

Making Early Period Anglo-Saxon Garb

By: Pierre de Montereau

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Women

General Information

The common women's garb included the sleeved inner gown, peplos, stockings, knee garters, belt, cloaks, bead(s) string, shoes, knife, pouches and purses, brooches and other tools that they carry on or work with including wood cards for tablet weaving, drop spindle, etc.

For the loincloth and/or briaes, all the documents said that the ladies do not wear them. Archaeology finds Anglo-Saxon dig sites and they cannot find any proof that the women wore loincloths and/or briaes because most of the garment only have small parts of fabric which are touching metal objects that are preserved so they cannot be confirmed or denied. Now women use undergarments so I believe that in Early Anglo-Saxon times they used some sort of loincloth and/or briaes.

Sleeved inner gown

The sleeved inner gown was a long gown with sleeves (Tunic Style). The sleeves were tapered to the lady's arms and sometimes has wrists clasp.

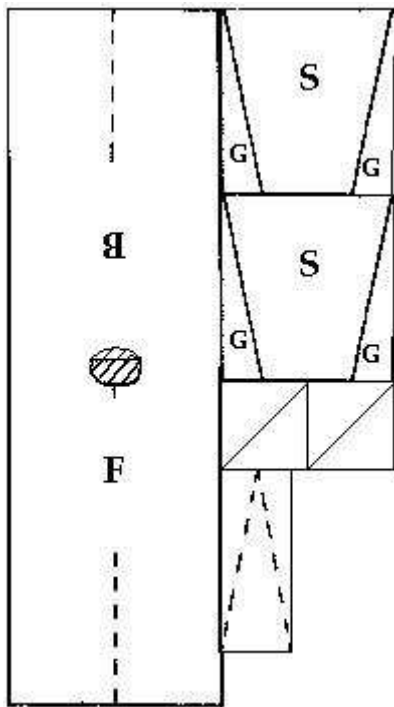


Figure 1: Pattern for Sleeved Inner Gown – Tunic

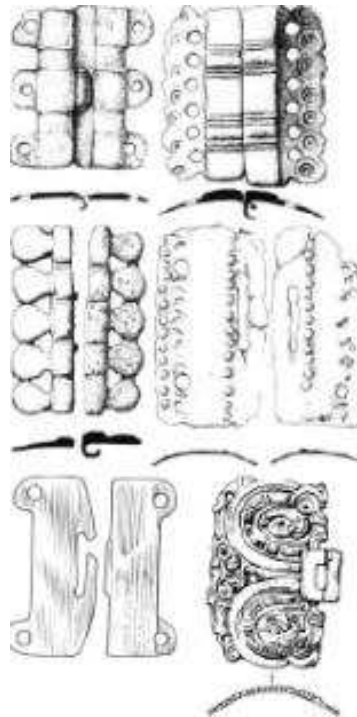


Figure 2: A Sample of Wrist Clasp

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Peplos

The peplos is essentially a tubular cloth, folded inside-out from the top about halfway down, so that what was the top of the tube is now at the waist and the bottom of the tube is about ankle-length. It is then gathered about the waist, and the open top (at the fold) pinned over the shoulders. The top of the tube (now inside-out) drapes over the waist providing the appearance of two pieces of clothing.

