

Comment from the Author, 'Information about the 13th Century, newly retold; for all interested readers.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Issue Number XVI.

For Circa 1265

Dateline June the 18th 2023.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE. 'What did people wear in 1265?'

Part 2. A Brief Handbook on Men's Civil Clothing.

In this issue we turn our attention to the types of clothes worn by the men in the period spanning 1250 – 1270. The prior details noted earlier (in part 1,) concerning weaving and sewing methods remain valid. All clothes (the one's not folded from basic shapes of cloth that is,) were cut-out from the bolt of cloth (or where necessary leathers) using either shears, scissors, hand-held cutters or knives. The specialised manufacturing of scissors for cutting cloth specifically, had now gained a place in the market and was carried out in major English towns and London.

Naturally all of this cutting was done by hand. Whether it was undertaken by a skilled tailor or a non-professional home-based person, great care was used to minimise wastage of the available cloth. Other items would be made from any left-over pieces or would be kept for future repairs. After the cutting-out, every part had to be sewn together – also by hand.

Iron, copper alloy, and sometimes bone needles were utilised in this procedure. There were no mechanical sewing aids to "speed things up".

To be blindingly obvious, the quality of the sewing depended entirely upon the skill of the person doing it. Professional tailors / seamstresses were good but many were paid for each completed piece, even they will have rushed to get things finished. Running repairs were also undertaken by the numerous various owners of garments as they were handed-on, sold, re-sold and re-cycled. (Archaeological finds prove this fact and show sewing from the ultra-superb, to utterly abysmal.)

Now a basic question... Did the folk in 1265 wear any underwear?

A reasonable question to ask, because all clothing is effected by any layers worn under it. – Answer: Yes, if they wanted to and if they could afford the cloth. It was a personal matter.

Based upon descriptions of items left to people through wills and bequests, what we would now consider to be "underwear" seems initially to be non-existent. In reality though, such items were considered to be of such small value – due to poor condition, or general wear, that they were mostly never mentioned. No piece of cloth was ever regarded with utter disdain, therefore it is likely that such personal items remained with the deceased for the sake of modesty, before burial.

Undergarments which *do* gain a mention in writings of the time are those which are given additional importance due to their links with piety or repentance. Items such as "hair-shirts" are an extreme version of an otherwise un-noticed, un-remarked linen garment. Also linen "smalls," – loin cloths (or "briefs" for want of a better term) do appear in religious manuscript drawings in connection with martyred saints and other biblical narratives. The body-shirt was a simple sleeveless short linen vest. See next page – pictures after Roger de Salerno & Matthew Paris. If used, underpants were either formed from thin folded cloth tied to shape; or two joined small linen triangles with corner ties which laced together at the waist. These very rudimentary items were known since Roman times – again they are only briefly mentioned. (Bad pun intended.)

Comment from the Author, 'In the 13th Century doctors considered it best to have a linen layer right next to the skin'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

'What did men wear in 1265?' - Let's start with the known basics: Braies.

1265

1260

Hose (or Hosen) worn over the Braies. Note tied at the front looped up to the internal waist belt.



1250

Braies



1250

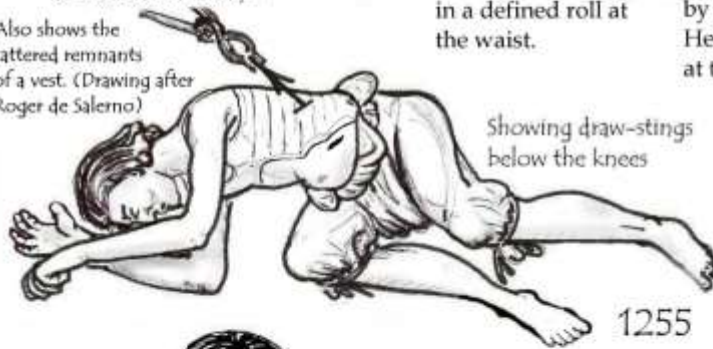


1240



Showing draw-string or belt hidden at the waist by the folds in the cloth. Ties are also shown below the knees.

This guy was having a barbed arrow extracted. (Badly!)
Also shows the tattered remnants of a vest. (Drawing after Roger de Salerno)



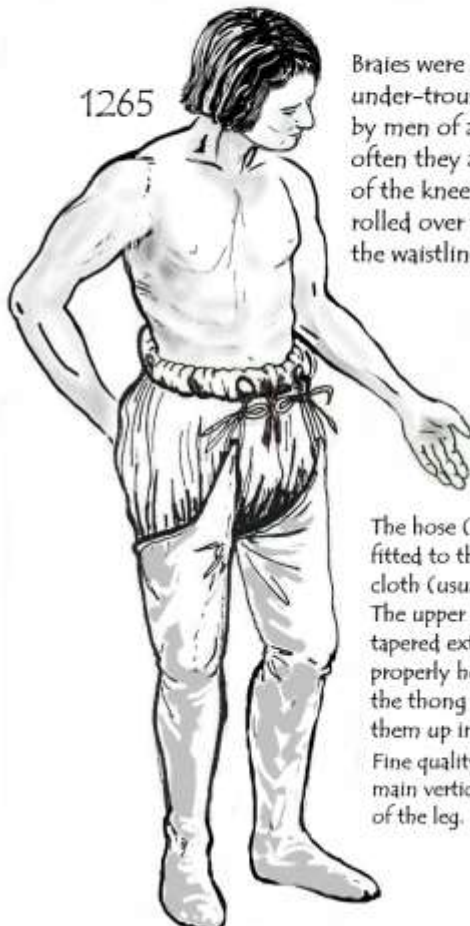
Showing draw-string &/or stitched loops in a defined roll at the waist.

With draw-string hidden below the knees by the folds in the cloth. Here a purse is hung at the waist.

Showing draw-strings below the knees

1255

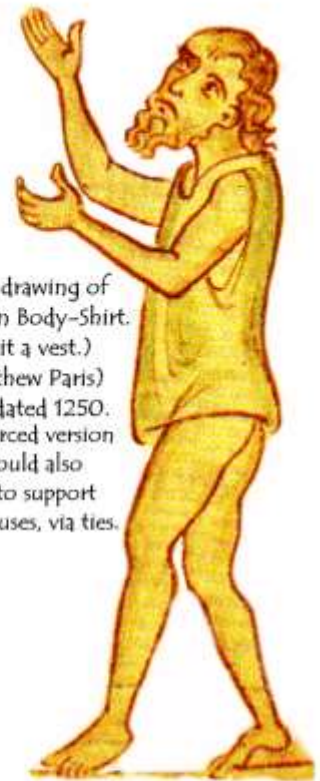
1265



Braies were a type of baggy under-trousers commonly worn by men of all classes. Most often they are just past the length of the knee and have a rolled over top section about the waistline. A tie-belt of strong cord or leather acts as a draw-string and is the means whereby the hose or bag-purses could be suspended & worn. Made of linen cloth, usually white, sometimes they appear to have been made of brown - coloured material, possibly wool.

The hose (hosen) are well fitted to the leg from fine soft cloth (usually wool) bias-cut. The upper edge has a front tapered extension which is properly hemmed. This takes the thong or loop which ties them up in position. Fine quality hose had a single main vertical seam at the back of the leg.

A very rare drawing of a short linen Body-Shirt. (We'd call it a vest.) (After Matthew Paris) Original is dated 1250. A reinforced version of this could also be used to support mail chauses, via ties.



Hose with integral feet sections were worn with shoes.



Comment from the Author. 'There are several methods of making braies, simple or intricate, they take a lot of cloth.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Some details for braies, the linen "trousers" commonly worn circa 1265.

Typical hairstyles from 1250 -70

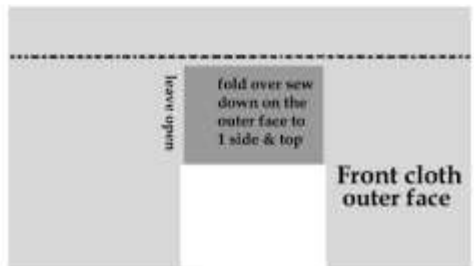
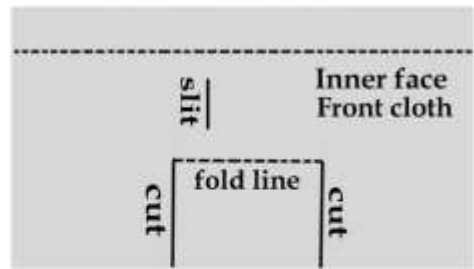
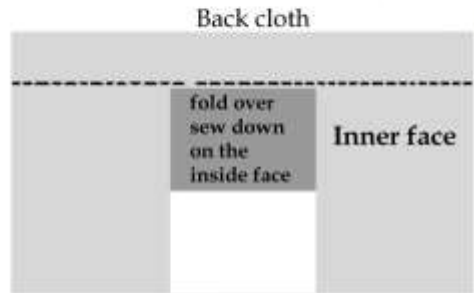
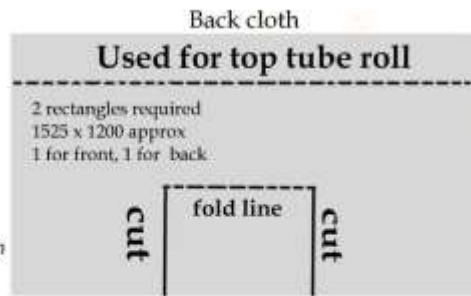


Drawings in the style of the Shah Abbas or Maciejowski Bible. Viz: Pierpont Morgan Library New York.

