

Viking Costume – women

Mistress Barbara Atte Dragon

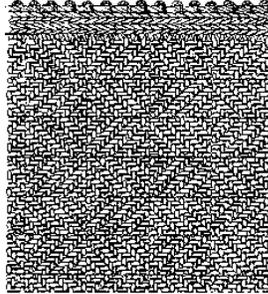
Cloth and Fabric

The types of textiles found from Viking age are wool and linen. These textiles were woven as either a simple tabby weave or a twill weave.

2x2 twill, Hald



broken diamond twill, Hald



Solid colors, natural fleece color, and natural dye colors are acceptable colors. Colors are limited to 'natural dye' stuffs that were available during the Viking age for dyeing cloth and yarn.

Woven cloth (wool) be woven fabric (dark warp, light weft) in 2x2 twills, herringbone or diamond twills. Solid colors are fine too.

Lightweight wools for gowns and tunics; heavier 'coat' weight wool for caftan style coats and shawls.

Silk can also be added to the list of cloth but was used in strips that were sewn onto clothing for decoration. Silk was also used for women's caps (Jorvick) and as an undergarment (Birka). Silk should have a fine hand woven appearance rather than the slinky, modern, shiny kerchief type silk.

Belts, ties, reinforcements for cuffs, necklines, and decoration were done with tablet/card weaving.

These bands were woven in wool, linen, silk and/or a combination.

When planning your clothing it is advisable to use wool and/or linen. We know that these fabrics can be expensive. If you can find an acceptable blend, such as; linen/cotton, linen/ramie, and if the color choice and weave are acceptable; then these will be accepted as a first year attempt to be replaced by 100% wools and linens at a later date. Cotton may also be used if it has the appropriate appearance, i.e. if it looks like linen.

Polyester, Acrylic and other synthetics will not be approved.

Machine sewn seams will be acceptable as long they are hidden. Inside seams and hems need to be finished in some fashion. All visible seams must be hand sewn.

Garment Construction Notes

Hand sewing

Please refer to *Textiles and Clothing c. 1150-1450, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London, Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe*, Essays in Memory of Professor E. C. Carus-Wilson, *Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials, A comparative study of Costume and Iron Age textiles* by Margrethe Hald for an overview of hand sewing techniques.

Undergarments

There is no evidence that undergarments were worn. One burial site showed a woman that was buried in an undergarment of a simple tube dress made of silk, ankle length, sleeveless, with a front opening, neck slit, gathered and tied at the neck.

There has been some indication that women may have worn breeches and/leg wraps. We will leave this up to your discretion, especially if there is inclement weather during the event. Breeches should be made of linen or wool. Leg wraps are also linen or wool.

Gown

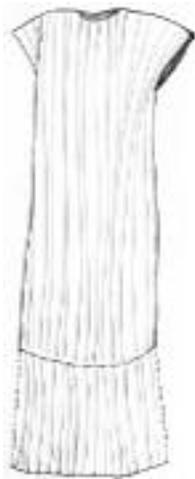
Dress can be made of either wool or linen (or silk for tubular underdress).

Choices are:

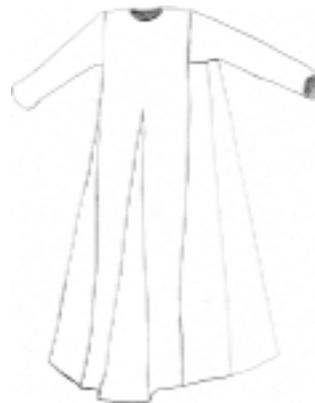
Linen or Silk Pleated 10th C
Tube dress, sleeved or sleeveless
(shorter version worn as underwear)

