

# *Essential Elizabethan Accessories*

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# Overview

- Queen Elizabeth I of England's reign was 1558 to 1603.
- English fashions were distinct from the continent, yet were influenced by France & the Netherlands (& Spain to a lesser degree) through trade & politics.
- Wealth, social status, & sumptuary laws dictated what people wore.
- Accessories were considered separate wardrobe items, not necessarily ‘part of an outfit.’



# *Wills*

- 1559 - John Freman of Northampton bequeathed 2 silver rings & “my best bonytt”
- 1558 - Richard Hudson of London bequeathed a little ring of gold with a “diamonde sparke”
- 1565 - Sir Marttn Bowes of London left a ring of gold to his daughter
- 1582 - Dame Elizabeth Nycholas left several gold rings

# *New Year's Gifts for QEI*

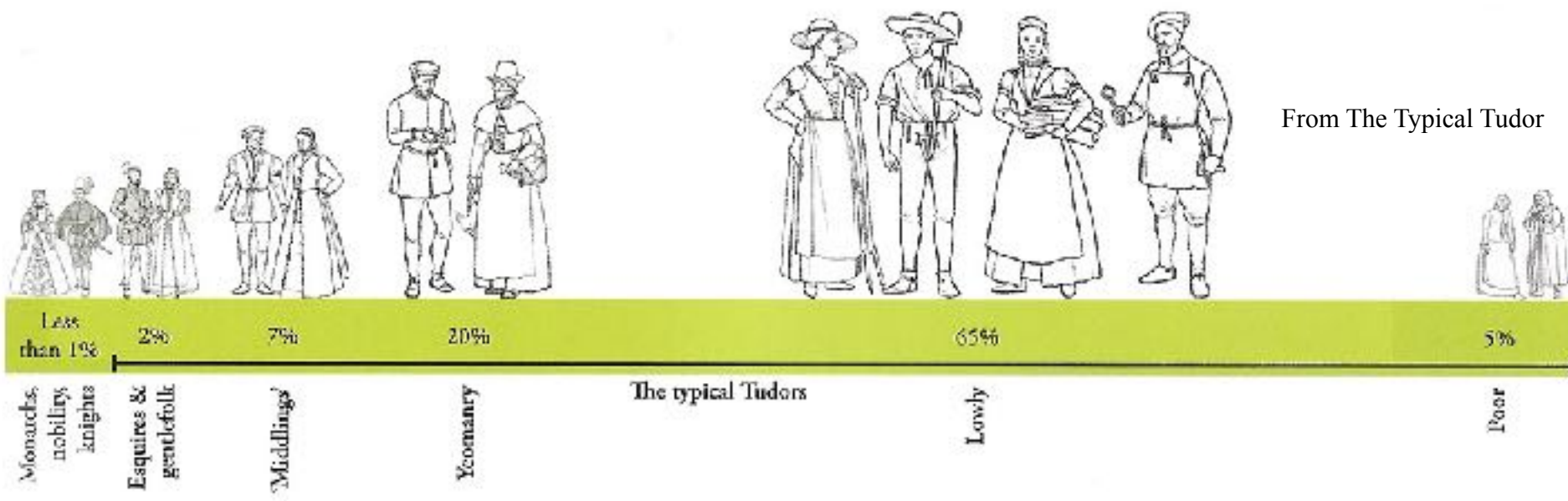
1577 — By the Countes of Essex, ruffs of lawnde white worke, edged with sede perle

1577 — By Sir Edward Horsey, Knight, a cheyne of pomaunder with a verey small perle

1578 — By Mrs. Taylor, a coif edged with a smale bone lace of gold

1578 — By Mr. Rauffe Bowes, a hat of tawny taphata, enbrauderid with Venice golde, and a border garnisshed with sede perle

# Social Status



From The Typical Tudor

Fig 1a Representative social spectrum of society based on estimated populations of Tudor England & Wales and Stuart Scotland 1485 to 1603

