by older men and statesmen.





Coats Worn Colly-Westonward

A brief avant-guard fashion statement in the late 1580s was to wear your coats “Colly-Westonward,” that is at ninety degrees with the sleeves at your front and back.



A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern, framing the entire page.

THE WARDROBE

*Decoration &
Construction*



Fabrics & Materials

- Doublets and breeches were constructed out of a number of different fabrics: varying weights of wools, velvet, silk, satin and more.
- Not all late sixteenth century Europeans lived only in Little Ice Age Europe; some had to adjust to warmer climates like we experience in the central United States
 - Linen and canvas (e.g. Col. Sanders from KFC) are great options for a full suit of clothes that will wear well in US summers.



GUIDE TO COLOURS

a Primer on the available wood-paste colours of Bristol, 1574

	Ox-blood		Goose-turd Green
	Turkey		Ape & Laugh
	Russet		The Devil in the Head
	Soppes-in-wine		Bottle Green
	Pheasant		Biskaye
	Ham colour		Watchet
	Bristol Red		Sea Water
	Scarlett		Ultramarine
	Raw Flesh		Beans-blue
	Maiden hair		Milk & Water
	Maid's Blush		Pansy
	Lustie-Gallant		Purple
	Straw		Love-longing
	Jawney		Puke
	Fane colour		Dead Spaniard
	Yellowe		Browne Bread
	Merry Widow		Chimney-sweep
	Whey		Mortal Sin (True blacke)

Colors

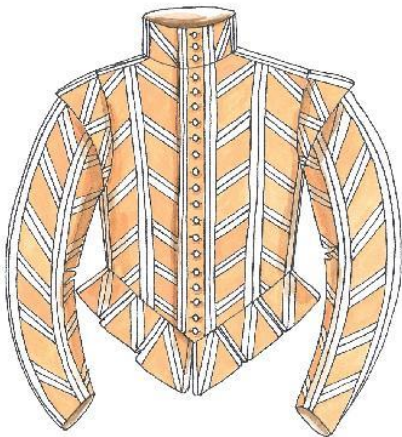
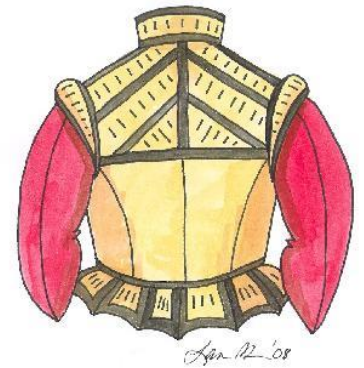
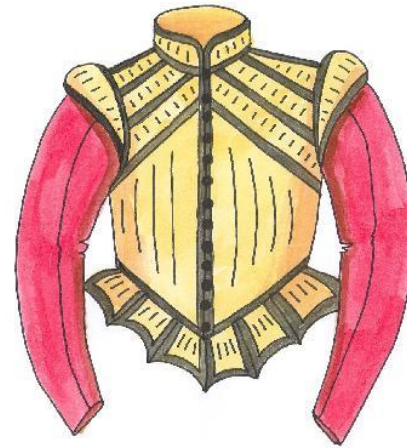
There was a remarkable breadth of colors available to clothiers in the sixteenth century, but that varied somewhat by social class, region, and any sumptuary laws in effect (c.f. late in the reign of Elizabeth I).

<http://www.elizabethancostume.net/lizcolor.html>

<http://realmofvenus.renaissanceitaly.net/library/colours.htm>

A Dozen Doublet Styles (Mostly via Trim)

<http://www.extremecostuming.com/articles/adozendoubletdesigns.html>





Sleeve Decorations

- You have options. Lots of them. Margaret Roe has documented up to FOURTEEN distinct types of sleeve decorations during this era.
- That's more than we can get into in our fifty minutes, so check the link when you get home:

MakeRenaissanceClothing.com/sleeve-decorating

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Plain | 6. Trim Patterns | 11. Pinked |
| 2. Brocade | 7. Beaded | 12. Applique/Cutouts |
| 3. Split/Open | 8. Rufted | 13. Blackwork |
| 4. Straight Stripes | 9. Paned | 14. Polychrome/Metal |
| 5. Spirals | 10. Slashed | |



Slashing

A common method of decoration for doublets (body and sleeves) and jerkins.

Pay attention to your sources as patterns changed from the Landsknecht era to the late sixteenth.

<https://whiljascorner.wordpress.com/2014/10/20/different-ways-to-slash-your-16th-century-german-outfit>





Slashed Jerkins

Also frequently used on leather jerkins, where the punched elements could be more easily finished.

<http://garb4guys.blogspot.com/2012/05/leather-jerkin-pinking-slashing.html>



Other Decorative Techniques

Adding beads & pearls, patterned embroidery & quilting, etc.

See: <http://lynnmcmasters.com/embellishment.html>





Pendants & Jewelry

The most common form of non-clothing ornamentation were pendants and miniature portraits suspended by ribbon or multiple small chains from the neck.

A single ring is seen occasionally, but it is much less rare compared to pendants or ornate hat or clothing decoration.



A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern surrounds the text.

A STARTER SUIT OF CLOTHES



Getting Started

- The 1590s make for a relatively easy first set of clothes, particularly for those who are still uncomfortable with the excesses of fashion in this era (e.g. big ruffs and funny pants).
- Venetians, a basic doublet, and a falling band collar with small gauntlet-style cuffs form the foundation of a historically accurate suit of clothes that's also reasonably similar to modern styles.
- Historic shoes (or modern leather dress shoes) and a plausible hat will complete the outfit.

Examples of this Type of a Suit of Clothes





RESOURCES



Some Selected Period Sources & Collections

- Curated collection of late sixteenth century portraits:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:PKM/16th/2>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pocketmuseum/1570-1579-portraits-of-men/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pocketmuseum/1580-1589-portraits-of-men/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pocketmuseum/1590-1599-portraits-of-men/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/mcadwellfastmai/tudor-elizabethan-shoes-socks-hose/>
- Extant print collections:
 - Abraham de Bruyn, *Equitum Descriptio*
<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio/1621437--guillermo-palma-calderon/collections/abraham-de-bruyn-s-equitum-descriptio-1577>
 - Henry de Saint Didier's Swordsmanship Treatise
http://wiktenauer.com/wiki/Henry_de_Saint_Didier
 - Hendrick Goltzius' Engravings of Dutch Soldiers c. 1580 – 1585
e.g. <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/RP-P-1900-A-22031>
 - Franz Hogenberg, a Seminal Engraver of the Era – Small, but Detailed
<http://pudl.princeton.edu/collections/pudl0051>
 - And More: Jost Amman, Joris Hoefnagel, Lucas de Heere, Nikolaus Solis, etc.
- Lots more: this is a rabbit hole and a nearly bottomless well



REFERENCES

Modern Sources



Historical Costumers & Groups of Note

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/29374273995/>
- Drea Lead:
<http://www.elizabethancostume.net>
- Dan Rosen:
<https://www.facebook.com/oldenglandgrownnew>
- Louise Pass:
<https://www.etsy.com/people/woodsholme>
- Margaret Roe:
<http://makerenaissanceclothing.com> and <http://renaissancepatternmaking.com>
- Matthew Gnagy:
<http://themodernmaker.net>
- Scott Perkins:
<http://garb4guys.blogspot.com>
- Tudor Tailor:
<http://www.tudortailor.com>
- Tammie L. Dupuis:
<http://www.renaissancetailor.com>
- Lynn McMasters:
<http://outofaportrait.com>



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Congrats!
You made it to
the end of the
survey!

Thank You!