

A Hunting Hat

A Men's or Women's Outdoor Hat of the 14th and 15th Century

BACKGROUND

Highlights:

- Hunting Cap dated from 14th to 16th Century
- Extant cap made from silk with silk thread
- Extant cap ornamented with metallic trim, coring, tassels, and applique.

I was inspired by a friend's elevation and wanted to create a hat for her persona as an elevation gift.

The Hunting hat was one of the most popular fashions of the 14th century for both men and women. It was called a "bycocket" in England and in France, "chapel à bec". It was particularly commonly represented in the hunting scenes and travel scenes of the period.



1336-41, Buffalmacco, Anchorites in the Thebaid, Pisa



1380 Agnolo Gaddi, The History of the True Cross, Florence

From Pisetzky (1964), we have a description of the hunting hat:

“The rude oddity of the masculine hat, with a high cap and lifted up brims—also worn by women, gains an ambiguous appeal, together with the transparent wimple.”

Hunting Cap



1336-40, Buffalmacco, Triumph of Death, Detail. Pisa

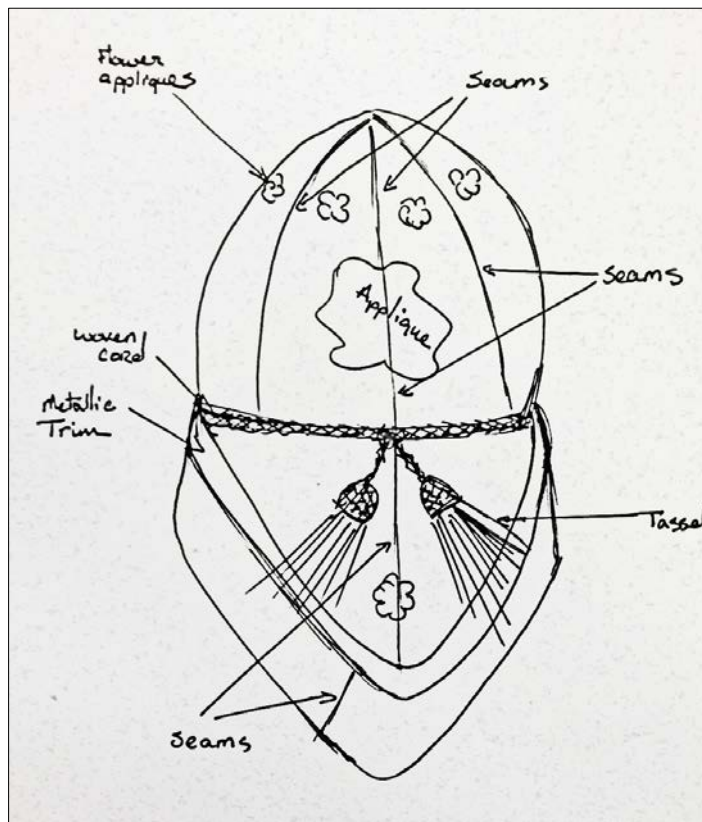
The Extant Piece



Hunting Cap

Extant Piece: The hunting cap is dated between the 14th and 16th centuries is in the possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, New York.

The hat is made of silk with silk thread and is created with a dome in four (4) petal shaped parts which have been joined in seams with a brim attached to the dome that is wide and folded toward the crown at the nape and diminishes to a pointed bull at the front of the hat. The brim is bound at the edge with metallic woven trim. The hat is ornamented with embroidered appliques of flowers made with metallic and silk thread. The crown is bound with a circle of woven cord that ties in the front with the end finished in metallic tassels over the brim. Due to the delicate nature of the extant piece, stitch types have not been identified.



This line drawing is based on photographs on the Met website.

