

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Medieval Period: Circa 1100-1400



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Mantle and Gauntlet Set

History

What is a Mantle?

A 'Mantle' is a loose cape that was worn during the late Medieval period through the Renaissance. The purpose of this garment was the same as a winter coat. It was worn over every-day clothing to keep warm. It would probably have been made out of a thick wool or even furs sewn together. The word 'mantle' comes from the Latin word for cloak, 'mantellum'.

What is a 'Gauntlet'?

A gauntlet was originally a glove-like item that was part of a man's suit of armor. Although women didn't usually use them, over time they have come to be seen as both a man's and a woman's garment.

Fashion

Many modern phrases have come from the word 'Gauntlet'. For instance, the phrase 'Throw down the gauntlet' comes from Medieval etiquette. When a knight wanted to challenge an enemy to a combat, he would take off his gauntlet and throw it down on the ground. His opponent would accept the challenge by picking up the knight's gauntlet.