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Puijonsarvi School,
Kuopio Finland

Clothing during the Iron age and Middle ages in Finland

-Viking age: 800-1025

-The Crusades:1025-1300



St. Olavi's castle in Savonlinna

How people dress themselves in the Middle Age?

People use to dress according their social class and wealth. They made fabrics by themselves. People grew plants, which they made fabrics. The plants were hemp, nettle and linen. From sheeps people took wool to make yarn. Cotton wasn't very common until after 1800's. Some fabrics were brought abroad like linen from Russia and Estonia.

Clothing layers

It was common, during the Middle age, that people wore multiple layers of clothing at the same time. Outfit contained usually the following layers:

- The underwear layer: undershirt, woolly hat, etc.
- The vessel costume layer: Visible under the coating layer. Wool or silk.
- The coating layer: Wool. The look of the coating layer depended about fashion, person's rank in society and personal taste.
- The outside coating: This layer was often just another layer of coating layer clothes and possibly more headpieces.



Woman's costume by Oona Virtanen 8B

Men's wear:

Dalmatic

Dalmatic is a full length large dress suit, which is attached with a belt. The sleeves are wide. In the hem, cuffs and in the neck opening there is usually some embroidery decoration. Dalmatic is worn over a tunic. It was so long that you did not need long trousers, at the most you needed trouser socks. Men wore leather shoes.



Men's wear by Miia 8A

Women`s wear:

The upper part 1100`s european dress was pretty tight and it broadened strongly towards the hem. Sleeves were tight only to elbows, where they started broaden to wrists. Women had also agown upon their shoulders. It was buckled with brooch.

Also with the festive costumes they used pinafore. It was tied with handmade string. Some decorative figures sheltered like decorative lattice in the lower part of a pinafore.



We don't know much about the Middle age costumes, but at this time people used to be buried in their festive costumes and some parts of the clothing have been found from there.

This Kaukola dress includes white shirt, dark black pinafore and long head dress. Shoes were made of leather.



By Sofia Rönkkö

Shoes

Kurpponen, a leather shoe, is knowingly one of our oldest shoes. We used kurpponen already in the Iron age especially in Balticum and Russia. The older ones were found from diggings of Turku.

In the middle ages shoes were non-interest bearing and expensive. We have done shoes and belts from the leather of bovine.

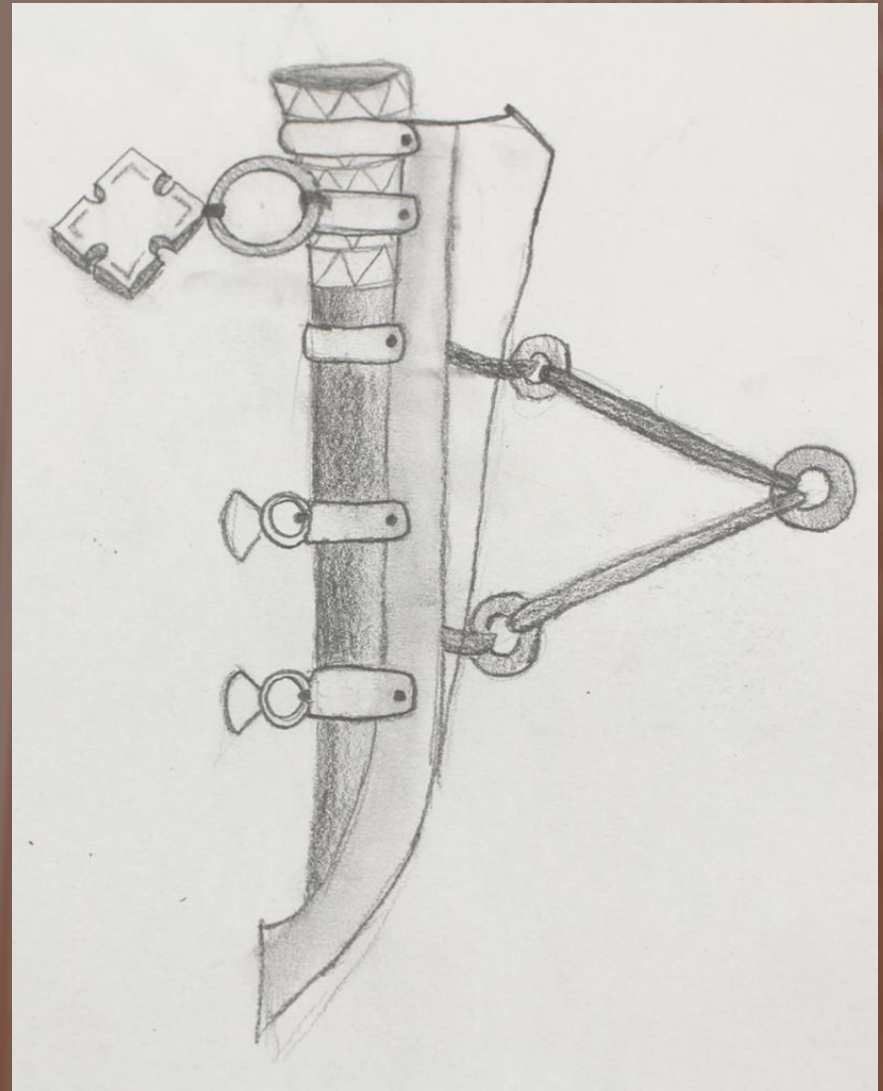
Sheep, goats, seals, swine and other leather in shoes were few. Shoes may have been neutral-colored.