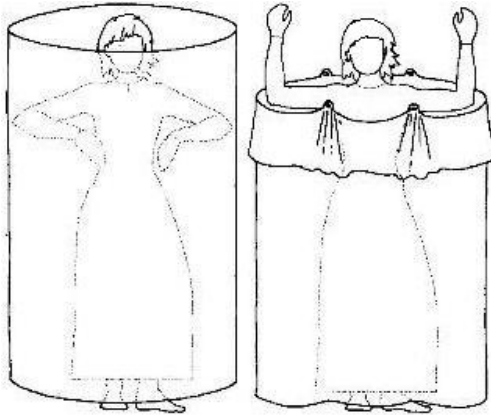


Figure 3: Sample of how to wear a Peplos

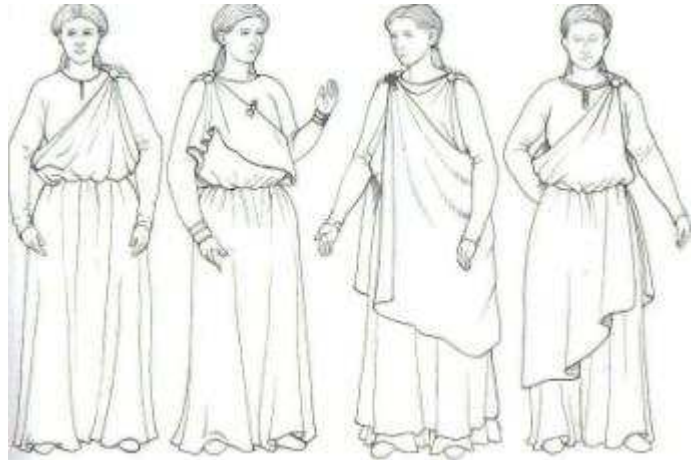


Figure 4: Samples of Peplos Styles

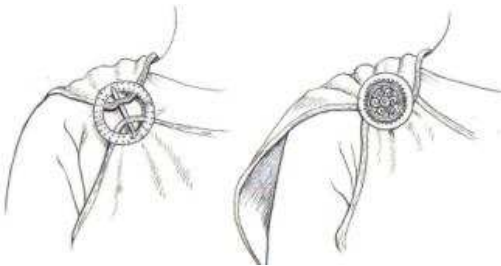
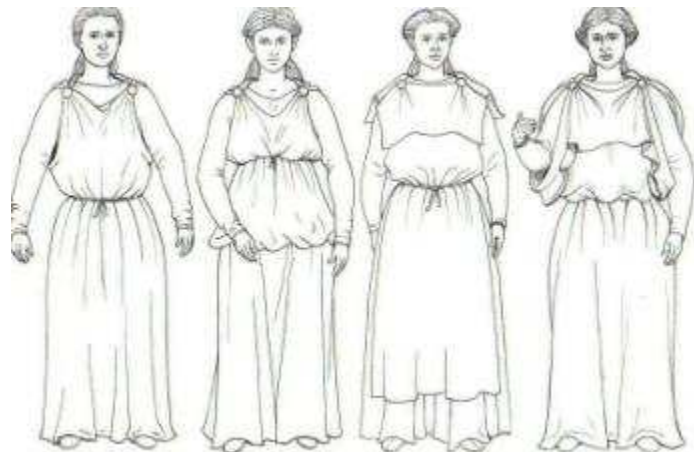


Figure 5: Sample of how you attach the brooch to the Peplos



Stocking and Knee Garters

The stocking generally was a white or off white linen but the poorer woman may have no choice but to use wool next to the skin. There are two main choice to use, either woven and then cut and fit or make it out if Nålbinding. It was held up by knee garters that were made from wool strip or tablet woven.

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Cloaks, Mantles, Capes and Hoods

A cloak, mantles, capes and/or hoods is worn over other garments and fastened at the front with a crossway bow. The cloak can be a large rectangle of wool twill, often with tablet woven borders and fringes and mostly fastened on the right shoulder with a brooch. Another style is the semi circular leather, wool, or skin cloak with or without a hood. Sometime the have a knee-length capes (either animal skin or piled weaves).



Figure 6: Samples of Cloaks, Mantles, Capes and Hooks

Bead String

During the peplos period, a row of beads was often strung between the shoulder brooches and end of the cord being anchored around the brooch pins or at a necklace. There is different styles of beads and location (short loop, Full, round the neck, etc) for different regions. Here are two regions, the Anglian and the Saxon.

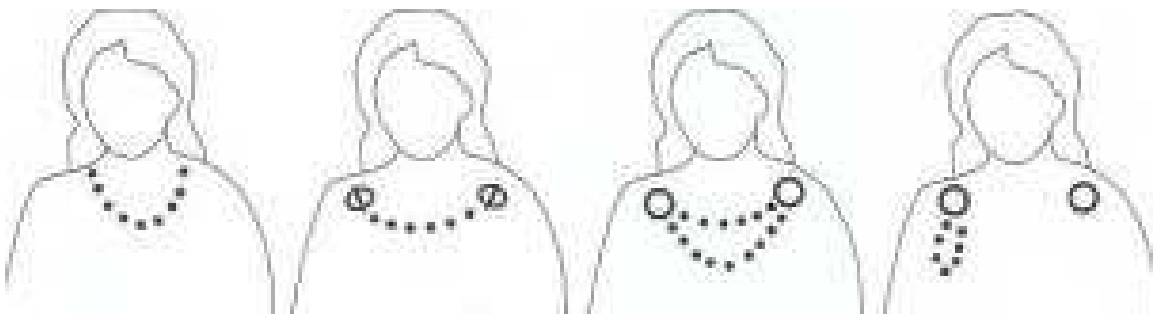


Figure 7: Samples of Beads String

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Veil:

It has been shown that women wore some form of short white linen veil hanging over the shoulders in the 5th and Early 6th century. In the 6th and 7th Century, the veil started to be longer and weight and brocading in different colour including red and gold thread. From the reconstruction is unclear if the women wore the veil bare-headed or with a coif, binde and the a veil on top. Below is the coif, binde and veil.



Figure 8: A reconstruction of a coif (left), binde headband (middle) and veil (right)

There are different styles of veils.