Eura 10C Finland or e
14CGreenland GoreStyle
over gown - Linen or wool

Hangerok with
broches and necklace(s)
Linen or wool



Or



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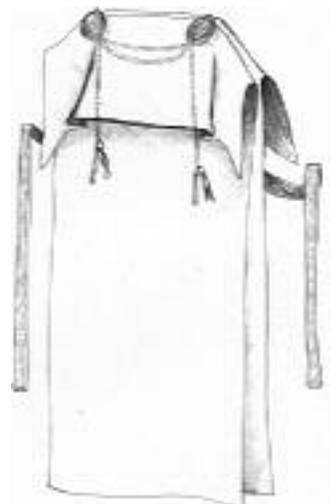
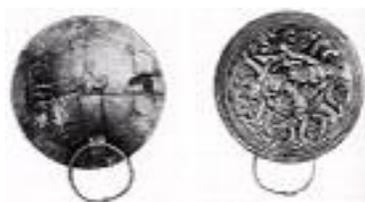
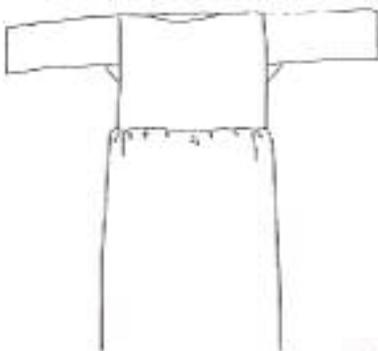


OR:

9th-10C Finnish Viking gown in either
wool or linen

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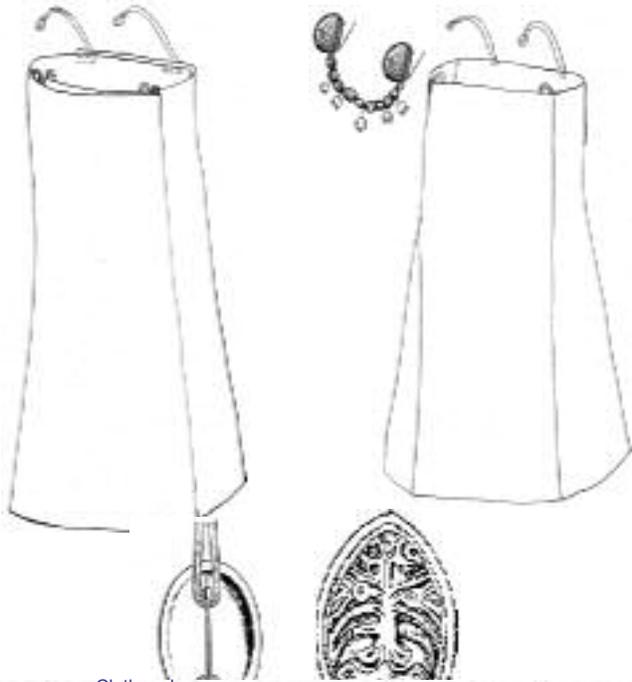
9th-10thC Peplos with shoulder broches, chain
chains and personals (comb, needle cases, knife, etc.).



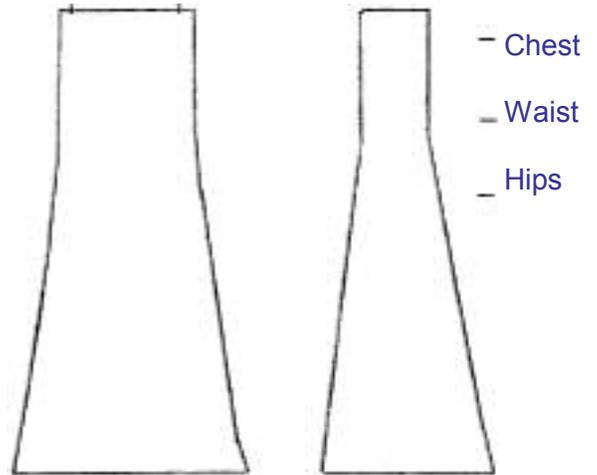
Hangerok (Apron) is a tube of fabric with shoulder straps. This could be worn over any of these dresses. There are two ways that the apron can be 'fitted'. With the tube cut and sewn, you can take tucks/pleats under the arm and in the back or pleats can also be made in the back between the shoulder straps. Shoulder straps are attached in the back and pinned in place with broaches in the front. The hangerok can be worn with a tablet woven, rigid heddle woven or thin leather belt (no buckle).

The Hangerok can also be cut with side panels (gores) added in the side to make the fit better and allow for easier movement while walking. You can wear this style with or without a belt.