HUNTING CAP ENTRY

To create the hat, I used the following materials and tools:

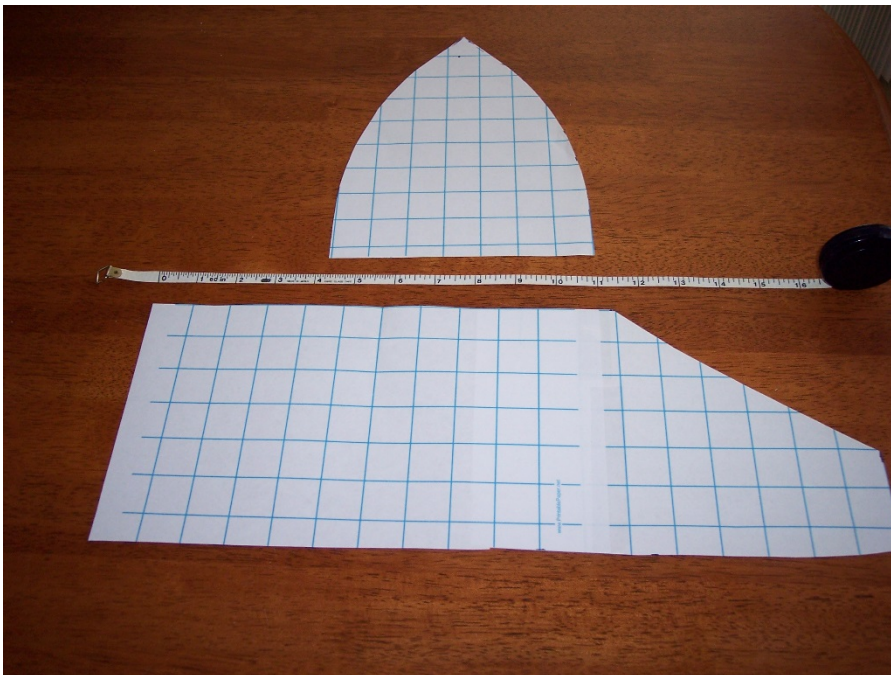
- 100% Silk
- 100% Silk thread
- Buckram for stiffening
- Metallic Trim
- Embroidered Metallic thread and bullion applique
- Woven cord finished in tassels
- Hand stitching

Highlights:

- Silk for hat parts
- Buckram for Stiffening
- Measurements—crown measured to standard women’s hat size 23”

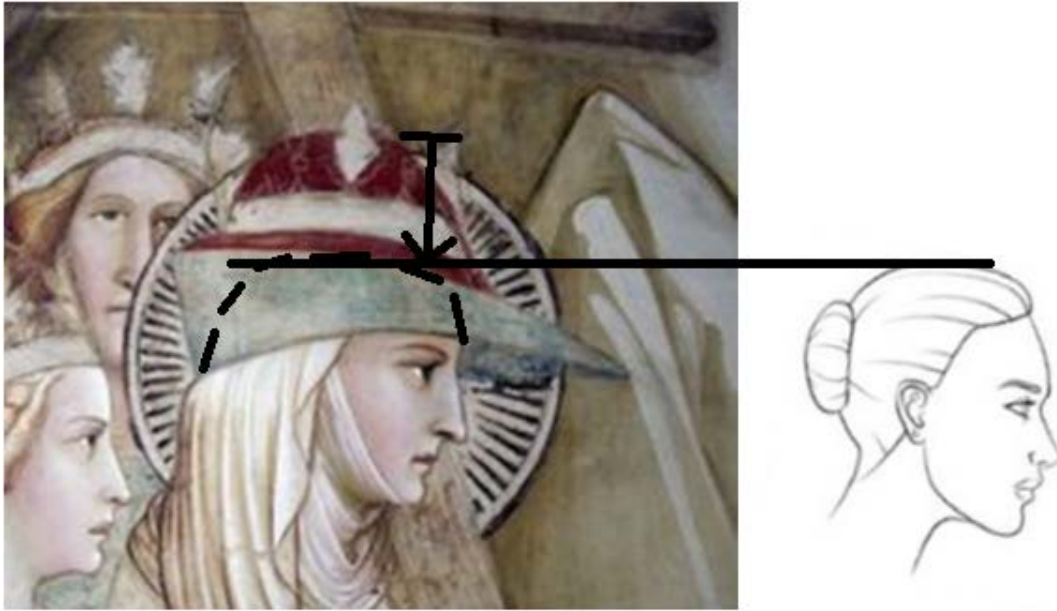
Measurements and Sewing

The standard women’s hat size of 23” was used since this item was to be a surprise gift. I drafted a pattern of the crown petals and of the brim.