Upper-class

Middling

Peasant

# *Without Period Accessories & With*





# *Key Accessories for All*

- Hats & hair
- Ruffs
- Belts & waist things
- Jewelry
- Shoes

1580, Queen Elizabeth



1570s,  
English man  
& woman by  
Lucas de  
Heere





# *Hats & Hair for Upper-Class Women*

- Hoods, French hoods
- Flat caps or bonnets with netted caul
- Tall hats with coifs
- Covered hair — center part, flat in front pre-1560 / after 1560 full/curled in front
- Uncovered hair (rare) — center part, elaborately dressed high, often decorated with jewels

# *Survey of English Women's Portraits, 1550-1600*

- 41 hoods
- 7 tall hats worn with coifs
- 5 coifs alone
- 2 (maybe) pillbox hats



1560s,  
Agnes Keith,  
Countess of  
Argyll



1560,  
Elizabeth  
FitzGerald,  
Countess of  
Lincoln



1563,  
portrait  
by Hans  
Eworth



1565,  
Countess  
of Southampton



1569,  
portrait,  
British  
School



1574,  
portrait  
by  
George  
Gower



1585, cameo of Queen Elizabeth





1560,  
detail from  
Queen  
Elizabeth  
and the  
Ambassadors

1560s, Mary  
Queen of  
Scots



1569,  
Helena  
Snakenborg



1563, Queen  
Elizabeth  
(Gripsholm  
Portrait)



16th-c. illustration



1575, woodcut of Queen Elizabeth



Late 16th-c. embroidered coif at the Met

# *Hats & Hair for Middling-Class Women*

- Hoods, French hoods
- Tall hats worn with coifs
- Coifs
- Covered hair — center part, flat in front





1565, Mary Potter



1578, Jane  
Bradbuirye



1582, Elizabeth Radcliffe



16th-c.  
English  
manuscript



1585, woman from Derbyshire



1570, bourgeois women by Lucas de Heere



1595, Esther Inglis, Mrs. Kello



1582, merchant's wives by Joris Hoefnagel



1570, bourgeois woman  
by Lucas de Heere

# Hats & Hair for Peasant Women

- Coifs
- Linen wraps, turbans
- Tall hats worn with coifs
- Broad-brimmed straw hats worn with coifs
- Covered hair — center part, flat in front, braids possibly seen tied across top/back of head



1563, detail from *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes* by Joachim Beuckelaer



1569, detail from Fete at Bermondsey by Joris Hoefnagel



16th-c. woodcut



Late 16th-c. woman from Cryes of London

1582, washer women by Joris Hoefnagel



1570, countrywoman by Lucas de Heere

## *Women's Hats & Hair — Things to Be Aware of:*

- Hoods should have a fabric veil in the back to cover hair.
- Hoods lay mostly flat against the head, not sticking up very high vertically.
- Flat cap or bonnet brims tend to be narrow.
- Big, loose, fabric bag hats aren't really documentable.



# *Women's Hats & Hair — Things to Be Aware of:*

- Tall hats, pillboxes, or flat caps should be worn with a coif or caul.
- Hair should be tightly styled under any coif or caul.



1565-68,  
portrait by  
Hans Elworth

- Loose crochet snoods aren't accurate — cauls are more period. These are either delicate net or decorated fabric in a small, tight bag shape.