Decorations in dress

Women started to decorate their clothes with spiral decorations in 800's. Woven details were important in Finnish suit. The spirals were around the edges of apron. Women also made woolen ribbons that they fix to aprons and dresses.

Knife was in daily use and it belonged also to festive costume. Because of that, the sheath could be very decorative. Sheaths were made of birchbark and leathers in the 1000's and decorated with brass plates.



The sheath by Ronja Mankinen 8B

Decorated brooches

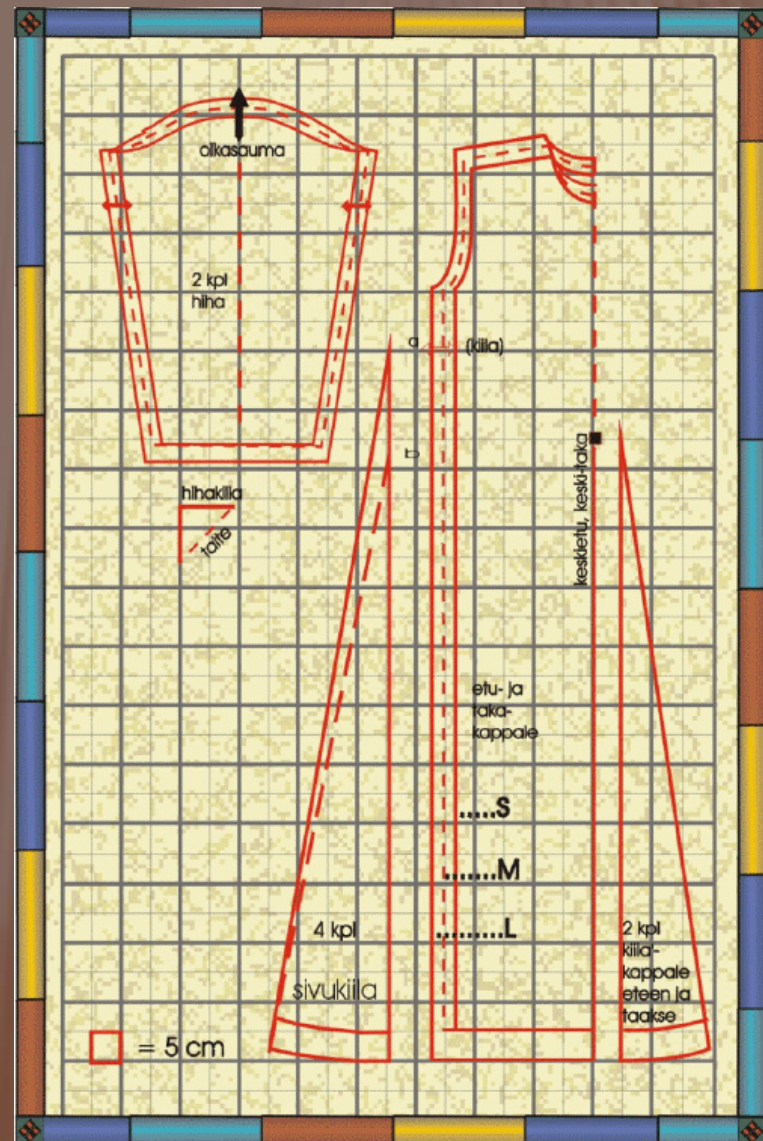
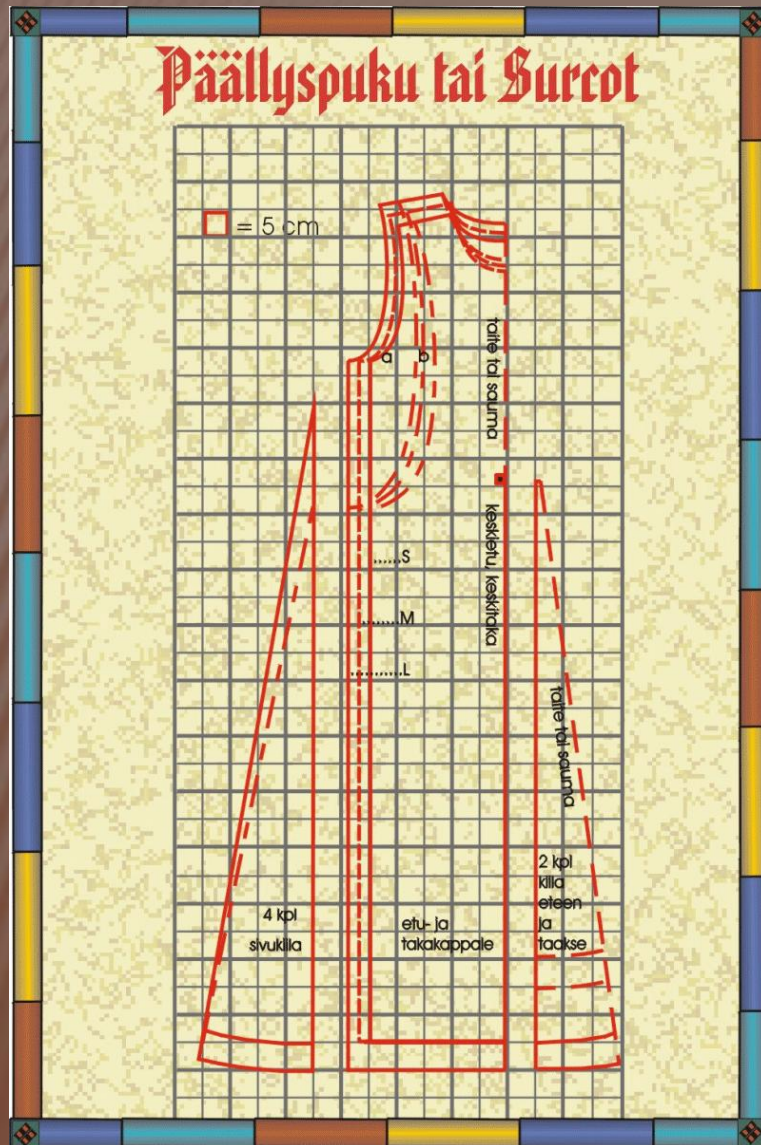