Linen Braies can be made from two rectangles of white cloth. The top section of each is reserved for the top tube roll. Two cuts are required in this type, to enable the lower centre of the panel to be folded up, making a crude trouser shape with two layers, both front & back.

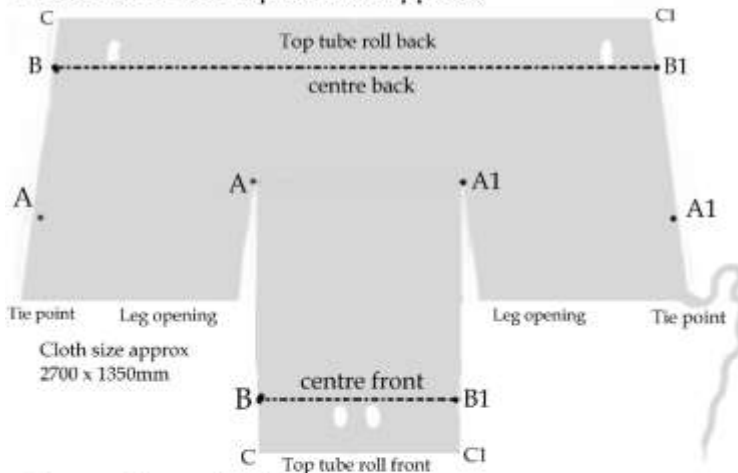


The slit in the front panel hidden by the folded cloth enables a secret "fly front" (For modern convenience.) Original versions were probably untied from around the waist.



The lower edges can have ties or laces added.

Alternative Braies pattern (Approx)



The central front panel is folded until the top of the tube rolls match (i.e. all of the C's are in a line.) Sew A to A, B to B etc. This roughly forms the upper trouser. Seam between A to B & then also A1 to B1. Fold the top tube roll and sew as on other Braie type. Holes to show on outer face.

Attach ties to tie points. When worn the tie is drawn between the legs to the rear, and wrapped about the leg and tied up as seen on the figure drawn above.



The top tube roll is pierced to allow a waist drawstring or belt to be threaded through it. (Allow for belt buckle size, if one is used.) Tie-belts were mostly used. The central pair of holes are for this. The other holes are for attaching the hosen.

Comment from the Author. 'Medieval cloth was quite pliable and stretchy which was good for making hose.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Some comments on hose, the leg coverings commonly worn circa 1265. Hose had not yet generally developed into the style where they were the trouser-like type of the 15th century. They were normally separate, two part items, customarily worn both coloured the same to make a pair. However, not every man wore the full length leg-covering version.

The very poor often dressed in hose almost identical to the type worn by their Saxon-peasant ancestors, sometimes they even resorted to leg bindings made from cheap cloth strips, much like a linen version of puttees. In the hot summer, fieldworkers and threshers often wore no hose at all and this is a sight frequently depicted in both English and European manuscripts.

For the former Celtic areas of Ireland and Scotland, in the majority of cases, the common man seems to have preferred not to wear full length leg-hose at all. The upper classes did wear them.

In the numerous areas making up Wales as we understand it now, the use of leg-hose became more "fashionable" in areas which had more "outside influences". If a man could afford hose, it was now purely down to personal preference, (or how wet he could stand to be) if he wore them.

In Welsh zones where hose was worn they often seem to have been the type made to fit and be worn up to knee level only- Buskins - In effect, they looked more like long socks tied in place. Frequently they made use of sheepskin, (the wool inside,) and leather variants - instead of cloth. Once again, in the instance of the Welsh, full length leg-hose was a type of clothing mostly worn as everyday items by those of the higher classes. Hearth-guard warriors, knights and noblemen.

Hose were basically wool cloth tubes - mostly made with an integral foot shape at the end. They were fairly close fitting to the shape of the leg and hose from the period were pretty flexible - almost elastic in the way they allowed the wearer's leg to bend normally.

To get the best fit to the form of the wearer's leg, the cloth itself was bias cut. This added a lot more stretch as well. Most pictures and sculptures from the period very clearly display the fact that leg hose were mostly without visible wrinkles.

Full length male hosen were attached to the waist belt of the braies by ties or loops.

Hose was made from the basic starting point of draping a piece of cloth with the weave laid out on the diagonal, (arranged on the bias) along the entire length of the leg.

This measurement was from high up on the upper thigh and then down past the toes. (We usually allow the extra length of the whole sole.)

Next the cloth is pulled around the leg, down to and over the ankle and also wrapped around the foot. The cloth is marked off, allowing an excess for seams etc. and roughly cut to shape.

Depending entirely upon the maker's variant (or mistakes); if and where needed, additional pieces or reinforcement patches are sewn in place after the main seaming has been carried out to help give the true shape of the leg and foot. This, in very basic terms gives hose having no front seam. The upper edge at the top of the leg opening was generally a double-fold hemmed finish.

Comment from the Author. '1260's Hose often has a cross-shaped set of seams underneath the sole of the foot.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Some comments on hose, the leg coverings commonly worn circa 1265.

Purely based upon the finds from English archaeological site excavations, the principal cloth type which seems to have been used for making up hosen was tabby-weave. Its simpler, more open format works better than denser materials such as the likes of worsted. Wool was the preferred fibre, but there would have been exceptions to this norm – probably some brown-coloured tabby-weave linens or even dyed variants.

Professional "hosiers" in large towns and London would have correct and fast ways of getting around cloth-cutting problems. In the real-world of the 1260's, hose making methods and patterns must have varied wildly for innumerable portions of hose-cloth have been excavated – all showing different variants, stages of wear and personal home-made repairs.

It is therefore true to say that any modern replica of sewn cloth which fits the leg and is comfortable to wear must be a valid re-creation. Hose were worn to destruction as all the evidence shows. If the feet areas were worn away, some men wore their hose rolled up around the ankles. Others converted them to a version having no true "foot" as such, only a strip under the sole of the foot like a stirrup.

From various reproduction versions we have found out some basic facts:

The critical areas needing particular attention to measurement / or flexibility, are around the ankle; to enable the hose to take the size of the foot and also, (for the longer male version) the kneecap zone and the circumference of the top edge at upper thigh level.

Modern wool cloth is not as "elastic" in its properties as 13th century weaves. Reproduction wool-cloth hose quite frequently has an added bulk and a slightly more wrinkled appearance when worn. However it is better to initially cut out patterns larger than needed, and to test for fittings. Trial and error refinements give excellent results in the long run.

Any seams sited under the sole of the foot should be as flat as possible to avoid discomfort.

Areas of the hose around the kneecap can pull against it if they are not generous enough in the cut – or if the cloth is not bias-cut during the fitting. This restricts the bending action of the leg.

The upper hems should be double hemmed or strengthened with a leather section to take the strain of the ties needed to hold them up.

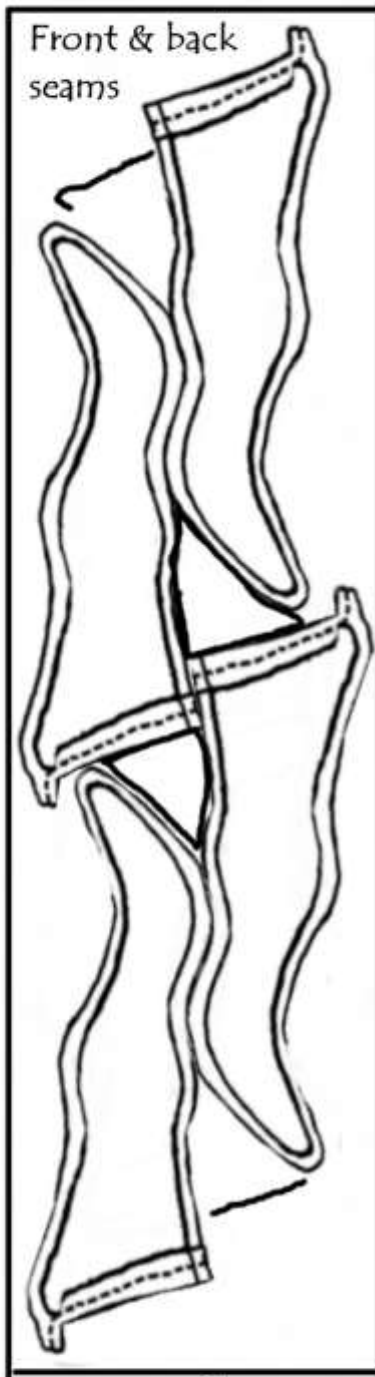
The ties or loops used have to be strong enough not to break, and yet thin / supple enough to take a good knot and not slip loose.

All of our versions succumb to exactly the same areas of wear & tear and the consequent repairs which have been found in the archaeological record.... Most gratifying to know...

Comment from the Author. '1260's Hose. The ties for holding hose up need to be strong, yet flexible - to get a knot.'

