She’s Got the (Hispano-Flemish) Look

An overview of women’s fashion in Spain c. 1480-1530

Doña Beatriz Aluares de la Oya
Barony of Ponte Alto

http://www.spanishseamstress.org
beatriz.aluares@gmail.com

Atlantia Winter University, 2011
Camisa
- Lower classes used hemp or coarse linen, and tended to have narrow sleeves and little decoration
- Upper classes made camisas of fine Holland or cambrey linen, with extremely full bodies, wide sleeves, and high (Fig 2, 3, 6, 18) or low square/round (Fig. 7) necklines. These were usually decorated with bands (tiras) of embroidery, fabric, or ribbons. (Anderson 183-191)

Gowns
- **Saya** – fitted gown with a skirt attached to the bodies with a waist seam. The skirts could be wide and smoothly fitted at the waist, pleated across the front, or pleated fully around (Anderson 203). (Fig. 8)
- **Brial** – fitted gown with no waist seam. (Fig. 12, 18)
- **Habito** – loose, flowing gown with square or V-neck and loose long sleeves. These were Queen Isabel’s favorite gown; her wardrobe inventories note more than 50 habitos in a wide range of fabrics (Fig. 16, 17)

Headwear
- **Cofia** – linen cap, usually white, worn set back on the head by upper classes and tighter by lower classes
- **Tranzado** – braid casing or wrap bound with crossed bands
- **cofia de tranzado/cofia con su tranzado** – cap and casing. Usually white, but also seen in colors, mesh, and beaded fabrics. It’s not clear if they were one piece or two pieces. (Fig. 4, 6, 8)
- **turbans** – these may be purely allegorical, but with the Moorish connection there could be some basis for wearing wrapped fabric turbans (Fig. 10, 11, 22)
- **hoods (Flemish)** - a very short-lived style made popular by Queen Juana, definitely influenced by the styles of Flanders. Black, probably wool, velvet, or silk, often trimmed in metals and/or jewels, sometimes turned back at the face to show colorful linings. (Fig. 12, 14)
- **Veils** – seen in a variety of styles and stations from queens to nuns to one example worn over a tranzado (Fig. 1, 10, 12, 13, 23)

Accessories
- fabric belts (Fig. 22)
- leather belts (Fig. 23)
- metal link belts (Fig. 11)
- sleeves—detachable (either fully or attached at the shoulder by lacings, stitches or pins). Among other styles, they are seen long and straight, slashed, open at the back seam, and as small square patches laced over the camisa sleeves. Empress Isabel had one pair knit of tan and red silks (Anderson 195).
- partlets—sheer, embroidered, decorated with insertion lace, trimmed in jewels. Isabel de Aragón owned 44 partlets, while Queen Juana owned 155 of Holland, taffeta, satin, silk, fur-lined, and heavily ornamented with gold and jewels (Anderson 181). (Fig. 1, 10, 11, 13-15,)
- bead necklaces (Fig. 20, 21)
- cross jewelry (Fig. 1, 12)
- large single jewel necklaces (Fig. 14, 19, 22)
- brooches (Fig. 18)
Fabrics
- wool
- silk
  - satin
  - taffeta (ceti)
  - damask
  - velvet
- brocades
- furs
  - ermine
  - marten
  - otter
  - squirrel
  - rabbit
  - sheep fell
  - lamb
  - lynx

Colors
- crimson or wine red
- black
- mulberry
- vermillion
- yellow
- violet
- blue
- cloth of gold/silver
- brown
- green
- striped

Precious decorations
- gold thread
- thin gold shapes (pailletes)
- hammered gold letters
- gold cords
- pearls
- metal bells
- silk ribbons
Bibliography


List of Illustrations

Benabarre, Pedro Garcia de. Birth of the Virgin. 1480. (Fig. 7)

Bermejo, Bartolome. Isabel la católica. c. 1495. (Fig. 1)

Berruguete, Pedro. Madona. (Fig. 5)

Borgona, Juan de. St. Felix Preaching. Retablo de St. Felix. c. 1520 (Fig. 21)

--. The Birth of the Virgin. c. 1508. (Fig. 6)

Catalonian School. The Virgin and St. Anne. c. 1480. (Fig. 13)

Flandes, Juan de. Raising of Lazarus. 1510. (Fig. 11)

--. Juana of Castile. c.1500. (Fig. 17)

--. La crucifixion. c. 1510 (Fig. 22)

Gallego, Fernando. Retablo virgin caceres. 1480. (Fig. 10)

Isabel la católica. 1500. (Fig.18)

Llanos, Fernando de. Birth of the Virgin. 1507-1510. (Fig. 8)

Maria Magdalena. c. 1490. (Fig. 15)

Martyrdom of St. Eulalia. (Fig. 23)

Master of the Catholic Monarchs. Marriage at Cana. 1495. (Fig. 16)

Master of the Life of St. Joseph. Joana of Castile. 1500. (Fig. 14)

Mates, Pere. Jesus Preaching. Retable of St. Mary Magdalene. 1526. (Fig. 12)

Pintoricchio, Bernardino. Leonor de Portugal Presented to Frederick III. 1503-1507. (Fig. 3, 4, 9, 20)