

# MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD CLOTHES AND FASHION

Fashion was just as important in the Middle Ages as it is today. The nobility (uchelwyr) and gentry chose to wear spectacular and expensive items of clothing to show off their status. We know more about what they wore than the ordinary people (y werin).

Giving items of clothing such as a cloak as gifts to the poets in exchange for their praise was popular in Wales for centuries. Guto'r Glyn, in the 14<sup>th</sup> C received an Irish mantle called a *ffaling* and two purses from his patrons which he describes in great detail.

Before the Norman invasion, people wore simple clothes. Men wore tunics that went to the knees or lower. Women also wore them, usually with an overtunic or gown over it.

From the 11th to 13th century clothing became more varied. Men continued to wear tunics but these were often accompanied by leg coverings and a long, fitted tunic called a *cotehardie*. Cloaks and mantles were also popular outer garments for both men and women.



The Lover in the 'Roman de la Rose', manuscript NLW 5016D, f.8., c.14th century (Digital Mirror).

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## MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD



A typical kirtle from a 1400-1409 illumination detail  
St Jerome Tempted by Dancing Girls. Limbourg Brothers 1408 France  
<https://blog.metmuseum.org/artofillumination/manuscript-pages/folio-186r/>

Women's dresses were more fitted: the fashion was for the bliaut, a tightly made gown, embroidered with patterns. They made the clothes from wool, linen, and silk, but it was now more and more possible to buy silk, velvet and damask in markets in Wales, so the rich people wore these finer materials; they also wore clothes with embroidery and fur.



By Frères Limbourg: Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry - mois de mai -  
Google Art Project.jpg; Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27493250>



# MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

Medieval cobblers made shoes using leather, hide, burlap and wood. Shoemakers did not earn a lot of money, and they had to buy the leather to make the shoes.

During this time, pointed shoes were very popular amongst the noble classes. The shoe was called the *poulaine* or *crakow*. To achieve that ideal pointy shape, they would stuff the toes with moss, grass, hair, and some would even use whalebone.



"Pilgrim and Armour". Archiv für Kunst und Geschichte. Berlin.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pilgrim\\_Armour.jpg#/media/File:Pilgrim\\_Armour.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pilgrim_Armour.jpg#/media/File:Pilgrim_Armour.jpg)



Example of fashionable pointed shoes  
Regnault de Montauban, tome 1er. SYNTHÈSE. Manuscripts. ALL. 809  
page(s). Bibliothèque nationale de France.  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b550071656/f47.image.r=ms%205073.langDE>

# MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

Headwear was important for noble men and women.

People wore many different kinds of hat, for warmth and style. The coiff was a tight cap, worn by rich and poor at this time.

Men wore wide caps, and women wore veils or wimples to cover their hair, and head-dresses, such as hennins, which were tall, cone-shaped hats.

Rich women wore extreme head-dresses to show off their wealth. These head-dresses were probably extremely uncomfortable.



Master of the Cité des Dames; The Book of the Queen, BL Harley 4431  
. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harl\\_4431\\_frontispiece\\_full.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harl_4431_frontispiece_full.jpg)

Text adapted from websites:

<https://medievalbritain.com>

<http://www.gutorglyn.net/gutoswales/en/gwisgoed-dillad.php>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/limbourg-brothers/not-detected-265526>

<https://medium.com/be-open/>

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b550071656/f475.item.zoom>

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