

Hood

“The churchyard in Herjolfsnes contained more than 120 burials. When excavated in 1921, well-preserved wool clothing... The hood shown here is in the same style and pattern as contemporary European fashion, although the Greenland Norse were thousands of miles away and in vastly different environment.” (Arneborg, p.315.) I should not have been surprised that the clothing of the Vikings was influenced by their trade routes, but I was.

I made my hood by felting a piece of coat weight wool. This should make it warmer to wear. I then embroidered the boats around the hem. I chose a simple picture of a boat from a coin. Intertwined animal or a geometric patterns are the most common motifs in the Viking era. I decided to use a simple picture of a boat from a coin because my Barony of Tir-y-Don is a maritime province. Sagas provide us with evidence that the Vikings decorated their clothing and every day objects, but we have very few extant garments. Therefore I am taking a little artistic license with my boats. I have tried to choose colors which can be easily dyed from natural dyes (except the purple, I traded for that.) I used a split backstitch to do the embroidery, in order to give the stitch a little lift, so it did not sink into the felted wool. I was very surprised how easily the needle and wool floss glided through the felted wool. It was wonderful to stitch with. I will line my hood with silk, which is a departure from the original hood which was unlined. I have chosen a slick silk, so the hood will lay better on my shoulders. Silk would have been a cheaper fabric than linen because it could be found on regular trade routes and the growing season for linen is too short in Greenland.

