

The Swabian Dress Project

Part 1 – The Introduction

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Where in the world is Swabia?

The Duchy of Swabia is one of the four original provinces of Germany.

- Alsace (now in modern France)
- Baden
- Wüttemberg
- Northern Switzerland
- Lichtenstein



What is this Project?

To create a dress in the style of the Babenberg Family Tree by Hans Part between 1489 – 1492. This project is to be created as a group in steps. If you follow along with each class, by the end of the class cycle you will have a finished, complete outfit.

What is this Dress?

The “Swabian Dress,” like many turn-of-the-century dresses is transitional in style. There is no one dress that seems popular, but there are some common characteristics.

- High waistline
- Pleated skirt
- Round collar – high or low
- Embroidered or beaded embellishments
- Schube (overcoat)
- Fine fabrics: velvet, wool, silk, fur
- Fine accessories: belts, jewelry, headpieces, schube

There are even styles close to the Italian, Burgundian, and French styles. You can have a dress in the style of your persona’s country or branch out into a German style. There are so many choices for sleeves, bodice, skirt attachment, embroidery, etc. It’s really the most freedom in designing a dress you can have.

So if it's transitional, what are we coming from and where are we going?



Housebook or Durer Dress (1470 – 1520)

Named for the Master of the Housebook
VERY popular style in all art of period
Many sleeve options
No waist seam
Set in trapezoid gore in center front
Pleated hemd
Stauchlein and wulsthaub
or hair dressed to same shape
Schleier veil



Swabian Dress (1485 – 1510)

Swabian families – royalty
Many options for everything
Sleeve Options
Skirt Pleating Options
Bodice Opening Options
Embroidery Options
Hemd Options
Belts and jewelry are pretty mandatory
Stauchlein and wulsthaub
or hair dressed to same shape
Schleier veil



Hausfrau Dress (1490 – 1560)

Clothing of the new middle class
Round neckline
Center front opening
Natural Waistline
Long belled sleeves
Black bands at neck, cuff, hemline
Evenly pleated skirt
Stauchlein and wulsthaub
Schleier veil

* Swabians eventually became the core center of recruitment for the Landsknecht army.

Where can I find the Babenberg Family Tree?

While designing your dress, you will find it helpful to peruse the different styles evident in the Babenberg family. Here are two websites:

<http://myra.hem.nu/costume/Documentation/Artist/HansPart.htm>

<http://www.gluckliche-eme.com/hanspart.htm>

Things to think about for next time:

Designing your dress:

Bodice Style

Lacing style, cut of neckline

Embroidery Style

Asymmetrical or symmetrical, beading, appliqué work, needlework

Skirt Pleating Style

Front pleats only in housebook style

Even pleats all the way around

Front and back pleats only

Sleeve Style

Long sleeve, $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve, short sleeve, double sleeve, tight, belled

Hemd style

Straight, gathered, pleated, embroidered

Steuchlein or dressed hair

What fabric will I use?

Remember that these dresses are solid colors, so no tapestry or brocade!

Hemd

Linen, silk, cotton

Dress

Velvet, wool, silk,

Lining

Linen, cotton, denim

Haube

Linen, cotton

Schleier

Linen, cotton, silk

Schaube

Velvet, wool, silk, fur

Homework:

Finalize your dress design and bring fabric for mock-up next time.

You will need 3 yards of fabric for a bodice and sleeve pattern.

I prefer muslin, but any cotton you have sitting around is fine, but no synthetics!