Hunting Cap

Dome Height: The extant piece is somewhat crushed due to age and wear, so the actual dome height could not be determined; therefore, I made a determination on dome height based on visual images from the period. The extant piece is identified as an Italian piece by the museum so I used only Italian images to determine dome height. Given the shape and size of the average size woman's head, the dome appears to be at least 2 inches or more in height above the crown of the head.



I then made a blank in paper to ensure that I had the correct shape.



I tacked the blank together to determine if I had the correct silhouette.

Hunting Cap

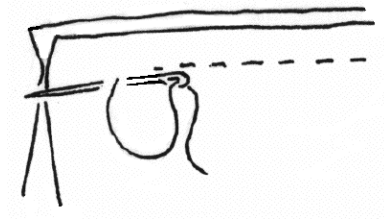


I then cut the silk for the hat.



Hunting Cap

I pinned the crown petals together and the lining parts together and hand sewed the parts together.



I used a $\frac{1}{4}$ ' seam allowance.

To start the seam, I knotted the silk thread and began at the peak of the petals.

I used a back stitch to join the parts together. Since no stitches were identified from the extant garment, I opted to use the backstitch, which was a widely used stitch during the period.

Hunting Cap

I continue with the back stitch to attach all the remaining crown parts.

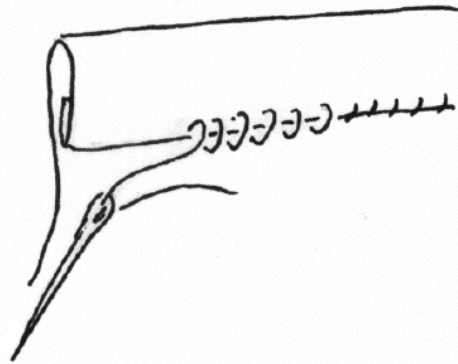


The crown lining is created the same way with a layer of buckram added for stiffness.

Buckram: Since the internal consistency of the extant piece is not known, buckram was chosen as a stiffening agent. This choice maintained the silhouette of the hat from portraiture.

Hunting Cap

The applique is attached to the crown with a whip stitch, another commonly known stitch of the period.



Metallic Thread and Bullion Applique

Metallic thread and gold bullion were in use during this period for ornamentation purposes. Here is another extant piece from the Metropolitan Museum of Art that shows an example.



Trouser detail, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 16th Century Italian. Medium: linen, silk and metal thread.

