
The Medieval Dress and Textile Society

November 2015 www.medats.org.uk Issue 78



Silk lampas woven in Southern Spain, c.1400, the Bock Collection, WAG T.13792. Photograph Michael Pollard,
© The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Editorial

Welcome to the autumn newsletter.

The committee has been working hard to meet the goals set at the AGM in May which were to get back to booking events well in advance in order to give members proper notice, to organise some events outside of London and to include practical hands-on aspects as well as academic study. In the following pages you will find details of three exciting events planned for next year.

The first will take place in April at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester. Curator Frances Pritchard will introduce the gallery's collection of historic silk textiles and participants will have the opportunity to view the recently re-opened galleries following the Whitworth's £15m remodelling and extension. The second event is the conference and AGM, which will once again be held at The Art Worker's Guild in London. The programme is shaping up nicely and includes a really excellent line up of speakers delivering papers on the theme "On the Move". The final event of the year is a rare opportunity to view the Middleton Collection of sixteenth and early seventeenth century textiles at Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire. This collection is usually only ever on display a few items at a time in Nottingham Castle's *Threads* gallery and will be freshly out of conservation, so it will be a great time to see it. In the afternoon participants will be given the chance to have a go at some sixteenth century surface decoration techniques themselves. Both the Whitworth and Newstead Abbey events are for limited numbers but will be advertised more widely to non-members if tickets are still available at the time of publication of the next newsletter.

Plans for future events include visits to see the dress and textile collections at The Museum of London and The Mary Rose. If members have suggestions of other places they'd like to go to please do get in touch and let us know, we will do our best to organise them for you!

As ever all feedback and contributions to the newsletter are gratefully received.

Ninya Mikhaila

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Linen panel embroidered with black and white silk in a repeated peapod design (CTLOAN 3115), c.1570-1596 (© Lord Middleton Collection/ Nottingham City Museums and Galleries)

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

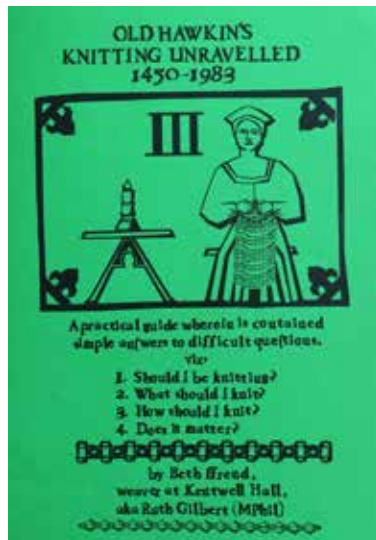
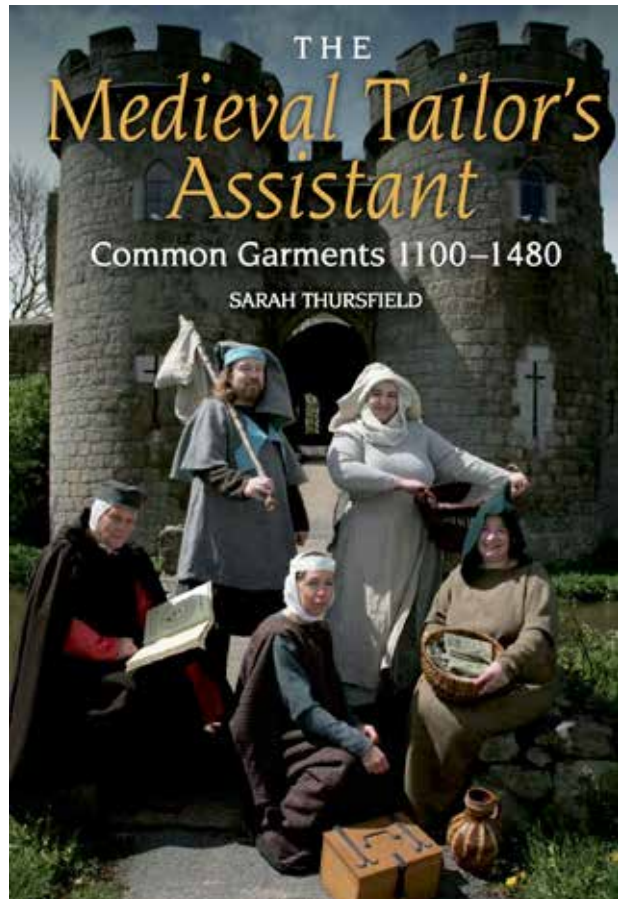
The Medieval Tailor's Assistant: Common Garments 1100-1480
2nd edition - Revised and Expanded.
by Sarah Thursfield
The Crowood Press, Marlborough, 2015.
£29.95 Softback 240 pages ISBN 978-1-84797-834-9

