

HASTINGS 2006

CLERICAL COSTUME GUIDE V4



Written by The Vikings Authenticity Team

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1. General Authenticity Rules

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE. Although 'THE VIKINGS' is a primarily a 10th Cent. Viking re-enactment society, this guide has been written to help members of the society and their guests who wish to take part in the Battle of Hastings re-fight (14-15 October 2006) as clergy. This guide has been written specifically for the H2006 Hastings re-fight. Compromises have therefore been made with what is strictly authentic in order to maximise participation in this event.

1.2 WEAPONS & SAFETY EQUIPMENT. Any member or guest of the society who intends to take part in combat is classed as a warrior. As such they **MUST** have the correct safety equipment. **CLERGY** will only be on the battlefield in a non-combatant role but unless part of the Norman forces are still required to wear a helmet.

1.3 COLOURS. All participants must remember that the colour of the clothes worn gives a good indication of a persons rank and status. Low ranks would only have access to pale coloured or even undyed cloth, while the wealthy would be able to afford rich reds, blues and greens. Whatever rank is being portrayed, clothing dyed black, white or purple should be avoided.

1.4 APPEARANCE. This is the premier re-enactment event in the UK with TV and press from all over Europe in attendance, and all participants must therefore make a reasonable attempt to look the part. Specifically modern hairstyles, must be covered and all make-up, jewellery and visible piercings must be removed. In addition, in order to comply with the English Heritage guidelines for such events, female warriors must dress entirely in male costume, and should make some attempt to hide the more obvious 'bumps'.

2 UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS.

Since the role of Cleric is a non-combatant one, the following is an (incomplete) list of items which will NOT be allowed onto the LH at Battle Abbey.

- a) Non-authentic or modern footwear.
- b) Tartan or plaid of any description.
- c) Furry jackets or any form of Berserker.
- d) 'Rus' trousers
- e) Viking Hangeroks
- f) All body piercings must be removed and participants must ensure that all tattoos are covered by their costume or masking make-up.

2.1 Special Items

2.1a Pouches

We would like to remind our guests that, overseas practice notwithstanding, carved leather 'box' pouches style are definitely not authentic for our period. Other styles including the circular and semi-circular drawstring type, the soft leather 'kidney' pouch as well as the ever popular shoulder bags are only ones that we a certain are authentic for our period.

2.1b Amber

Amber is a well-known and popular semi precious gemstone and there have been grave finds from both this country and Scandinavia. As its popularity however we are beginning to see a few pieces of unworked or 'rough' amber being worn. **This is wrong.** Without exception all of the pieces of amber from our period have been worked and polished into the form of beads or pendants. All of the unworked pieces that have been found pre-date our era by a minimum of **2000 - 3000 years**. If you are looking for alternatives, don't forget Jet (very popular in Northern England) and Carnelian (very popular everywhere). By the C10th, Amber was 'out of fashion' in Viking circles, and overwhelmingly more worked Carnelian is found than worked Amber. Amber was mainly worked into charms (such as gripping beasts, axe heads, or even birds of legs) or was worn in the shape of doughnuts or wedges. Such beads as were worn were mainly faceted, not rounded.

2.1c Naughty Photographs!

Living in the real world as we do, we make certain allowances to enable our members to participate at shows with the minimum of inconvenience. In exchange we ask that all guests please be aware of members of the public carrying cameras, and do their best to avoid being photographed in costume whilst carrying, wearing or consuming blatant 21st century items. If you suspect that someone is deliberately trying to take a picture that compromises these guidelines, please inform the nearest Society Officer or Marshal who will speak to the person concerned.

CLERICAL COSTUME GUIDE

1. RANK AND OPTIONS

For the purposes of this event participants should choose one of two basic options.

1a. Secular Clergy. Representing Canons and Priests these were the clergy actively out in the world, responsible for pastoral care including conducting baptisms, visiting the sick and performing other services.

Apart from civilian costume appropriate to their rank (Greater Thengn or Milites) they should wear a cope and may wear a stole to represent Priest or Deacon's rank. For Priests, the stole is worn over their shoulders, crossed at the waist in front of them (or hanging straight from their neck). For Deacons it should be tied loosely at the right - hand waist level. They must not carry **ANY** weapons apart from a small sharp knife.

When performing services, such as formal blessings, secular clergy should wear an alb and amice, with a cope or dalmatic. Priests may wear a chasuble over their alb and stole if celebrating Mass—though we do not expect to do this in public. If the Priest serves a particularly wealthy church or is in the household of a noble or Bishop, his Mass vestments and stole can be richly embroidered and of expensive material.