Figure 9: Above is a reconstruction of short veils from the migration period. Below is a reconstruction of longer veils from Later Period

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Men

General Information

The common men's garb included the inner tunic, outer tunic, trousers, leg and foot covering, loincloth and/or briaes, cloak and/or warrior jacket, headwear, belt, shoes, pouches and purses, necklace, brooches, knife and/or seax, spear, sword and a shield.

Inner Tunic/Outer Tunic

The tunic is the basic men's garment, and it was common to wear a wool one over a linen under tunic. Your tunic should reach at least to your knees, and the skirt is flared with gores. The sleeves should fit fairly closely along the forearms, and can end anywhere between wrist and fingertips.

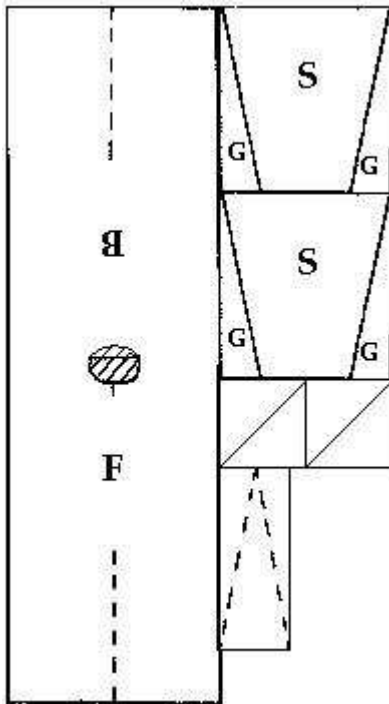


Figure 20: Pattern for Tunic

Trousers

The main trouser was Thorsberg Trousers dated to 3rd or 4th Century A.D. that covered the foot like present day tights. They were found in Thorsberg and in a bog in Slesvig. The Damendorf Trousers dated between 2nd thru 4th Century A.D. in a bog at Damendorf, and his pants, shoes, leg wrappers and belt were bundled up and thrown in beside him. (Hubbell, 52) The extent pants from the Thorsberg and Damendorf finds indicate a slim fit, belted at the waist.

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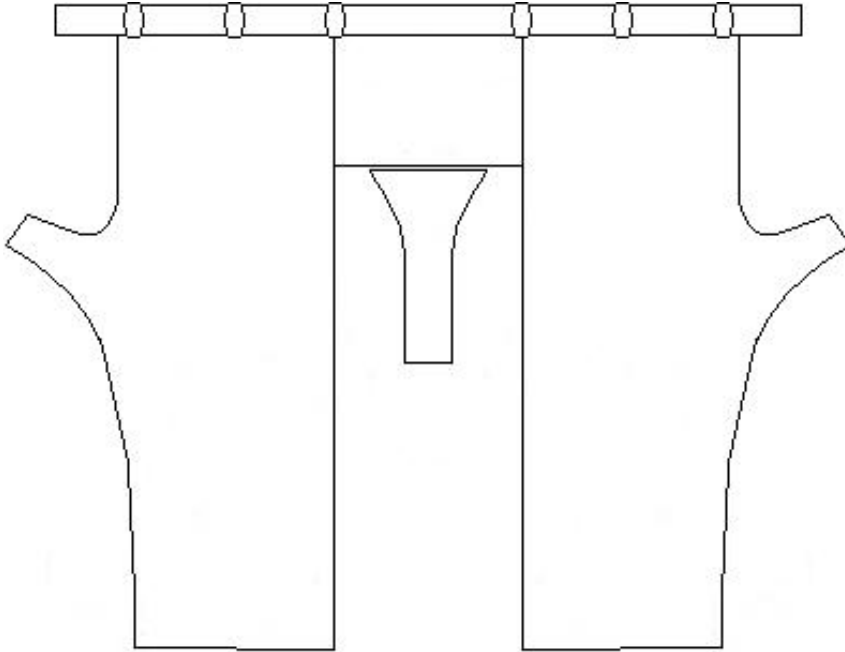