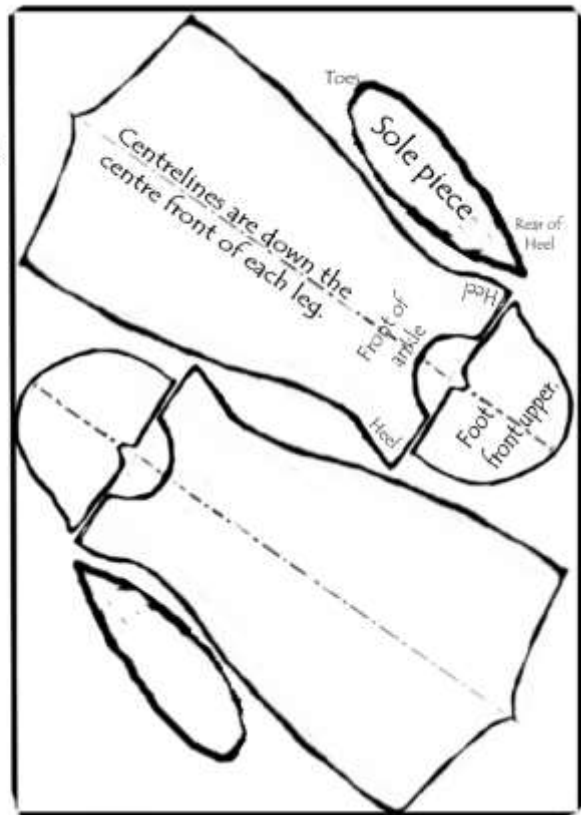
NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Varieties of Hose

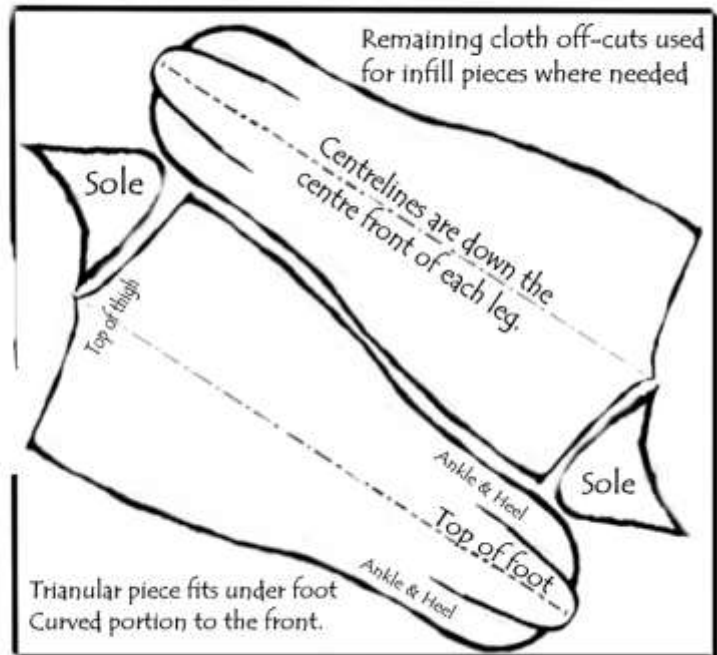


4 pieces. Top of leg opening double turned hem
4 Triangular off-cuts used as gores to upper rear seam if needed. to fit thigh size.

Attach ties to upper front of finished hose.



Back seamed patterns



Comment from the Author, 'Information about the clothes worn in the 13th Century. Man's undershirt.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Clothes of the 13th Century Circa 1265

General wear day-to-day

The undershirt was made up, cut-out from linen cloth and sewn together with linen thread. The cloth itself was woven on hand looms using hand-spun flaxen thread. In England this was washed and fully shrunken before use. Cloth took a long time to make and was expensive. Most people only owned a minimal amount of clothing. This meant washing them was done less frequently than today.

This man is wearing a cap called a coif. An item which was habitually worn by English & continental men, both civilian and military - Poor & noble alike.



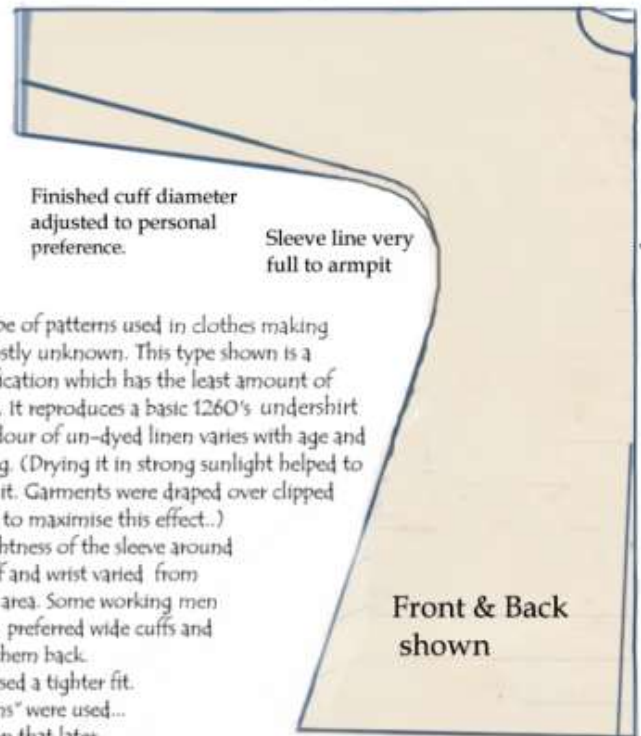
Undershirt
Neck-line styles varied most were round openings with a small, front slit. Necklines were not particularly low
(Allow enough margin for getting the shirt on easily. Linen has very little stretch.)



Marcher / Welsh Undershirt
often had a small "V" slit to the lower neck opening. Small triangular pieces (gores) were also used to strengthen or repair the shoulders.



N.B. Check measurement Length from side of neck to wrist -with arm down by side.



Finished cuff diameter adjusted to personal preference.

Sleeve line very full to armpit

Pattern layout shown folded in half

The type of patterns used in clothes making are mostly unknown. This type shown is a simplification which has the least amount of sewing. It reproduces a basic 1260's undershirt. The colour of un-dyed linen varies with age and washing. (Drying it in strong sunlight helped to bleach it. Garments were draped over clipped bushes to maximise this effect..) The tightness of the sleeve around the cuff and wrist varied from area to area. Some working men simply preferred wide cuffs and rolled them back. Most used a tighter fit. "Buttons" were used... more on that later

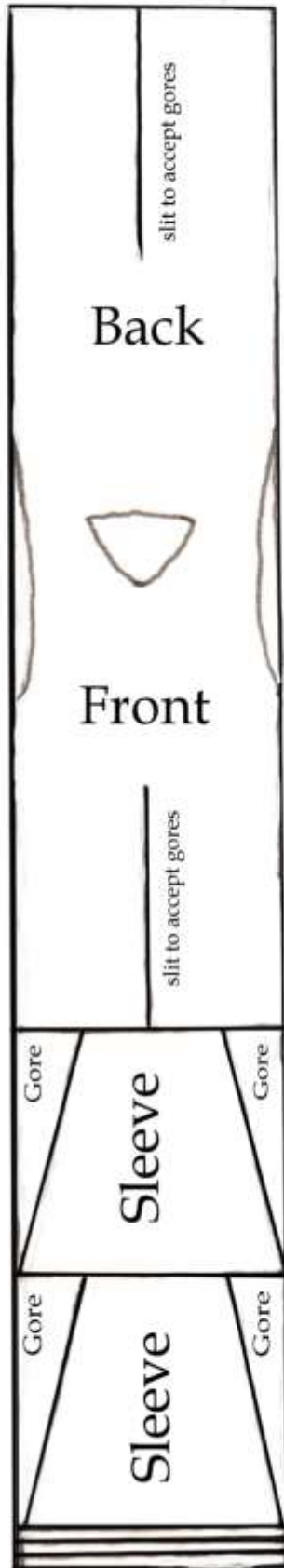
Front & Back shown

A man's undershirt was generally made to be around knee-length. It could be made more full to the lower parts by adding triangular panels (gores) at the front opening or down the side seams below belt level. Undershirts for military men or riders were often split both front & rear to allow more movement.

Man's Undershirt Circa 1265

Comment from the Author: 'Information about the clothes worn in the 13th Century, French-style linen undershirt.'

