

# Period costume & style

A medieval tapestry depicting a battle scene. The scene is set against a blue sky and a light-colored ground. In the foreground, several knights on horseback are engaged in combat. They are wearing chainmail and carrying spears and shields. The horses are in various colors, including brown, white, and grey. In the background, more knights and horses are visible, along with a small structure. The tapestry is framed by a decorative border at the top and bottom.

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Europe in 800 – 1400

Franks, Anglo - Saxon Britain, crusades, sumptuary laws  
Early middle ages, late middle ages, Renaissance

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# Huns and Germanic cultures take over Western Rome

Huns were nomadic warriors who conquered land through Europe

Tried to conquer Eastern Rome

Succeeded in Western Rome

Lagoons of Venice are founded



# Rise of France

Pepin the Short leads Franks

761 – 768

- Founds Carolingian Line
- Longer hair and beards on men
- Longer belted tunics with decorated clavi & borders



# Charlemagne / Charles the Great 742 - 814

- Son of Pepin Short and Bertrada of Laon
- King of Franks in 768 at age 26
- Fights Vikings, Norsemen in the North
- Fights Huns from East, Ottoman Turks from South
- Holy Roman Empire established in 800 AD
- Crowned by the Pope Leo to rule the West
- Tries to unite east & west through marriage  
has 5 wives, 5 mistresses and 17 children



Einhard, A Frankish historian who lived at the court of Charlemagne, describes the emperor:

He wore the national dress of the Franks. The trunk of his body was covered with a linen shirt, his thighs with linen pants. Over these he put on a tunic trimmed at the border with silk. The legs from the knee downward were wound with leggings, fastened around the calves with laces, and on his feet he wore boots. In winter he protected his shoulders and chest with a vest made of otter skins and marten fur, and over that he wrapped a blue cloak. He always carried a sword strapped to his side, and the hilt and belt thereof were made either of gold or silver. Only on special holidays or when ambassadors from foreign nations were to be received did he sometimes carry a jewel-studded saber. He disliked foreign clothes, no matter how beautiful they were, and would never allow himself to be dressed in them. Only in Rome was he seen on two occasions in a long tunic, chlamys, and Roman shoes<sup>1</sup>: the first time at the entreaty of Pope Hadrian and the second by request of his successor [Pope] Leo. On high festival days he wore a suite of golden cloth ornamented with jewels. His cloak was fastened by a golden brooch, and on his head he carried a diadem of gold, embellished with gems. On other days, however, his dress was not much different from the common people.

Images from St. Marks Cathedral in Venice show men in tunics that still have ornamentation, but they are now shorter worn with boots  
Women wear long tunics



# Garments in France c. 400- 1000

- Hose & garters – to hold hose up
- Wrapped boots or soccus= loose fitting slipper
- Tunic and belt
- Mantles
- Simple clothing, **pieces sewn together**
- Bowl cut hair



## New garments: braies



Trousers, dating from the 3rd or 4th century A. D., that covered the foot like present-day tights. They were found in a bog in Slesvig



- Tunics have square neckline with borders c. 1000
- Tunics are more fitted by the waist and often knee length
- Trousers from northern Germany, 4th century



# 1050 Bayeux Tapestry



# Men's tunics

- 1165-80 Fresco of Soldiers
- One has longer tunic
- Notice hose gathered to knee underneath a shorter tunic



- Men have long hair and beards
- Foliated crown worn by Kings. Queens wear it in smaller form

- Fillet on the woman is used for dressing up

- This drawing from 1250 shows soldiers in long haircut, but clean shaven and chain maille



# Women's headdress

- Women wore veil to cover the hair, it was a Christian custom
- Centre parting
- Byzantine crown changes to foliated crown



# A new garment called a Bliaut

often seen in early medieval cathedral statues

[https://www.eg.bucknell.edu/~lwittie/sca/garb/europe\\_class/europe\\_bliaut.html](https://www.eg.bucknell.edu/~lwittie/sca/garb/europe_class/europe_bliaut.html)



