

Clothing of a German Courtier (1577) and a German Princess and Countess (1586)

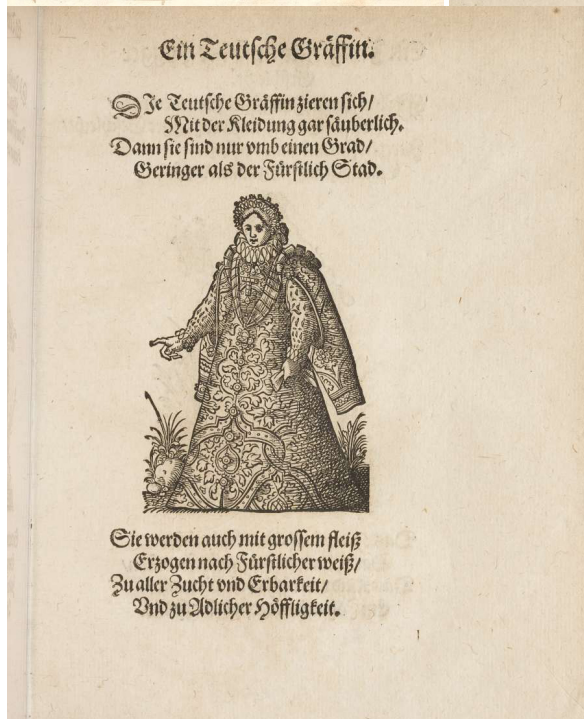
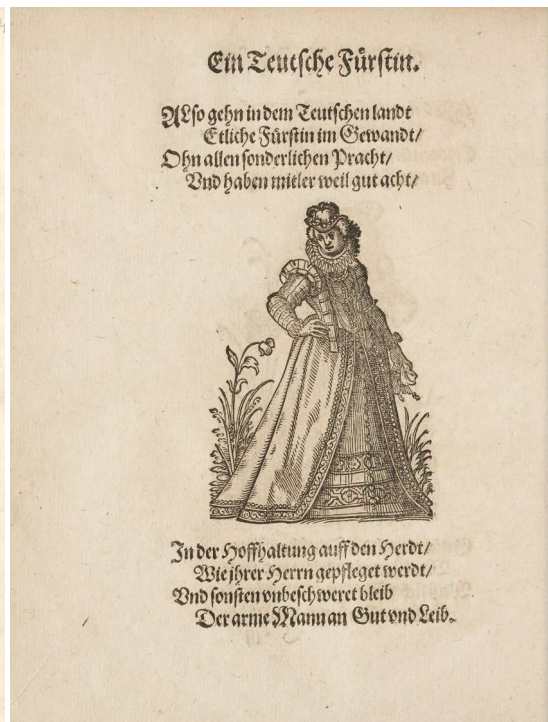
Abstract

Costume books or books featuring traditional garments [*Trachten*] were a popular print genre in Early Modern Europe and thus remain important historical sources. These books were printed, disseminated, and widely read from the 16th century onwards; their success being partially attributable to advances in printing and to the expansion of travel opportunities. Traditional attire from cultures throughout the world were represented in these books, as were national costumes and dress styles from various European countries. German fashions and traditional costumes for men and women from different social classes could be found in *Trachten* books as well.

The first image featured below comes from Hans Weigel and Jost Amman's famous *Trachten* book of 1577, *Habitus praecipuorum populorum tam virorum quam feminarum singulari arte depicti*. It depicts the clothing of a male German courtier. Gender-specific clothing gradually became established in the late Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. Over the long term, as men's outer garments (jackets and doublets) grew shorter, men's leggings evolved into pants, whereupon men's and women's garments thus began to diverge. Whereas men started wearing pants and short outer garments, women still dressed in long outer garments.

The second and third images show a German princess and a German countess and come from a *Trachten* book by Thrasibulus Torrentinus Mutislariensis (Conrad Lautenbach) that focused on women's clothing: *Im Frauenzimmer wirt vermeldt von allerley schönen Kleidungen vnnd Trachten der Weiber/ hohes vnd niders Stands/ wie man fast an allen Orten geschmückt vnnd gezieret ist* (1586).

Source



Source: Clothing of a German courtier, from Hans Weigel und Jost Amman, *Habitus praecipuorum populorum tam virorum quam feminarum singulari arte depicti*. Nuremberg, 1577. Bavarian State Library. Available online at: http://daten.digital-sammlungen.de/bsb00072483/image_15

Clothing of a German princess and countess, from Thrasibulus Torrentinus Mutislariensis (Conrad Lautenbach), *Im Frauenzimmer wirt vermeldt von allerley schönen Kleidungen vnnd Trachten der Weiber/ hohes vnd niders Stands/ wie man fast an allen Orten geschmückt vnnd gezieret ist: Als Teutsche/ Welsche/ Frantzösische/ Engelländische/ Niederländische/ Böhemis.../* [Online-Edition]. Franckfurt am Mayn: Feyrabend, 1586, 14–15. Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel. Available online at: <http://diglib.hab.de/drucke/180-19-quod-3s/start.htm>

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