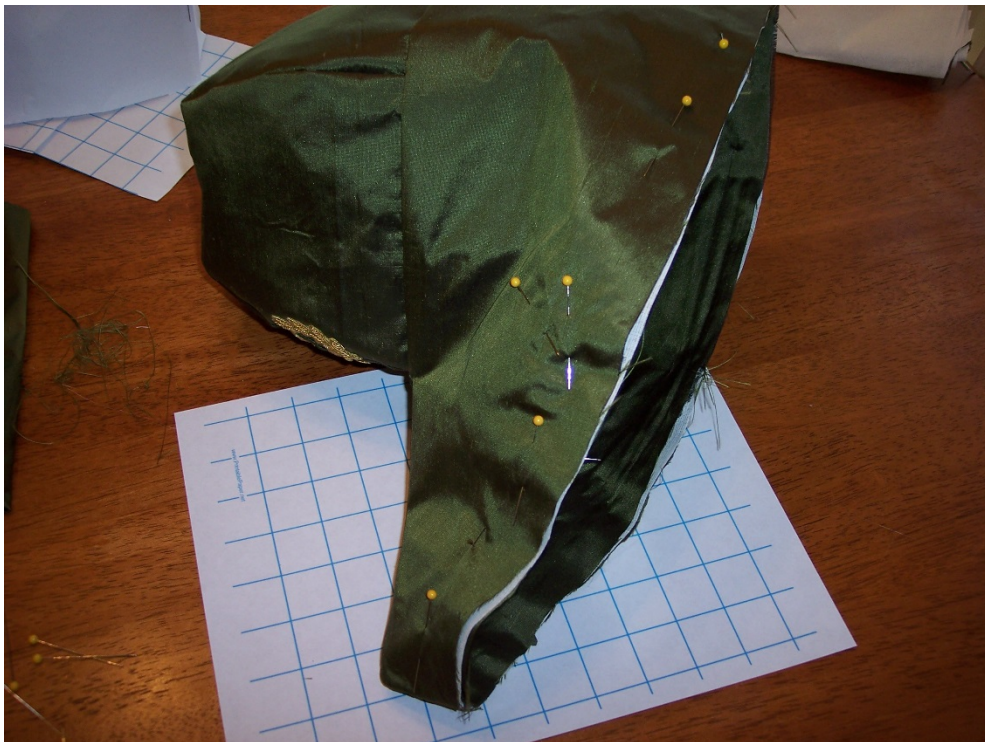
Since the applique for this hat was for a new laurel, it was an obvious choice to make.

Hunting Cap



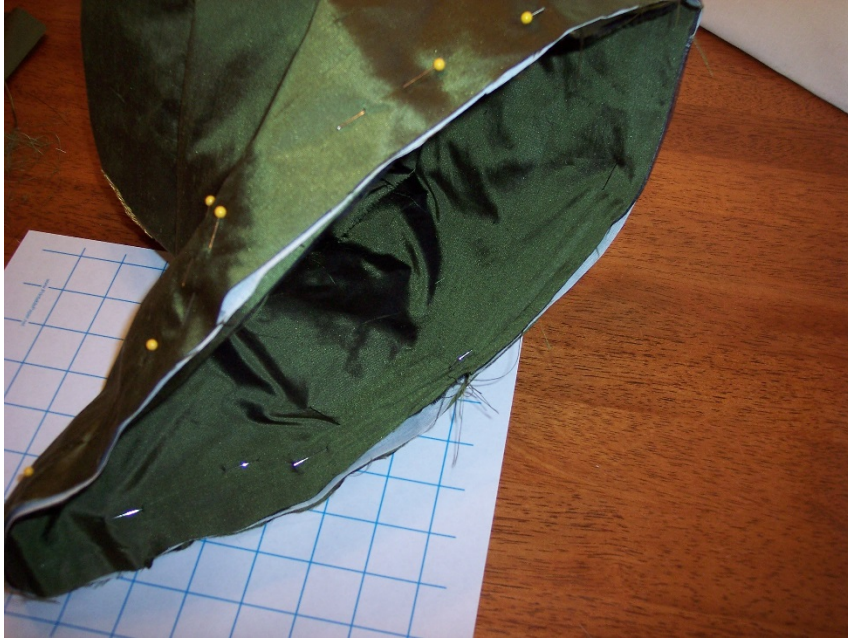
The crown and lining are stay stitched together.

The over layer of the brim is attached to the crown.



The under layer of the brim is attached to the crown.

Hunting Cap



The brim edge to closed and trim casing is added.

The trim choice was made to match the clothing of the receiving laurel.

Finally, the tassel tie is wrapped around and positioned on the hat. The tassels were chosen again for color and the preferences of the receiver.

Bibliography

Attiliani, Anna. "The pointed hat in feminine/The bycocket in women's garb." Tacuinum Medieval. N.p., 5 Dec. 2014. Web. 12 Mar. 2015. <<http://tacuinummedievale.blogspot.com/>>.

Italian Hat. Accession Number: C.I.41.124.78 Medium: silk, metallic thread, Gift of Miss Agnes Clarke, 1941. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/84052>

Levi, P. R. (1964). Storia del costume in Italia. Milano: Istituto Editoriale Italiano.