1054 Split of Eastern and Western Empire  
(1453 Constantinople Conquered by the Ottoman Turks)



# Fabrics

- Wool used for warmth – finest wool from England
- Flax grown in all Europe, for linen
- Silk from Sicily, Italy and Spain
- Cotton from India to Spain by Moors
- Red, blue, yellow, green and purple colours in clothing
- Kermes insect produced red colour by 10th century

Wool tapestry, 1370





# Religious Crusades

The feudal system developed → need for protection as the Carolingian Empire collapsed under the attacks of Vikings and Magyars

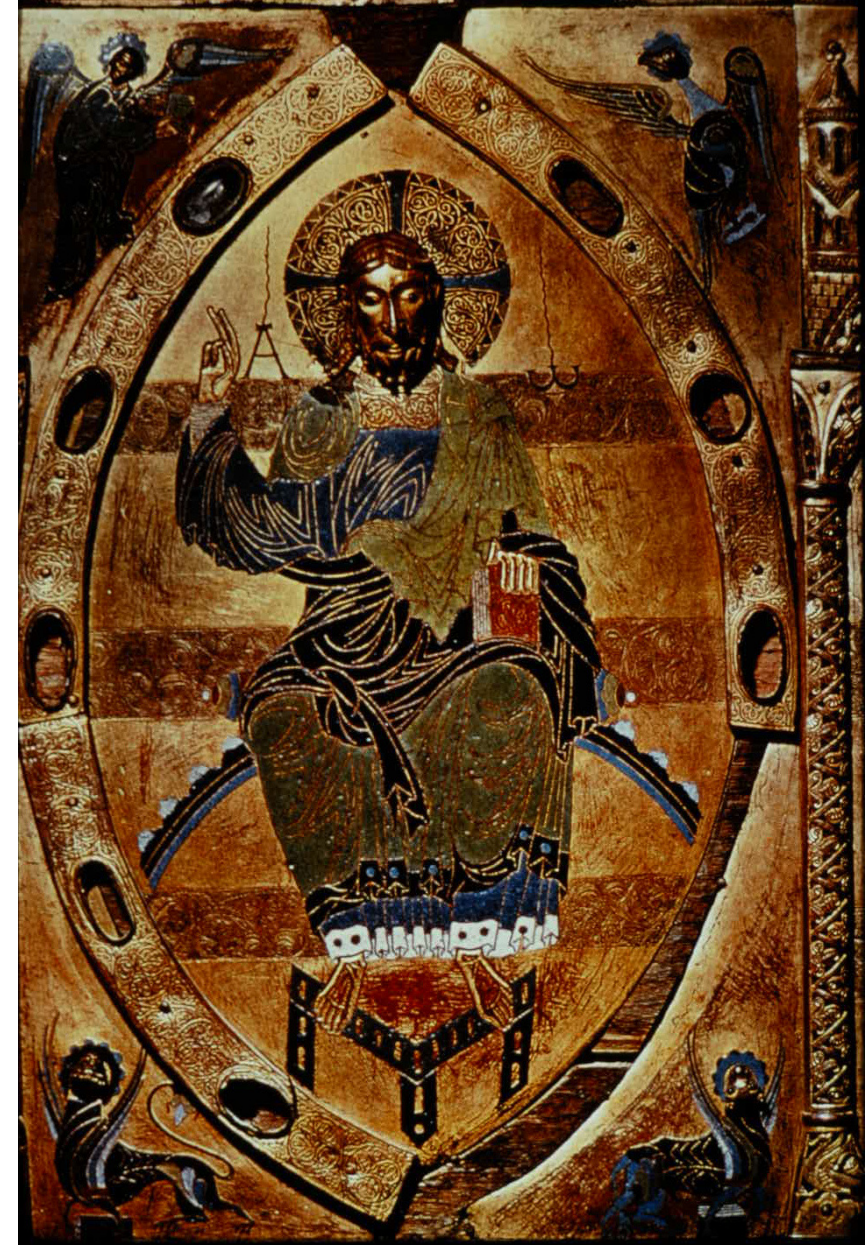
-Elite knights/professional fighters