# Women's Hat & Hair Resources

- Hair taping video by Tudor Tailor  
— <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy>
- How to make an Elizabethan coif by Drea Leed  
— <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy3>
- How to wear a coif by Laura Mellin  
— <https://tinyurl.com/ElizCoif1>



# *Hats & Hair for Upper-Class Men*

- Flat caps before 1570
- Bonnets
- Tall hats
- Hair — short, close-cropped; various styles of neatly trimmed facial hair are popular

# *Survey of English Men's Portraits, 1550-1600*

- 20 flat caps
- 18 bonnets
- 15 tall hats

1560, Sir Thomas Gresham







1558, George Seton, 5th Lord Seton



1563,  
Henry Carey,  
1st Baron  
Hunsdon



1575, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester



1575, Edward  
Fiennes de Clinton,  
1st Earl of Lincoln



1578,  
Oliver St John,  
1st Baron  
St. John  
of Bletso



1580s. William Brooke, Lord Cobham





1588, Peregrine Bertie,  
13th Baron Willoughby de Eresby



1588, portrait miniature



1591, Admiral Sir John Hawkins



# *Hats & Hair for Middling-Class Men*

- Flat caps
- Tall hats
- Hair — short, close-cropped; various styles of facial hair are popular



1569, detail from Fete at Bermondsey  
by Joris Hoefnagel



1565, Thomas Coleshill



1575, woodcut of a falconer

# *Hats & Hair for Peasant Men*

- Flat caps
- Broad-brimmed straw or felt hats
- Stocking / knit caps
- Hair — short; various styles of facial hair are popular



16th-c. woodcut



Late 16th-c. man from *Cries of London*



16th-c. woodcut



1500-50, knitted wool cap at the V&A

# *Men's Hats & Hair — Things to Be Aware of*

- Big, loose, fabric bag hats aren't documentable.
- Long hair on men is not fashionable until the 1590s, & then only for young, upper-class men.
- Mustaches-only are not common — typically a mustache is worn with a goatee or close beard.
- Long beards are mostly worn by old men or scholarly figures.
- Old men or scholarly figures might wear a coif under a flat cap or tall hat.

# *Men's Hat Resources*

- How to make a flat cap by Tammie L. Dupuis  
— <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy5>
- How to make a toque / bonnet by Melissa Heischberg —  
<http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy6>
- Tall hat how-tos by Aurelia d'Ouessant  
— <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy7>





# Ruffs

- 1560s+ — Everybody wears one or wants to wear one!



1560s, Queen Elizabeth (Hampden Portrait)

# *Ruffs for the Upper Class*

- Starched, pleated linen ruffs — separate items pinned to shirts or partlets.
- Worn in matching “suits” of a neck ruff & two wrist ruffs.
- The higher your status, the more elaborate your ruffs — with embroidery, lace, metallic trim.
- Wider/larger ruffs towards end of the century (1580s+).



1557, portrait by  
Hans Eworth



1559, Gregory Fiennes,  
10th Baron Dacre



1560, Robert Dudley,  
Earl of Leicester



1575, Queen Elizabeth  
(Phoenix Portrait)



1567,  
Katherine  
de Vere,  
Lady  
Windsor



1568,  
portrait,  
British  
School



1578,  
Sir  
Edward  
Hoby





In oculis tunc patris et matris conspecta laudat  
Circumfusa, sed et digna, partem cohortat  
Tunc, cum quondam patrio dicitur, in  
Mensis, fuit lobis, sic, cumulat, pio  
Tunc Deus, ut, multo, hanc, originem, hinc  
Genitrix, ut, lobis, stirps, renovata, fuit  
Fecit, praeclara, domus, hinc, laeta, Cobham  
Hanc, habent, honos, gaudia, tanta, dies  
Anno 1567

ÆTA 6

ÆTATIS SUÆ 3 GEMELLI

ÆTA 1

ÆTA

1567, William Brooke, 10th Lord of Cobham, and his family

# *Ruffs for the Middling Class*

- Pleated shirt frill, maybe with blackwork, at minimum.
- Aspiring middling-class or middling-class with a position (such as serving at court), wear a separate pinned-on ruff.





1567, detail from Heroica Eulogia manuscript



1568, Katheryn of Berain



1568, wife of Nicholas Heron



1578, Thomas Pead



1567, portrait by Hans Eworth



16th-c. English manuscript



1574, burger's wife by Lucas de Heere

# *Ruffs for Peasants*

- Pleated shirt frill, unless very poor or very young.



