

How to Dress Like a Roman

Women - Tunica, Stola, Palla

Two kinds of Tunica, both were worn long (to the floor) and typically made of light weight wool. Many colors were used - usually bright:

Chiton: 2 rectangular pieces of fabric, sewn up the sides, leaving enough space for armholes. Shoulders could be pinned, buttoned or sewn. Belted.

Peplos: 1 long piece of fabric, with the top portion folded back on itself. Pinned at shoulders and belted.

Stola - Only for married women. Worn over Tunica

Palla - 3'-6' wrap. Shorter ones were worn inside the house. Longer ones were worn out in public. Typically made of wool, linen or silk

Fibula - Pins, similar to a safety pin, usually gold and decorative, as well as functional.

Hair:

Very elaborate. Instead of bangs, lots of curls piled high in front, with a bun in the back, wrapped in braids.

Jewelery:

Necklaces, earrings, rings, pendants, bracelets. Usually gold. Garnet was popular and sometimes carved. Cameos were popular. Gold coins were frequently turned into jewelery such as bracelets or belts.

Links:

<http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/clothing2.html>

http://members.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical_romans/female/female.htm

Men - Tunica, Toga

Tunica (usually hemmed at the knee): 2 rectangular pieces of fabric, sewn up the sides, leaving enough space for armholes. Shoulders were sewn, leaving enough room for neck hole. Could also be one length of cloth, folded in half with neck hole cut out. Belted.

Toga: Only worn for ceremonial purposes. Undyed wool. Bleached white indicated politicians. Purple border indicated magistrates. Purple wool indicated General, Kings or Emperors

Hair:

Short & clean shaven. Later in the Empire, beards.

Jewelery:

Typically only a singular signet ring.

Links:

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http://members.ozemail.com.au/~chrisandpeter/radical_romans/male/male.htm

Shoes:

Sandals were worn inside, many different design ranging from simple thong style, to more elaborate. Shoes worn outside, with varying styles. All were made of leather.

Men wore different colors to indicate rank - Patricians wore red shoes.



statue of woman wearing peplos
Rome, Vatican Museum,
c. 30 CE
Photo credit: VRoma Project



statue of woman with fringed palla
Rome, Capitoline Museum,
early imperial
Photo credit: VRoma Project



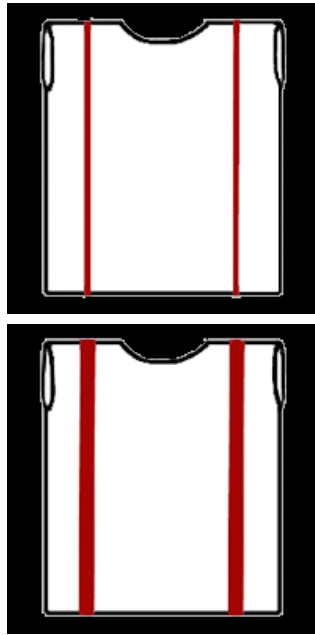
statue of Plautilla, detail of sleeve
Uffizi Museum
Photo credit: VRoma Project



bust of Flavian woman
Fiesole Museum. 1st century
CE
Photo credit: VRoma Project



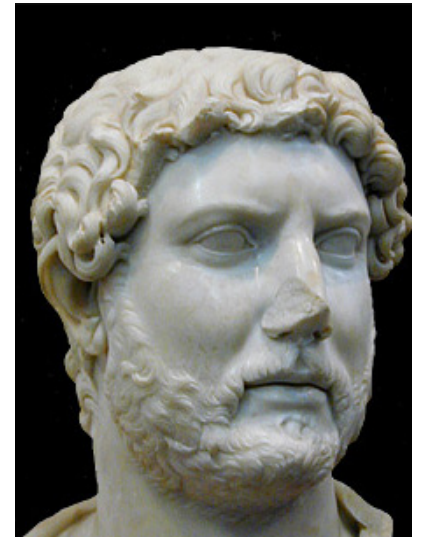
assorted Roman jewelry
British Museum, 1st-3rd
century CE
Photo credit: VRoma Project



equestrian tunic
(tunica angusticlavia)



orator in tunic & toga
Vatican Gregorian Museum,
1st century CE
Photo credit: VRoma Project



bust of Hadrian
Rome, Palazzo Massimo, 2nd
century CE
Photo credit: VRoma Project



gold ring with carnelian seal-
stone depicting actor
London, British Museum
Photo credit: VRoma Project

senatorial tunic
(tunica laticlavia)
Photo credit: VRoma Project

ancient leather shoes with
replicas below
Saalburg Museum
Photo credit: VRoma Project



foot of statue wearing sandal
Rome, Vatican Museum
Photo credit: VRoma Project

