

# Cote-hardie

As William's proud mother I must say I do not understand this new fade of the cote-hardie. It just does not make any sense to me to stitch a tailored garment for a growing boy. But as the local land-owner I cannot have my son thought of as a peasant child with ill-fitting and baggy clothing.

The first half of the 1300's saw the popularity of the cote-hardie. It is a garment that can best be described as "fitted through the waist where it buttoned; flaring to a full skirt that was open at the front and usually, knee length. The sleeves, apparently the major distinguishing feature, ended at the elbow in front while in back hung down as a short tongue or longer flap..." (Tortora and Eubank pg. 93) I have found a number of illustrations and statuary which support this description. There appears to be a regional difference in hanging sleeves. I have chosen not to put hanging sleeves on a baby for practical means.

I tried to make William's cote-hardie with extra generous seams, so it could grow with him. This did not turn out to be a successful experiment, as the curved pieces must be clipped to lay flat. It is still my hope that the ease built into the garment, will allow him to wear it more than one time.

I have made the cote-hardie out of navy blue linen, as it goes well with Williams blue eyes. The buttons are also made out of linen. (I took a wonderful class at Pennsic this past summer.) To save time I used a sewing machine for William's clothing, but I hand stitched all of the clothes for the puppet. Note how stylish the puppet looks in his cote-hardie.



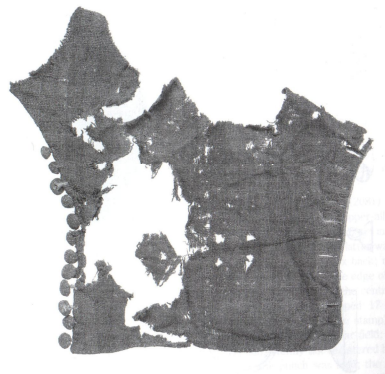
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1. Sculpture of man with a large buckle at the waist., c.1360 (Egan and Pritchard)
2. Wooden figure of Walter de Helyon showing buttons on front of tunic and sleeves, from Much Marcle, c. 1360. (Egan and Pritchard)
3. Illuminated Manuscript from the Morgan Library, c. 1350
4. Jehan de Grise, Romance of Alexander c. 1338-44 (Gill)
5. Lutterel Psalter, England c. 1335-40 (Deuchler)
6. Cloth buttons and corresponding holes on a sleeve from a deposit dating to the second quarter of the 14th century. (Egan and Pritchard)