Late 16th-c. man from *Cryes of London*



16th-c. woodcut of woman spinning



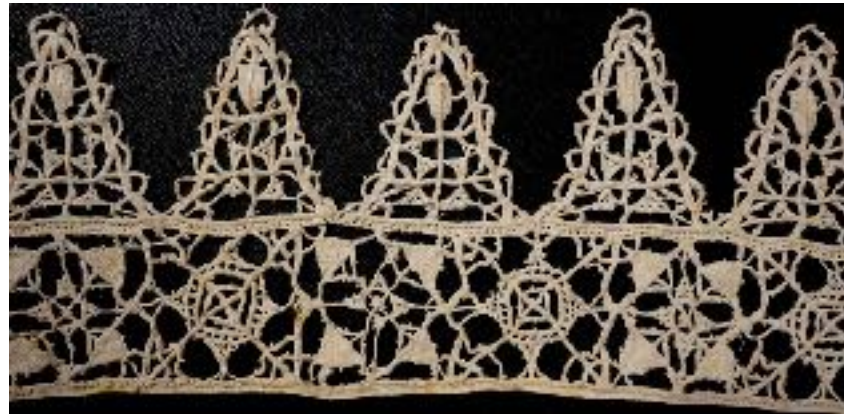
Late 16th-c. woman from *Cryes of London*



# *Ruffs — Things to Be Aware of*

- Most ruffs were white linen — they could be tinted pale colors, but this was not typical.
- When in doubt about the type or style of lace to put on a ruff, leave it off.

16th-c. reticella lace



# Ruff Resources

- Ruff calculator by Drea Leed — <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy8>
- Elizabethan ruff history & construction by the Guild of St. George — <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy16>



# *Belts & Things for Upper-Class Women*

- Elaborate girdles (jeweled belts), with or without a center-drop, with or without something decorative attached (pomander, mirror, sweetbag)
- Tiny decorative bags hanging from girdles
- Tied-on pockets worn under skirts
- Tiny decorative hand-held bags



1567, portrait, British School



1568, lady from the  
Wentworth family



1595, French  
noblewoman



1595, married woman of  
Paris



1600, engraving from  
Antwerp

# *Belts & Things for Middling-Class Women*

- Simple girdles (chain belts), with or without a center-drop, with or without something practical attached (magnifying glass, book)
- Fabric sash belts
- Small bags hanging from belts
- Small, decorative hand-held bags
- Tied-on pockets worn under or over skirts
- Aprons





1568, Katheryn of Berain



1567, Anne Brown



1574, burger's wife  
by Lucas de Heere



1582, merchant's wife  
by Joris Hoefnagel

# *Belts & Things for Peasant Women*

- Sturdy leather belts
- Small, simple bags hanging from belts
- Tied-on pockets worn under or over skirts
- Aprons!



1568, detail from  
The Peasant Dance  
by Pieter Bruegel



1566, detail from  
The Wedding Dance  
by Pieter Bruegel



Late 16th-c. woman  
from Cryes of London



1569, detail from Fete at Bermondsey by  
Joris Hoefnagel

# *Belts & Things for Upper-Class Men*

- Sword belts
- Small, decorative bags hanging from belts
- Dress swords in sheaths
- Small daggers in sheaths





