

Plans made for Medieval tunics

All students are encouraged to design their own medieval tunics this summer for the Medieval Festival to be held September 25-29. Each class will have a designated color for the tunic. (This color can be obtained by contacting the class presidents.) The medieval tunic is relatively simple to make, according to these instructions from Eleanor Ide:

Measurement a in fig. 1 is half the length of a loop of string that can pass over the head and shoulders one arm at a time. (Add seam and hem allowance to all measurements.) Measurement b is from the top of the shoulders to the desired length. For a short tunic, put it on, belt it and bend over, marking the center back at a modest length.

Measurement c is half the distance from the shoulder to the waist. If less cloth is allowed at the armhole movement is restricted.

The diameter of the neckhole d is seldom greater than needed to pull over the head. Necklines are circular, square, boat or v-necked at different times. Tunics often have keyhole necklines (a circle with a slit at the front), fastened with a brooch or button. For best fit, cut most of the neckhole out of the front of the garment.



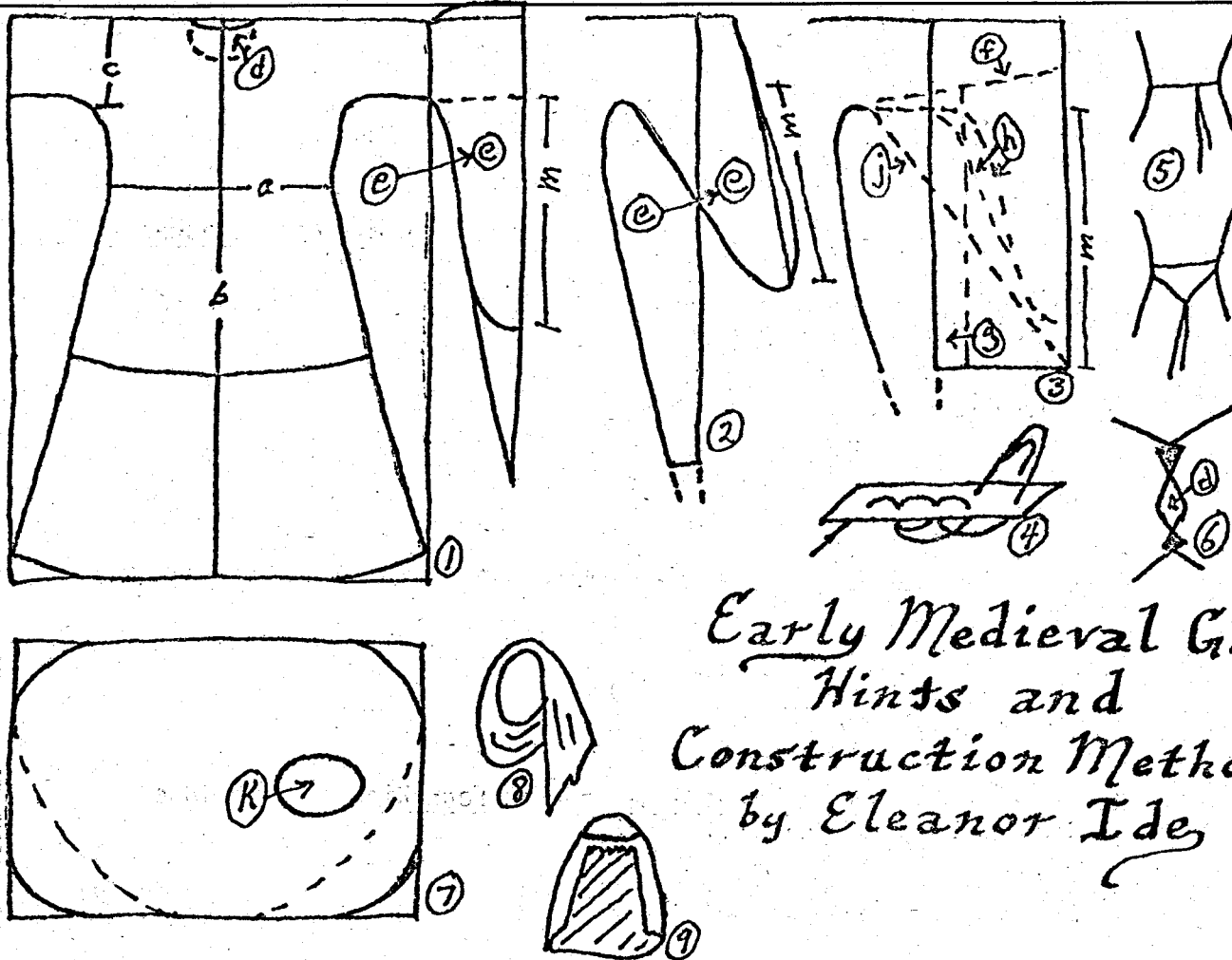
The material cut from under the arms (e) can be used to lengthen the sleeves. Fig. 1 shows a lady's bell sleeve with a dotted line showing a straight sleeve. Fig. 2 shows a lady's angel sleeve. Both these sleeves end on the forearm, with the seam on the upper arm. The measurement m shows how much material will hang below the sleeve end. An m of 18 inches is still fairly easy to handle. Beyond that, practice.

