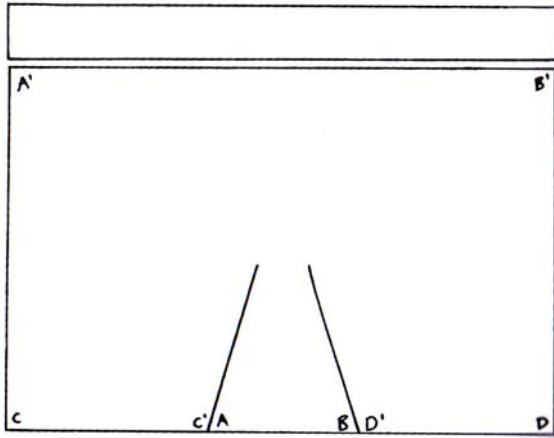


Small Boy Viking Drawers



Modern practices in archeology are revising our understanding of how people dressed in the past. New evidence has come to light that the Vikings wore a surprising amount of linen, even the poorest of the poor could afford to use coarse linen for diapers. Linen is a good choice of fiber if you are looking for a rugged cloth, that will wear well over time and survive the riggers of primitive laundry. As I am dressing an active three year old boy, I felt the durable qualities of linen would stand up to most of the abuse he will subject the clothing to.

The Norse were concerned with person hygiene. They bathed regularly and one can assume that they would also change the garments closest to their skin. The only information I could find out on this garment was the caption. It reads “superbly simple pattern for short breeches from Marx-Etzel, Germany. The central flap folds up under the crotch and attaches to the waist band.” (Ewing, p.79) I have tacked the flaps as indicted and run a simple draw string through the waist band, as the only metal fasteners found at the waist are single belt buckles. I thought that subjecting my son to period underwear was a great way to celebrate the end of toilet training. He has informed me that he was “poking out” and that this was not a good thing. I did find hand sewing the underwear an interesting experiment in scaling down a pattern to fit a much smaller body.

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