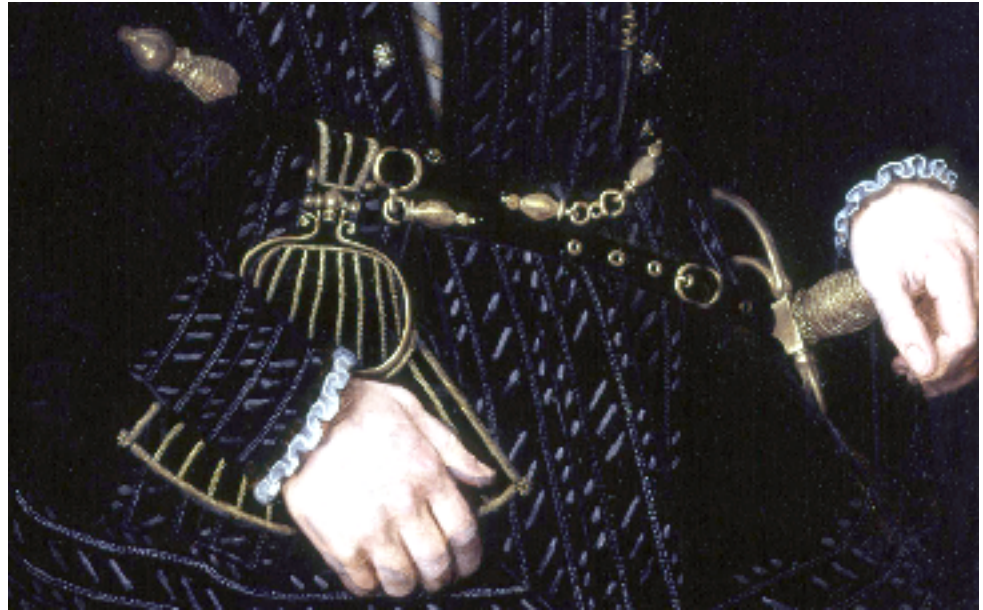
1562, Sir Nicholas Throckmorton



1564, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester



1563, Thomas Howard,  
Duke of Norfolk



1565, Sir Thomas Gresham

# *Belts & Things for Middling-Class Men*

- Sword belts (sometimes)
- Leather belts
- Small bags hanging from belts
- Small daggers in sheaths



1575,  
Woodcut of  
the Keeper of  
the Hounds

# *Belts & Things for Peasant Men*

- Sturdy leather belts
- Small, simple bags hanging from belts at side
- Small daggers in sheaths



1566, detail from  
The Wedding Dance  
by Pieter Bruegel

# *Belts — Things to Be Aware of*

- Most women didn't hang anything from their waists.
- Men didn't use belts to hold up pants, so they only wear a belt if they're specifically hanging something from it (such as a sword or pouch).



# *Jewelry for Upper-Class Women*

- Long ropes of pearls
- Long or short chain necklaces with or without pendants
- Portrait miniatures on ribbons or chains
- Chain or ribbon necklace swagged across bodice front
- Rings, multiples OK
- Drop earrings
- Jeweled billaments on French hoods, jeweled hat badges
- Gold preferable to silver

1595, Mary Fitton





1558-60, Queen Elizabeth  
(Clopton Portrait)



1575, Queen Elizabeth  
(Darnely Portrait)



1575, portrait, British School



1565, Eleanor Benlowes



1560s, Mary,  
Queen of Scots



1583, Queen Elizabeth  
(Sieve Portrait)





1565, Countess of Southampton



1567, portrait, British School



1569, Helena Snakenborg



1560s, portrait, British School



1570s, portrait, British School



1572, Queen Elizabeth (Pelican Portrait)





1559, Mary Nevill, Lady Dacre



1550-1600,  
ring at the V&A

[armorandcastings.com](http://armorandcastings.com)





# *Jewelry for Middling-Class Women*

- Long or short necklaces with or without pendants
- Simple rings
- Gold or silver



1567, Mary Hill, Mrs. Mackwilliam



1557, portrait by Hans Eworth



1565, Mary Tichborne



1571, Ann Danby



1560s, Mary Beaton



1566, Joyce Wilford

# *Jewelry for Upper-Class Men*

- Long chain necklaces with or without pendants
- Portrait miniatures on ribbons or chains
- Chains of state, if applicable
- Rings, multiples OK
- Jeweled hat badges
- Gold preferable to silver