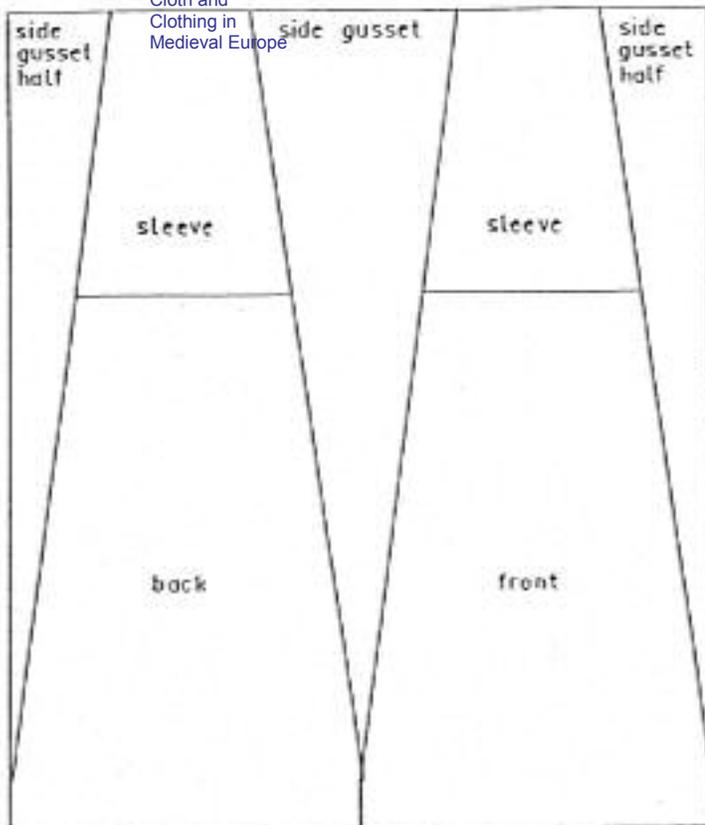
Two styles of hangerok



Pattern layout for hangerok



Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe



Eura dress pattern

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

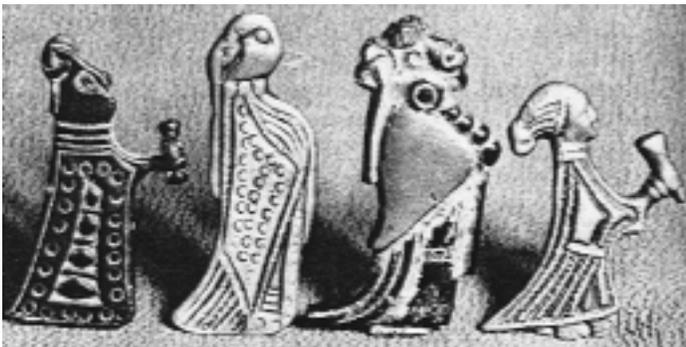


Greenland gown and similar patterns are in the Appendix.

The Greenland gown can be a more fitted dress. It is cut with more side panels/gores sewn with middle front and back gores for fullness. It can be made to fit loose or fitted. The Under dress is of linen or fine wool, the over dress is linen or wool.

The Finnish Viking dress is just one rectangle folded over (the length/width of arms + shoulders). Head opening is made, under arm gores. The skirt is a gathered tube that is ankle length and sewn to the top. Refer to drawing

Cloak, Shawl, Kaftans Coat



Book of Viking York

Cloaks are rectangular and pinned at the throat.

Shawls are squares; or folded to a triangle; or a triangle with/or without rounded corners.

Shawls are pinned at the throat with a trefoil broach.

The caftan coat is similar to a man's coat only the front points of both front panels are rounded. There can be a train added in back and the coat is also fastened at the throat with a broach. The coat can be made of wool or silk. It can be lined with silk or fur.



Turn shoes w/ rand, leather sole & toggle fasteners, Pratt, D.



Book of Viking York

Shoes

Leather was used for shoes. Women's shoes are ankle high or slippers. Women's boots do not come up as high as men's boots.