Figure 11: Thorsberg Trousers

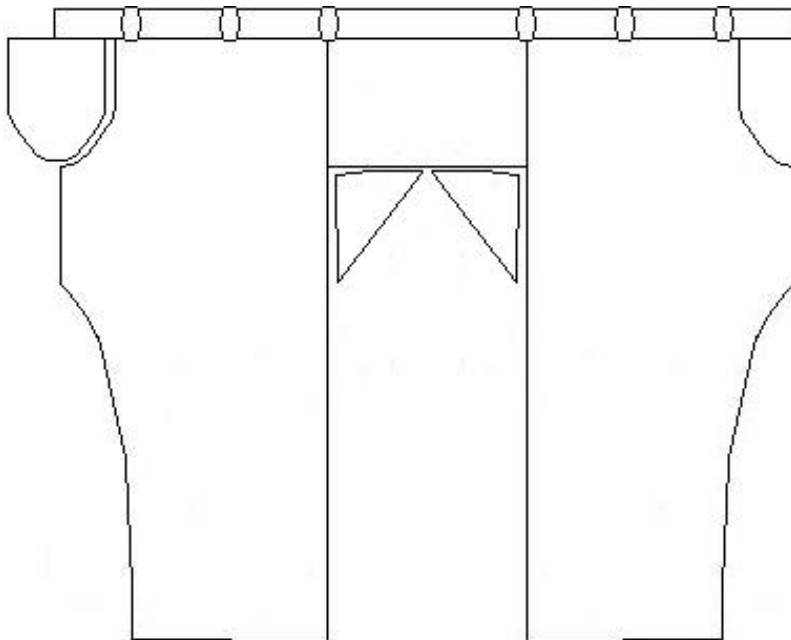


Figure 12: Damendorf Trousers

Socks

The socks generally were a white or off white linen but the poorer man may have had no choice to use wool to the skin. There are two main choice to use, either woven and then cut and fit or make it out if Nålbinding.

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Cloak and Capes

There are many different styles of cloaks and capes for the early period anglo-saxon. The cloak was a large rectangle of wool twill, often with tablet woven borders and fringes and mostly fastened on the right shoulder with a brooch. Another style is the semi circular leather, wool, or skin cloak with or without a hood. Sometimes they have knee-length capes (either animal skin or piled weaves).

Headwear

Some of the men would wear the Pannonian cap. It is a pill-box shape and could be made of sheepskin, felt or leather. Other styles of hat might have entered the Early Anglo-Saxon sphere include skull cap, and the Phrygian cap.



Figure 13: Pannonian Cap (left), Phrygian Cap (Right)

Warrior Jacket

The warrior jacket is not only for warmth but some have tablet-woven bands that had a pattern and used for the around the neckline and down both side of the front opening. Some tablet-woven had gold-brocading in the front opening.

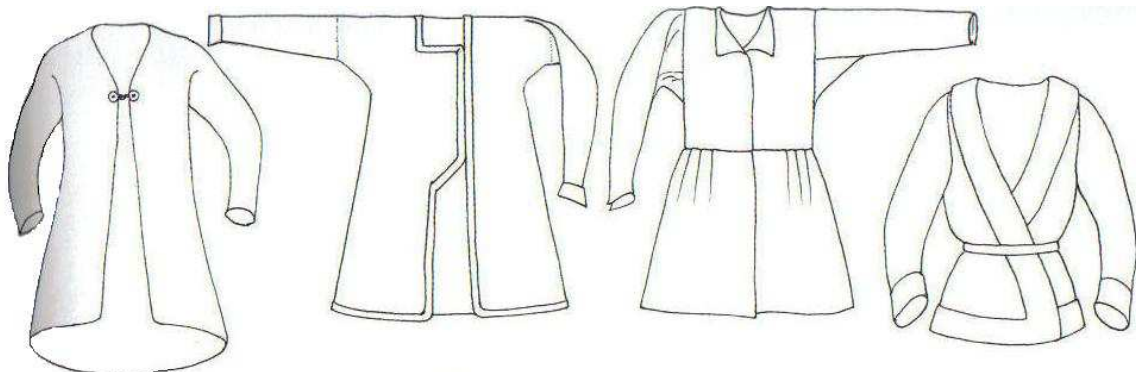


Figure 14: Garments with a front opening worn by men

Other Accessories

General Information

Other accessories included loincloth and briaes, belt(s), shoes, winningas, pouches and purses, brooches, and weapons are for both male and female.

Loincloth and Briaes

The loincloth was used thru out the medieval time period. It is a simple piece of linen cloth with ties to attach it together.

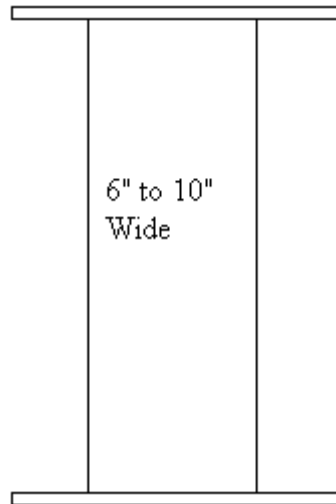


Figure 15: A sample of a loincloth (left) and a simple pattern of a loincloth (right)

Briaes, the universal folded undergarment, was worn, tied with a drawstring. To this could be fastened hose, like the Frankish hose, or very close-fitting breeches could be worn over this.

