



Authentic Moresca is

Real Clothing , as in Food, Clothing and Shelter; -cut from House patterns distilled from decades of research, travel, invention and experience.

These Cuts are a celebration of the architecture of body, any body, and movement, conceived in friendly collaboration with modern power machines, (no "painstaking adaptation", I enjoyed every minute!).

Construction is a joy, because a necessary seam is a beautiful seam, worthy of emphasis and adornment; -heresy to current commercial pattern drafting, although known for millenia to makers of clothing all over the planet.

Accidentally acquired formal training in this area may take years of dedicated study to eradicate.

Costume, -to find your face in the chronicles, -to work with you when you are most truly your self. An epic self some of us find it hard to give up, but hard to express too.

There is more to Heraldry

in our time, than a litter of initials on everything.





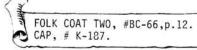
Medieval can be a code word for being connected to one's own myth; -I mourn no Lost Age, I want to play. Play with me!

The Best Fabrics our times have to offer are really very good. Oh, yes, very good. I stock far more than my accountant thinks is wise. Mostly choice cottons, woolens and silks, but synthetics do have their appropriate uses. Some are quite gorgeous. Sometimes I think I started all this to have a legitimate excuse for buying quantities of fabrics...

Colours are so important there is no room to deal with them here.

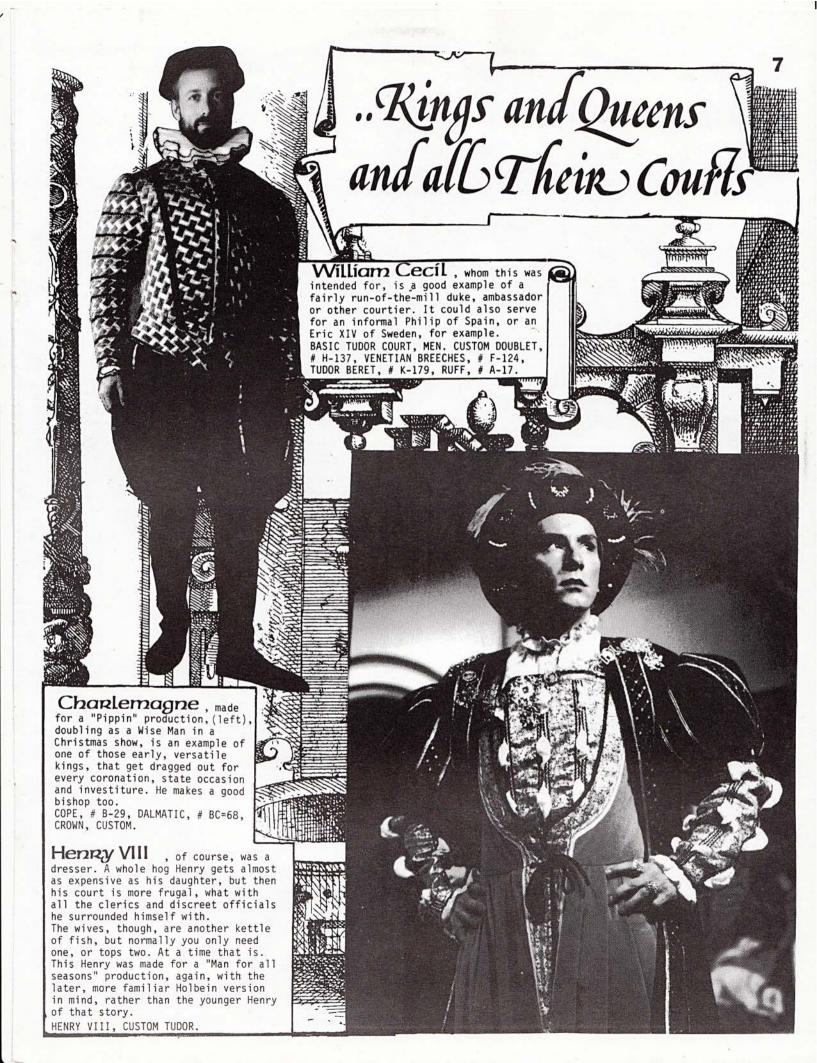
Designing and Making these things, is to me a progression from one freedom to the next. As apprenticeship matures into mastery, one resonates with an ever vaster vortex of events.