Refer to Ragnar accoutrement section for shoe patterns & how to make a pattern to fit your foot.

Socks were nailbanded or felted.

Nalbanded socks



Nalbanded socks. Coppergate stitch, Mack,D.

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Head coverings and Hair Nets

Hair nets can be made of sprang or netting technique. You could probably make a loosely stitched hair net out of nalbinding as well.

Head coverings were simple:

1. Triangle or square of linen tied at the back of the neck.
2. A small Birka/Jorvick style cap (rectangle folded and stitched up the back) to make a cap.
3. A long rectangle of linen draped over head and ends placed back over shoulders.

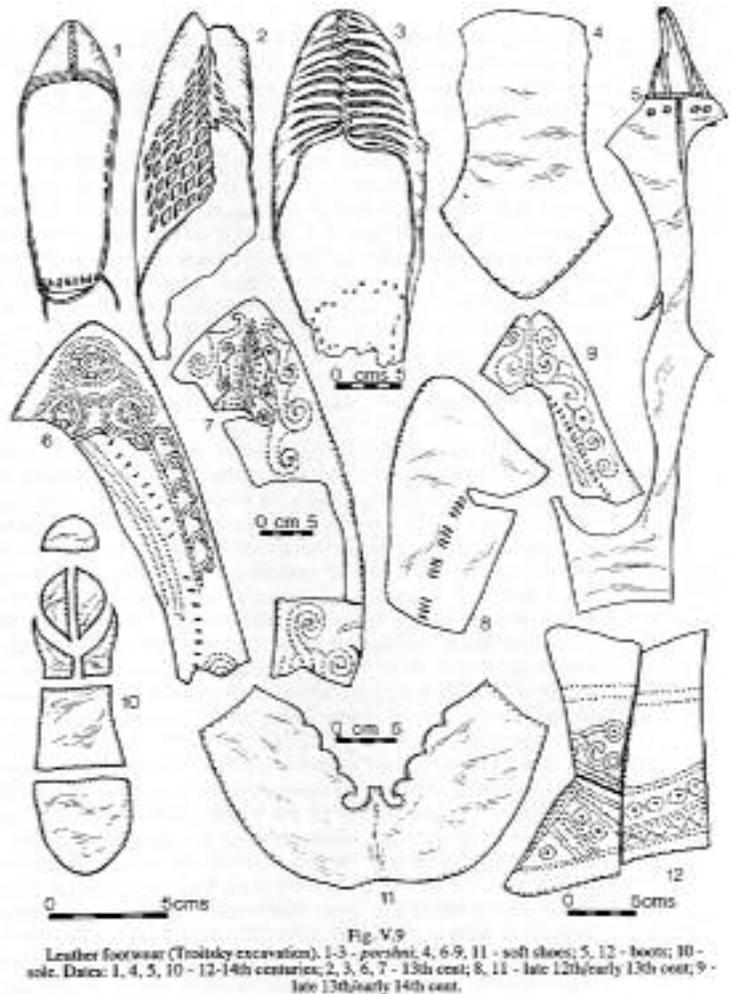
Early Viking women did not cover their hair, it was worn in long braids or knotted at the back of the head. Sometimes a scarf was worn over the head. Later Viking women (Christian influence) always wore a head covering over their hair, young and old, the hair did not show.



Accessories

Jewelry were cast metals, glass beads, metal beads, amber, semi-precious stones, or bone. Bead necklaces with combinations of; glass beads; coins (from trades); amber; semiprecious stones and quartz crystal beads.

Solid silver and bronze bracelets.



Brooches cast bronze or silver, shape- oval or round or 'round box' and animal head.



Fasteners/chains- bronze wire, silver wire

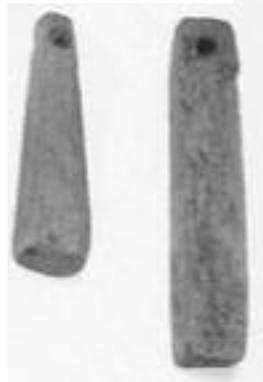
Knives- bone or metal, with antler, bone or wooden handle

Refer to Accoutrement Section for more detail on knives.