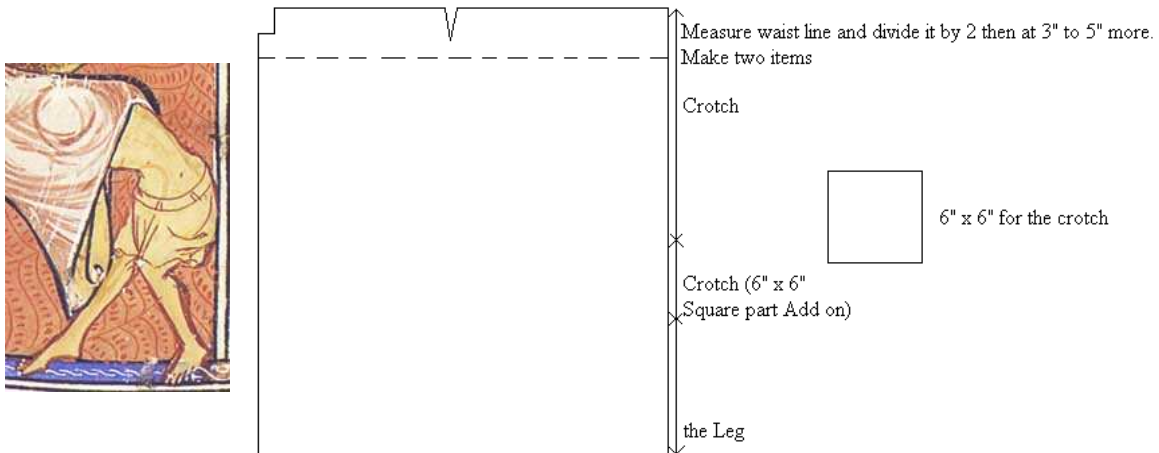


Figure 16: Illustration shows the shortening of the briaes in the 14th century (left) and a pattern of a briaes (right)

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Belt

There are two different styles of belts, one is plain for things like belting the trousers and under dress as seen below:



The other has design and visible as seen below:

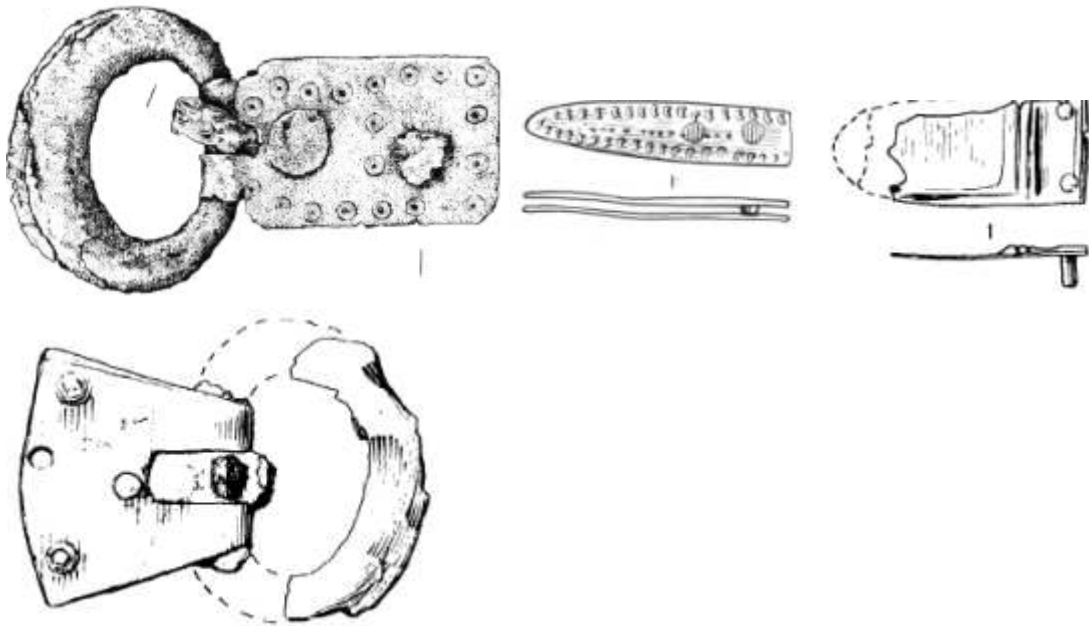


Figure 17: Sample of Belt Buckles

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Shoes

Below is some of the example of shoes that the Anglo-Saxon people would wear. This is for both men and women.