 $oldsymbol{M}$ aybe this is why the guilds of old were called "Mysteries".













Three Part Consort

is a new design for us, taken from a tapestry of a lady playing a hammered dulcimer. It consists of: A, a shift, (A-12, p.8), B, a fairly loose-fitting robe with tie-on, paned sleeves, and sides slit to the waist, and C, a tie-on harness type placket-cum-optio-; nal-apron, which adjusts both East -West and North - South.

The shift and robe are washable cotton, unless you wish to differ, and the appendage, here shown, is cut from a stiff upholstery jacquard. A very versatile ensemble we expect much

THREE PART CONSORT ROBE, # BC-53 TIE HARNESS, # BC-56, BASIC SHIFT I, # A-10.

> Folk Coat Five is, as the name implies, a descendant of a short coat we carry, (# BC-64, p. 39.) , It serves about the same function as a "Capulet", (# J-159, p. 10.) but has a looser, easier fit, less tailored and demanding. The skirt, made of a heavy cotton, here in dark russet, has soft pleats at the top. The bodice, back and front, and the upper sleeves, have inserts of a different fabric, edged with rich, antique trims, (detail). The sleeves are in sections, all tie-on.

FOLK COAT FIVE, # BC-65.





.. A Mother Pattern



"Florentine Fantasy", or: How to complicate a Capulet to the greatest possible degree. Made of navy velveteen, lined with silk jacquard, it has finished dags, edged with russet braid and gold trim, set carefully into the edges of the bodice at rim and armholes. The sleeves, with trimmed panes and lower section, unlace from the bodice under the dags, and the bodice itself unties from the skirt by means of small brass rings and ties. The skirt, wearable by itself, like the bodice, has the same kind of trim and closes by ties through grommets. "FLORENTINE FANTASY", # J-160, BASIC SHIFT II, # A-11.







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Folk Coat Two was the first descendant of the beloved coat pattern. These are two of my own winter dresses; -I get into a pair of hose, # f-120, p.27, a cotton turtleneck, and low boots and throw this on top; -there is ONE tie through a pair of pewter loops, and I,m ready for a winter day in any century'

At Renaissance fairs they make comfortable costumes, over a shift wicking out moisture. My clothes have to be washable, so these are made of pre-shrunk tapestry, (dreadful to work with), corderoys and cotton velvets, with fine cartridge pleats. The sleeves have contrasting panes, joined by permanent, velvet-edged, lightweight insertions, and are permanently mounted. Several, simpler variations are available. Custom. FOLK COAT TWO, # BC-66, MAN'S SHIRT, # A-12.





Wench?

The reversible Bodice is not a vest, but a semi-corset. It laces down the front, through grommets set in reinforced edges, to a firm fit, leaving an opening where laces cross. When first trying on a correct size everyone, without exception, thinks it's too small, until it's laced all the way.

If you have a bust, this is for you. If you don't have a bust, you may be facing your first cleavage in the mirror, when you get one of

these on.

In spite of the firm fit, many women find these comfortable; - they rearrange the anatomy rather than constrict it, and adjustments are, of course, a cinch. Slouching is out, though, as with all bodices fitted firmly down to the waist.



 T hese bodices are made in a great variety of brocades and tapestries. The reverse is solid velveteen or corderoy. Sizing: See sizing chart. LACED BODICE, # H-130.

On Grommets. We use a size 0, (about 1/4" hole), with brass or nickel washers. The grommet part, usually the front, comes in many co-lours. For certain purpouses, smaller

Short Shirts, used here, are really men's shirts, (# A-12, p.28.). Nothing we make for men only, stays that way. SKIRT W/PEPLUM, COTTON, # E-106.









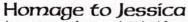
On Bloomers and "Stupid Pants"...