-Given freedom in exchange for fighting



# The Beginning of Crusades

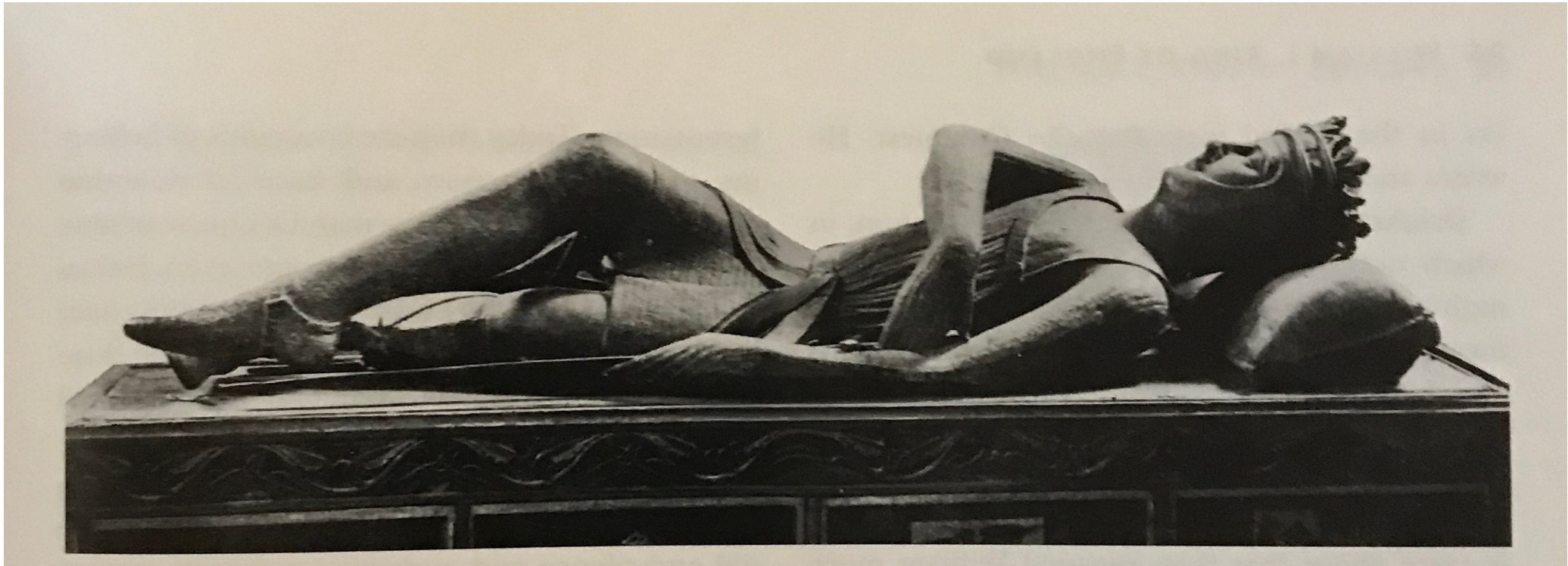
- Pope Urban II
  - Free Holy places of Christendom from Moslems
  - Called “Holy Land”
  - Jerusalem captured in 1099
- Food, Spices, Drugs from the Crusades change the West



Robert Shorthose, William the Conqueror's eldest son

Joined crusades in 1096, later declined to be made the King of Jerusalem

His monument in Gloucester Cathedral show him wearing a chain maille.  
- notice the hood



- Often of Noble birth, starting at age 6
- Hunting skills
- Fighting skills in armor
- Wrestling skills
- Armed conflict