1b. MonkClerke. This is representative of the literate class of Monks who served as scribes and household priests. They were uncommon in England, but they appear to have been more widespread on the continent. The Gestae Normannum Ducum records Monks amongst Duke William's army and for historical reasons this is where we expect attendees dressed as Monks to be.

In order to comply with the normal standards of the day, Monk-Clerkes must be dressed according to the Rule of St Benedict with only very minor concessions to being part of a travelling army.

For the purposes of this re-enactment, these are the only permissible options. Please note that no female religious characters will be allowed at this event. The portrayal of higher ranked individuals (for example Bishop Odo of Bayeux) will be by specific invitation only.

It is our intention to provide illustrations for these Clerical options in the near future. When these are

**placed on the web an announcement will be made via
the lists which are linked at the bottom of this
webpage.**

2. KIT & COSTUME GUIDE

Although the basic costume is similar for all social classes, dress must be consistent with the character being portrayed. The higher the rank, the better the quality of the garment and its decoration or ornamentation must be. Regardless of the rank being portrayed, all garments must be properly finished and hemmed. Serious inconsistencies like 'Sword-but-no-shoes' or 'Low-rank-with-lots-of jewellery' must be avoided. The main guide is presented here as a 'check-list' and it should give you a good idea of what goes with what.

	Monk-Clerk	Secular Clergy
Soft Kit		
Undertunic and shoes	C	C
Overtunic	X	C*
Trousers or Hose and Braes	C	C
Cloak	O	O
Hat	X	O
Embroidery or decoration	X	C
Belt (Girdle)	O	C
Sharp Knife or Seax	O	C
Shoulder bag	C	O
Helmet	O#	O#

Secular Vestments	Canon	Priest
Alb and amice	C	C
Stole	O	C*
Dalmatic	O	O*
Chasuble	X	O*
Cope	O	O*
Cross	O*	C*
Paternoster/Rosary	O	O

Monk-Clerke Habit	
Habit	C
Scapular	C
Mantle	O
Stole	O**

KEY:

X - Not an option for this character.

O - Optional.

C - Compulsory.

* - Item or sheath must be decorated.

** - Stoles are only worn by Monks who are also Priests

- Helmets are not authentic for Clergy, but they are compulsory for any Clergy who go onto the battlefield with the Englisc army.

3. Costume Descriptions

3a) UNDERTUNIC. These should be made of linen and may be either side or front and rear split and must have long sleeves, tight fitting at the wrist but looser on the upper arm. It may also be edged in a contrasting colour around the wrists, cuffs, neck and around the splits. It should be long enough to reach to the bottom edge of the knee. While fully skirted tunic will be allowed for the lower classes, higher status should be split front and rear at the bottom hem. It should either have a round neckline or a squarer one with a small front split. (While we do not really approve of it, Cotton may be used as a substitute provided it is not visible.)

3b) TURNSHOES. Footwear must follow the pattern common to all of northern Europe. The majority was of a type known as 'Turnshoes' and had either a central upper seam, or a 'flap and toggle' arrangement. Clergy should **NOT** wear boots.

3c) OVERTUNIC. This was usually of wool and again had long sleeves, tight fitting at the wrist but looser on the upper arm. It must reach to just below the knee when belted and be split front and rear. This must also be trimmed as the undertunic and, for **PRIESTS**, should be embroidered. As with the undertunic it should be long enough to reach to the bottom edge of the knee, and again while fully skirted tunic will be allowed for the lower classes, it should be split front and rear at the bottom hem. It should either have a round neckline or a squarer one with a small front split.

LEGWEAR. All ranks have a choice of either **TROUSERS** and **WINNINGAS** or **HOSE** and **BRAES**

3d) TROUSERS. Trousers should be straight legged down to the ankle. They were cut on the 'bias and while some were tight enough to resemble ski pants others were looser.

3e) WINNINGAS. This is the name given to the leg windings worn by almost all Anglo Saxon men. They are made from a piece of woollen cloth about 2 inches wide and long enough to cover the whole lower leg from ankle to knee with some overlap. **CANONS** and **PRIESTS** may make theirs out of tablet woven braid instead and instead of simply tying them at the end, they should be held in place by clothing hooks.