A playful blessing in hot weather, bloomers and "Stupid Pants" are for both men and women. Bloomers (left), are a loose, easy version of breeches, as far as the pattern goes. They can also be worn under skirts

"Stupid Pants" are not the original Stupid Pants, launched by The Flying Karamazov Brothers, bless them, which are long, and open up the whole side; -but look like a skirt with side slits, until the loose corners are tied up, as here. Somehow, the wrong name stuck. Both of these are made of white or black cotton batiste, but may be ordered in other fabrics, and have elastic waists.

"STUPID PANTS", # E-103, BLOOMERS, # E-102,





is a gauze, lace and trim blouse of a type we normally don't do. They happened mainly because of an exquisite collection of antique lace and delicate trim and beadwork not suited to our other, more robust costumes. Not that they are that fragile, but dry cleaning is definitely recommended. LACE BLOUSE, # BD-85.

The Skirts of velvet or velveteen. Made like the heavier cotton skirts, # E-106, p.13, minus peplum and plus gimp and/ or metallic braid around the hem. They are available in many colours.

VELVET OR VELVETEEN SKIRT, # E-108,

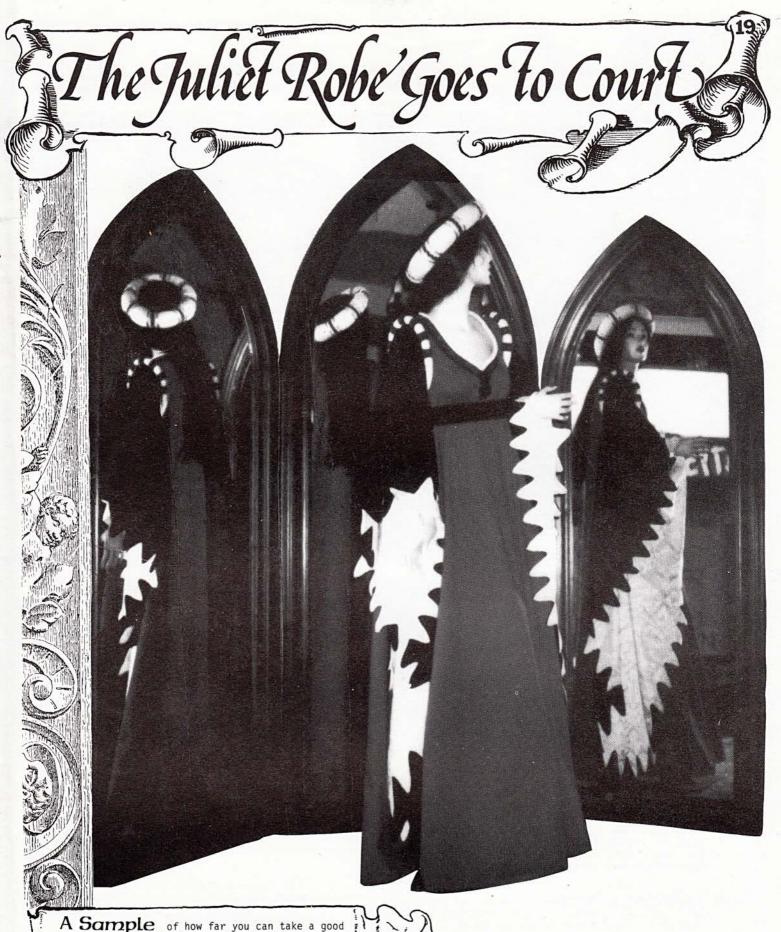












A Sample of how far you can take a good ancestral pattern, this was made in a rich, russet cotton gabardine, with dagged sleeves of black velveteen, lined with a white rayon jacquard, -also in the trim, where it's matched with black and gold braid.

This picture is a repaired and enlarged old Polaroid snapshot, and can therefore only hint at the original piece.



