

# FACT FILE INFORMATION

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Object researched: Fur in the 14th,15th and 16th Century.

<b>WHO?</b>	<p><i>Who used this object?</i> Fur was commonly used as a way to stay warm, and was universally worn.</p> <p><i>Was it used exclusively by men / women / children?</i> It was generally worn by most, however often laws would come about that stated certain dress codes. For example, in 1351 all women were banned from wearing any fur, or fur trimmings on behalf of the Mayor London.</p> <p><i>Was it used by a person of a particular social class?</i> Fur of certain more rare animals were definitely reserved only for the higher class. For example, a dress code law, also brought about by the Mayor of London, banned anyone who was not apart of the Royal Family from wearing furs of ermine and lettice. However to keep up the with the trend, often those with less money would seek out cheaper furs such as lambs (wool) or rabbits fur.</p>
<b>WHAT?</b>	<p><i>What does it look like?</i> Fur, is the coat of an animal, and is composed of many tiny hairs too make one big fur item (think of your own hair.) Fur will differ in appearance, as different animals have different coloured fur, or different patters in their fur. For example, a cheetah has a spotted coat whereas a zebra or tiger has a striped coat.</p> <p><i>What size is the object?</i> The size of fur differs depending on the size of the animal being used for the final product, as well as what is being made. The difference of fur that a bear or wolf would produce compared to a squirrel is significant.</p> <p><i>What is it made of? (materials)</i> It is the hair of an animal. Often when a coat was made fully of fur, it would require many different pelts from the same specie.</p> <p><i>What colours is it found in? Decorations? Motifs?</i> The furs used in this particular time period would of been more in the neutral coloured tones such as brown, white, black, blonde, due to the animals in the area of Europe. The fur that is commonly recognized is the fur used on a kings cloak; the white fur trimming with black dots. This is ermine fur, and the black dots are the ermines tail. Thus, the more black dots, the more ermines used, thus the more money you had. Ermine pelts, throughout history, have been reserved for the rich. In earlier civilizations, the fur of specific animals was used so that hunters would take on the persona of that animal. For example, if a hunter was wearing a lions pelt, the hunter would take on the strength of the lion.</p>

<p><b>WHERE?</b></p> <p><b>WHEN?</b></p>	<p><i>Where was it worn? Specific city / country / continent?</i> Fur was universally worn (and still is). We see evidence of it However, it wasn't until this time period that fur was “trending” and very common among the higher classes, while still being somewhat accessible to the middle class.</p> <p><i>Was it used inside? Outside?</i> Fur was worn mainly as a form of outerwear due to its heaviness and durability, however it could be worn inside in subtle hints such as fur trimmings on coats.</p> <p><i>Was it used during a particular season?</i> Fur would of been worn during the fall or winter months, because it would be too warm to wear in the summer months.</p> <p><i>Was it used during a particular event / ceremony?</i> In this particular time period, fur was not necessarily used for any ceremonies. It would of been seen at events of the higher class too showcase that the person wearing it was wealthy.</p> <p><i>Was it popular for a short or long period of time?</i> Fur has been around from the beginning of time. The first civilizations would of used it too keep warm, and was a very available resource seeing as it is from an animal. Fur is still popular today however it is more often faux.</p>
<p><b>WHY?</b></p>	<p><i>What was the purpose / function / meaning of this object?</i> The purpose for fur in the 14th-16th century was to keep warm from the mini ice age that was taking place. It was also a way for people of wealth to showcase it.</p> <p><i>What was it used for?</i> It was used as an outerwear lining to keep warm.</p> <p><i>Was it symbolic?</i> For earlier generations, yes, as hunters would use them too take on the persona of the animal that they sporting. In ancient Egypt, fur from a leopard was worn only by those that were performing a symbolic ceremony, kings or the high Priest. In the centuries under study, certain furs were more exclusive than others. The fur of an ermine was reserved for those of Royal Families.</p>
<p><b>OTHER INFO</b></p>	<p>In an issue of Vogue 1929, <i>Vogue</i> advises “never try to scrimp on fur. For the fur you wear will reveal to everyone the kind of woman you are and the kind of life you lead.”</p> <p>Faux fur was not created and used until the late 1920's.</p>
<p><b>SOURCES</b></p>	<p><b>Books.</b></p> <p><i>Fashion: The Definitive History of Costume and Style.</i> Great Britain: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2012. Print.</p> <p><b>Web.</b></p> <p>Yvette Mahe. “<i>History of Fur in Fashion: Introduction.</i>” Fashion in Time. Dec.4th 2011. Web. Oct. 28th 2015.</p> <p>Hines, Alice. “<i>The History of Faux Fur.</i>” Smithsonian Mag. Jan.22nd 2015. Web. Oct.28th 2015.</p> <p>Schiller, Marie. “<i>The Squirrel Fur Trade in 14th Century Novgorod.</i>” Web. Oct.28th 2015.</p> <p>“<i>Costume and Dress of the 14th Century.</i>” The Medieval Combat Society. Web. Oct. 28th 2015.</p>