I do not have a copy of the first edition but did have an opportunity to do a quick comparison and can say that there are a lot more photographs and diagrams in the second edition.

The Introduction raises two questions; the historical 'what should I be wearing?' and the technical 'how should I make it?'. I believe the book answers these two questions very well indeed. Apart from a visit to a cordwainer, or a cobbler if not so rich, for your shoes and boots, this book will aid you in creating a head to toe wardrobe appropriate to the station in life you are trying to reflect along with suitable textile accessories whether you are male or female, slender or well built, adult or child. All you need is some basic dress making skills, then read the book, pick your decade and class, buy your materials (there is pictorial as well as written advice) then cut and sew away - that's what I plan on doing!

If asked, I would highly recommend this book to others wanting to recreate medieval English costume.

Julie Tottey

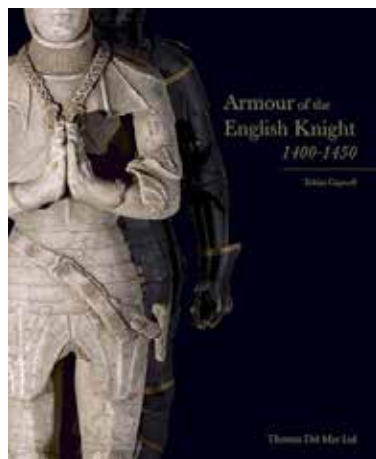


Old Hawkin's knitting unravelled 1450-1983
by Ruth Gilbert
Hogwash Press 2015.
£5 Softback 24 pages

Should I be knitting? What should I knit? How should I knit? Does it matter?

A small, slightly eccentric but useful booklet which offers a practical guide for reenactors and historical interpreters with helpful tips on appropriate equipment and garments to make for different eras. It is a welcome addition to the growing number of well-researched, specialist texts which provide a summary of the available evidence and how to interpret it for use at a costumed event.

The booklet is currently only available direct from the publisher <https://www.facebook.com/hogwashpress> or from www.tudortailor.com/shop



Armour of the English Knight 1400-1450
by Tobias Capwell
Thomas del Mar Ltd. 2015
£54.00 Hardback 308 pages ISBN: 978-0-9933246-0-4

The book chronicles the armour worn by English men-at-arms during the later phases of the Hundred Years War and draws on many rarely published sources, including an exhaustive study of armour depicted on English effigies and monuments. The colour photographs of extant pieces, manuscripts, stained glass and works of art are a feast for the eyes. This book will surely become the definitive go-to reference for armour during the first half of the fifteenth century.



'On the Move'

The Medieval Dress and Textile Society conference and AGM Saturday 4 June 2016

will be held at The Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AT
from 11am to 5.15 pm. Refreshments and a finger buffet will be served

Speakers will include:

Elizabeth Coatsworth, formerly of Manchester Metropolitan University

Thomas Ertl, Universität Wien

Alexandra Lester-Makin, The University of Manchester

Christine Meek, Trinity College, Dublin

Margot Miller, Mortimer History Society

Eva Trein Nielsen, Copenhagen

Mary Hollingsworth, Author

Topics will include information from the Statutes of Visby about how textiles were to be packed, transported and protected and a discussion of the convoys in which silk cloths were carried; an examination of inventories of textiles taken at change of ownership, when household goods were confiscated or won; the care and purchase of clothing for an Italian nobleman and his household travelling to France in the 1530s; the accoutrements of an itinerant bishop and the spreading of textiles associated with a martyred archbishop; and an embroidery stitch which travelled.