1300 Angel & Charlemagne



# Armor Terms

- Hauberk or Chain Maille
- Norman Helmet with Noseguard
- Breast Plate
- Cyclas (rectangle piece of fabric worn over chain maille)
- Shield, Two Handed Sword
- Chausses (protection for the legs)

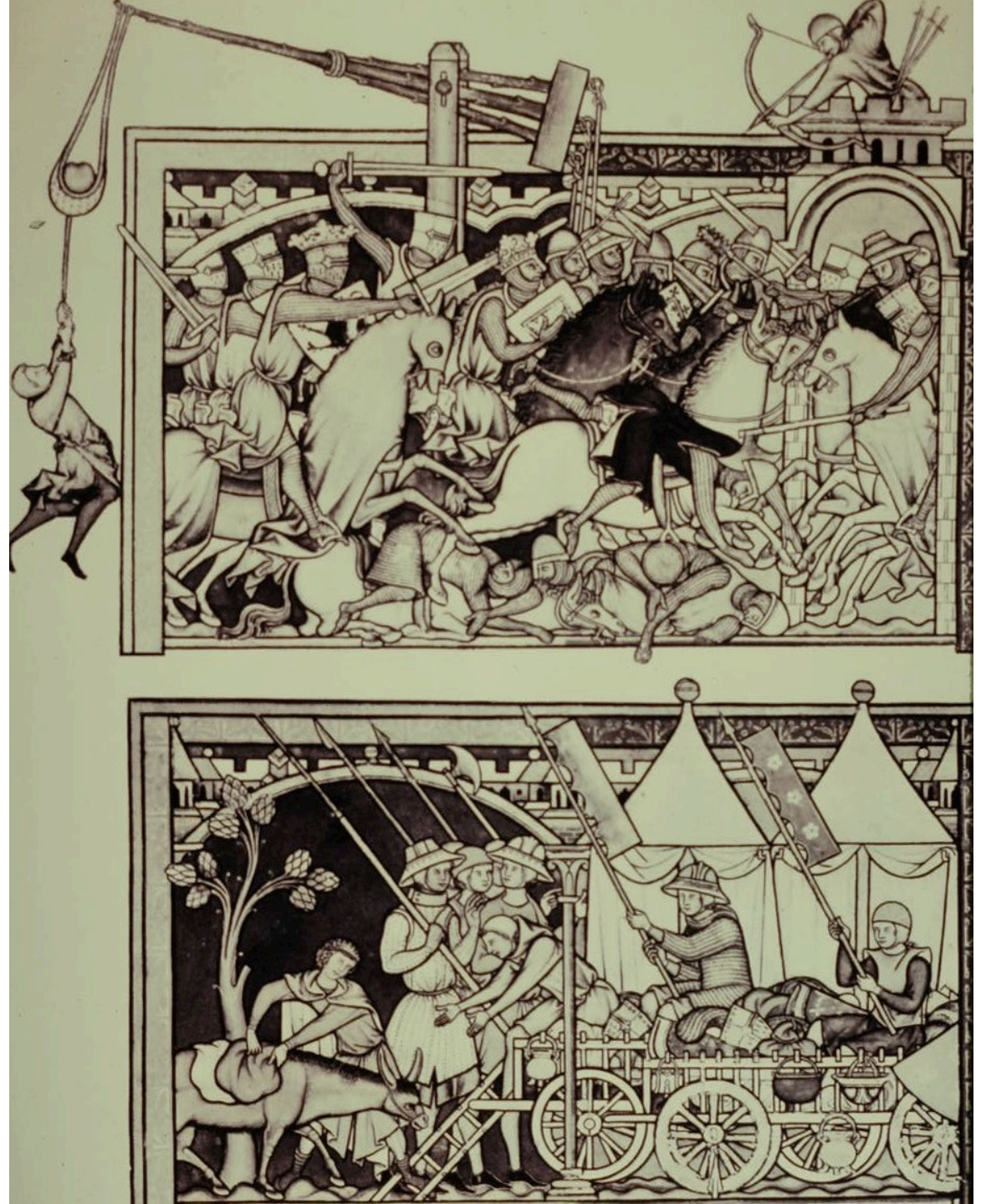
William Norris Historical  
Costume Series on Armor



# The Battle

1250 knight and monk

Man on left operating a trebuchet, wagon with contemporary helmets and hauberks.