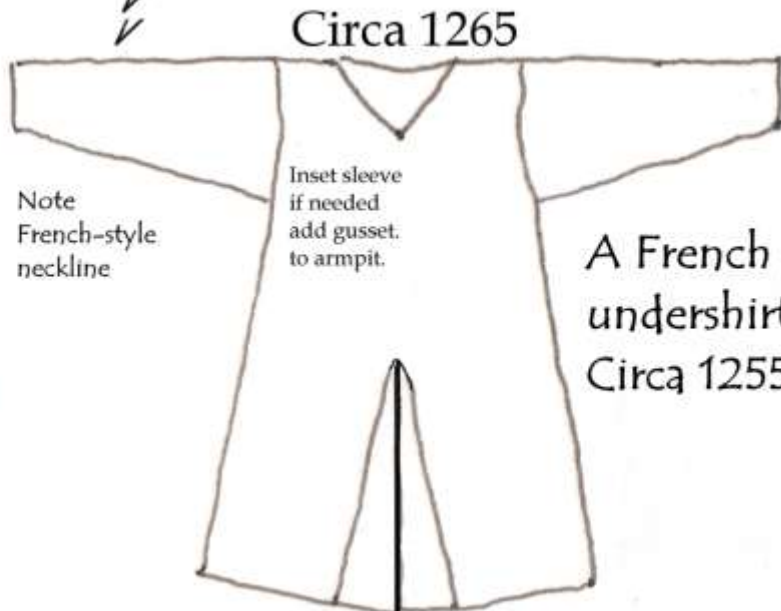
NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE



Undershirts with slit cuffs and a single small globular style "button" to each sleeve.



Circa 1260



Circa 1265

Note French-style neckline

Inset sleeve if needed add gusset to armpit.

A French style undershirt
Circa 1255 -70

Shirt is slit down centre front & back

One of many possible cutting-out patterns

Hemming strips & reinforcements



Cuffs shown in turned-back position, exposing wrists.

Circa 1260

Comment from the Author, 'Information about the clothes worn in the 13th Century. Man's tunic.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Clothes of the 13th Century Circa 1265

General wear day-to-day

Male tunics were made up, cut-out from wool cloth and mostly sewn together with linen thread. The quality of the cloth used was dependent upon the buying power of the owner and thus varied immensely. Expensive cloth was hard wearing and rain resistant.

Bindings of linen or silk were sometimes added to the neck opening to give a less harsh edge. Neckline shapes varied according to district or personal preference.

Ornamentation lessened from the 1240's although in the 1250's rayed or striped cloth was popular.

Eleanor de Montfort bought some for Simon the younger at a cost of 4s.8d, per yard early in 1265.



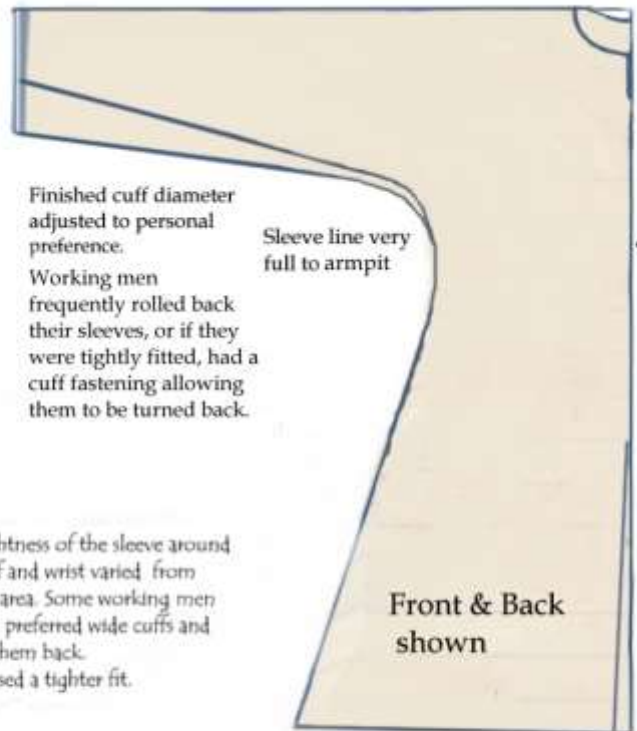
Neckline openings varied - most were of the rounded type in Southern England. French style was often used at court. (Allow enough margin for getting the tunic on easily. - the bulk of hair & coif should be allowed for. Wool-cloth has very little "give".



To the west of Britain, Welsh or marcher neckline openings were mostly rounded with a small "v" slit, which allowed enough margin for this.



N.B. Check measurement Length from side of neck to wrist -with arm down by side.



Finished cuff diameter adjusted to personal preference. Working men frequently rolled back their sleeves, or if they were tightly fitted, had a cuff fastening allowing them to be turned back.

Sleeve line very full to armpit

The tightness of the sleeve around the cuff and wrist varied from area to area. Some working men simply preferred wide cuffs and rolled them back. Most used a tighter fit.

Front & Back shown

Pattern layout shown folded in half

A man's tunic was usually down to knee-length. It could be made more full to the lower parts by adding triangular panels (gores) at the front opening or down the side seams below belt level.

The tunics of military men or riders were often split both front & rear to allow more movement.

Man's Tunic

Circa 1265

Comment from the Author, "Information about the clothes worn in the 13th Century, Man's gown or Day-clothes."

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Civilian clothes for General Wear Day Clothes Circa 1265

Day clothes were often worn by the nobles, courtiers, merchants and the more affluent members of society. Stone built castles and merchant halls could be cold inside even in summer. This extra layer was useful to keep off draughts.

Usually made up from wool-cloth & lined with another fine material, they were a sure sign of status.

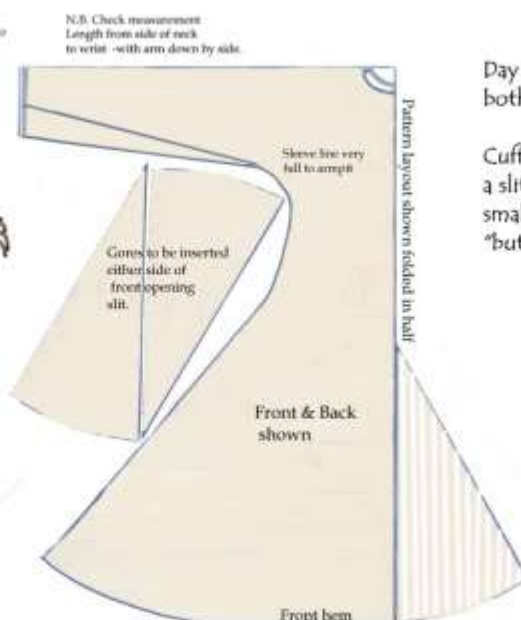
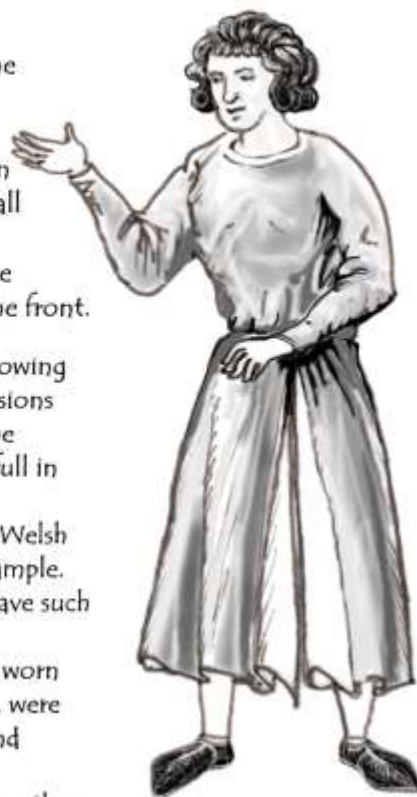
A riding version of this garment would also have a second slit to the rear. - Thus requiring 2 extra gores to be added to the pattern.



Finish cuff diameter to personal preference. Tighter cuffs were commonly in fashion in both England & France.

Necklines and neck openings have the same types & variety used on undershirts & tunics. Wealthy men are shown wearing small annular / penannular brooches, used to close the neck opening at the front.

Many drawings exist showing these items. French versions and the ones used in the English court are very full in their cut. Marcher styles or their Welsh counterparts were less ample. The front slit did not have such a large overlap. Some Welsh versions - worn around the home only, were never used for riding and therefore lost the front opening altogether.



Day clothes were worn both belted & un-belted.

Cuffs could be made with a slit & fitted with a small globular style "button" fastening.

Day clothes were an expensive item on better quality versions they were lined with fine cloth throughout.

For lined version cut lining using same pattern. Contrasting colours were generally used.

To achieve front vent overlap, add gore panel on each side of front opening. Front slit is from just below waist to lower hem

Comment from the Author, 'Information about the clothes worn in the 13th Century. Male Day Clothes.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Men's Day Clothes 1250 - 1270

Day clothes were worn by those who could afford them & came in many styles.

These versions are closely based upon those shown in the Shah Abbas / Maciejowski Bible dated 1255 - 1260 and the Welsh law book of Hywel-Dda. Peniarth 28, dated 1225 - 1280 latest. All of the Welsh figures depicted in the above manuscript wear belts. Many of which seem to have metal bar-mounts visible upon them. (A costly fashion most Englishmen did not wear.)

Welsh Day clothes were worn by men of all ranks. The main distinction being the colours worn. Vertical-Partie-coloured surcoats are shown on noblemen & their household men.

This figure is wearing a coif & hood. He is a well dressed farmer. Southern England & French style.



Shoes are indoor wear toggle-fastened type.

Shoes are outdoor wear side-laced type.

Short tunic with short sleeves and arm slits, front vent only. Worn with belt (or draw-string.) with longer tunic worn under it. - French style.

Day-clothes with English neckline & front vent. Hitched over belt - Marcher & Welsh style.



Long Tunic with front vent. worn with surcoat or sleeveless tunic over. - Marcher / Welsh style.