Tickets for members are £25 each, non-members £30 each, students £15 each and dual (1 member + 1 non-member booked together) £50 each

Please send an SAE and cheque made payable to

Medieval Dress & Textile Society to:

Carole Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL

Payment can also be made online via Paypal at www.medats.org.uk



Silk textiles with Frances Pritchard

at The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester on Saturday 9 April 2016 2pm



Silk lampas woven in Southern Spain, c. 1400, the Bock Collection, WAG T.13792. Photograph Michael Pollard, © The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Frances Pritchard, Curator (Textiles) will introduce a limited number of participants to the collection of historic silk textiles belonging to the Whitworth Art Gallery. The event will take place in The Studio and will last an hour and half. Meet in the foyer of the Whitworth Art Gallery no later than 1.55pm. The cost is £5 per person for members and £8 for non-members. To reserve a place please send an SAE and cheque made payable to *Medieval Dress and Textile Society* with your name, address and email to Carole Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL by 1 March 2016.

Alternatively to pay online via Paypal go to www.medats.org.uk. Allocation will be on a first come, first served, basis, but in the event of large numbers it may be possible to arrange a second tour of the silks at 3.30pm.

Participants are asked to bring their own magnifiers, please.

The galleries of the award-winning Whitworth Art Gallery, recently re-opened after its £15m remodeling and extension, are well worth visiting, and its café in the park is a delightful, and popular, place for lunch or tea.

The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, M15 6ER. Phone 0161 275 7450. www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/visit/ includes 'Getting There'



Middleton collection of sixteenth century textiles and surface decoration workshop

at Newstead Abbey, Nottingham on Saturday 12 November 2016 11am - 3.30pm



Glove gauntlet embroidered with silk and metal threads (CTLOAN 3/21), 1600-1625 (© Lord Middleton Collection/ Nottingham City Museums and Galleries)

A rare opportunity to view the Middleton collection of sixteenth and early seventeenth century textiles in the impressive setting of Newstead Abbey, a former Augustian priory and ancestral home of Lord Byron. The morning will be spent looking at the textiles with Judith Edgar, curator of Costume and Textiles at Nottingham City Museums and Galleries.

In the afternoon Ninya Mikhaila will demonstrate sixteenth century surface decoration techniques including pinking, slashing and hot printing. Participants will then have the opportunity to try the techniques for themselves on samples which they can take home. The event is limited to 20 people and the cost is £30 per person for members and £35 for non-members. To reserve a place please send an SAE and cheque made payable to *Medieval Dress and Textile Society* with your name, address and email to:

Carole Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL by 1 March 2016. Alternatively to pay online via Paypal go to www.medats.org.uk. Refreshments and a light buffet lunch are included in the ticket price. Transport from Nottingham train station and back again at the end of the day will be available. <http://www.newsteadabbey.org.uk>



EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS FORTHCOMING

The Victoria & Albert Museum

Shoes: Pleasure and Pain 13 June 2015-31 Jan 2016
The fabric of India 3 Oct 2015 -10 Jan 2016
Cromwell Rd, London <http://www.vam.ac.uk>

The British Museum

Celts: Art and Identity 24 Sept 2015 - 31 Jan 2016
Egypt: Faith after the pharaohs 29 Oct 2015-7 Feb 2016
Great Russell St, London, WC1B 3DG
<http://www.bl.uk>

Weald & Downland Museum

Courses in traditional rural trades and crafts 2016
An impressive range of courses including spinning, medieval embroidery, rush hat making, Nålbinding and linen processing to name but a few. To receive a brochure email courses@wealddown.co.uk or call 01243 811021

Town Lane, Singleton, PO18 0EU
<http://www.wealddown.co.uk/learn/adult-learning>

The National Portrait Gallery

*Visualising Portrait: Framing the face:
Ruffs & Collars from 1560-1610*
Free talk at 2pm on 28 January 2016
Visions of Paradise: Botticini's Palmieri Altarpiece
4 Nov 2015 - 28 March 2016
St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE
<http://www.npg.org.uk>

Ashmolean Museum

Titian to Canaletto: Drawing in Venice
15 Oct 2015 - 10 Jan 2016
Beaumont St, Oxford, OX1 2PH



Detail of a reconstruction of the clothing worn by *A Boy Aged Two* (1608) by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger. One of the exhibits in *The Tudor Child* Exhibition in Gloucester. © The Tudor Tailor