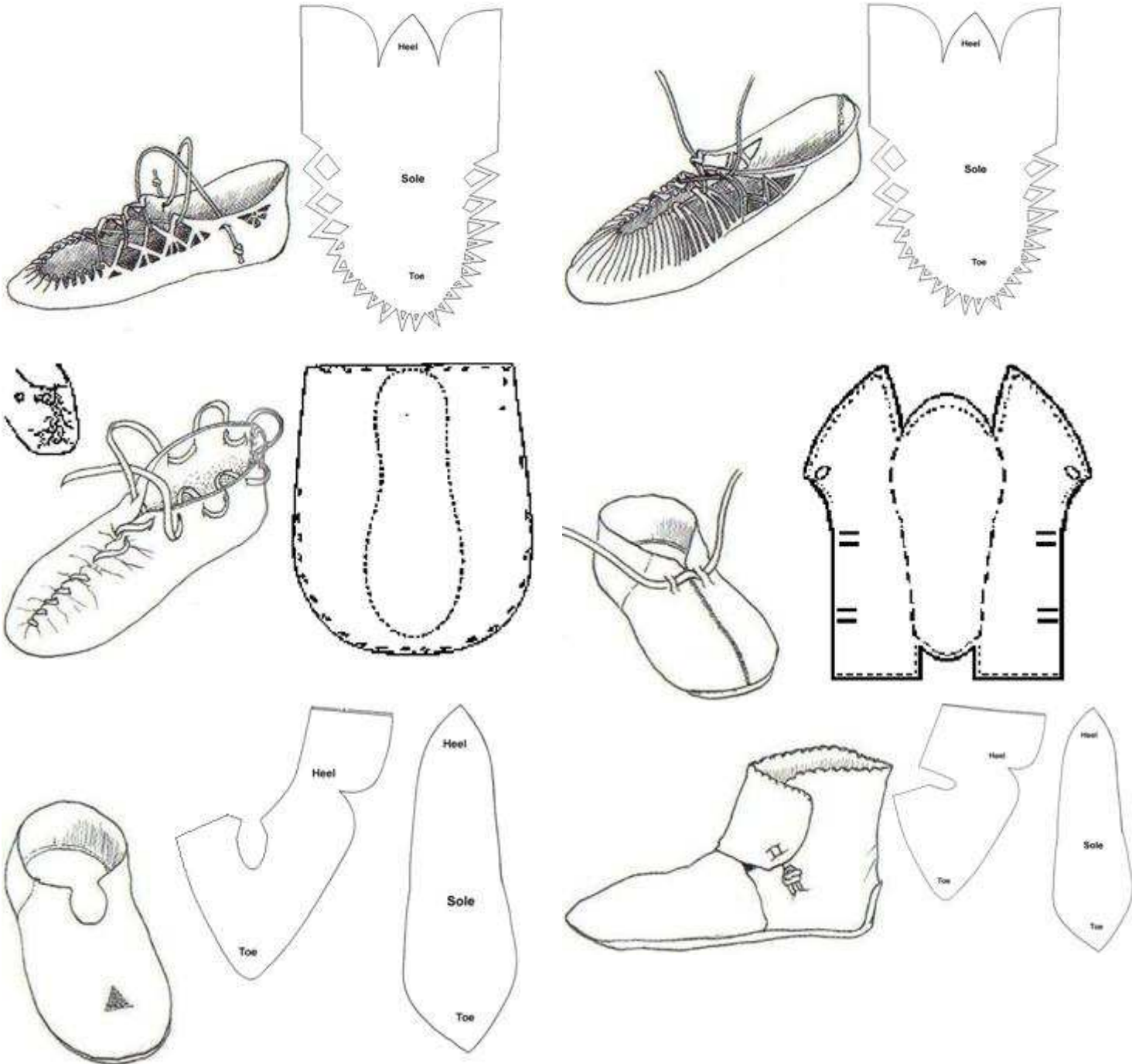


Figure 18: Samples of Shoes and simple pattern. Arnitlund, Denmark (Top-Left), Ægyptenmore Denmark (Top-Right), Drumacoon Bog, Ireland (Middle-Left), Sutton Hoo Sf 9 Mound 1 (Middle-Right), Sutton Hoo Sf 9 Mound 1 (Bottom-Left), and Banstead Down Srl. (Bottom Right)

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Winingas

Winingas are also known as legwraps, wickelbander or puttees. The winingas was a strip of woven woollen fibre measured about 4" wide and over 9' long and were wrapped around the lower leg among the Anglo-Saxon and Viking cultures. Winingas protected the lower leg of the working man against "brambles" and other low-lying thorny plants and provided warmth in cold months, especially for older folks. There are different common types of weave including tabby, twill, herringbone, and broken diamond. It is apparent that these were woven on small-scale regular looms, and not card-woven.

The winingas were wrapped spirally around the lower leg. Both legs were wrapped in the same direction. The strip was fastened at the top, possibly by simply tucking in the strip. Clothing hooks are often found just below the knees of skeletons, so it is reasonable to assume that their function was to hold up the winingas.

