

THE ENGLISH GABLE



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RESEARCH ON THE ENGLISH GABLE HEADDRESS

Presented to Ms. Jennifer Millen

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INTRODUCTION

By 1485 the kingdom had begun to recover from the demographic catastrophe of the Black Death and the agricultural depression of the late 14th century. As the 15th century came to a close, the rate of population growth began to increase and continued to rise throughout the following century. The period has been considered a golden age for the English labourer, but individual prosperity varied widely. There was a well-developed land market among peasants, some of whom managed to rise above their neighbours and began to constitute a class called yeomen. Large landlords entirely abandoned direct management of their estates in favour of a leasehold system. In many cases they faced growing arrears of rent and found it difficult to maintain their income levels. Because many landholders solved the problem of labour shortage by converting their holdings to sheep pasture, much land enclosure took place. As a result a great many villages were abandoned by their inhabitants.

Henry VII reigned in England between 1485 and 1509. Henry VII rebuilt the royal finances by avoiding war, promoting trade and enforcing royal taxes to the point of ruthlessness. This meant he was able to leave a fortune to his son, the future Henry VIII. Henry VII began the work of building a modern administration. The Royal Council was reborn as the Court of Star Chamber, set up to deal with judicial matters. Arrangements were made to promote better order in Wales and the north through the creation of special councils and more powers were entrusted to the justices of the peace. The combined impact of Henry VII's reforms would increase significantly the power of the King and open the way for medieval rule, with its local law and customs, to be gradually supplanted by a more centralised Tudor state. ¹

¹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/henry_vii/

Henry VIII reigned in England between 1509 and 1547. May be perhaps one of the most infamous, but at the same time, well-known kings of all Europe. Married Catherine of Aragon, wife of his deceased brother, but as Catherine could not bear children, Henry totally broke with the Catholic Church and declared himself head of the Church of England. Later he married Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, and Katherine Howard. Only his last wife Katherine Parr could escape alive to his reign. During his reign, Henry VIII spent large amounts of money warring against France and the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

The most notable type of headwear worn by well-to-do and better off Englishwomen during the first decades of the 16th century was an item now referred to as an English hood or Gable Hood. Complex and bulky, and peculiar to England and Flanders, its interior construction is even now a mystery.

I've always been a fan of history, History provides a context to help us better understand our world today. It also teaches innumerable lessons about human behavior, the nature of politics, change over time, how to write and tell a good story, and much more. I feel fascination particularly for England in the XV and XVI centuries and that's the reason why I chose to do my research on The English Gable or English Headdress and I'm hoping to learn everything about it, why would they wear this, when, who, etc.

FACT FILE INFORMATION

Student name: Angie Tatiana De la Hoz Santos

Object researched: The English Gable Headdress

WHO?	<p>This headdress was used by English women only, all social classes used them in different ways depending on their economic conditions. One of the first notable women to wear this headdress was Elizabeth of York, followed by Katherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and other women of the court until the reign of Elizabeth I of England. Girls of all ages and social classes wore the English gable, the gable was worn in a modified form through all this period.</p>
WHAT?	<p>It receives this name because its shape resembles the roof with two needles of a house. The ladies of high classes and queens worn the headdress made with a black silk or some such black material, the top was to the shape of a house roof, the edges would fall by the face on either side, these were sewn with gold and pearls on color white. The queens and ladies of the Tudor court adorned them with rows of pearls, precious stones, and pins. The end of the hood hung over the shoulders and surrounded with stiffened material also richly sewn with jewels.</p> <p>The more moderate headdress worn by the middle class was of black material, but in shape nearly a square, and slit at the sides to enable it to hang more easily over the shoulders. It was often of white linen or black material, placed over a coif, it was turned over from the forehead, folded, and pinned back edged often with gold. On either side of the hood were hanging ornamental tags to tie back the hood from the shoulders, this was the most usual form of wearing the gable.</p> <p>The ordinary headdress, worn by the lower class was made of white linen, crimped or embroidered in white, made in a piece to hang over the shoulders and down the back, folded back and stiffened in front to the triangular shape. This was worn by the older women over a white hood. The plain coif, or close fitting linen cap, was the most general wear for the poor and middle classes of England.</p>
WHERE?	

<p>WHEN?</p>	<p>The English gable was worn in England, Europe, it started to be worn by the ladies of the court from the Westminster Palace and its queen at the moment, Elizabeth of York. Later the fashion spread all over the country. It was worn at all times by the women in court and day to day for middle class. The lower class wore the gable during important events or ceremonies.</p> <p>You can see the extraordinary headdress worn by ladies at the end of the XIV century, the XV century and the first years of the XVI century, worn in a modified form all through the next reign, after which the description of headdress vanished forever, its place to be taken by caps, hats and bonnets.</p>
<p>WHY?</p>	<p>In the beginning the headdress had a religious character and was used that the women fulfilled the norm to carry the covered head in holy places. Over time the headdresses were waning and their use became popular beyond religious standards.</p> <p>The first women to wear it were Elizabeth of York and Margaret of Beaufort, wife and mother-in-law of King Henry VII respectively. Thus, once again, a complement used by the high nobility managed to impose itself to the rest of social classes. Conspicuous consumption, the headdress reflects the status of the person who wore it, the more luxurious it was, higher the social class. The headdress started as an accessory that covered the hair, but later on it was modified to a smaller version without the veil in the back.</p>
<p>OTHER INFO</p>	<p>Henry VIII got married in 1509 to Catherine of Aragon. Despite its Spanish origin, Catherine - to introduce itself in the English court and as it marked the protocol - adopts the English fashions, including the use of the Gable cop. The new queen wore the richly decorated coif, as did her ladies. As for the veils, the portraits show how some women would let them fall naturally while others would pick them up, giving the headdress a pointed hooded appearance. Beginning in 1520, French fashion gradually gained ground, and the ladies of the court began to wear the French headdress, simpler and somewhat less uncomfortable than the Traditional Gable.</p> <p>From 1520-30 Anne Boleyn (second wife of Henry VIII) and Catherine Howard introduce the French headdress. Anne Boleyn, who came from France to serve Catherine of Aragon and would eventually become the second consort of Henry VIII, had been educated in France and wanted to introduce into the English court not only the French hood but the French style of The Renaissance fashion.</p>