Figure 3 shows bell (h), angel (j) and close (f) sleeves reaching to the wrist. The long thin rectangle (g) is a tippet hanging from a close sleeve, circa 1350.

A lady's arm is always covered to the wrist by the close sleeve of her tunic or undertunic. Re-creationists in warm climates sometimes make fake close sleeve-ends to simulate an undertunic. Cotton and linen are cooler than polyester blends. Wrinkles are authentic.

Bell and angel sleeves are left open or sewn partly shut to make pockets for coins, lap-dogs, etc. In open sleeves the raw seam edges should be turned under like a hem, covered with trim, or the

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*Early Medieval Garb
Hints and
Construction Methods
by Eleanor Ide*

Medieval Reading List Compiled

..... The following is a reading list suggested to prepare for the Medieval Festival at Meredith, September 25 - 29, 1983.

I. Books related to specific disciplines

- 501
B 78 Bronowski, Jacob. The Ascent of Man. Boston: Little Brown. 1974.
(Essays on architecture, chemistry, mathematics, and astronomy)
- 940.1
C 88 Crump, Charles George, ed. Legacy of the Middle Ages. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1926.
(A series of lectures on various topics: architecture, education, science, law, economics, etc.)
- 940.1
D 82 Drew, Katherine Fischer. Perspectives in Medieval History. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1963.
(Essays on science and technology)
- 709.02
F 68 Focillon, Henri. The Art of the West in the Middle Ages. 2 vols. Trans. Donald King. New York: Phaidon Publishers. 1963.
- 509.024
G 57 Goldstein, Thomas. Dawn of Modern Science: From the Arabs to Leonardo de Vinci. Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co. 1980.
- 901
T 21m Taylor, Henry Osborn. The Medieval Mind: A History of the Development of Thought and Emotion in the Middle Ages. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1959
- 189.4
C 76 Thomas à Kempis. Imitation of Christ. New York: The Modern Library. 1943.
- 780.9
C 39w Wilkins, Nigel. Music in the Age of Chaucer. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer. 1979.
(Introduction to the "flamboyant and colorful" world of the fourteenth century)

II. Books about medieval life:

- 323.33
B 43 Bennett, H. S. Life on the English Manor. Cambridge: The University Press. 1937.
- 942
C 83m Coulton, C. G. Medieval Panorama. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1938.
(A delightful introduction to life in the town, on the farm, at the university, and in the church)
- 944.88
L 56 Le Roy Ladurie, Emmanuel. Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error. New York: Vintage. 1979.
(A delightful account of the resurrection of a fourteenth century town in southern France)

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