



The Queen's Servants: Gentlewomen's Dress at the Accession of Henry VIII (Tudor Tailor Case Studies)

Caroline Johnson

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REVISED SECOND EDITION featuring a new comprehensive glossary, corrections, clarifications, and streamlined pattern making instructions - all based on new research and reader feedback. The Queen's Servants paints a vivid picture of the styles of dress worn at Henry VII's and Henry VIII's courts, using evidence from royal warrants and account books in The National Archive. Purchases by the Great Wardrobe for the ladies of gentle birth who attended the queens and their children are clues to the appropriate appearance of a woman in close contact with the royal family. Based on more than 200 pages of original documents dating from 1485 to 1520, the book reveals a wealth of fascinating facts about expenditure on garments for gentlewomen serving at the Tudor court. The documents provide precise evidence of the fabrics and yardages, pinpointing features of cut and construction. The clothes demonstrate a transition in English style between the flowing lines of the late medieval period and those toward the end the reign of Henry VIII when French gowns and hoods became the characteristic wear of the elite. Typical furs, fabrics and colours are identified with their conventional uses for specific garments and indications as to how these changed over the 35 years of the survey period. Patterns provide guidance on the reconstruction of a complete set of clothes for a gentlewoman at the turn of the century including several styles of smock, a typical kirtle and two styles of gown with a range of sleeve variations. Bonnets, pastes and frontlets are the usual items of headwear issued to gentlewomen during the era. Suggestions for recreating these are also provided. The range of original images, previously unpublished material from documentary sources, and the artist's impressions of clothing based on them make this book an essential text for students of 16th century dress and an asset to anyone interested in accurately reproducing clothing of the era.

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