Pouches and Purses

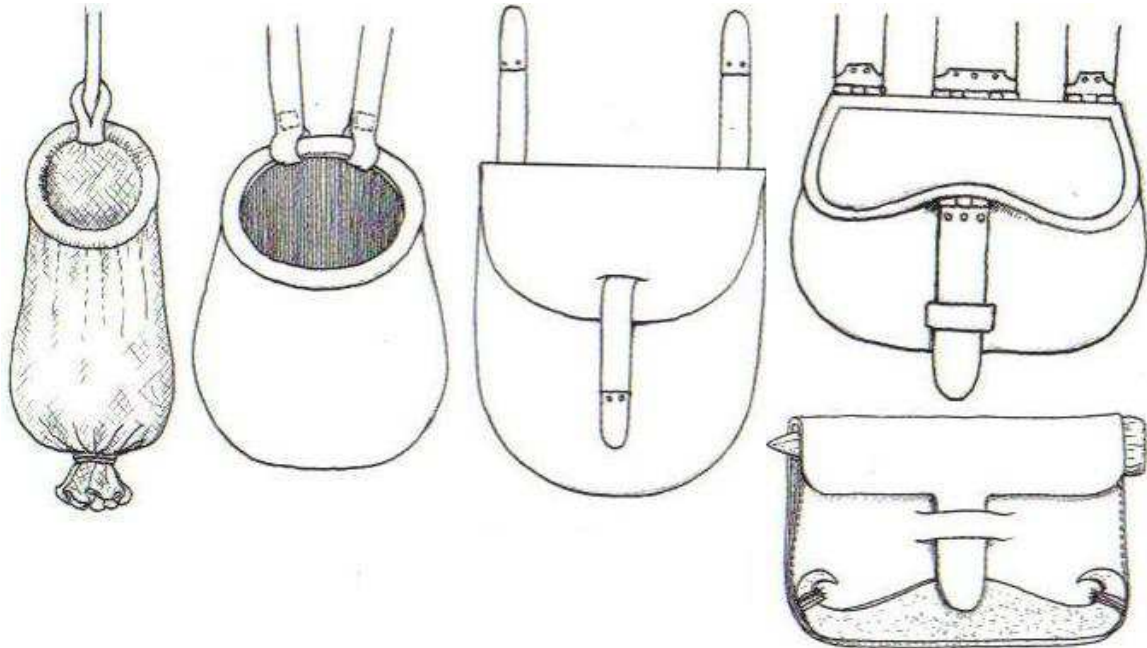


Figure 19: These are some of the example of pouches and purses in Anglo-Saxon

Brooches

There are different kinds of brooches includes Penannular Brooches, Annular Brooches, Small-Long Brooches, Cruciform Brooches and Square Headed Brooches

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Cruciform Brooches

The Cruciform Brooches would be use to attach the cloak, mantles or capes

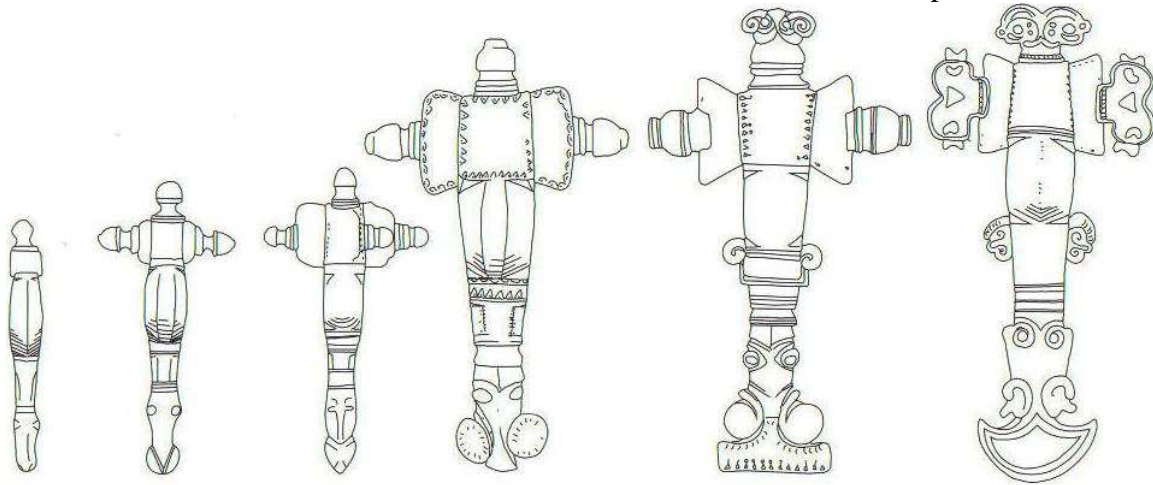


Figure 20: Cruciform Brooches

Penannular Brooches

The Penannular Brooches is a “C” shapes Copper-alloy or Wrought Iron brooches with a pin. Most of the research found that the penannular brooches are less popular in Early Anglo-Saxon.