Haddon Hall, Derbyshire

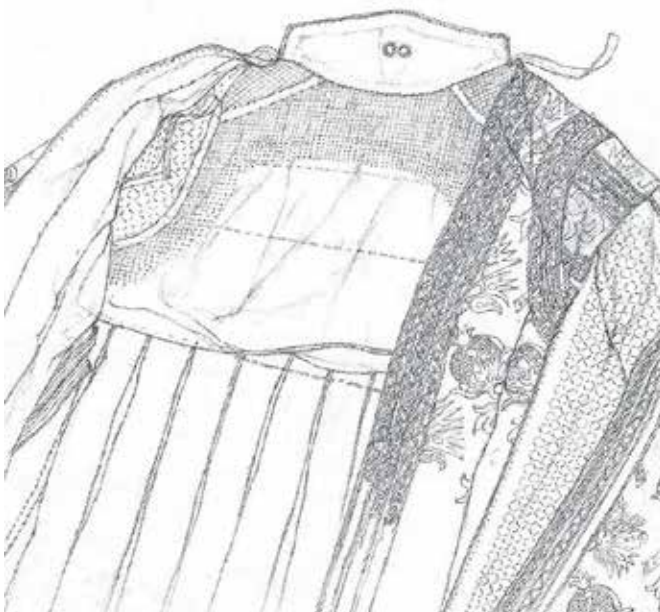
Tudor Christmas Weekend 4/5 December 2015
The Tudor Group will once again be joining us at Haddon Hall for Christmas, bringing the hall to life with their festive preparations.
<http://www.haddonhall.co.uk/special-events/tudor-christmas-weekend>

Gloucester City Museum

The Tudor Child: Clothing & Culture 1485-1625
21 March - 2 July 2016
Brunswick Rd, Gloucester, GL1 1HP
<http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/museums>

The School of Historical Dress

Janet Arnold study day
Saturday 23 January 2016 10am - 5pm
The Art Worker's Guild, 6 Queen Square
London, WC1N 3AT
A day of presentations and demonstrations focusing on a velvet gown in the V&A Collection including new research and discoveries. Tickets £30. Tea, coffee and a hot lunch are included in the ticket price.
Speakers include Melanie Braun, Cristina Carr, Gil Dye, Karen Hearn, Lisa Monnas, Susan North, Johannes Pietsch and Jenny Tiramani.
Presentations will cover the four elements of dress - Content, Cut, Construction and Context.
There will be a live dressing demonstrating the use of both loose and fitted gowns in the seventeenth century.
<http://theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk>



Pencil drawing © Janet Arnold,
The School of Historical Dress

FREE WEEKLY LECTURE SERIES (Mondays 7 Dec 2015 to 29 Feb 2016)
Presented by the Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen

Analytical Tools for Organic Material Studies (ATOMS) - an introduction to new investigative science for the humanities. There is now a wide variety of innovative scientific tools available for the study of ancient and historical organic materials. These draw on pioneering work in medicine and industry to reveal new findings from archaeological evidence such as garments and footwear. Raw materials including wool, flax, leather and feathers are revealing revolutionary insights for scholars working in the humanities.

This lecture series introduces these scientific techniques and explores how they are applied to textiles and other organic materials in the fields of archaeology, history, ethnology, anthropology and beyond. Participants will become familiar with cutting-edge techniques from the natural sciences and how they may be applied in the humanities. They will learn relevant terminology, discover the processes involved, and discuss the range of potential results. Key issues such as sample sizes, removal and storage of suitable material, and prices for processing are also covered. Discussion of ethical questions and the political implications of discoveries will be encouraged. The lecture series offers a unique opportunity for participants to gain an insight into the science behind the investigative techniques, how it can help develop new understanding in the humanities, and the range of applications to a variety of materials. The series aims to give undergraduates, masters, PhD students, postdocs, and other researchers a general understanding of the scientific techniques together with an opportunity to reflect on their potential and limitations.