Sharpening stones- where hung from the chains attached to the brooches



The Vikings



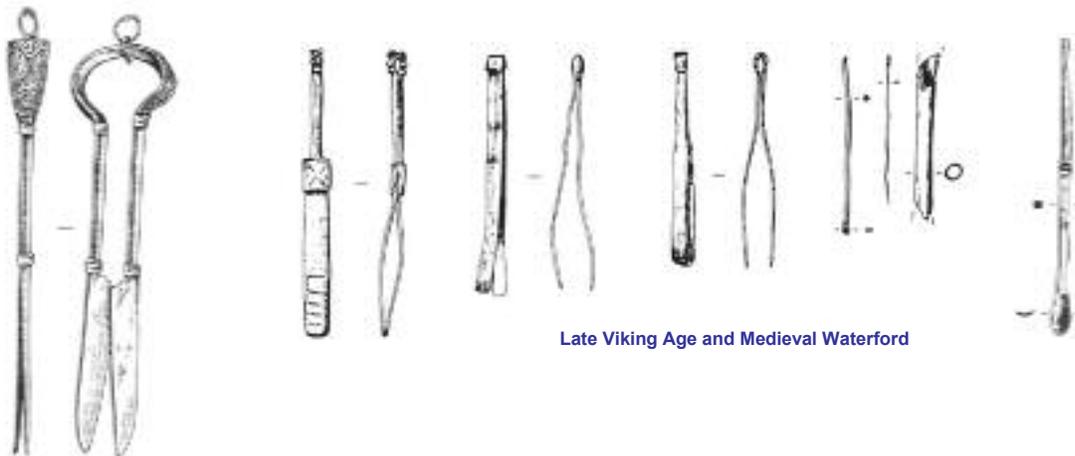
Ancient Finnish Costumes

Keys- bronze or iron where hung from from a woven belt.

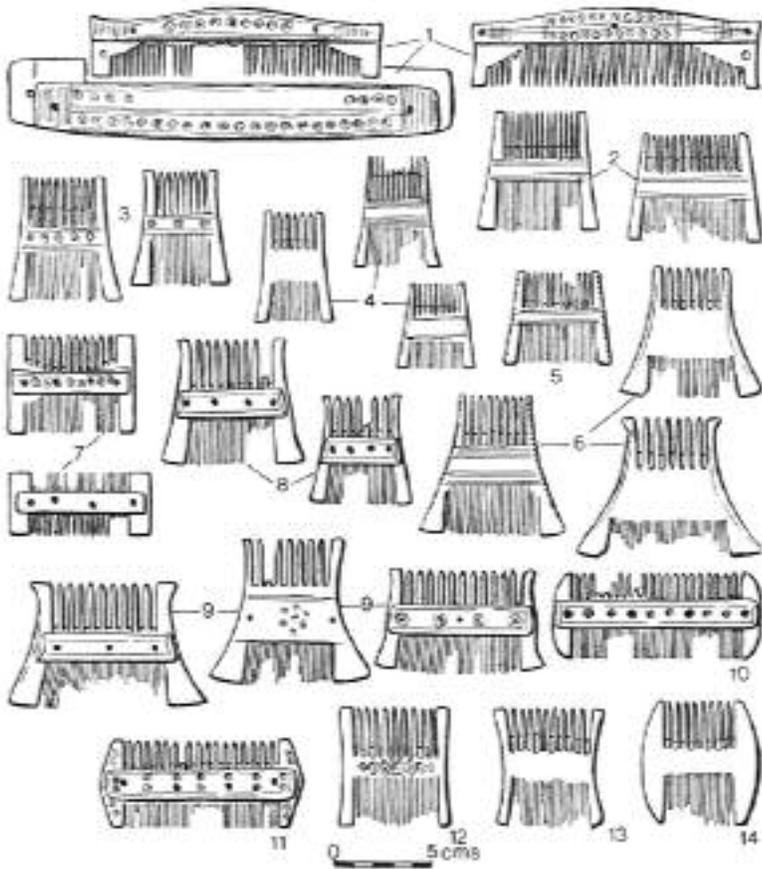
Tweezers, toothpicks and ear scoops – Needle cases and scissors- iron, bronze