3f) HOSE. Hose (singular and plural) usually came as single leg garments and would have been worn with a pair of knee breeches (see above). Burial evidence suggests that while the hose may have been tied to the waistband, they were also fixed at the thigh with

small pins or brooches. This pinning may have been to a pair of breeches, or may have connected the hose to the belt in a manner similar to modern suspenders. Some were open ended at the ankle and some had an integral foot.

3g) BRAES. Braes are a pair of knee length breeches or shorts with embroidery round the lower hem of each leg. They were tied with a drawstring, no examples have been found with belt loops. Whilst they were usually worn with **HOSE** (see below) they appear to have been worn on their own as well.

3h) CLOAK. A **MONK-CLERKE** travelling away from his monastery must have a simple but warm cloak, (see 4L below) .As a distinctive feature, **PRIESTS** and **CANONS** may wear a Cope (see 4h below) rather than a normal cloak. If you wish to wear a cloak, a half round shape with an attached hood is recommended, as a plain equivalent to the clerical Cope.

3i).HATS are not mandatory, but any worn must be authentic and are a useful addition to any costume. As monks' cowls and clerical copes both commonly had hoods, we would encourage clergy to use these rather than separate hats.

3j) EMBROIDERY or DECORATION. Modern reconstructions depict our dark age ancestors as fond of display, and as the rank of the individual being portrayed increases, the amount and quality of the decoration and jewellery (see 5I below) increases. **CANONS** should have some sort of decoration (embroidery, inkle or tablet braid) on two out of hem, cuff and collar. **PRIESTS** must have decoration on all three. **Monk-Clerkes** should not have any decoration on their garments.

3k) BELTS&STRAPENDS. For a Priest or Canon a leather belt completes the basic costume. It must be between 20 and 35mm wide and 150 to 250mm longer than your waist and have both an authentic buckle and strap ends. Although modern decorated belts are not acceptable, authentically decorated or painted sheaths and belts are not only authentic but should be considered compulsory for **PRIESTS**. Wide, extra long belts with no buckle, tongue or strap end are not acceptable. **MONKS** may wear a simple cord or rope.

3I) POUCHES and **SHOULDERBAGS.** Pouches fall into two categories, authentic and modern.

Authentic pouches, provenanced to the British Isles in the 10th /11th C should be worn over the tunic preferably on a belt dedicated to its use. Non authentic or modern pouches (including those made from

rigid thick leather with carved decoration) must be worn underneath the over tunic so that they do not detract from the overall appearance.

As a separate item all **CANNONS** and **PRIESTS** may also carry a small coin pouch with a selection of reproduction coins. This may be highly elaborate and decorated or plain and simple. They appear to have been worn on a long drawstring around the neck, either over or under the tunic.

Far more practical – and compulsory for **MONK-CLERKES** than a pouch is a shoulder bag. These are visible in a large number of period illustrations and can be carried on one shoulder, much like a modern item. Most useful of all, they are large enough to accommodate a range of items, even those which will not fit into a pouch.

4. Specific Clerical Garments (Vestments).

This is not intended to be a definitive guide, merely a brief description of the items worn or carried by the Clergy.

4a) ALB a simple tunic, made from bleached linen (or cotton substitute) or white silk. It should have long wrist length sleeves, a neck opening and be floor or ankle length, with side gores for ease of movement. It may be worth making it slightly too large so that you can wear another layer underneath for cold weather! The alb is the simplest and most basic of vestments and is always worn with an Amice.

4b) AMICE a square white neckscarf from similar material to the alb, folded in half diagonally and worn around the neck. It may be tied in the front, fastened with a small brooch, or may have long strings attached which are crossed round the back and tied at the front. Always worn with the Alb.

4c) CINGULUM or BELT—a belt of braid or white rope, worn over the Alb.

4d) STOLE—a strip of material, 2–4" wide, worn much like a scarf. It should reach from knee to knee when hung about the neck (it may be made from two strips joined at the neck). It may be made from linen, silk or coloured wool, with crosses embroidered at both ends and in the middle (though it may be very lavishly embroidered).

4e) DALMATIC— this is a large, tabardlike tunic, consisting of two rectangles of material reaching from shoulders to the knees or mid-calf. It should have very wide, half-length sleeves and have a wide but simple neck opening. From the waist downwards it should have open sides. It should be made from coloured linen, wool or silk (or suitable alternatives), may be lined in silk or linen, and may be decorated with tablet braid or embroidery around the neck, arms and base. It may have two bands of decoration or contrasting colour going from base to base over the shoulders, spaced about 12" apart, and may have a central decoration motif on the front or the back.