Pendants had often religious decorations.

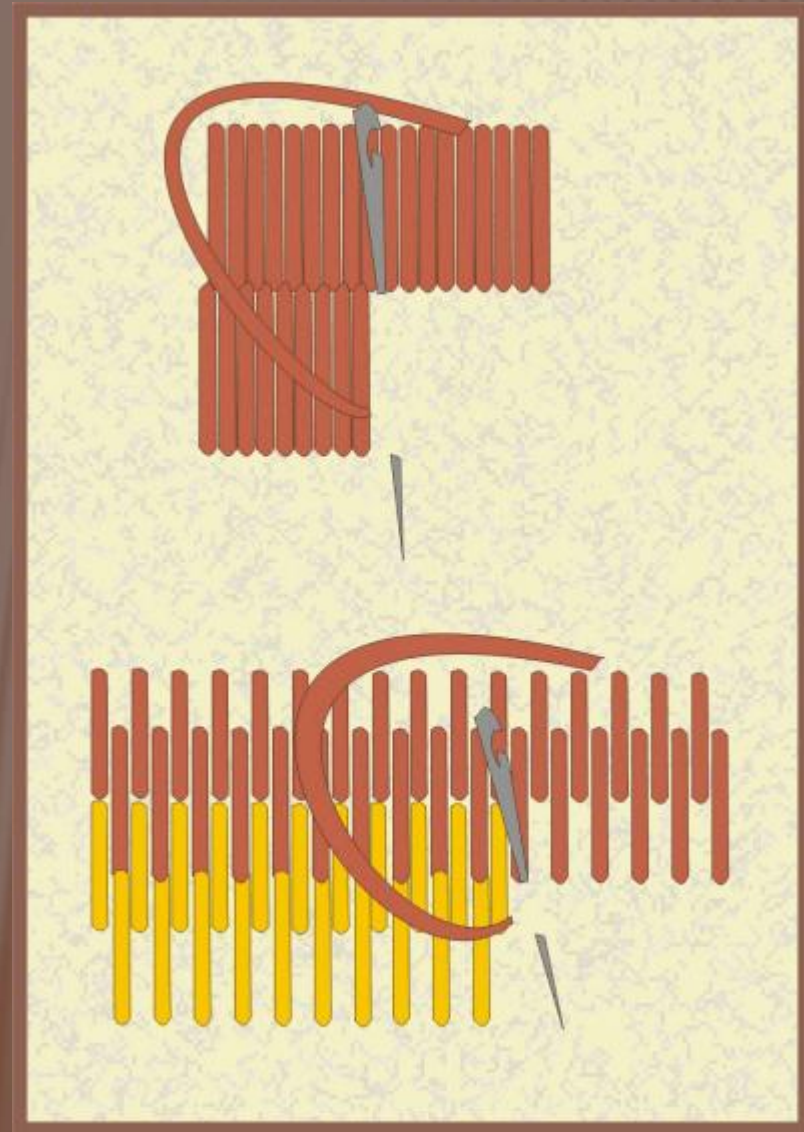
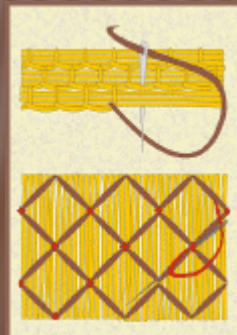
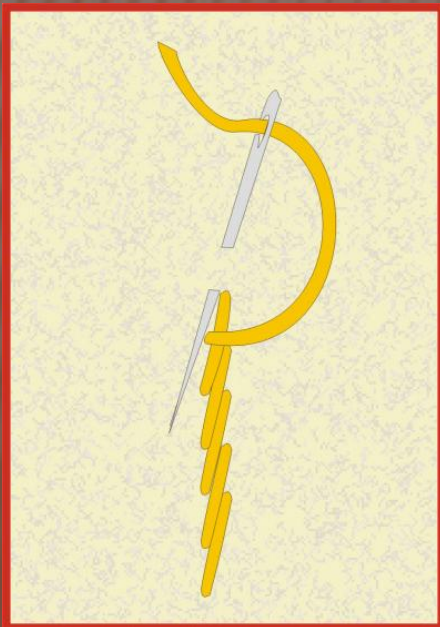
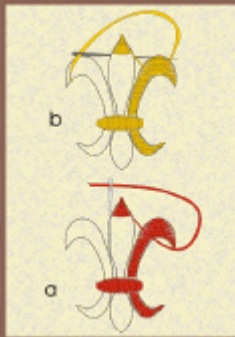
Women carried also a leather purse tied to their woolen string.



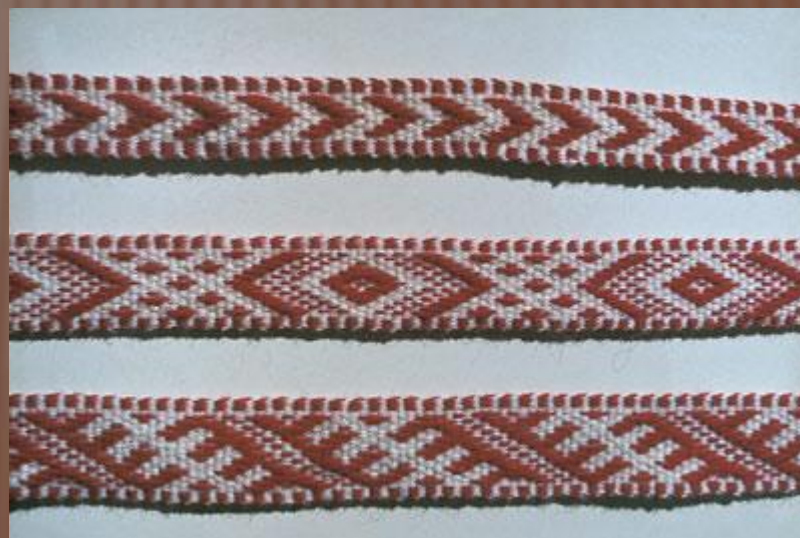
The patterns for dresses were simple and cut economically from fabrics.



The fabric decorations were heraldic figures and different stiches.



Decorative ribbons in clothes



Sources:

- www.edu.turku.fi/tiimalasi
- Hovi, Satu; Maahinen,Hannele; Niemi,Katri : Keskiajan puvut Art House Helsinki 2013
- www.punomo.fi
- <http://fi.wikipedia.org>

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