1563, Henry Carey,  
1st Baron Hunsdon



1564, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester



1568, Thomas Wentworth,  
2nd Baron Wentworth



1573, Francis Hart of  
Lullingston Castle



1568, family of Edward, 3rd Baron Windsor





1597, portrait miniature



c. 1572, portrait miniature of Robert Dudley,  
Earl of Leicester



repro brooch made from portrait  
miniature by Isaac Oliver, 1590

# *Jewelry for Middling-Class Men*

- Long chain necklaces with or without pendants
- Simple rings, signet rings
- Gold or silver



1568, Thomas Fanshawe



1570s, Richard Pate



1587, Richard Wingfield

# *Jewelry — Things to Be Aware of*

- Women's necklaces swagged across the bodice tend to be narrow chains, pearl strands, or ribbon.
- Rings are rarely worn on the middle finger or thumb.
- Women's earrings not very common among the English until 1580s, & then only in a few, very formal outfits.
- Men's earrings are rarely worn before the 1580s, & then worn only one at a time by young, upper-class men.

# *Jewelry — Things to Be Aware of*

- Rhinestones and highly faceted gems aren't available.
- All gems don't have to be cabochons.
- Table-cut faceted gems are period.



16th c., Cheapside Hoard diamond ring



1590s, Cheapside Hoard necklace



# Jewelry Resources

- Amour & Castings (rings & pendants) - [armourandcastings.com](http://armourandcastings.com)
- Raymond's Quiet Press (pendants) - [raymonds-quiet-press.com](http://raymonds-quiet-press.com)
- Truly Hats (ouches, necklaces, girdles) - [trulyhats.net](http://trulyhats.net)



# Shoes

- Slippers, buckled mary janes, tied latchet shoes, boots
- Same general styles for everyone, but different degrees of material quality & decoration



1565, Charles Stuart, later 5th Earl of Lennox

1550s mary jane



1560s,  
Peasants  
by the  
Hearth  
by Pieter  
Aertsen



1577,  
George  
Delves



1570, countrywoman by Lucas de Heere



1600, shoe at the V&A

Late 1500s, shoe at the V&A



1599, Queen Elizabeth



# Shoes — Things to Be Aware of

- Boots were worn for riding horses.
- Stacked heels were fashionable late in the century among the wealthy.

1590s, Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton



1577,  
Martin  
Frobisher



# *Shoe Resources*

Look for neutral modern shoes:

- Plain dark or light unadorned leather
- Flat soles or low stacked heels
- Mary-jane style with one small buckle
- Lace-up style can be used as-is or cut into latchet style
- Low boots without zippers



# Shoe Resources

- Boots by Bohemond sells tied latchet shoes, mary janes, and slashed slippers

— [boots-by-bohemond.myshopify.com](http://boots-by-bohemond.myshopify.com)

- American Duchess sells tied latchet shoes

— [americanduchess.com](http://americanduchess.com)

- Make latchet shoes from thrift-store shoes by Scott Perkins —

<http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy13>



# Bonus: Partlets

- Not just for married women, not just for the upper-class, not just for prudes.
- Partlets = period sunscreen!
- Can be plain, decorated, tucked into the bodice, or pinned over.
- Partlet pattern by Margo Anderson — <http://tinyurl.com/ElizAccy15>



1575, Elizabeth Fiennes de Clinton



1570, countrywoman by Lucas de Heere

# Bonus: Fans

- Flag fans are for Italians.
- Folding fans go with wheel farthingales (1580s+).
- Flat feather fans for upper- & middling-class women.
- Flat straw fans for middling-class & peasant women.



1585,  
Queen Elizabeth  
(Wanstead or  
Welbeck Portrait)



# *Find Out More*

- Pinterest board — <https://tinyurl.com/ElizAccyPin>
- My SCA projects — <https://tinyurl.com/ElizStuff>

