

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Medieval Period: Circa 1100-1400



'Guinevere' Dress

History

Who was Guinevere?

Guinevere was the wife of the famed King Arthur of the round table, who lived during the 5th and 6th centuries. The stories surrounding the great king and his wife are legends, and it is very difficult to tell what is true and what is myth. Some accounts portray her as a treacherous woman who brought about the end of Arthur's kingdom. However, in other accounts, Guinevere was said to be a wise and beautiful queen, and there are many stories about her life as the wife of the ruler of what is now England, Scotland, Iceland, and perhaps Germany. Many of the stories about Guinevere imply that she was childless when she died, but it is almost impossible to tell who she really was and what happened to her.

Fashion

The design of this dress was inspired by several period drawings. A style similar to this might have been worn by upper-class women during what is known as the Dark Ages. During this time, a woman's place in society dictated the style, color, and fabric of her clothing. Only the very wealthy were allowed, and could afford, to wear fashionable clothing.

The style or design of a woman's clothing also depended upon where she lived. Fashionable dress varied from England, Normandy (northern France), Denmark, and other European countries. During what is known as the Dark Ages (the period between the fall of Rome and the Renaissance), most people were very poor. Life was about survival, thus information about fashion is very scarce.