	<p>From this, between 1520 and 1530 was born another type of headdress called an intermediate between English and French. It looked like the Gable, with the difference that it did not end up in tip and left part of the woman's hair uncovered. Instead of two veils in the back, they only wore one.</p>
SOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://archive.org/details/englishcostume03caltuoft English costume by Calthrop, Dion Clayton, 1878-1937• http://historiageneral.com/2010/03/03/la-dinastia-tudor-en-inglaterra/• http://www.nationalgeographic.com.es/historia/grandes-reportajes/maria-tudor-la-reina-sangrienta_6682

FACT FILE IMAGE 1



FACT FILE IMAGE 2



FACT FILE IMAGE 3



FACT FILE IMAGE 4



FACT FILE IMAGE / OBJECT IDENTIFICATION

IMAGE 1

Name	Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury
Year / date	1535
Materials	Oils on panel
Color, decorations, motifs	The honeysuckle blossom has connotations of love and faithfulness, and the tiny barrel charm may be an allusion to the execution of her father George, Duke of Clarence, who was apparently drowned in a butt of malmsey wine
Label / artist	Unknown, Given by the Art Fund, 1931
Collection / location	National Portrait Gallery, London
Source	http://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw05579/Unknown-woman-formerly-known-as-Margaret-Pole-Countess-of-Salisbury?search=ap&subj=90%3BHats+and+head-attire&wPage=1&rNo=25

IMAGE 2

Name	Katherine of Aragon
Year / date	1530's
Materials	Oil on panel
Color, decorations, motifs	
Label / artist	Unknown
Collection / location	Collection of Appleby Castle.
Source	http://www.hrp.org.uk/playlists/slideshow/henrys-women/#gs.xmd4zWs

IMAGE 3

Name	Henry VII, Elizabeth of York, Henry VIII and Jane Seymour
Year / date	1667
Materials	Oil on canvas
Color, decorations, motifs	Within a richly decorated Renaissance interior, Henry VII (1457-1509) and his son Henry VIII (1491-1547) stand to the left of a central sarcophagus inscribed with Latin verses celebrating the Tudor dynasty; their queens, Elizabeth of York (1465-1503) and Jane Seymour (1509-1537) stand on the other side. This small painting was copied by the Flemish artist Remigius van Leemput for Charles II from the life-size mural on the wall of the Privy Chamber in Whitehall which was painted by Holbein for Henry VIII in 1537. The wall-painting was destroyed by the fire at Whitehall Palace on 4 January 1698 and this is the only complete record of the mural.
Label / artist	Remigius van Leemput
Collection / location	Haunted Gallery, Hampton Court Palace
Source	https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/405750/henry-vii-elizabeth-of-york-henry-viii-and-jane-seymour

IMAGE 4

Name	Henry VII and Elizabeth of York
Year / date	XVI century
Materials	Marble; bronze
Color, decorations, motifs	The black marble tomb base is adorned with six medallions in copper gilt representing the Virgin Mary and Henry's patron saints.
Label / artist	Renaissance style by Italian sculptor Pietro Torrigiano
Collection / location	Lady chapel, Westminster abbey, England
Source	http://www.westminster-abbey.org/our-history/royals/henry-vii-and-elizabeth-of-york

**CONTEMPORARY CONNECTION
IMAGE**



INFORMATION

Name of object	Crystal-embellished headband
Year / collection	SS17
Label / designer	DOLCE & GABBANA
Materials, color, decorations, motifs	Outer Composition: Silk 10% Outer Composition: Viscose 40% Outer Composition: Crystal 20% Outer Composition: Brass 30% Black velvet crystal-embellished headband
Reason chosen (min. one paragraph)	Headbands are the one of the most fashionable accessories nowadays, headbands can give the illusion of fullness. If you find your hair boring, you can use headbands to give it the illusion of fullness. It could be worn to keep the hair in place or just as a decorative item, this were some of the uses of the English gable which was mainly a decorative item too. From its ancient and humble beginnings in the rustic terrain of the Mediterranean, to the heads of Roman emperors and commoners alike, the transformation of the headband is astounding. Not only is it a fashion accessory, the headband has become a staple in the fashion industry. Just like every other accessory ranging from shoes to purses, the headband has become a fashion trend all its own.
Source of image	https://www.farfetch.com/ca/shopping/women/dolce-gabbana-crystal-embellished-headband-item-11834555.aspx?storeid=9597&from=listing&rnkdmnly=1&ffref=lp_pic_1_9

CONCLUSION

The fact that I really enjoyed doing this Project is amazing, I had the opportunity to learn everything I ever wanted about england in the XV-XVI century, the Tudor dynasty and even more, is crazy how the garments change through history, from a gable with a veil to a simple headband or Hood ore ven a hat.