The "Moresca Dress" can be made of just about any fabric, from light cottons to heavy corderoy. These are made of natural cotton chenille (left), and a cotton/rayon drapery brocade (right), each with its contrasting trim. The silhouette changes with the sleeve cut and the size and position of the gusset.

MORESCA DRESS, CUSTOM, # BC-50.

The schematic drawing is a diagram for a monk's robe, currently in use in a Benedictine monastery near the shop. Same cut, different application.

ANCIENT TUNIC CUT, # BC-46 & # BC-47.

For information on later developments of the long tunic, see p. 32, "COTTE..", etc.



When Moresca goes out to Play

anything can happen. There was a golden goose and a "human harp" costume for a "Jack and the Beanstalk" production, a maiden, fused to a 10 foot boat, of which she is the figurehead, for an original dance epic: - the boat is punted slowly downstage by a shaman, is then shed by the figurehead/maiden, and opens up into a scrim, behind which she does a love duet with her hero. All on stage. If you think your ideas are too crazy, talk to us first.

Our Fool's Caps, baubles, masks and tie capes are stock items, the doughnut holes of our industry; -the caps, masks and hand baubles are made from the same Melton wools as our capes, and come in all the same colours (see p.36), mixed. The masks have a cotton backing, for body and comfort. The "hand" is carefully stuffed firm, edged with polka dot ruffs and mounted on a black, 2' dowel, the joint covered with braid. The fool's cape comes in all sizes, from age 3 to large men's. Made of cotton canvas in two colours and contrasting piping, bells on the points, it ties from back to front. FOOL'S CAP, # K-188, PARTI-COLOUR MASK, # 182, HAND BAUBLE, # 181, FOOL'S CAPE, # A-14.

PENTECOST, a standard, commissioned by a church, for processions and permanent display. On a background of red velveteen, the white, deep relief dove plunges into many-coloured, hand appliqued silk flames.







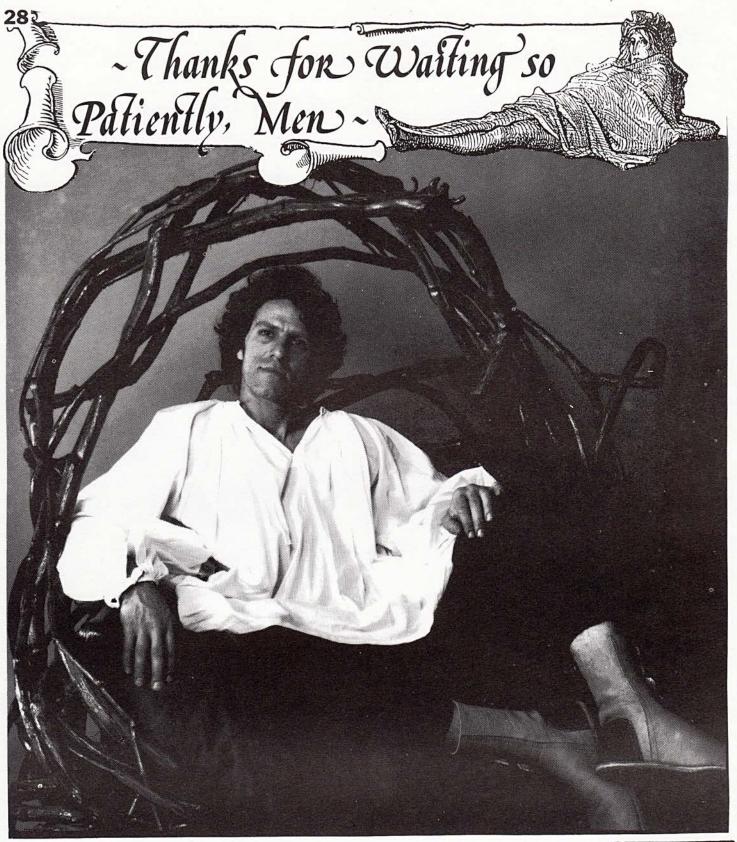


SKYE CLOWN JACKET, LADIES, # H-131.



PANTS", # E-104.