Shoes are outdoor wear draw-laced type. A Welsh pattern.

Long Tunic with Welsh neckline & side splits. Hitched over belt - Welsh style.



Long Tunic with split sleeves and front vent only. Worn without belt - French style.

Comment from the Author, 'On undershirts, tunics & surcoats a fully opening front was not used in 1260's.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE



This picture of two brawlers fighting, hails after ones from Leicestershire Circa 1260. Each man wears an extended hooded cape, both of which are lined & have a pronounced straight top seam. Some men used the liripipe (the long tail bit) of their hood to stow their gambling dice, gaming pieces, money & even a knife inside a scabbard, if they did not own a purse, bag or belt. The right-hand figure wears a white linen coif, and yet his braies are shown as light-brown. This may represent cheap, coarse, un-bleached linen or a low quality beige wool-cloth. His shoes are of thin leather, probably cordwain – i.e. of sheep or goatskin and are of a drawstring type more usually described as being worn by Welshmen, which makes the picture even more unusual. The left-hand figure has a cheap short linen undershirt and wears stirrup-type leg hose over his barely visible linen braies. He goes barefoot.

In England it seems that everyone made a great effort to own at least one pair of shoes, in an attempt to display that they were doing well. It was also normal for very young children to be shod in soft leather turn-shoes.

This was the cause of many disparaging comments about the Welsh and their kinfolk living in the Marches, some of whom held to ancient tradition and still went around barefooted. Perhaps such a comment caused the fight depicted above. (At least he hasn't "lost his shirt" – probably from gambling.)

As can be seen from this drawing, of the 1260's a centre front opening, (although logical) was not yet used.

Note the cuff slits & the turned back cuffs on the helper's tunic.



Comment from the Author. 'Information about clothes worn in the 13th Century. Male over tunic or Gardcorps.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Man's Over Tunic or Gardcorps Middle-Class day wear.

This type of garment was commonly worn by merchants and middle-class townsmen. It was made from good quality wool cloth & up-market versions were lined.

The earlier version shown here has 3/4 length sleeves with open front slits.

A type with an integral hood also became popular as they had the extra cloth layer which kept you warmer around the shoulders.

Eventually the hooded Gardcorps with baggy full length sleeves became a symbol of learned men such as doctors and academics.

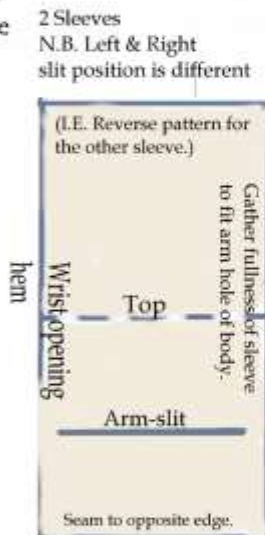
Continental (German) versions are shown with an opening front as early as 1240.

The start of the fashion?



Circa 1265.

A Merchant's Over-gown or Gardcorps (a body-guard).



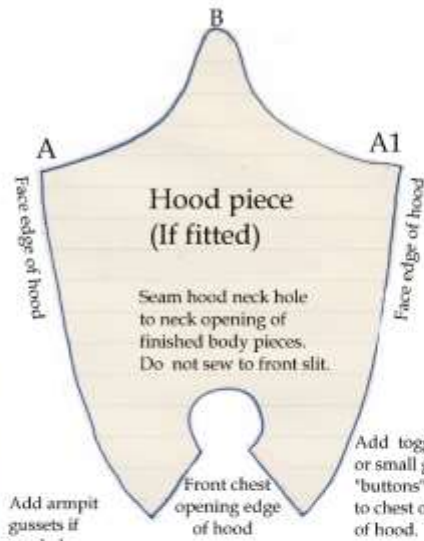
Hem arm-slit.
Slit in front face of sleeve.
Length of sleeve from 3/4 to full length to suit wearer.

2 Sleeves
N.B. Left & Right slit position is different

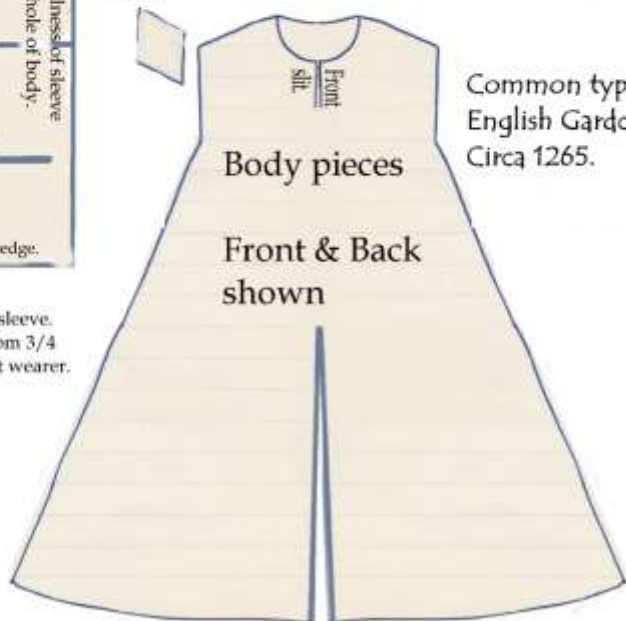
Circa 1250 - 1270

Expensive well-fulled cloth was a hard wearing almost felted material that was water-resistant. Popular colours used for this garment were greys, browns, russet, dark blue and black. Linings were often contrasting colours or fur.

Seam A - B to B - A1



Add armpit gussets if needed



Common type of English Gardcorps Circa 1265.

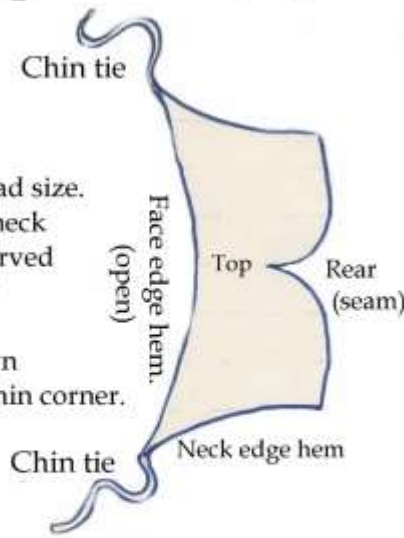
Less wealthy traders still made a good show by only lining the inside of the hood, cuffs & front vent. By around 1263 a few Gardcorps had front openings but by 1275 most opened fully down the front and still survive to this day - as the gowns used by university students, teachers and professors.

Comment from the Author, 'English men usually covered their hair when in public. This was considered normal.'

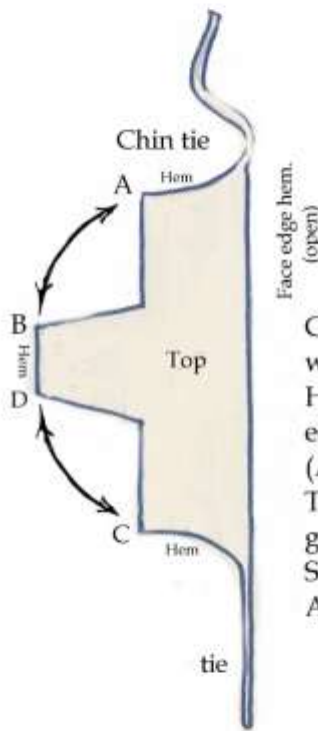
NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Male Head Coverings: The Linen Coif. Circa 1265.

Cut 1 piece from white linen to suit head size. Hem along face and neck edges. Seam along curved edge from top to rear base of neck edge. Attach chin tie of sewn white linen to front chin corner.



Drawing after Matthew Paris 1250 - 1255



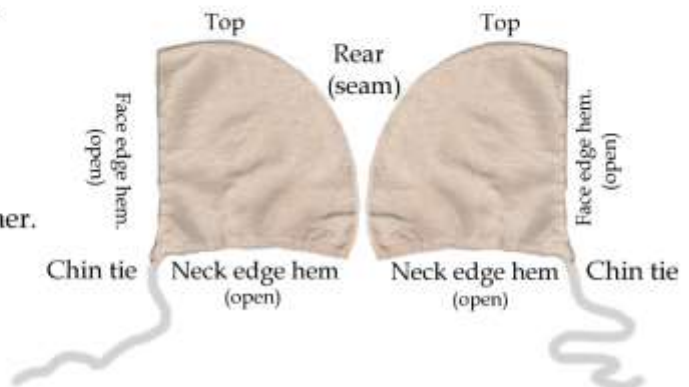
General day wear.

Cut 1 piece from white linen to suit head size. Hem along face and neck edges. Seam each indent (A to B) (C to D). This pattern will require gathers to fit the head shape. Sew gathers to give final size. Attach chin ties of sewn linen.



The linen coif was widely worn by men across all areas of England and Western Europe. At home indoors it was worn according to personal preference.

Cut 2 pieces from white linen to suit head size. Hem along face and neck edges. Seam along curved edge from forehead to rear base of neck edge. Attach chin tie of sewn white linen to front chin corner.

