

Hairstyles through history. 9, Renaissance, Elizabethan 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 . . .

9

Renaissance

ELIZABETHAN LADY

The sixteenth century, at least up to the fifteen-thirties, saw the introduction of long straight or crimped bobs with deep bangs of natural hair on male heads—the face, in the main, being clean-shaven.

Italian and Swiss men had short hair and beards, a fashion which sprang from an accident to the French king, Francois I (1515-47) which compelled him to cut his hair close to his head.

France copied the new coiffure and soon afterwards, King Henry VIII and his courtiers followed suit. Baldness was considered beyond the pale and wigs were a necessity for those with thin locks.

Later in this century of change, beards became more popular, and followed a fashion instituted by Spain, in that the beard was short, cropped and pointed.

In the main the ladies' hair styles were formal, carefully tended, and in keeping with the fashion of clothing at the time. The style depicted is typical of a lady of moderate means dwelling in Elizabethan England.

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