

What do I do with My Hair

Ponytail to Period Hair

Genevieve d'Aquitaine
Jthies@umuc.edu

Hair as Foundation

- Hair is bound up and out of the way to keep it cleaner and tangle free.
 - Hairstyles can be the foundation to certain hats, a starting not an ending point to looking more period.
 - Hair treatments can help to stabilize even simple headgear.
- Ponytails and simple braids are actually period too, depending on the circumstance.

Vocabulary

- **Filets** are horizontal bands encircling the crown of the head, earlier it was a simple band, but turned into an open pillbox hat.
- **Cauls** also change from buns on sides of head, to horned head dresses, to decorative bun covers on back of head.
- **Coifs** are close fitting cloth hats, simple in Viking times, tailored in 12-14th cent., stylized for Italians, and highly decorative for the 16th cent.

Viking



- Valkyrie. Runestone from Alskog, Tjängvide, Gotland.
- Shows hair pulled into knotted ponytail
- Requires long hair or clever use of extensions

Viking cont.



- Valkyrie on Horseback. Figure set above a pillar in the stave church at Urnes.
- Clearly shows hair is knotted not scarf
- Long hair was a sign of stature, slaves (thralls) had hair cut

Viking cont.



- Silk cap from Coppergate digs
- Hats, scarves, or veil and a filet would have been worn
- Braids keep hair tucked under hat or veils, can anchor as well.

Normans, 12th Cent.



9. "Where a Lady with a Dog and a Man with a Falcon..."
Embroidered purse, 1170-1200. Silk threads on linen.
4 1/2" x 7 1/2" (11.5 x 19 cm). Chartres, Musée Municipal.
Museum of Modern Art, New York

- Long set of braids
- Possibly used extensions
- Covered in braid cases; kept clean, and easily made longer than actual hair.
- Could be covered by veil and circlet

12th Cent. Cont.



- Chartres Cathedral jamb statues, circa 1150
- Shows long braids, possibly in cases
- Pillbox shaped hat, possibly filet or crown

12th Cent. cont.



- Eleanor of Aquitaine, tomb effigy, circa 1200
- Crown, veil, barrette, hair is likely arranged in a hair net

Maciejowski Bible, circa 1250



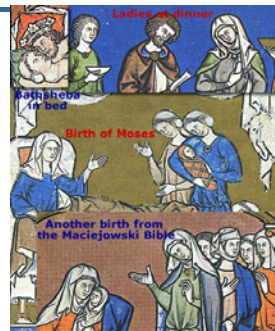
- Shows a variety of women's hair styles
- Veils with and without wimples, longer and draped, Filet and Barrette

Maciejowski Bible, cont.



- Filet and barrette over loose hair
- Loose hair alone, but pulled away from face
- Servant/working woman veil in turban/cap arrangement

Maciejowski Bible, cont.



- More images showing hair:
 - Loose hair
 - Veil and wimple
 - Veil alone
 - Veil wrapped up in solid hair net arrangement
 - Veil tucked up like turban
 - Hair covered even in bed

Early 14th Cent. Italian



- Giotto's Life of Joachim, Meeting at the Golden Gate (detail), 1305
- Two braids brought from nape of neck to wrap around at forehead.
- Shallow hats, large veils/mantles.

Early Italian, cont.



- Giotto's Life of the Virgin, Visitation, 1306
- Similar braid arrangement
- Hair net
- Loose hair

Early 14th Cent.



- Joan, Lady do Cobham, died 1320
- Veil and wimple over cauled hair
- Hair likely piled or braided to sides of head, over ears
- Hair net probably holds hair in place under veils

14th Cent. French

- Fragment of a Tomb Effigy of Marie de France (1327-1341), ca. 1381
- Flexible circlet around braids, likely jeweled



Mid 14th Cent. France

- *The Romance of Alexander* illuminated by Jehan de Grise, Bodleian Library, circa 1344
- Ladies with and without veils, all have braids at temples



Mid 14th Cent. France, cont.



- Lady at her Toilet, Luttrell Psalter, 1345
- Servant has simpler arrangement
- Braids on either side of head arranged into coils or loops

14th Cent. Working Women



- Le four a Pains, Tacuinum Sanitatis, 1385
- Working women making bread
- Hair bound in braids, or ponytail under turban

Tres Riches Heures, April



- Duc de Berry Hours, Limbourg Bros., circa 1415
- Padded roll over hair styled into horns
- Padded roll over simple braid, or loose hair

Tres Riches Heures, May



- Horned headdresses over hair styled into horns
- Styled hair alone, visible hair nets in enlarged pics

Tres Riches Heures, June



- Women working in field, casual clothing
- Turban over loose hair, Veil over bound hair

Arnolfini marriage portrait

- Portrait of Giovanni Arnolfini and his Wife (detail), Jan van Eyck, 1434
- Hair styled into horns, headdress or cauls over hair
- Layered ruffle-edge veils



German Altarpiece, Mid 1400's



- Altarpiece of the Patron Saints of Cologne (detail), Stefan Lochner, 1440
- Hair arranged into elaborate cauls
- Simple braid under padded roll