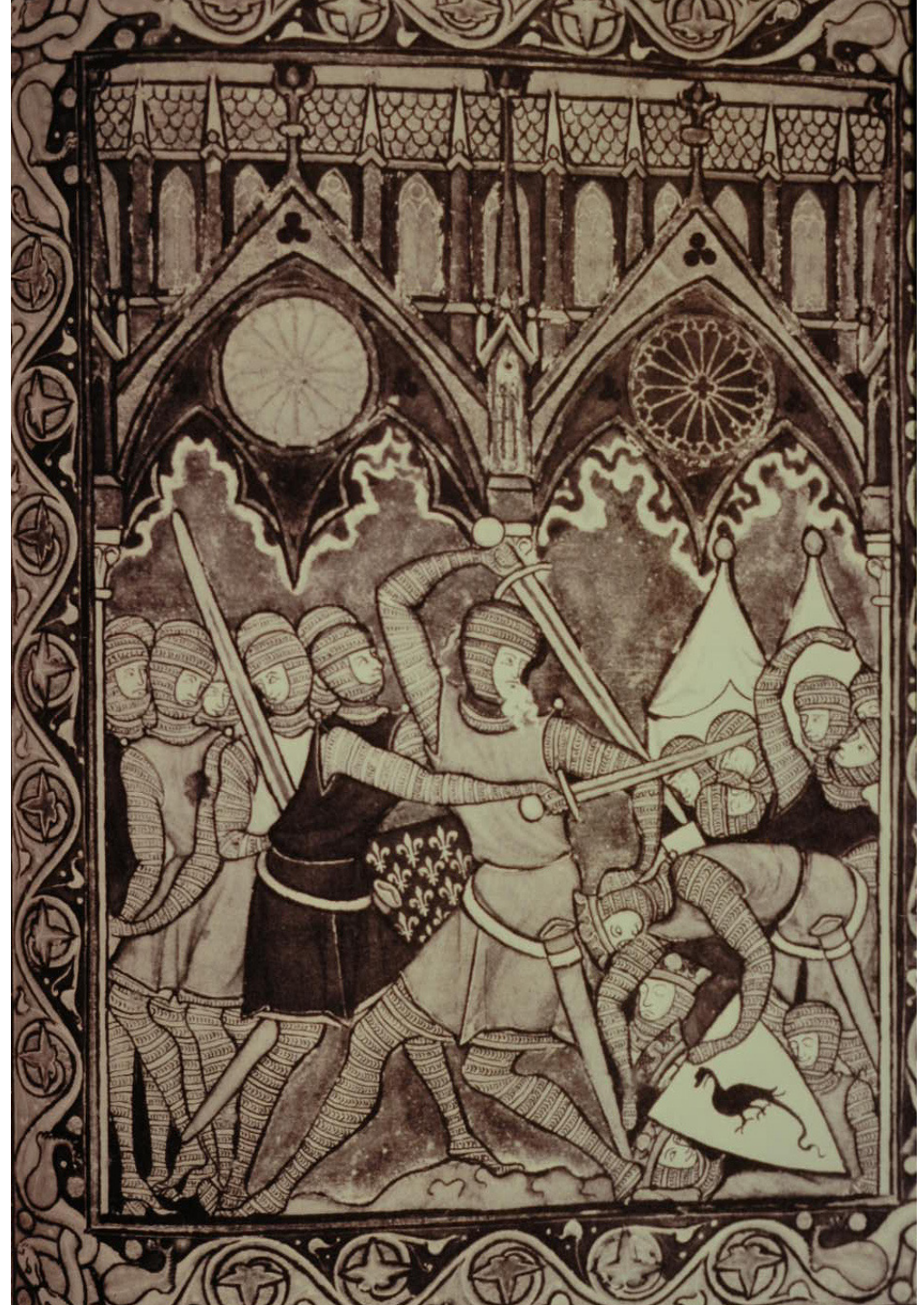
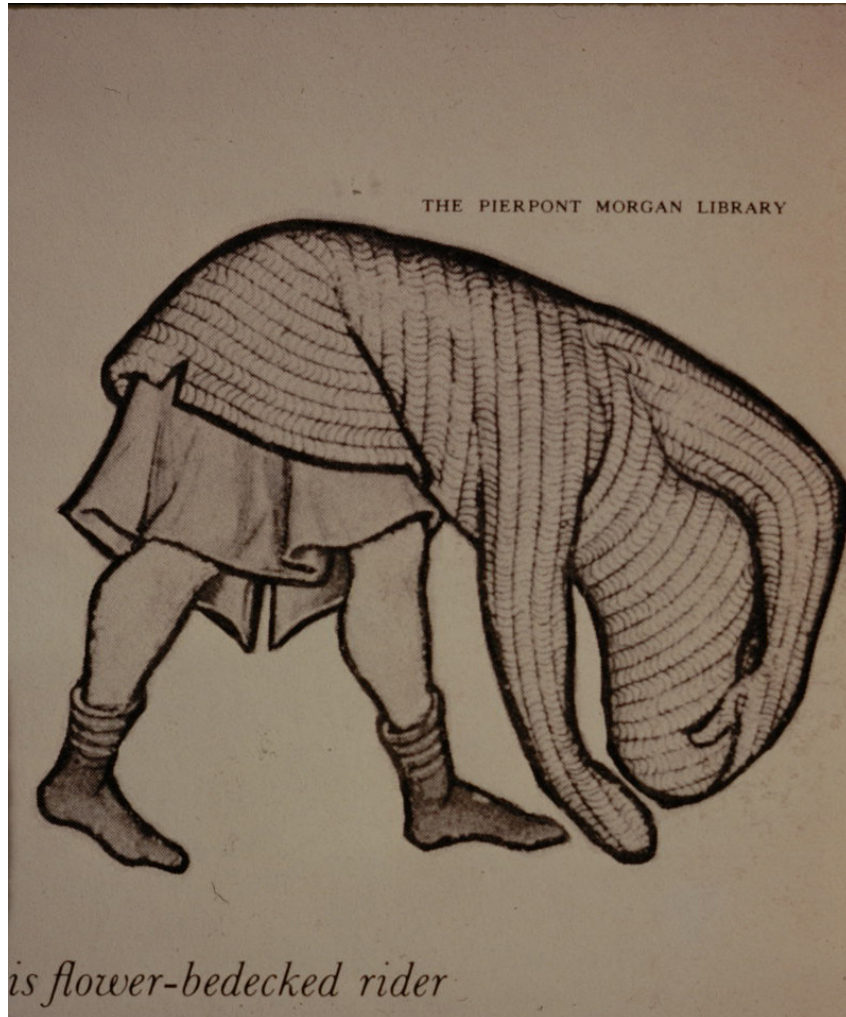
17th Century manuscript of chain maille manufacturing







