

## Viking-Era Headgear: A Survey

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*Class Notes from Alienor Salton, Aug 2nd and 9th 2017, 2:00-5:00, Ae3S 5, Pennsic XLVI*

### Common Headgear Styles

Men: cap (conical, pillbox, forage), nålbound cap, "Russian hat (gerzkr hatt)", straw hats, hoods.

Women: cloth cap (Jorvik/York [Lincoln], Dublin), tasseled woven scarf (Dublin), sprang hair net / cap, headcloth / veil / wimple, headband / circlet / ribbon / fillet, hoods.

COMBS! Hair was washed & combed regularly, braided or knotted.

### Skjoldehamn Hood

Rectangular pieces, front & back gores. Main rectangle was folded with face area in front; cut for face opening & front gore. Typically recreated with tall rectangle folded at top, but this is not accurate. Top seam slanted. Strings attached either side of head, under ear. Body it was found on is now believed to be female (originally marked as male due to dagger). Is our only extant example with front & back gores.



References:

<http://www.ceilingpress.com/Resources/Nye%20tanker%20om%20Skjoldehamnfunnet.pdf>

[http://www.pvv.org/~raanness/prosjekt\\_fritid/?page\\_id=3295](http://www.pvv.org/~raanness/prosjekt_fritid/?page_id=3295)

<http://www.medieval-baltic.us/skjold.html>

### Jorvik/York Cap

These caps and the Dublin caps are Anglo-Norse, not Viking.

Unsewn back seam allowed space for braided / knotted / bunned long hair? Generally smaller than common online recreations / depictions. York cap usually silk; rounded w/ dart to fit back of head (retain excess inside cap); ties at chin; elongated back.

Lincoln cap: shaped like York cap, back seam left unsewn below the rounded dart. Recreation: 17x39cm (from Heather Rose Jones' database) [6.75x15.5"]. Constructed like the Dublin cap, below.



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### Dublin Cap

Very similar to the Jorvik/York caps. Extant examples in both wool and silk, very light weight open weave. Characteristic pointed top back, w/ curved dart shaping around head; ties at corners; shorter than the York caps; back seam may or may not be stitched.

Recreation: 45x16 cm rectangle, rolled hem along front edge, double-folded end hems, folded in half w/ fabric turned under along unhemmed edge, oversewn from bottom up to 14 cm, curved running stitches to 7cm from back seam, remainder of back seam oversewn to top, self-fabric ribbons attached at corners.



### Dublin Silk Headband



Artifact DHC24 from *Viking Age Headcoverings from Dublin*, Elizabeth Wincott Heckett. 350mm x 120mm (finished). 370mm unhemmed (sides were selvages). Cords were detached from original piece, but found w/ headband, knotted together. Stitching to ends was missing but "Both ends of the band are still gathered inwards as if such ties had been sewn to the bunched-up fabric." Cords were twisted rather than braided but my twisting confidence is low. Used silk gauze to approximate the open weave & fine nature of the original material.

Recreation: 13.5" x 4.75"; fingerloop braided cords 7.5" & 7.25" (not incl. tails) stitched to gathered ends. (Probably should have used thicker yarn.)

### Nålbound Cap

Basic round cap, many stitch variations possible. Work to size, as nålbinding is not stretchy — more like crochet than knitting.





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### Dublin Wool Scarf



Artifact DHC6 from *Viking Age Headcoverings from Dublin*, Elizabeth Wincott Heckett. 450mm x 240mm, including fringe. Width is definite, length is uncertain. Silk scarves w/ verified lengths == 595mm, 610mm, 700mm. Woven to size. Remaining fringe 60mm one side, 30mm other.



Recreation: 28" x 9.5", hemmed on sides, fringed 4" at ends. Used wool challis to approximate the open weave & fine nature of original. Many suggested variations for wearing.

### Silk Veil

Artifact DHC17 from *Viking Age Headcoverings from Dublin*, Elizabeth Wincott Heckett. 870mm x 240mm, dyed purple, ends hemmed.

### Fillet

Often tablet woven. Widths varied. Knotted in back. Could be worn over veil or have veil pinned to it, as well as by itself.

