

RENAISSANCE

16TH CENTURY

The 16th century was important as an age of expansion as well as development in arts and sciences. Italy had become the centre of culture in 14th & 15th century but it became disorganized after the death of Loranzo Medici in 1492 and was invaded by Spanish, German and French armies and Charles-I of Spain entered Italy and was crowned the emperor.

During 16th century, Spain became one of the greatest powers in Europe. Therefore Italian fashion prevailed in early years of the century. There was a gracefulness and lack of stiffness in the Italian modes and men used no padding in the costume as did the Spaniards.

Spanish influence showed stiffness and formality in the suits of men and women. (Farthingale is an excellent example of the rigidity and stiffness that prevailed in the costume of Spain.

Extremely bright colours were in fashion for upper classes. Red was a favourite colour. Cutting slits in the material of garments and pulling the lining through slashing became universal in early 1500s and in Germany it reached its extravagance.

Not only Doublets but breaches were also slashed. Sometimes literally cut to ribbons , garments consisted of broad bands of materials falling to the knees.

Bands on each leg were from different patterns and could even be of different colour.

Cutting slits in
the material of
garments and
pulling the
lining through
slashing





Not only Doublets
but breaches were
also slashed.

Men's Costumes:-

Under Garments - In the early 16th century white or coloured chemise with large full sleeves gathered into ruffle or band & later shirt with ruffle at neck & wrist was worn. Slashes in the doublet revealed the linen.

Doublet was a short close fitting jacket, sleeved or sleeveless and was worn under cote or pourpoint (short jacket with tight sleeves possible fore runner of vest).

Doublet worn in early 16th century had laced opening in front or back, was skirtless with deep V or square or U neckline with chemise showing under doublet.

In the second half ,embroidered shirt with large full sleeves gathered in yoke were worn.

Corset was also worn by men.

Outer upper Garments -

Jerkin or Jacket was an outer garment often of leather or velvet which had shoulder puff. Sleeves were elbow length or longer & were sewed or laced into armscye. Sleeves were sometimes puffed at shoulders & elbow, tight at wrist. Sometimes sleeves had pane or bands above elbow.



In the second half of 16th century Spanish influence was seen in the costumes- high neckline, tight, long waisted corset like doublet.

Use of Busk- a rigid piece of wood set in fake front or stomacher to give straight line effect Sleeves with bombast (woolen stuffing) wide at shoulders and tapering to wrist—leg-o-mutton sleeve.



In the second half of 16th century Spanish influence was seen in the costumes- high neckline, tight, long waisted corset like doublet.



Jerkin had knee length or hip length skirt & lapel facings of jerkin formed broad collar. Jerkin had slashing showing coloured lining. Vertical folds in skirt disappeared by mid century.

Shoulder wing- projecting decoration on each shoulder.

Aglet or Point (Poynt)- Metal tags used to fasten pieces of plate armour.

Epaulette- Shoulder ornament

Mancheron- false, hanging sleeve

Busk- a rigid piece of wood set in fake front or stomacher to give straight line effect

Jerkin had knee length or hip length skirt





Jerkin had slashing showing coloured lining. Vertical folds in skirt disappeared by mid century.



Men wore
short Spanish
cape with half
erect collar

Cloaks and over garments-

Gown with fur collar and semicircular cape was worn in early 16th century.

Men wore short Spanish cape with half erect collar with hanging cowl.

Neckwear & Wristwear : Large ruff developed from fraise (which was a small ruff that edged the standing collar) was worn at base of neck & tied with cord.

Turn over collar was also worn.

Elaborate ruff in later half, ruffled cuff on wrist, falling ruff, falling band and turned back cuff was also worn.



Elaborate ruff in
later half, ruffled
cuff on wrist

Hair

Often bobbed and short hair were in vogue.

Short as well as long beard was worn.

Beard was pointed by the end of century.

Headdress-

Low & rather flat hat was worn.

Hat with a turned up brim & hat resembling Petasus was still worn.

Jewels were used as ornamentation. Drooping ostrich tips were also used.

Coif (a close fitting cap of linen, silk or cotton tied under the chin) was worn under the hat.

Red night cap was used.

Footwear

In the first half, round & square toed shoes were worn. Heel was developed by using several soles placed on top of one another.

Boots were worn by travelers & hunters.

Towards the end of the century heeless thick soled shoes with a bow over instep were worn.

Pantoffle was slipper with cork sole worn as a protection for the shoe.

Shoes were fastened with ribbon or thong & later adorned with shoe rose.

Stocking was also worn.

Round & square toed shoes





Shoes were fastened with ribbon or thong & later adorned with shoe rose. Stocking was also worn.

Jewellery- rings on all fingers, visible through gloves , chain, hat & sleeve brooches. Ear ring was worn in one ear.

