

Hairstyles through history. 8, Mediaeval, knight and lady.

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Hair styles through history

A series of illustrations by Ronald Glendening which depict the changing mode of hair dressing since the days of early Egyptian culture . . .

8

Mediaeval

KNIGHT AND LADY

Northern Europeans in the early centuries A.D. were clean-shaven with short hair, following the style of their Roman conquerors. Nobility and certain dignitaries had long hair and beards.

The Norman invasion of England brought the fashion of shaven heads but, slowly, hair styles became longer and curls were fashionable.

Dramatic headdresses were worn by both women and men. The hennin, a steeple bonnet, was frequently worn by ladies of quality. This owed much to Etruscan and Persian designs and probably travelled to England through the Low Countries . . . the Flemish word "hennen" means cock, thus the name of the hat may derive from the cock's comb.

These were the times of tilts and tournaments and the participating knights wore helms or heaumes—heavy iron protective helmets, frequently decorated with feathers and streamers. Often the jousting knight kept his hair short on the brow to keep it out of his eyes. Some preferred to keep it bushy to act as a cushion, in case the helm was soundly clouted!

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