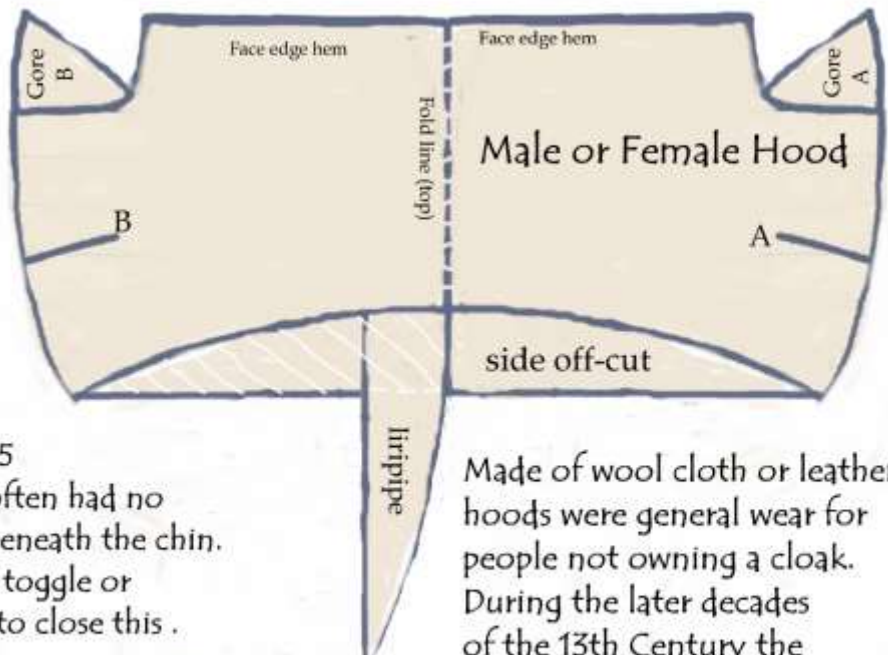


Comment from the Author. 'In bad weather or winter time (or just to show off) without a cloak, hoods were worn.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Day to day wear. Hood patterns Circa 1265.

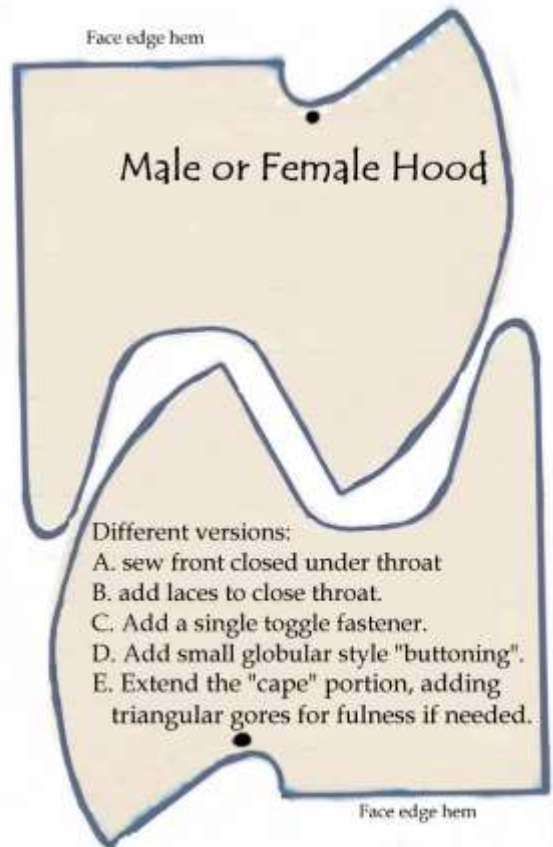
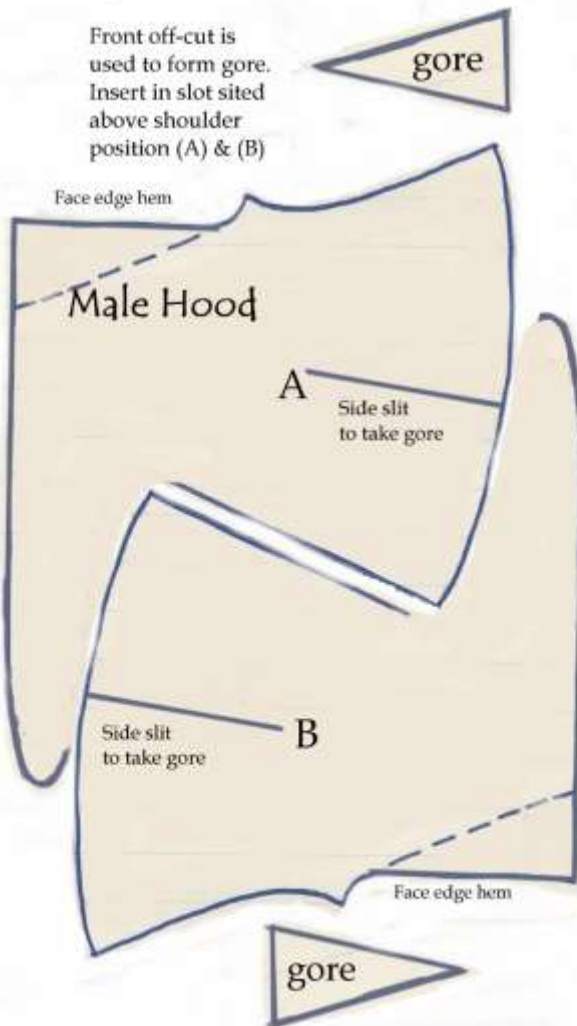
2 side off-cuts form tail (liripipe) of hood.
Sew to top rear
Leave hood end of pipe open.
Front off-cut is used to form gore.
Insert in slot sited above shoulder position (A) & (B)



In the period 1250 - 1265 English hoods for men often had no front throat opening - beneath the chin. Ladies hoods could have toggle or globular type "buttons" to close this .

Made of wool cloth or leather, hoods were general wear for people not owning a cloak. During the later decades of the 13th Century the fashion for the liripipe at the back of the hood grew - as did its length.

Front off-cut is used to form gore.
Insert in slot sited above shoulder position (A) & (B)



- Different versions:
- A. sew front closed under throat
 - B. add laces to close throat.
 - C. Add a single toggle fastener.
 - D. Add small globular style "buttoning".
 - E. Extend the "cape" portion, adding triangular gores for fullness if needed.

Comment from the Author, 'Cloaks were only as good as the quality of their cloth. The poor made-do with tatters.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

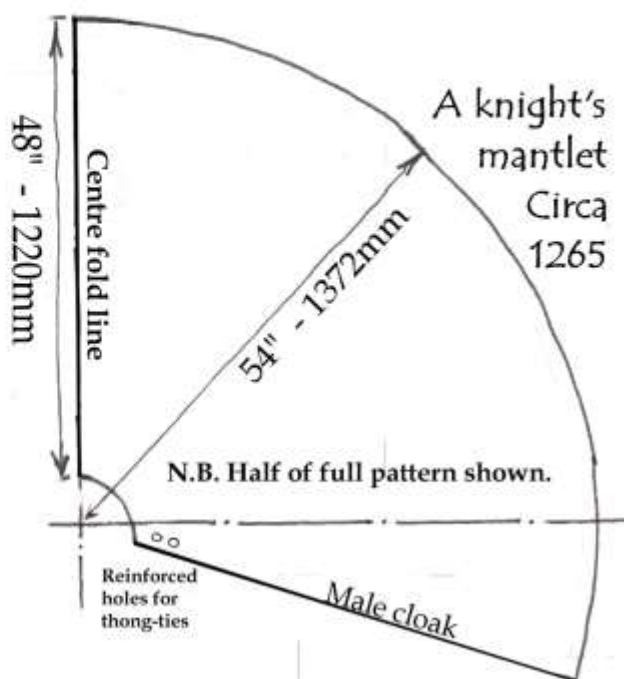
Clothes of the 13th Century Circa 1265

General wear day-to-day

Used for warmth, shelter and also for showing status there were many types of cloaks.

For many people in England owning a large cloak was impossible due to the cost of the material needed. Even the knightly mantlet (large circular form of cloak) was usually a gift bestowed at the knighting ceremony.

Small annular (ring) brooches; penannular cloak brooches; or thong-ties were used as fasteners about the neck area to suit the fit. Brooches in themselves were also an expensive item which many people did not possess. Simple tablet-woven ties or braided cords were also used. An old trick was to use a small ring of plaited leather through which portions of cloth were pushed, & then knotted, to hold it all in place.



A simple square cloak made in any size that was useful or that the owner could afford.

(However, for useability smaller pieces of cloth would normally be made into hoods.)

Cloaks were often made from well-filled woollen cloth, or weaves which had been carded, combed and then had the raised nap crushed back down. Meaning that it was made denser and more water repellent as in felt.

Where possible elliptical cloaks were generally made from a wool cloth having a width of 60" a typical broadloom. The flat edge is the top edge of the cloak when worn. Hems without a selvedge were double-folded and sewn down to give a durable finish. Overall, the length was decided by the height of the wearer.

A semi-elliptical cloak a type in use from 750 -1270 throughout Wales, England & Scandinavia.