Shirts were to men, what shifts were to women: - An all-purpouse, under-all, loose fitting comfortable companion to bare skin. - It wicks out moisture, protecting the outer garment, which is, normally, more costly and difficult to maintain, and it insulates the body from excessive

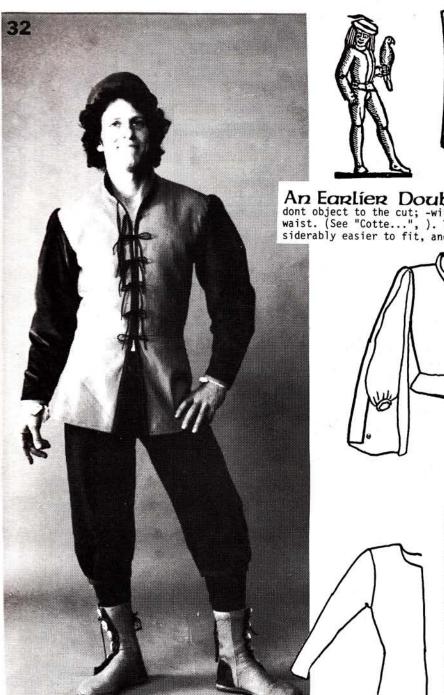
heat or cold.
Ours is the classic, simple, ample, all time swashbuckling, sexy 100% cotton batiste, washable, bleachable (white), boilable SHIRT. In white or black, neck and cuffs gathered into permanent edges, extending into ties. (A nice way to meet the girl next door, wrist extended; "Excuse me, but could you, please...". But you CAN do it yourself.) It ages beautifully, too; -people always ask to buy our old relic shirt, veteran of many faires, instead of a new one; - it has become important evidence, the gathers all settled down to a fine crepe. Ironing would spoil it.
Various custom collars are available. MAN'S SHIRT, # A-12, MAN'S SHIRT, CUSTOM, # A-13.





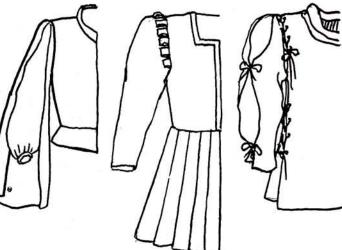








An Earlier Doublet, doubles as a "pourpoint", if you dont object to the cut; -with separate bodice and peplum, joined at the waist. (See "Cotte...",). The line is about the same, and this cut is considerably easier to fit, and ends up looking better, in my experience.



COTTE, COTE, COTARDIE, COTTE HARDIE, COTE HARDI... This confusing concept has a different interpretation in each source. Some sources describe "Cotardie", as a woolen "Sur-cote" buttoned up the front and sides, although "Surcote" is normally the outer, sleeveless, hugely armholed companion to a woman's Cotte Hardie. But generally, what it boils down to, is a 200-year struggle to fit a long, wide tunic tightly to the torso and arms, down to the wrists and hips, from which point, in a woman's case, the original width is to reappear, without any horizontal cutting, but by means of insertion of several wedges, A man's "Cotte" ends just below the hips.

The sheer number of solutions to this problem testify to its frustrations. There is a welter of unreliable patterns on record, involving openings, lacing or buttons front, back, sides and sleeves. Hollywood has long been enamoured of this style, and has come up with a few fairly convincing variations, assumably tailored 20th. century style. Ladies and Gentlemen in need of this garment are advised to show up at the studio with exact specifications as to what they expect it to look like, and then for several fittings. No mail order. Beware! Anything woolen or velvet coming up to a

tight armhole, smells trouble to me. For theatrical use, at least, I strongly suggest cheating by using knits, which would produce a comfortable and very creditable "Cotte".

Tabands, sleeveless tunics open in the sides, are perhaps best known as the Heralds' Tabards, heavily encrusted with armorial bearings. But a tunic, doublet or archer's jerkin can also be cut that way. We used to stock a brocade tabard, laced down the sides, with laced on sleeves made of velour and lined with satin, and with a rolled cowl at the neck. TABARD TUNIC, # BC-59, TABARD, # BC-58, TABARD CUT DOBLET, # H-136.