Lecture programme:

7 Dec: **Genetics of the past:** Possibilities and limitations: an introduction to the lecture series and DNA analysis - Luise Ørsted Brandt, PhD, Research assistant, Centre for Textile Research

14 Dec: **Identifying ancient fibres:** Light microscopy of hair. Sampling, mounting and reference material - Anne Lisbeth Schmidt, Conservator, The National Museum of Denmark (13.30-14.30). **Field trip:** Core Facility for Integrated Microscopy. Klavs Qvortrup, Professor, Core Facility for Integrated Microscopy (15.30-16.30)

4 Jan: **Pinpointing provenance:** Strontium isotope analysis - Luise Ørsted Brandt, PhD, Research assistant, Centre for Textile Research

11 Jan: **Field trip:** DNA laboratory and Archaeoscience, Center for GeoGenetics and the Natural History Museum of Denmark - Andaine Orlando, PhD fellow, The National DNA High-throughput Sequencing Centre and Pernille Bangsgaard, Assistant professor, The Natural History Museum of Denmark

18 Jan: **Proteomics: Ancient proteins** - the new black of biomolecular archaeology - Luise Ørsted Brandt, Research assistant, Centre for Textile Research, and Enrico Cappellini, Assistant professor, Centre for GeoGenetics

25 Jan: **Mapping the contours:** Micro-CT scanning and polynomial texture mapping
Field trip: Danish Technical University (DTU) - Carsten Gundlach, Senior Research Engineer, Danish Technical University

1 Feb: **Fluorescence imaging:** Advanced techniques in fluorescence microscopy - Nynne Christensen, Research assistant, Center for Advanced Bioimaging

8 Feb: **Colour: Dyes and pigmentation** - Penelope Walton Rogers, Manager of the Anglo-Saxon Laboratory, York, UK (via Skype)

15 Feb: **Dating the past:** An overview of C14 techniques - Jan Heinemeier, Associate professor, AMS Centre Aarhus University

22 Feb: **Excavation and re-excavation:** degradation analysis and identification of conservation interventions. **Field trip:** The National Museum of Denmark, Brede - Several lecturers, The National Museum of Denmark

29 Feb: **The Two Cultures and a World Apart:** Science and the humanities at a new crossroad: Theoretical perspectives on the challenges presented by technological investigation. Following discussion.- Tim Flohr Sørensen, Assistant professor, University of Copenhagen. After the lecture, there will be a discussion with questions posed by Tim Flohr Sørensen, Ulla Mannering (Senior Researcher, The National Museum of Denmark) and Jane Malcolm-Davies, (Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow, CTR)

Participants may book for any number of lectures or the whole series. Those booking for the series will have priority for the laboratory visits and field trips. There is a maximum of 70 places for each lecture to be held at room 15.A.0.13 at CTR from 1.30 to 4.30pm. Please note that field trips are restricted to a smaller number and are offered in strict priority booking order. **Enquiries to: jmalcolm-davies@hum.ku.dk**

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Naomi Speakman, Curator of Late Medieval European Collections and

Lloyd de Beer, Project Curator, Late Medieval Europe, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG

MEDATS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Information about MEDATS and application forms may be had from the Membership Secretary, Carole Thompson, or from the society website: www.medats.org.uk.

Annual subscriptions (payable in pounds sterling only) run from 1st Jan – 31st Dec.

Rates:

£15 Individual members worldwide;¹ (£6 paper newsletter surcharge for Europe, £9 paper newsletter surcharge for worldwide outside Europe).

£20 Households worldwide (2 members²); (paper newsletter surcharges as above)

£10 Student members worldwide (with proof of status); (paper newsletter surcharges as above).

£30 Institutions irrespective of location.

£5 Electronic newsletter subscription, non UK.

1: Members may stand for office within the society, vote in meetings and elections, and gain a discount on attendance at meetings. Within the UK the newsletter is available electronically as a PDF file, or on paper. Please specify which method of delivery is preferred. If no preference is recorded, electronic delivery will be assumed as a default whenever an e-mail address is supplied.

2: One copy of the newsletter will be sent whichever mode is employed, but both named members enjoy the full range of rights and privileges.

3: This gains none of the privileges of membership and is not available to residents of Great Britain.

Bank details:

Lloyds TSB, 109 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1LB

Account name: *Medieval Dress and Textile Society* Sort Code: 30-95-74 Account Number: 24025468

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