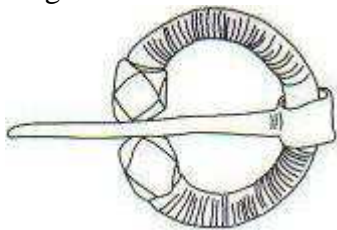


Figure 21: Penannular Brooches

Small-Long Brooches

This is some of the example of Small-Long Brooches.

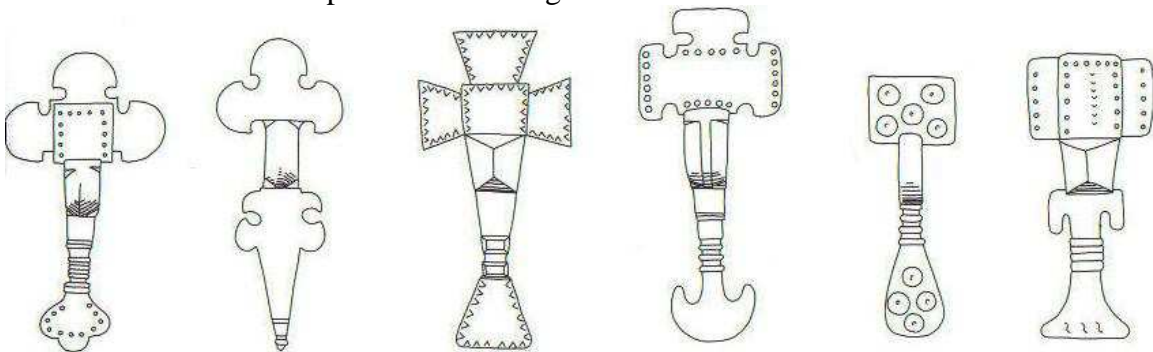


Figure: 22 Small-Long Brooches

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Square Headed Brooches

The Square Headed Brooches would be used to attach the cloak, mantles or capes.



Figure 23: Square Headed Brooches

Annular Brooches

Annular Brooches are mostly for women to attach the peplos gown together at the shoulder area.

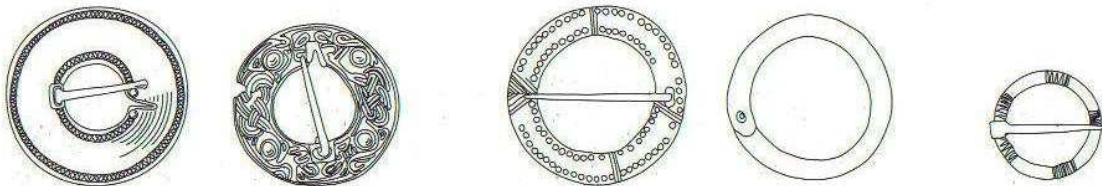


Figure 24: Annular Brooches

Weapons, Knives and Tools

Both men and women would carry at least one knife or seax. Most of the men would also carry a sword, a spear and/or a bow for hunting and/or going to war but not always carry all of them at one time.

There are other tools that they carry on or work with including woods card for tablet weaving, drop spindle, warp weighted loom, etc

Children

The children's garments are the same as the adult garment but the size is different. The neck ornament consisting of a very few beads or a single bead. Children were not provided with more than one knife and it was smaller than those of adults.

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Figure Note

- (1) This drawing from Pierre de Montereau
- (2) This picture was a sample from An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Norton, Cleveland. By S J Sherlock and M G Welch and An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery At Great Chesterford, Essex by Vera I. Evison
- (3) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (4) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (5) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
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- (8) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (9) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (10) This picture from Pierre de Montereau
- (11) This picture from Pierre de Montereau
- (12) This picture from Pierre de Montereau
- (13) This picture on the left was from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers, the picture in the right was N.S.Gill's Ancient History Blog By N.S. Gill (ancienthistory.about.com/b/2007/11/14/ancient...)
- (14) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (15) This picture and drawing from Pierre de Montereau

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- (16) This picture was a sample from Chaussees And Braies Garments for the Medieval Leg (<http://www.randyasplund.com/browse/medieval/chausse1.html>) from the left. From the right, drawing from Pierre de Montereau
- (17) This picture was a sample from An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Norton, Cleveland. By S J Sherlock and M G Welch and An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery At Great Chesterford, Essex by Vera I. Evison
- (18) This pictures of the Shoe was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers. The drawing of a simple pattern from Pierre de Montereau.
- (19) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
- (20) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers
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- (24) This picture was a sample from Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England: AD 450-700 by Penelope Walton Rogers

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