

Fox-tail belt for the purpose of hiding an arse (1344 – 1346)

In the chronicle of England known as the *Brut*, covering the years 1333 to 1377, the author complains of the fashions around 1344 - 1346:

*In this time the Englishmen so much haunted and cleaved to the wodnes and folly of strangers that they change their clothing every year, especially since the coming of the Hainaulters years ago. Sometimes their clothes are long and wide, at others they are short, tight, dagged and cut about and boned all around. The sleeves of their surcoats like their hoods have tapets, long and wide which hang down too far. They look, to tell the truth, more like tormentors and devils in their clothing than like normal men. **And the women surpass the men in their clothing which is so tight that they hang fox-tails under their dresses at the back to hide their arses**, a kind of behaviour which may well have provoked many of the evils and misfortunes that have beset the kingdom of England.*

Unfortunately, no pictorial evidence or DIY-instructions of the fox-tails under the skirts exist. Therefore my entry is a fox-tail belt as it could have existed. Due to the fact that this is not a fox hunting season, and that I am not a hunter or rich enough to purchase real fox-tails, I used the closest substitute I could find from my reservoirs: the tail of an opossum. In my books, foxes and opossums are similar enough: they are furry and have tails. Unfortunately the size of the animals and therefore the size of the tails differ quite a lot, so this belt would be worn by someone quite petite with a small enough arse.

For tying the opossum-tail around the waist I used a woollen fingerloop braid which is punched through 2 holes in the upper part of the tail.

Citation from:

Stella Mary NEWTON: *Fashions in the Age of the Black Prince. A study of the years 1340 – 1365.* The Boydell Press 1999.

Ketunhätä takapuolella siveyssiistä (1344 – 1346)

Englantilaisessa kronikassa nimeltä *Brut*, joka kattaa vuodet 1333 - 77, kronikoitsija valittaa vuosien 1344 – 46 pöyrityttävästä muodista:

*In this time the Englishmen so much haunted and cleaved to the woden and folly of strangers that they change their clothing every year, especially since the coming of the Hainaulters years ago. Sometimes their clothes are long and wide, at others they are short, tight, dagged and cut about and boned all around. The sleeves of their surcoats like their hoods have tapets, long and wide which hang down too far. They look, to tell the truth, more like tormentors and devils in their clothing than like normal men. **And the women surpass the men in their clothing which is so tight that they hang fox-tails under their dresses at the back to hide their arses***, a kind of behaviour which may well have provoked many of the evils and misfortunes that have beset the kingdom of England.*

(* = ”Ja naiset ylittävät / alittavat pukeutumisessaan miehetkin: heidän vaatteensa ovat niin tiukkoja, että he ripustavat ketunhäntiä selkäpuolelle vaatteidensa alle peittääkseen takamuksensa.”)

Valitettavasti ketunhännistä hameiden alla ei ole kuvallisia todisteita tai teko-ohjeita. Niinpä kilpailutyöni on ketunhänkävyö sellaisena kuin se olisi voinut olla olemassa. Koska nyt ei satu olemaan ketunmetsästyskausi enkä edes ole metsästäjä tai tarpeeksi rikas ostaakseni aitoja ketunhäntiä, käytin sitä, mitä käytettävissäni oli: opossumia. Mielestäni ketut ja opossumit ovat tarpeeksi lähellä toisiaan: molemmilla on karvaa ja häntä. Valitettavasti eläinten koko poikkeaa melkoisesti, joten tekemääni vyötä voisi käyttää vain joku hyvin pienipeppuinen henkilö.

Opossuminhännän sitomiseksi vyötärölle käytin villaista iskunyöriä, joka kulkee hännän yläreunassa kahden reiän läpi.

Tekstilainaus kirjasta:

Stella Mary NEWTON: *Fashions in the Age of the Black Prince. A study of the years 1340 – 1365.* The Boydell Press 1999.