

Basic Hats

throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance

By Meisterin Felicitas Flußmüllnerin

Throughout our period of study, men and women wore headdress. Not just to meet social conforms, but also to keep themselves safe and healthy. While fulfilling daily chores throughout their day people (adults and children) have used hats and head coverings to protect themselves from the elements – either heat or cold.

The Coif

A close-fitting cap covering the top, back, and sides of the head. They had ties to come under the chin and would be made out of linen, wool, or silk. White linen coifs are the most basic style, but they are seen in several colors, as well as padded for arming, and slashed in leather.

This style of cap is common for men, women, and children from pre - 9th c – 16th c.



Dublin Cap



Bundhaube



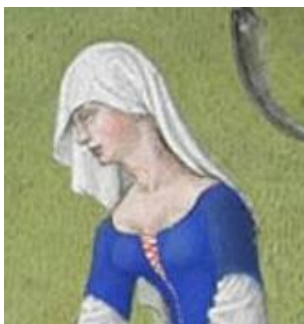
Jorvik Cap (silk)

The Kerchief

A triangle of linen tied under the hair and behind the neck. This could have the end open and hair loose for a maiden or the end closed and the hair restrained for a woman.

The Veil

During the true middle of the middle ages (11th – 14th c), women wore a veil. This could be anything from a simple piece of hemmed silk draped over their dressed hair, to a huge piece pinned and pressed into place over a complicated hat. The veil can be hemmed in matching or contrasting thread, embroidered, or beaded. Other than wearing a veil solo, the simplest option is a barbette. This is a strip of linen which goes under the chin and is pinned to meet at the top of the head. The veil is then pinned in place to the barbette. The next option is to add a wimple. This is a tube of fabric which goes around the head, covering the chin.



Plain draped veil



Bordered veil



Barbette with veil



Wimple with veil

The Turban

This style of wrapping a long cloth completely around the head, creating a brim, is thought of as appropriate primarily for middle eastern people, however, the turban is worn by western European people as well, especially the 13th – 15th c working class. The head is placed in the center of the long strip of fabric. The ends are crossed in the back and twisted into long tails. These tails are wrapped around the brow ridge from front to back and front again, until the ends are reached. The ends are either tucked in or tied together. Turbans can be made of linen or silk and then layered with veils and/or decorated with jewelry.



Male European turban



Female European turban



Middle Eastern turban

Elizabethan Cap (16th c.)

The Elizabethan cap or coif is a base head item worn by women, usually made of linen. It can be plain or embroidered. The cap was worn solo, as well as with more layers of headwear. They were also worn with an additional under-layer like a kerchief. They could be worn over dressed hair or a padded roll.

Worn here plain:



Round with flat band



open front with gathers



open front with ties



pointed front muffin cap

Worn here over a padded roll:



Round w/ different configurations of veiling



Oval – horizontal



Oval - vertical