This One is the simplest possible 13th. to 14th. century doublet. It is, in some cases, appropriate both earlier and later too. Unlined, except for the collar, with tucked-in and topstitched seams. This seam, by the way, which we use in most of our garments, besides being strong and attractive, also functions as a mild stay, shoring up the fall and shape intended, when appropriately

used; - much like ribs in a tent or kite. The sleeves are permanently mounted, seam inside. It can also be on the outside, where it becomes an opportunity for decorative trim (see tunics, next page). The ties are the easiest, suitable form of fastening, but lacing, buttons or hooks and eyes are also available. This one is made of pinwale corderoy in two shades of blue, with black ties.

EARLY DOUBLET, W/PEPLUM, # H-135, SIMPLE BREECHES,

F-123, p.33.

Woodsmen and Archers

Wear Tunics, contemporaries of the doublet on the preceding page, but they lingered on for hundreds of years among the yeomanry, farmers and craftsmen.



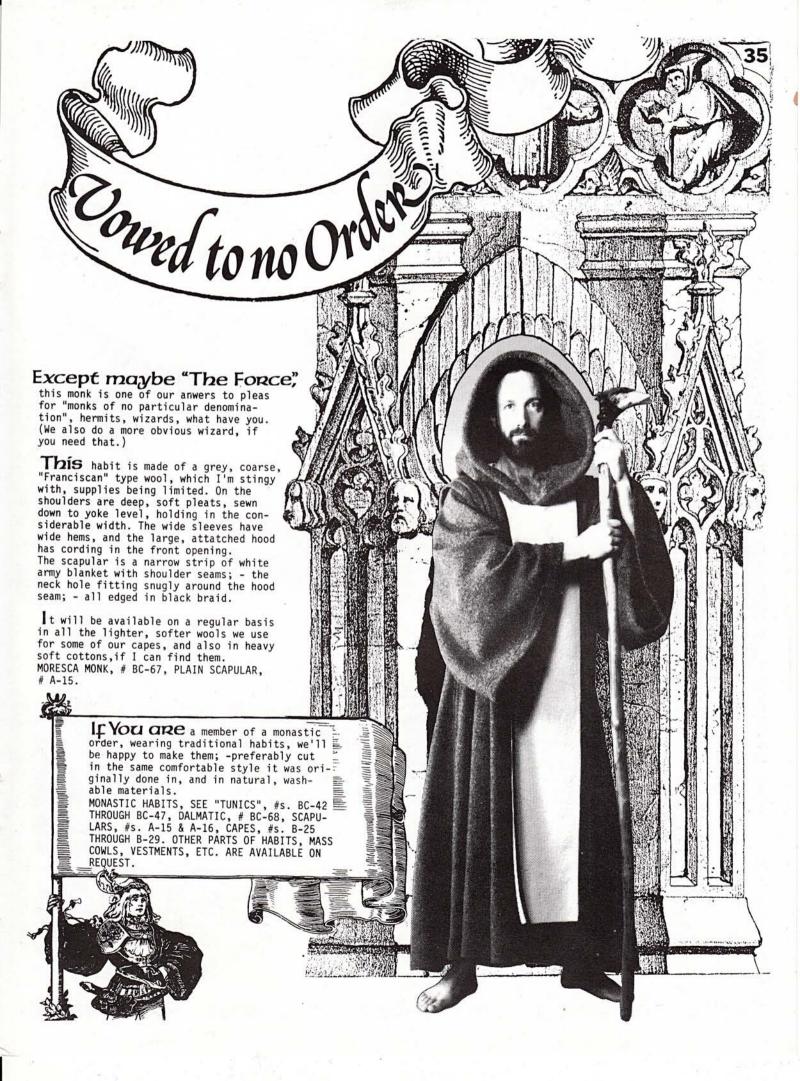
These Two are not cut like the tunics on p.s. 20 & 21, but simpler, with side seams and one seam center front, left open at the top. Loose, but not very wide, they can be worn belted or not, as you please. The double sleeves are permanently mounted, with trim covering seams. The rounded hood, also permanently attatched, is lined with the fabric used in the inner sleeves, a lighter, softer fabric if the tunic is made of wool, like the one on the right. The left one is made of navy, "Calcutta" cotton in two colours. HOODED TUNIC, COTTON, # BC-44, HOODED TUNIC, SPECIAL, # BC-45.