Diamonds & rubies were set in jewelery.

Accessories-

Badge, dagger with sheath, cane with knob, beautifully embroidered gloves, mental belt, elaborate pouch at girdle, watch with one hand only

In later half, ear string, rapier or sword hanging from girdle was common.

Baldrick- narrow scarf or strap of hide or fur worn over shoulder across body usually to support a sword

Baldrick with a bow on right was used.

Short capes

Panes in Jerkin

Sword



Make-up

Perfumes were very popular

Night mask of oil & pomade was used.

Moustache & eyebrows were plucked to form a thin line

Materials

A variety of rich heavy fabrics- velvet, taffeta, brocade, fur lined coats, leather shoes, cotton, silk, wool and linen were used.

Women's Costume

The rigidity that was seen in men's garments was even more in those of women. The stomacher which formed the front of the bodice was stiffened with buckram & was held in place by busks often of wood.

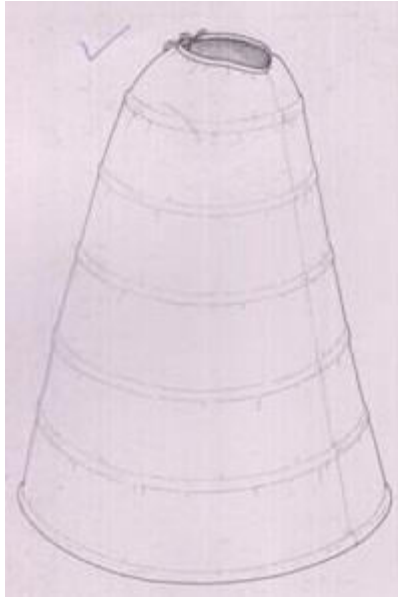
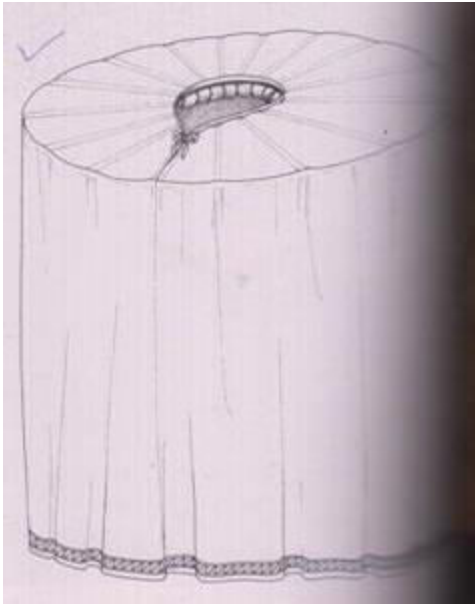
In the early part of century Italian influence was seen in the form of low neck revealing most of breasts, broad neck and tight sleeves.

Skirts had long train. Pleated & bell shaped skirt gave way to skirt swelled out by means of the farthingale or vertingale. It was the Spanish farthingale and consisted of an underskirt distended by hoops of wire, wood or whalebone, growing larger towards the bottom of the skirt. (resembled to crinoline of the 19th Century)



The French farthingale was more of a court garment & was called the cart wheel farthingale or verdingale.

The wearer seemed to be standing inside a wheel with the skirt attached to the outer rim and falling vertically to the ground.









Sleeves- Earlier bell sleeves & then leg-of mutton sleeves held by many ribbons were worn. Sleeves had wristbands which were turned back like a cuff & had ruffs.

Sometimes long mancheron (vestigial) hanging sleeves were also used.

Overgarments- A coat, a kind of a loose jacket was worn for warmth.

Cassock, a long close fitting garment, collarless with turned up sleeve was also worn.

For travelling cloaks were worn to protect the rich material of the gown.

Hair- was parted in centre with two rolls across top of head.

Definite coiffure developed in the 2nd half. Hair were puffed at each side at the temples with central parting.

Hair was raised over a wire support & arranged in a bun or chignon at back.

Pearls were worn in hair.

Queen Elizabeth set the fashion for dyeing the hair red. In her old age she wore a wig (she had 80 wigs)

Headdress – French hood was replaced by hats – tall hat with feathers having narrow or wide brim with high crown called steeple crown were in. These hats were worn over a linen cap.

The head dress hid the back hair but the front hair was visible.

Footwear was resembling footwear of men, narrow & pointed, moderately rounded and had high heels.

Pumps & slippers were worn indoors.

Silk stockings were worn.

Accessories – mask, lace edged handkerchief, watch, scented gloves, sunshade, parasol, silk or gauze veil

Jewellery - more of pearls were in use.

Precious stones were used in bracelets & necklaces, finger rings, hair jewels.

Pearls were worn in hair also.

Materials – Same as for men.