

Sample Head wear for Men 975- 1448

Figure A Manuscript, Germany ~975

A Phrygian cap with no hair showing

These hats were typically made from wool. They may also have been made or lined with Linen. This is a simple hat shape, worn with the point pulled forward; it might even have been tacked in place. You might remember these from the Smurfs!



Figure B Statue, Italy 1196

The first of many coifs, with a little bit of hair showing at the back

This is a very smooth fitting coif with a wide chin strap. These straps may have been buttoned or pinned into place, but we have no physical or pictorial evidence for this. The figure shown is a field worker.



Figure C Manuscript, mid 1200's

Another coif, this time with more hair showing

This coif appears to have elongated 'ear flaps' that flow into the chin strap. The figure shown is a knight, mounting his horse.



Figure D Manuscript 1270

Another coif, accessorized with a hat.

This coif appears to be similar to the knight's coif in shape and style. The figure is shown working in a sunny field, with what appears to be a straw hat to keep the sun off him. These coif and hat ensembles (with style variations) continue to be shown over the next 200 years, and had been seen for at least 100 years before this.



Figure E Statue 1150

The first of many hoods, shown with a fringe of hair

This hood is shown on a shepherd. The point illustrates the depth of the hood, which would likely be worn forward on the head when it was sunny (as a visor) or rainy (as a rain hat). The length of the hood is such that it covers fairly far down the body, providing warmth and protection.



Figure F Manuscript 1340 England

Another hood, this time worn with a hat.

This hood is shown on a plowman. The skirt of the hood is tucked into the neck of his tunic- perhaps it was a windy day! The front of the hood is turned back to reveal a contrasting lining. The hat is a common shape for the period, probably made from felted wool in a simple bowl shape. The front edge of the 'bowl' is turned up to give it some interest. This hat could be worn in this direction to shield the neck from sun, or reversed to create a sun visor for the eyes. These hats are also seen with coifs beneath them.



Figure G Manuscript 1448

This hat is the final evolution of the hood (Really!)

This hat, often called a 'Chaperon' is a formed hat based on the casual rolling up of one's hood. The casual version is made by placing the face hole of your hood onto your head and then wrapping the liripipe (or tail from the back point of the head) around the face opening to secure it to your head, like a turban. Then the shoulder portion of the hood is flopped over your head to make a 'coxcomb'. If the shoulder portion is dagged the effect is even more impressive. The formed hat is made from a padded roll (see the ladies section) with pieces added to simulate the hood portions- the strap under the chin simulates the liripipe, and the folds in the back the shoulder portion.



Note that this is a member of the nobility, but persons with aspirations would borrow this style too. Lower class persons would content themselves with manipulating their hoods, which they still wore as functional garments

Figure H Manuscript 1425

This is another hat with a hood combination

In this manuscript this working man is shown wearing his hat without a coif, and with lots of hair showing. That will become a mighty dirty hat! This hat is probably made in a similar fashion to the one in figure F, a bowl shape with the whole edge of the bowl turned up. It looks like he might have had his hood on under his hat earlier in the day, but perhaps it got too warm.



Figure I Manuscript 1425

A hat worn alone

This hat seems similar to the last one; though the felted wool must have had a more cone shaped beginning form. Alternately it may be made from a still cloth cut in a semicircular shape and sewn up the side, which might explain the wedge shaped opening in the turned up portion. Either way, this will become a very dirty hat.



Figure J Painting, 1420

A 'bag' hat. Note the lack of hair on the back of the head
These bag hats were innovations of the last 50 years or so. They are made by stitching a bag of cloth (either circular or cylindrical) to a band, or by making a bag that has a circumference that is slightly larger than the head. The edge of the bag gets rolled up, creating a tight band for the hat. Higher class men seem to wear them with the bulk of the bag forward, as shown here. Also note that this man has the back of his head shaved. This is common for men of this time.



Figure K Manuscript 1425

Another bag hat
This hat is similar to the one in Figure J; however the wearer is a worker, and is wearing the bulk of the bag hat towards the back. Presumably this would be easier when working.

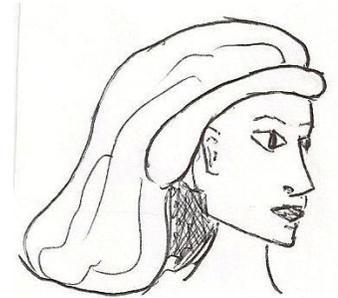


Figure L Painting, 1434

A large black formed hat
This is a much more formally shaped hat than the others we have seen, as well as being much larger. As we move into the fifteenth century, headwear becomes more formal and complex for both men and women of the upper classes.



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