Both Men are wearing our simplest form of breeches, a kind of men's "trews", or trousers, that have survived in one form or another into our century.

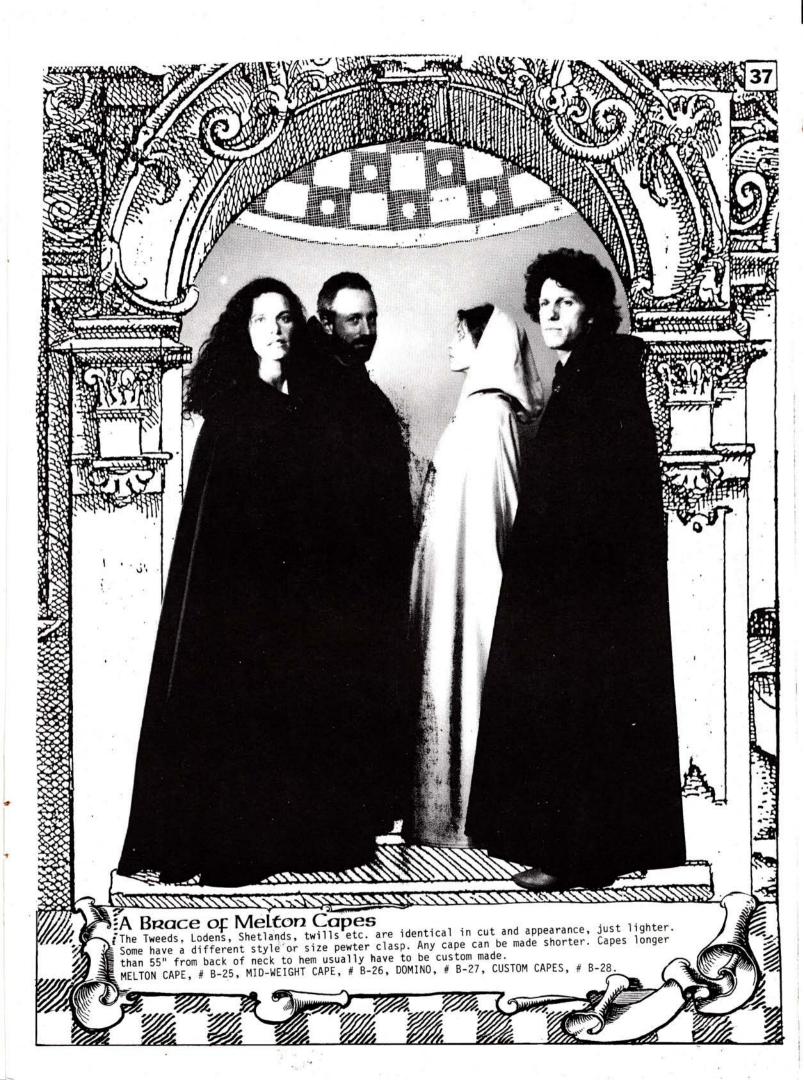
These are "Calcutta" cotton, with elastic waists, and legs permanently gathered into contrasting cuffs.

SIMPLE BREECHES, # F-123.















Children

In theory, everything we make is available in children's sizes. The practical reality is, that small costumes take almost as long as large ones, and are therefore not much cheaper. Unless you are a boundlessly wealthy, doting parent of one, or an ordinary, doting parent of eight, it's not worth it for the short time it will fit.

WORKING CHILDREN are another matter. My daughter is required to be in costume at many fairs we do, poor thing. She wears some of her costumes to a shred. Other, surviving ones, become handy lendings to smaller, visiting friends, who must also be in costume.