chains attached to brooches or hung

bronze or bone/antler, some silver or bone/antler



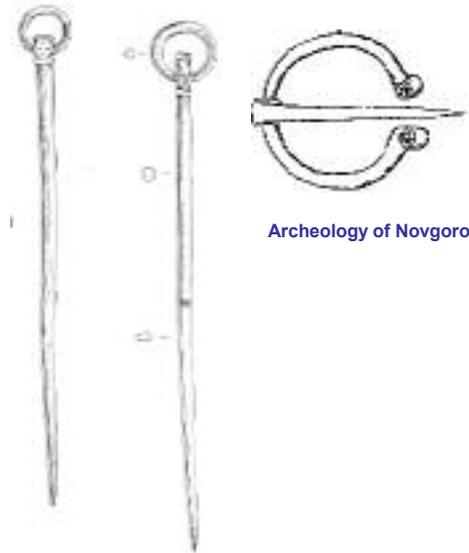
Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford



Combs/comb cases – antler/bone, some wood

- 1. antler combs with cases
- 2. wooden combs
- 3. – 14 antler and bone combs

Clothe Fasteners, cloak pins -

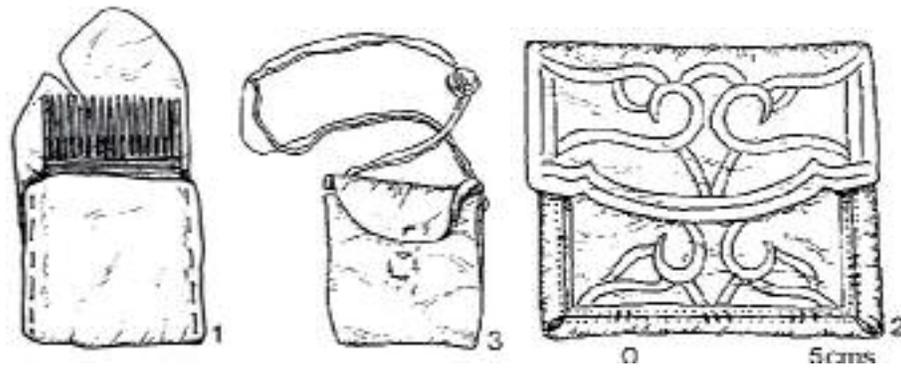


Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford

Pouches and purses -



Archeology of Novgorod, Russia



Miscellaneous items:

1. & 2. carved spoons
3. awl
4. carved spoon
5. carved handle
6. handle?
7. & 12 ear scoops
8. scribe
9. wooden comb
10. handle
11. knife sheath

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Bibliography

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The Warp-Weighted Loom, by Marta Hoffman. Robin and Russ Handweavers. Information covered: all aspects of warp weighted looms. Weaving, spinning tools, fiber prep, other weaving tools such as small rigid heddles, sword beaters, pin beaters, yarn winders, warp boards, wool combs are covered in at the back.

Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn from Anglo-Scandinavian and Medieval York, the Archeology of York, the Small Finds 17/12, Craft, Industry and Everyday Life, by A. MacGregor, A. Mainman, and N. Rogers. York Archeological Trust. Information covered. Small finds of bone and antler, ivory and horn, textile implements include, lucet, needles, needle cases, whorls, combs, saw handle, knife handles, pin beaters thread bobbins, tablet cards.

NESAT II, May 1-4, 1984, edited by Lisa Bender Jorgenson, Bente Magnus, and Elizabeth Munksgaard. Archeological Institute, København Denmark. Article - **Textile Implements Identification in Archeological Finds and Interpretation in Pictorial Sources.** Pp. 232. Information covered: bone weaving comb, wool combs, and sword beaters.