Neck position

Women's and Men's Cloaks

Comment from the Author, 'Purses were hung from waist belts. Worn on the left or right according to user's choice.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Clothes of the 13th Century Circa 1265

General wear day-to-day

Belts & Girdles were worn by all classes of society. The differences were in make & materials used. Some were tablet woven, hand-made at home and merely tied in place. Others were of expensive leather, properly tanned and finished with a belt buckle, metal mounts and even copper-alloy fittings such as purse hangers.

Wearing a purse, visibly on show, was a sign of wealth & prestige. It was a French and a "Marcher" fashion for both ladies and men. It was not thought a prudent option in large market towns or London. In the 1260's not to show a purse was largely due to fear of cut-purse thieves or robbery and lack of coin to place in one.

Actual buckle size is 2-1/2" x 1-5/8"
59mm x 41mm.



Typical buckle styles of the 1260's

Many belt buckles were mass produced. Made of copper-alloy and riveted onto the belt with small copper rivets. Expensive versions were finely decorated with heraldic motifs. Photos from author's collection.

Knights sword belts will be discussed in the next issue which will also describe the defensive clothing used by different military classes.

Bar mounts are shown here because of their connection to the Welsh. The distinction between a Welsh free-man and a fighting man did not really exist. They deemed it an honour to be able to fight. (Bar mounts may be a throw-back to Romano-British military belt decorations of 450 - 500 C.E.)

Purse Hanger fittings for belts Circa 1230 to 1270

Copper alloy plates, bent to hold hanger-rod & riveted to belt. This cheaper version has a plain bent bar used for the hanger.



Copper alloy strips, bent to hold finely cast hanger-rod & double riveted to a good leather belt.

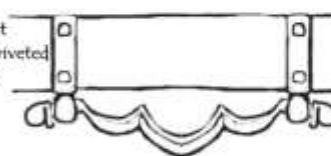


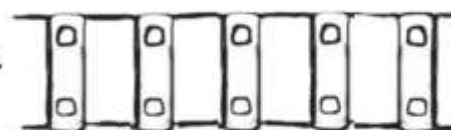
Plate bent around to be on both sides has one centre rivet.



Plate bent around to be only halfway up the rear face has one lower rivet & a second upper rivet.



Bar mounts.



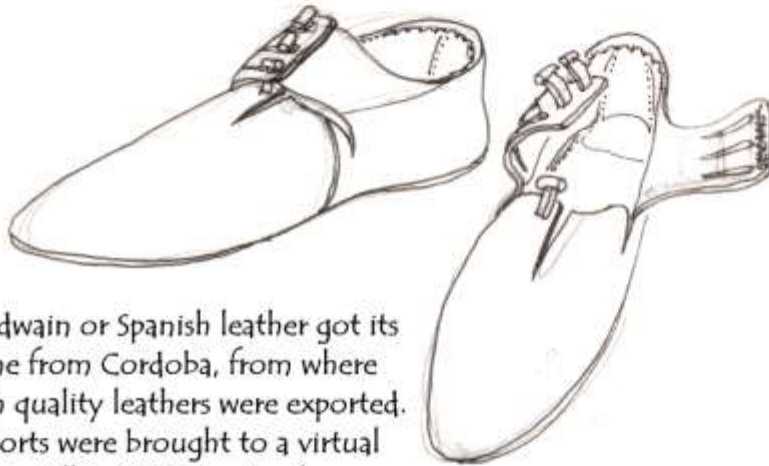
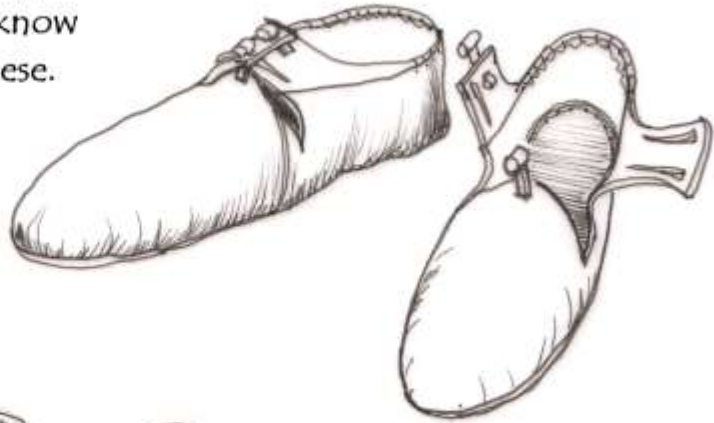
Bar mounts were an expensive item usually fitted on the belts of nobles & wealthy military men. Templar knights were forbidden to own such items, yet effigies in Temple Church in London abound with them. They were also used as reinforcements & decoration on horse harness girths & bridles. Some were silver, most were copper-alloy. Cut plate, cast, thick or thin, there were many types. English civilians were unlikely to wear or own such a thing as a belt with bars. However in Welsh areas such decorations seem to have been more common.

Comment from the Author. 'Some general information concerning a few shoes & boots of the period.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

Footwear of the 13th Century Circa 1265

From the finds of boots & shoes from the wharfside deposits found in the City of London we now know far more about items such as these. Earlier footwear was mostly of Cordwain leather (sheep or goatskin) by the 1250's more cattlehide calfhide leather was being used.



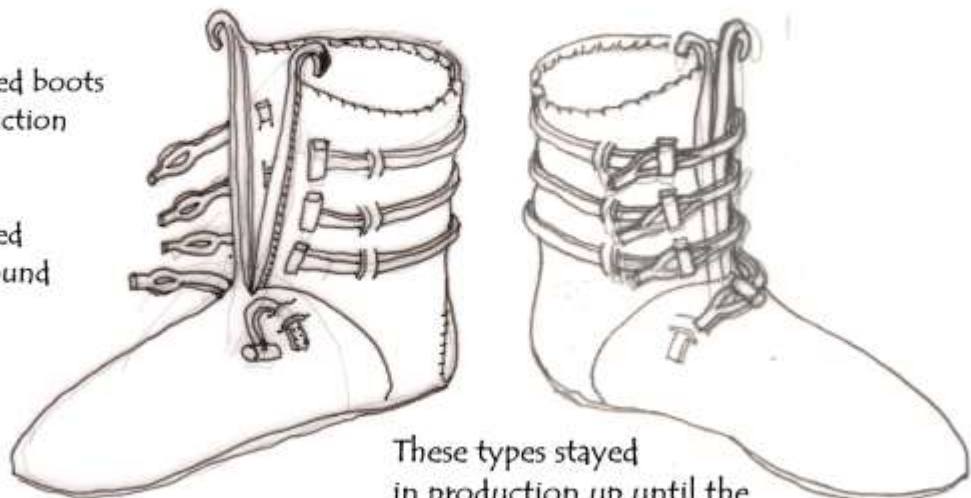
Cordwain or Spanish leather got its name from Cordoba, from where high quality leathers were exported. Imports were brought to a virtual stand-still in 1263, due to the civil unrest in southern England.

Typical toggle fastened shoes of turn-shoe construction 1250 - 1290 approx.

They are mostly made from a single wrap-around piece of leather with the side seam on the inside face of the foot. These varieties stayed popular up until the 1320's, when the seam construction changed & toggle fastenings fell out of favour.

Typical toggle fastened boots of turn-shoe construction 1190 -1290 approx.

Again the pattern used was a single wrap-around piece of leather with the side seam on the inside face of the boot.



Similar boots with a single wrap-around lace fastening were common throughout the 13th century, & were worn by men, women & children.

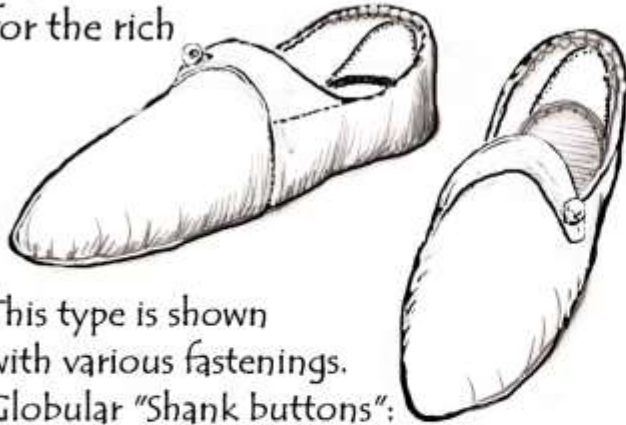
These types stayed in production up until the 1380's when the rear heel quarters construction changed & turn-welt soles made shoes more watertight.

Comment from the Author. 'Some general information concerning a few shoes & boots of the period.'

NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE

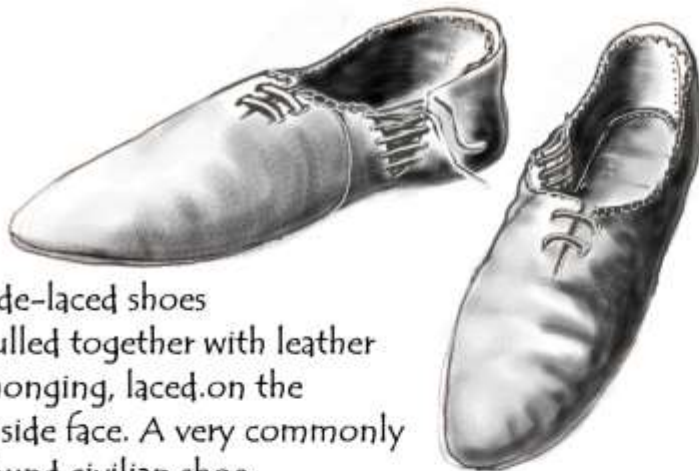
Footwear of the 13th Century Circa 1265

Indoor shoes
for the rich



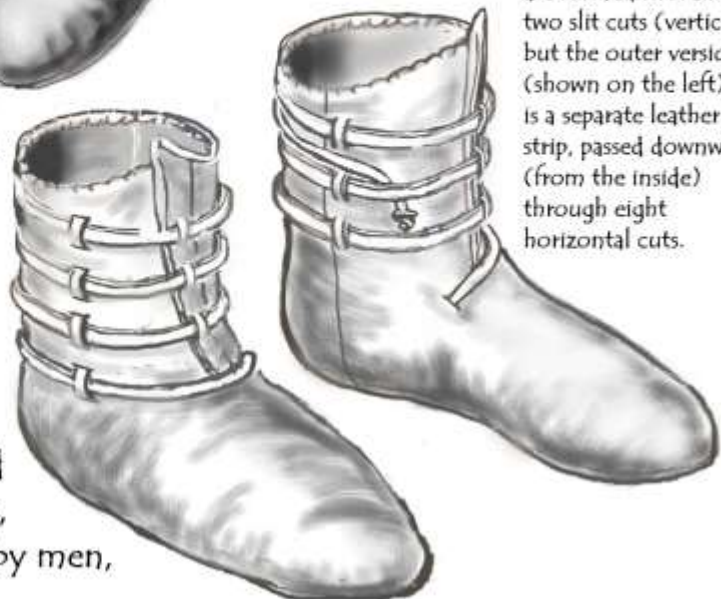
This type is shown with various fastenings. Globular "Shank buttons"; latchet ties; or toggles. They are turnshoes with slightly pointed toes.

These are shoes - sandals, possibly derived from the Roman style military calliga. Popular with the Welsh. They are cut and folded from sheepskin and pulled together with leather thonging and laced.



Side-laced shoes pulled together with leather thonging, laced on the inside face. A very commonly found civilian shoe.

Draw-string boots were fastened by pulling the lace tight and knotting or wrapping it under as shown. The end knot helps to stop the lace un-winding in theory. Although mostly found as remains in small sizes, these boots were worn by men, women & children.



The majority of lace positioning leathers are formed with simple two slit cuts (vertical), but the outer version (shown on the left) is a separate leather strip, passed downwards (from the inside) through eight horizontal cuts.

Comment from the Author. 'Although men's clothing fashions were similar across Europe, there are many variants.'

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Odds and ends – bits of information

Concerning male linen braies... another version often used by country folk could be "constructed" or folded from a long rectangular cloth of linen. It was wrapped and overlapped around the torso above waist height, the top edge was folded over / rolled over a tie-belt, and then the wearer reached down between his legs to grasp the rear lower hem. Pulling this low section to the front, it was then tucked up under the front of the belt. The only sewing needed – (if the cloth was properly woven with selvedges) is for the addition of the tie-cords by the knees. If the wearer knows what to do properly, all this takes mere seconds to perform. The down-side of it all, is that if you get things "not-quite-right", the cloth rapidly comes undone and wraps itself around your lower legs – very embarrassing, or highly dangerous if you are in a battle line. Hence, I have only drawn out patterns for the more "up-market" stitched versions, which are highly reliable and give "good coverage".

Items including clothes which were sold-on, (we term them second-hand,) were called "Otherses". The amount of clothes which were re-sold – on an almost continuous basis during this period was nothing short of staggering. Items were re-used over and over again. Luckily for some they became cheaper (and older and more worn-out) each time.

The poorest members of society were literally wearing rags and tatters – Tatterdemalions, as the French called them. Those who were too ill to work, or had no family or local lord of true worth who would take care of them were reduced to beggary. Living hand-to-mouth waiting hopefully at church & abbey doorways or by the gates of towns or castles for charitable alms & cast-offs. England in the mid-13th Century was in fact, a place stricken with unrest where outsiders were likely to be blamed for anything that was thought to be going "wrong". London merchants were losing money due to lack of continental trade and they needed the King to listen to them – or for someone to put things right... The King didn't listen... Cue Simon de Montfort.

As general personal comments only:

There are many differing names and terms used for specific items of clothing. These vary from area to area and also from country to country. Foreign names derived from Latin, French, and Norman-French, etc, abound. Certainly some people will be familiar with one or more of these versions, but making a choice as to which name to use is rather awkward. Therefore I have mostly chosen names which still have a similar modern meaning – purely for clarity of understanding by the general reader. So, if you know an item by a different nomenclature it certainly isn't because you necessarily have it wrong and I have it right. Feel free to term things how you please.

Also, this information is not to tell anyone how things should be done if they are fellow re-enactors... It is purely to put the commonest varieties of clothes and associated items from our chosen period into context for people who are intrigued. Finding data generally buried on only a couple of pages in an out-of-sequence (or poorly illustrated) history book is a frustration I have come across too many times. To *everyone involved*, my greetings, gratitude and undying thanks.

Written & illustrated by A. Westmancoat. Member of Circa 1265.

14/7/23

Comments from the Author, 'I hope this information has sparked the interest of the general reader to read on...'

NEWES OF the (knowne) WORLDE

Issue Number XVI. For Circa 1265 Dateline July 14th 2023.

Bibliography:

For superb original illustrations of 1250 – 60's data, try: Pierpont Morgan Library. New York. The Maciejowski Bible. Also, reproduced as Old Testament Miniatures. London: Phaidon Press Ltd. 1969. Introduced by Sidney G. Cockerell. ISBN 7148 1326 5. Masses of relevant clothing data.

For brilliant and additional information direct from archaeologists (which focuses more on later centuries – due to the better survival rate of the cloth), read or buy a copy of:-

Textiles & Clothing 1150 – 1450 by Elisabeth Crowfoot, Frances Pritchard & Kay Staniland
A museum of London book by Boydell Press ISBN 978-1-84383-239-3.

For archaeological data on beads, belts, belt fittings, brooches, buckles, and strap-ends there are details a-plenty for the connoisseur within:-

Dress Accessories 1150 – 1450 by Geoff Egan and Frances Pritchard.
A museum of London book by Boydell Press ISBN 978-1-84383-351-2.

For archaeological data on knives and small-knife scabbards (both early and late) there are superb drawings and details of many London finds in:-

Knives and scabbards. Medieval finds from excavations in London by Jane Cowgill, Margrethe de Neergaard, and Nick Griffiths. An HMSO publication. ISBN 0 11 290440 8.

For archaeological data on shoes and boots (both early and late) there are superb drawings and details of many London finds in:-

Shoes and Pattens. Medieval finds from excavations in London by Francis Grew, Margrethe de Neergaard, and Susan Mitford. An HMSO publication. ISBN 0 11 290443 2.

For ardent enthusiasts, the above volumes also have massive bibliographies which touch on these subjects and others spanning between the 7th to the 15th centuries.

For general written details of clothing through from the 6th – 15th century.

Se vêtir au Moyen Age. (Dress in the Middle Ages.)

By Françoise Piponnier & Perrine Mane. English translation = ISBN (0-300-06906-5.)

For the history leading up to the Battle of Evesham both extensive and general you may try:

The Baron's War (including the battles of Lewes and Evesham)

By William Henry Blaauw, esq, M.A. This work undertaken and written before 1844.

2nd edition. Published 1871 by Bell & Daldy, York St. Covent Garden. London.

It is of Victorian to modern readability (I have no idea if this is still in print anywhere. I have been informed that it is now readable "on-line".) His extensive research, (though superseded by modern tastes,) produces prodigious points of interest well worth following up. He took the trouble to sift through and translate many manuscript documents which are nearly impossible to get hold of even now. An excellent book with a list of full references, and footnotes to spare.

Comments from the Author, 'I hope this information has been interesting. Hopefully we may see you at Evesham.'

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Bibliography continued:

For modern reading and excellent information that gives a general overall view of the historical setting and military campaigns leading up to the battle of Evesham, try:-

Lewis and Evesham 1264-1265 (Simon de Montfort and the Baron's War.)

By Richard Brooks. ISBN 978 1 4728 1150 9 Osprey Publishing Ltd. Published 2015.

Our thanks to Bassetlaw museum at Retford who hosted our members of Circa 1265 & also the professional medieval-musicians Trouvere - who played a great repertoire of superb 12th & 13th century music. Standing under a minute, make-shift - but dry, "Otheres" stall... hiding from very heavy rain and discussing medieval musical instruments with Paul Leigh of Trouvere, (more used to places like the great hall in Dover castle!)



NEWES OF þe (knowne) WORLDE is written & illustrated by A.Westmancoat.

With full acknowledgements and grateful thanks for the huge assistance & efforts undertaken by all the members of Circa 1265; & also for everyone's help and participation in photos. (A.W. 2023)