HERE she is wearing her "Basic Juliet Robe", in a dark burgundy cotton (p.16.). Her younger friend is wearing double skirts and a little jacket with peplum, in several blues and black wool jersey. The boy is in a pierrot. Each of these have experienced several years of severe abuse, (the costumes), so hand-me-downs are a working proposition, if you have several children. The dog didn't want to wear his, he just likes to have his picture taken.
CHILDREN, MOSTLY CUSTOM, PLEASE INQUIRE.



Infants

When good, strong velours are available, we carry a little outfit for the wee ones: A parti-coloured hose, tunic and hood set, in small;12-16 lbs.., medium;16-20 lbs. and large;20-24 lbs. Hood overlaps tunic, which overlaps hose; - everything seems to always be riding north on these little people, leaving exposed areas; - and wet one-piece suits make for long changes. INFANT SET, # 183.







I will wear the green heather ... and all the other accessories. Hats are crucial to any Medieval or Renaissance costume. Most hats, caps, wimples and other headgear in this book we make: Some are stock items, some parts of custom outfits.

Millinery is a separate hand craft, and serious headgear runs into money. It is also a lot of fun, if you have some fingers that aren't thumbs. I say: A: Try it yourself; -we will give you enough remnants for a reasonable hat, from any costume you order from us. Why pay us to sit and apply beads, braids and feathers, and deny yourself this pleasurable, portable work? Wire hangers, duct tape and rags will produce any frame you'd need. B: Scour your local thrift stores; - you'd be amazed at what can be done with a coctail hat from the 1950s. C: Combine A and B. D: Buy the basic hat from us, or any other hat maker doing these periods, and decorate it yourself. E: If none of the above appeals to you, of course we'll make you a hat. HATS, SEE "K" NUMBERS



Our Hoopskints by "Under-Cover", are available in white cotton/poly, in one size fits all, or just about all. HOOPSKIRT, # E-101.

BUMROLLS

Bum Rolls we make here. BUM ROLL, # G-129.

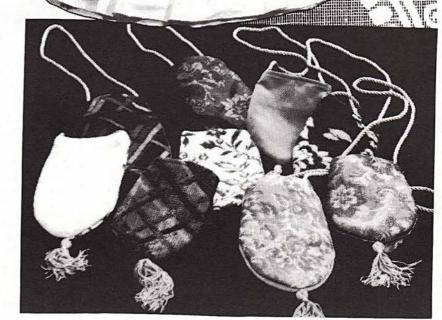
Consets we shop fit, made of cotton canvas, with steel boning, laced through grommets; - in adjustable sizes if desired. BONED CORSET, # J-165

Laces: Some people object to shoe and boot laces. The thing about them is that they were MADE to stay tied. If you insist on satin spag-hetti or similar stuff, plan on bringing a chamber maid or page with you everywhere, including the "Privies". Personally, I think a good cotton shoelace is attractive.

Belt Pouches are another "doughnut hole" of our industry. They tie or loop to a belt, by their rayon cords, and are available in a multi-tude of tapestries and velveteens. BELT POUCHES, # 183.

Other Bags purses, fans, wreaths, some crowns, belts, baubles, baldrics, "folly bells", garters, wings, banners, masks, fabric horse caparisons and other animal attire, and certain other accessories and props are, YES, available custom.

Ruffs. Struggling with many yards of snowwhite, stiff starched, spiked lace and buckram, marked into equal fractions of its length, and stitching it onto a starched lawn neckband. divided into the same number of much smaller fractions... is no picnic. It is very time consuming, and we prefer to do it as part of a custom job, rather than as a separate item.



Not Available are: Rentals of any kind, patterns other than the "Bocksten Man", armour, weapons, jewellery, leather or fur articles (with rare exceptions), shoes, wigs, large tents, elaborate alterations, nor any ancient Egyptian, Greco/Roman, Baroque, Rococo, Empire, Victorian, Edwardian or 20th Century fashions, but we can sometimes offer consultation or referral.



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