NESAT III, May 6-9, 1987, edited by Penelope Walton and John-Peter Wilde. Archetype Publications. Article 3- **Nalbinding: definition and description,** by Egon H. Hanson, example and method of nalbinding stitches, a system in which to 'read' nalbinding stitches. Article 9- **Spinning implements of the Viking Age from**

Elisenhof in the light of ethnological studies. By Gertrud Genander Nyberg, Stockholm. Information covered: spindles, distaffs and whorls. Article 8- **Textile Production at Coppergate, York; Anglo-Saxon or Viking?** By Penelope Walton, pp.66, the first find of nalbinding anywhere in England. Examples of nalbinding technique date back to 3rd or 4th century, fig. 8.7-8.8 picture of sock and line drawing of nalbinding stitch.

NESAT IV, May 6-9, 1987, edited by Penelope Walton and John-Peter Wilde. Archetype Publications. Pp. 148, **Medieval Textiles from Waterford City**, E.W. Heckett. This also is an early report of textiles listed in 'Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford'.

Textile Production at 16-22 Coppergate. The Archaeology of York, The Small Finds, by Penelope Walton Rogers. The York Archeological Trust. Information covered: whorls, spindles, combs, other textile tools.

Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford, 1986-1992, by M. F. Hurley and O. Scully. Waterford Corporation, Ireland. Information covered: whorls- clay, bone, stone and wood, sword beater-wood, metal, spindles-bone, wood, weaving combs-wood, bone. Bone thread bobbins, pin beaters-bone and wood. Wooden netting needle, wooden boat shuttles (late period). Wooden pulley-(horizontal loom?).

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Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn, the technology of skeletal materials since the roman period. By A. MacGregor. Barnes and Nobel Books, Totowa, New Jersey. Pp. 186, fig. 101 lists/drawings of textile equipment, weaving sword fragment, fragment wool comb handle, spindles, whorls, combs, needles, needle cases, tablet cards, square, triangular, and thread box. Tools for working bone, drills, saws, scribes for making designs, vise, plane (antler body w/bronze plate), comb tooth cutting sew.

Book of Viking York, R. Hall. English Heritage, London. Pp.90, fig. 68, iron files... 16-22 Coppergate, file, 9 1/2 inches long.

Excavations at Grimes Graves, Norfolk, 1972-1976, Fascicule 4, Animals, Environment and the Bronze Age Economy, by A.J. Jegge. The Trustees of the British Museum, British Museum Press. Miscellaneous bone needles pp. 62, fig. 24, pp.64, fig.26, and other tools, handles, mostly from domesticated sheep and cattle.

Textiel;Uitgave ter gelegenheid van het Textielsymposium van 19-22 oktober 1995 in Prehistorisch Open luchtmuseum te Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Article on Nalbinding, pp. 45, by Gudron Böttcher. Article written in Dutch but diagrams for making a nalbinding glove. Other articles on wloom, 2-beam loom, sprang, Bronze Age costume, felted archery target, and tablet weaving (and more).

Mammen: Grav, kunst og samfund i vikingetid. Jysk arkaelologisk selskab. Published by Højbjerg [Denmark] 1991, ISBN 8772885718. Information covered: great pictures of Mammen grave textiles. Tablet woven and brocaded bands. Lots of Good things, text in Danish w/ brief English overview, worth getting ILL to just look at photographs of textiles.

Ecclesiastical Pomp and Aristocratic Circumstance; A Thousand Years of Brocaded Tablet woven Bands, by Nancy Spies. Arelate Studio. Talks mostly about brocaded tablet woven bands but does have a reference to the Mammen textile fragment with nalbinding insertion as 'cloak fastener pennants' pp. 46, figs. 47&48. Spies has a great/reference section in the back of the book.

Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe, Essays in Memory of Professor E. C. Carus-Wilson, edited by N. Harte and K. Ponting. Heinemann Educational Books. Article -19, **The Diffusion of knitting in Medieval Europe**, by I. Turnau. Discusses what is nalbinding, pieces that were mistakenly called knitting or nalbinding. Men's legging's thought to be nalbinding, Switzerland, between 7th-12thC. Possible bone knitting needles found in ancient Gaul, 2ndC AD, perhaps to knit silk. Multicolored striped knitted socks, 12thC, Egypt. Arabian knitting arrived in Europe, 13th C. 1983 ISBN0-435-32382-2.

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Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials, A comparative study of Costume and Iron Age textiles
by Margrethe Hald

the Vikings