1250 manuscript shows  
undressing the chain maille



## German field armor 1500

- Black and white color made with polishing the steel = brightness and painting or heating = black color to give a contrast
- Fastened with leather straps

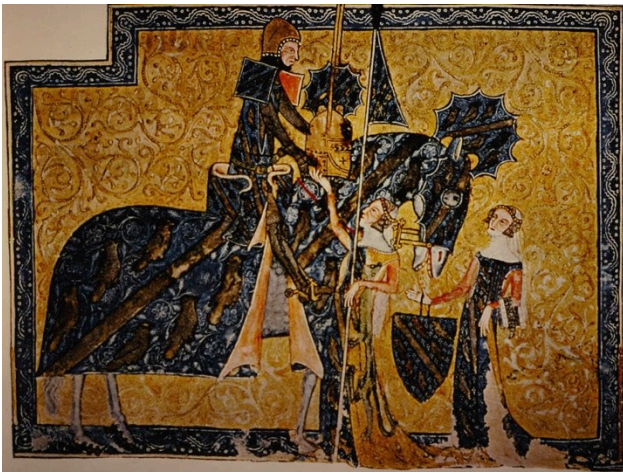


# Field armor, German, 1500

- Notice fine carving on the surface
- Armors were great example of excellent smiths work
- Detail in the helmet for vision



# Sideless Gown- used in Heraldry



# Women's garments 1000 - 1200

- Women's gown= Kirtle worn with or without jewelry
- could be studded with semi precious stones and she might have a pouch
- long skirt hems are tucked up
- Necklaces -only for women
- Clogs + wrapped boots for muddy streets



# A sideless gown

Worn over a kirtle



FIG. 210. *Joan de la Tour, Daughter of Edward III of England, from His Tomb, 1377. (Courtesy of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey)*

# Female Headdress

- Barbette-linen chinstrap
- Fillet-decorative headband or linen
- Pillbox=hat
- Veil worn after marriage to cover hair
- Virgins wear long braids - false hair extensions







Married women are veiled



# Middle ages 1000 - 1200

## Men's garments

- Underpants called braies, short
- Undershirt Chemise
- Often two tunics = under tunic with fitted sleeves, outer tunic with wide sleeves
- Long length tunic only for upper classes + decoration
- Mantles
- After 12th century high status men wore bbliaut
- 12th and 13th centuries garments become more fitted
- Terminology changes in 13th century – under tunic = cote and outer tunic = surcote

# 1250 Stoning of St Stephen

The tunic becomes more form fitting and the skirt fuller





- Man's or woman's kirtle
- Originally brown wool from Greenland

# Male Headdress

- Hoods
- Coifs
- Liripipe





- Extant garments from Nordic countries show that they followed European fashions
- Liripipe from Greenland, 1300s
- Originally light grey with light grey warp and a white weft

# The search for a route to the East

- Begins around 1250
- Cotton Plant drawing by John Mandeville  
From account book of his travels
- Mandeville influences future travellers  
such as Christopher Columbus and Marco  
Polo



# Imported goods

- Trade wine, olive oil, dried fruit
- Silks from Persia and china
- Cotton from India
- Diamonds and Emeralds from India
- Rubies from Burma
- Garnets, Rubies, Sapphires from Ceylon

Persian silk brocade from 1350  
imported from the East through Venice





# The West Discovers Spices

- New idea to help make salted meat palatable
- Pepper from India
- Cinnamon from Ceylon
- Nutmeg, Mace, Cloves from the Moluccas (Indonesia)



1320 portrait of  
Guidoriccio da Fogliano off to Crusades

# Villages in central Europe around castles

Krivoklat castle, Czeck Republic c. 1400

Český Šternberk, Check Republic, c.1300



Burg Lockenhaus, Austria, c.1200



Burgruine Glanegg, Austria, C. 1121



Santa Maria del Fiore,  
Florence  
started 1296



# Siena Cathedral

1215 – 1263



Duomo in Milan  
building started 1386, finally finished 1965





## READING TASK

Read chapter '*How a Teenage Tomboy Became History's First Fashion Victim*'

In: Thompson Ford, Richard (2021) *Dress Codes. How the Laws of Fashion Made History*

Let's discuss cross dressing and unisex clothing