Mid 15th Cent.- Bath House



- Valerius Maximus, Des faits des Romains, 15th century.
- Women bathing and sleeping with hair bound in turbans

Burgundian Lady



- Portrait of a Lady, Rogier van der Weyden, 1455
- Hair is pulled back severely from face, likely in a bun
- Hat is small pillbox hennin, anchored using black loop, may be pinned to bun

Range of Burgundian Styles



Loysel Liedet. Somme rurale de Jean Bouteiller, MS Fr. 202, fol 15v, French, 1471. Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Medieval Women Calendar 1997

- Ponytail and headband for younger ladies
- Hennins in various shapes and sizes for marriagable or recently married ladies
- Cauls and veils or hoods for older married ladies

Later 15th cent. Italian



- Portrait of a Young Woman, Botticelli, 1475
- Hair pulled back from face in bun or braids
- Covered with caul and/or sheer veil

15th Cent. Italian, cont.



- Portrait of Ginevra de' Benci. Leonardo da Vinci, 1475
- Hair parted in middle, pulled back into bun/braids in caul
- Loose hair/bangs around face



15th Cent. Italian, cont.

- Working women, various styles
- Hair taped around head, styled into horns
- Hair braided and taped around head
- Turbans and coifs used to cover hair



Late 15th Cent. Flemish

- Barbara Moreel and family, Hans Memling, 1484
- Truncated hennin and veil
- Black headbands with wire loops
- Hair style denoted age



Late 15th Cent.

- St. Ursula Shire: Arrival in Cologne, Hans Memling, 1489
- Ponytails, with or without padded rolls
- Cauls on most important lady

Late 15th Cent. German



- Mein Agnes, Albrecht Durer, 1494
- Sketch of lady with loose hair gathered in simple braid
- Likely a very informal setting with loved one.

Early 16th Cent. Italian



- Portrait of Barbara Pallavicino, A. Araldi, 1510
- Jewel studded circlet over caul that extends to braid case.
- Circlet helps keep hair back and ensures a well defined part

Early 16th Cent. Italian



- Portrait of a Woman, V. Carpaccio, 1510
- Venetian style to pile taped hair on top instead of back of head
- Bangs left loose on sides

Early 16th Cent. Flemish



- Portrait of a Man and Woman (detail), Joos van Cleve, 1527
- Hair remains pulled back into braid or bun
- Headband likely used to anchor reverse creased veil at top and back of head

16th Cent. German



- Saxon Princesses Sibylla, Emilia and Sidonia. Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1535
- Hair bound within cauls
- Or braided and crossed over head with circlet

Mid 16th Cent. Italian



- Portrait of Lucrezia Panciatichi, A. Bronzino, 1540
- Hair is parted in middle and taped up across top of head
- Could be covered in a caul as well
- Jewel adornment

Mid 16th Cent. English



- Portrait of an Unknown Lady, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1541
- Hair parted in middle, likely back half is in a bun
- French hood worn over hair, may use chin strap

Mid 16th Cent. Spanish



- Self-Portrait, Sofonisba Anguissola, 1554
- Hair is parted in middle of forehead and drawn back into braids, a bun or a caul

16th Cent. Flemish Peasants



- The Peasant Dance, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1568
- Reverse creased veils used by working class as simple veils or piled into turbans

16th c. English Townspeople



- Marriage Fete at Bermondsey, Joris Hoefnagel, 1569
- Ladies wearing coifs over bound hair.
- Some have tall hats over their coifs



Late 16th Cent. French

- Elizabeth of Austria, Queen of France, Francois Clouet, 1571
- Hair parted in middle and twisted back from face
- Caul covers bun and tucked in hair

Archeological Evidence

- Many many combs, Viking to 16th cent.
- False hair circa 1430, braids attached to woven silk band, MoL book item # 1450
- Hair pins, straight and U shaped, all types of metals used
- Wire frames of head dresses:
 - Tudor Gable wire frame
 - 14th Cent. Cauls, silk covered copper alloy wire with traces of a silk veil
 - Iron wire circlet covered in silk wrapped wire decoration.

Lessons:

- Avoid common snood; style/bind hair within a hair net to give shape.
- Match hair to time period and vocation.
 - Turbans with court sideless surcote=bad
 - Turbans with short sleeved kirtles in kitchen=good
- Even simple styles can be elegant.
- Use hair to anchor head dress.
- Straight pins are your friends.

Additional Resources

- Viking Answer Lady on Hair:
<http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/hairstyl.htm>
- Aenor on 12th c. Women's Headgear:
<http://www.angevintreasures.com/aenor/womenhead.htm>
- Hat and Hair articles by Cynthia Virtue:
<http://www.virtue.to/articles/>
- Italian Renaissance Hair Taping by Margo Farnsworth:
<http://www.mfgraffix.com/hird/faoilt/hairtape.html>
- Elizabethan Costuming Page, Drea Leed:
<http://costume.dm.net/content.html#headwear>
- Web Gallery of Art, inspiration:
<http://www.wga.hu/index1.html>