

# Hats





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## Coif

This linen hat was made from fabric cut on the bias, which helped it fit closely.

Tudor doctors, lawyers, old men and children wore white coifs with ties under the chin. These had been worn throughout the medieval period, and were known as 'biggins' (from the French word béguin, meaning bonnet).

Coifs worn by other Tudors at this time did not have ties, and were made from coloured or white linen.

Coifs helped stop head lice spreading, and were also worn in bed to keep people warm at night. They were easy to wash and dry, and worn under woollen hats to keep them from being dirtied by greasy hair, so that the woollen hats didn't need to be washed very often.

Rich women wore beaded velvet coifs, and at the end of the Tudor period, they wore beautifully embroidered coifs.



### How do we know about coifs?

Descriptions and illustrations in manuscripts, and examples in paintings, including:

Albrecht Durer's 1520 *Portrait of Bearded Man in a Red Hat*, Hans Holbein the Younger's 1516 *Portrait of a 34 year old Woman*; his 1535 *Portrait of Jane Pemberton Small*; and his 1551 *Portrait of a woman with a white coif*.



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## Lady's hat

This hat is made of fine wool, lined with silk, and was worn over a linen coif.

Rich women wore hats with decorative silver badges, and less wealthy women had hats with badges made of pewter made using lots of tin so that it looked like silver. Poor women could not afford badges for their hats.



### How do we know about ladies hats?

Descriptions in Tudor accounts, and illustrations in manuscripts.



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## Lady's Hood

This woollen hood, lined with linen, was known by Tudor women as a bonnet.

Tudor women kept their hair covered, and it was plaited with ribbons and pinned or tied up tightly, so that outer headwear could be fixed to it with pins.

The long 'tails' at the back of this bonnet are called lappets, and the tails at the front are called frontlets.

Very rich women wore bonnets with frontlets made from contrasting colours of fabric, which were often embroidered, sometimes with gold threads. These frontlets were very expensive, and were pinned to the front of their hoods, so that they could be removed when the bonnets were washed.

This bonnet, worn by less wealthy women, has frontlets which have been sewn up onto the crown and secured with a decorative pewter button.



### How do we know about hoods?

Descriptions and illustrations in manuscripts, and paintings and paintings, such as Hans Holbein's 1527 *Portrait of Mary, Lady Guildford*, and the *Portrait of Elizabeth of York*, by an unknown artist (1500 – 1503), on the National Portrait Gallery website.





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## Man's hat

This hat is made of wool, lined with coloured silk. The decoration is hand twisted coloured linen cord.

Hats were an important part of social life, demonstrating status, and only rich men could afford silk linings. This style of brimmed hat was very fashionable and would often have been worn at a jaunty 45 degree angle. Some men decorated these hats with feathers and brooches or badges.



### How do we know about men's hats?

Descriptions and illustrations in manuscripts, and paintings, such as Hans Holbein the Younger's 1528 *Portrait of Nikolaus Kratzer*, and his 1541 *Portrait of De Vos van Steenwijk*.