4f) CHASUBLE(i) this is a semi circle of material with radius reaching from the waist to mid thigh. Hem it in to a cone shape and cut a hole big enough for the head as near to the point of the cone as convenient. The garment is worn straight over the head like a poncho ('casula' means 'little tent'). The neck-hole should be cut as a square, and the seam should be in the middle of either the front or the back of the chasuble. The seam should be covered with an orphrey (a band of material going from neck-hem to base-hem in a different colour,

suitably embroidered etc), and there should be another orphery opposite it on the back. The neck-hole should be hemmed in a contrasting colour with appropriate decoration, and the base may be likewise hemmed.

4g) CHASUBLE(ii)Alternatively, a chasuble can be made as a wide tabard reaching just above the knee at the front (and just above the dalmatic), and slightly longer at the back, and a quarter to a third of the way down the arm with rounded edges at the base. It has no side seams, and should have a simple circular neck opening.

The chasuble should be made from a suitably expensive material (dyed wool or silk) and may be lined in plain or coloured silk or linen. The chasuble is only worn by the celebrant at Mass, making it a particularly important vestment. It should be embroidered in suitably expensive fashion!

4h) COPE this is a long cloak used as a non-liturgical vestment (i.e. worn by clergy for services other than Mass). It should be semicircular and reach at least the knees (it may be nearly ankle-length). It should be made from wool and may be lined in linen, silk or substitute. There should be some form of decoration along the base and the straight sides; this may be wool or silk in a contrasting colour, tablet braid or embroidery. As copes were frequently worn for outdoor processions, a hood may be added (a triangle of cloth, lined in contrasting colour, reaching more than shoulder width and attached to the straight edges so that it hangs down behind but can be pulled up—modern academic hoods are a residue of the cope's hood). The cope should be fastened together at the neck, with either a simple pin or brooch, or stitching at the neckline. Alternatively you can add a piece of fabric a handspan in width and three fingers in depth to hold the two straight edges together. This 'morse' (also called 'St Augustine's Stitch') should be in contrasting colour and decorated.

4i) CROSS personal crosses should be worn or carried by all secular clergy. These can be wooden (ideal for poorer Deacons) pewter, silver and/or jewelled depending on wealth and status. Processional crosses (Tau or T-shaped and cruciform) may be carried (often the cross was a relatively small square shape on the top of a staff).

4j) HABIT.The habit is a plain woollen over tunic based on an ancient item of dress: the dalmatica. It must be of dark coloured wool. In the case of Monks only Dark grey, brown or even Black is acceptable. The sleeves should be loose fitting at the cuff and be wrist length. It should have a round neck hole but no vertical slit. It should have an

attached hood, with a point extending at least 6". It must be fully skirted but should have side splits.

4k) SCAPULAR. The scapular was a kind of apron, but not an apron of the kind that wasted in front of you. It was about 40-45cm wide, as long before as behind, with a hole or slit for the head and did not reach as far down as the habit over which it was worn. The hood was pulled through the hole of the scapular and this prevented it from sliding sideways at the same time. The Scapular is made of wool, and may be either the same colour as the habit or a lighter shade.

4l) MANTLE. A travelling mantle is semicircular, made of wool as black as possible and closed in front by sewing it for a short distance beneath the throat. The hood is pulled through the opening

4m) PATERNOSTER/ROSARY Prayer beads were known at this time and may be carried by secular clerics as an aid to concentration and to keep track of prayers. MONKS may NOT carry them as they were supposed to be able to concentrate enough on their prayers to be able to do without. ROSARIES are a medieval (13thC) invention and are not correct for this period.

5. ARMOUR

5a) HELMETS While we realise that not all warriors would have worn helmets, for safety reasons they are **required** for all those on the battlefield as part of the English army. These **CLERGY** may only wear concealed helmets .

The concealed helmet consists of a semi-spherical, spun dome covering the head down to about the ears. It is often worn as a 'hidden' helm completely hidden by a fabric or leather cap, often in the 'Phrygian' style, but many other versions are acceptable, however fur-trimmed 'Viking' hats will **NOT** be acceptable.

N.B, FUR-TRIMMED 'VIKING' HATS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE

FURTHER HELP AND YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

If you have any further questions on authenticity, or need help getting your gear together please go to the [Hastings 2006 List](#) and subscribe to the Yahoo mailing list set up for discussion ahead of the event.

Since the main list may generate a lot of emails, if you wish only to be kept informed of important announcements please go to the [Hastings 2006 Announcement List](#) here instead. This list will only carry postings by event Officers

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