FACT FILE IMAGE 1



FACT FILE IMAGE 2



FACT FILE IMAGE 3



## FACT FILE

### IMAGE / OBJECT IDENTIFICATION

#### IMAGE 1

Name	“The Arnolfini Portrait.”
Year / date	The year it was painted was 1434.
Materials	It was painted on oak with oil.
Color, decorations, motifs	The man on the left, Giovanni di Nicolao Arnolfini who is dressed in a full fur cape. The woman to the right, is his wife, and she is dressed in a fur lined dress. Both the use of fur on their clothing is more as a status symbol because the amount of fur used is unnecessary. For example the woman’s dress has an excessive amount of fabric hanging from the sleeves which meant she was wealthy. Her dress is also excessively long, and fur lined which is absurd because the fur would be dragging along the ground. The National Gallery of London states that “it is not intended as a record of their wedding” as the signature on the painting says “Jack van Eyck was here” thus it is just a statement portrait.
Label / artist	Jan Van Eyck.
Collection / location	This is on display at the National Gallery of Art London, UK.
Source	<i>The Arnolfini Portrait</i> . 1434. National Gallery of Art, London. <i>National Gallery</i> . Web. Oct. 18th 2015.

#### IMAGE 2

Name	“Portrait of a Man and His Wife (Lorenz Krafter and Honest Merz)
Year / date	This painting was done in 1512.
Materials	This double portrait was painted with oil on linden.
Color, decorations, motifs	The fur in this picture is light brown, and likely belonged to an animal that was local and not very expensive. The two in the portrait are just a middle class family, so they would not own rare fur.
Label / artist	The artist is Ulrich Apt the Elder (German, Augsburg ca. 1460–1532 Augsburg).
Collection / location	Under the <i>German Collection</i> at the Met Museum.
Source	<i>Portrait of a Man and His Wife (Lorenz Krafter and Honest Merz)</i> . 1512. German Collection, Met Museum, New York. <i>Met Museum</i> . Web. Oct. 18th 2015.

#### IMAGE 3

Name	“Heinrich vom Rhein zum Mohren”
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Year / date	Late 1520's.
Materials	This was painted on oak with oil and gold.
Color, decorations, motifs	The man in this portrait was on the Frankfurt, Germany, city council, thus he must of been of higher class. We can also differ that he is most likely wealthy due to the amount of fur he is wearing, and the cape style.
Label / artist	This is a copy of the original painting by Conrad Faber von Creuznach.
Collection / location	This painting is apart of the "Jack and Belle Linsky Collection, 1982. It is located at the Met Museum in New York.
Source	<i>Heinrich vom Rhein zum Mohren</i> . Late 1520's. The Jack and Belle Linsky Collection, Met Museum, New York. <i>Met Museum</i> . Web. Oct.18th 2015.

## CONTEMPORARY CONNECTION

### IMAGE



### INFORMATION

Name of object	Mink Fur Capelet
Year / collection	Winter 2015.
Label / designer	Burberry.
Materials, color, decorations, motifs	100% farmed mink fur. The color is "dark blackcurrant."
Reason chosen (min. one paragraph)	The reason that i chose this particular piece is because it displays perfectly what the 14th and 15th century reasons for wearing fur were. Yes, they wore fur then because there was a decrease in temperature however they mainly wore it as a status symbol. The garment above is clearly worn to give the same effect. This mink cape would not be very protective against the cold, and yet it is in a winter wear collection priced at \$7,500. I find it very interesting that fur was a symbol of wealth back then, and the same stereotype still applies today.



Source of image

[burberry.com](http://burberry.com)