

SUMMARY

<i>Generalities</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Look of the partakers</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Security</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Camp</i>	<i>page 5</i>
<i>Costumes, generalities</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>Costumes of the Limousins</i>	<i>pages 7 to 11</i>
<i>Costumes of the Brabançons</i>	<i>pages 12-13</i>

GENERALITIES

We created this booklet to help you to prepare your costumes, in the best conditions, if you want to participate to the battle of Malemort.

We tried to mix up historicity and security, according to the actual knowledge of the XIIth century..

IMPORTANT :

- *Each group (or person) who wants to participate, **must join the organizers** on the official web-site : <http://www.batailledemalemort.org>*
- *If you decide to participate to the battle, you will have to **respect the conditions of security**, **otherwise you could be excluded**.*

LOOK OF THE PARTAKERS

Only the partakers who will wear costumes in conformity with this booklet, could participate to the battle. **The organisers could refuse anyone who would not to comply to it.**

Also, we prohibit :

- « chainmail » made in wool
- weapons made in latex or wood
- armours of heroic-fantasy
- synthetic clothes
- skins of animals except a sheepskin wore by a shepherd for example
- modern shoes (rangers, clarks, boots for riding) ...
- etc...

The equipment and the clothes you will wear, must be compatible with the position of our character. For examples: poor characters can not wear silk goods or flashy colours; an aristocrat does not wear hemp clothes.

Modern objects as watches, glasses, piercings, t-shirts, cigarets... are prohibited. The modern tattoos must be covert.

We prohibit too anachronic equipments. Also, you can not wear:

- Viking helmets like « Valsgårde “
- Plate armour
- Gauntlets
- Velvet, synthetic clothes
- Rounded helmets or helmet-pot, those models of helmets appeared between 1175 and 1180 in then north of France; they appeared later in the south...
- Armored coats for the same reasons.
- Bucklers with metallic circumference
- Etc....

SECURITY

The security of the participants and their possessions suppose the attention of everyone.

The offensive armament:

Sharp or cutting weapons are forbidden on the battle field. The extremities of the weapons must be rounded and look like a piece of twenty cents of one euro.

During the battle, spears must be down directed, it's forbidden to try to touch the head, the face or the neck.

Arrows, javelins must be blunted.

The bowmen, the crossbowmen and the mercenaries with javelins must wait the orders to shoot, only the "bell" shots are authorized.

The defensive armament :

Every partaker who wants to fight, has to wear:

- a helmet
- a " historical" glove, reinforced with mail or leather, to protect the hand which takes the weapon
- at least, a gambeson made with leather or linen
- optionally, you can wear: protections for your arms, your tibias, made in leather; **those types of protections must be hided under your clothes because they didn't exist in the XIIIth century.**

Please, note that we don't research to armour the fighters more than necessary. We don't want the partakers think: " I am in secure and I can forget the rules of fair play and good manners..." The battle field, in reconstitution, isn't the spot for unremittingly fight, where every blow is authorized...

The behaviour of the partakers :

- **nobody under drugs, alcohol will not be on the battle field. It will be the same for anyone who would a dangerous behaviour.**
- **The organisers will exclude temporarily or definitively, anyone who would have a dangerous, or an incorrect, or a not "fair play", behaviour.**
- **The respect of everyone, "allied or enemy", is required.**

THE CAMP

The partakers who have an historical tent (XIIIth Century) could be settle in a camp, opened to the public during the day. Also, we claim to be careful to historical details of the daily life.

The partakers, who don't have an historical tent, could be settle in a "modern" camp, near the battle ground but hidden from the medieval camp.

*It will be possible to make a fire, but the partakers would have to dig and to lay stones around the fire-place. **The organizers will give some firewood.***

Some spots are forgone for dustbins.

***The partakers will have an access to W-C and showers.** If you prefer to bath in the river, it will be possible but take care to the canoes, the snakes... In this case, it's forbidden to use some cosmetics or other chemical products...*

Everyone will have to protect the environment, the property of the site and the sanitarries.

GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT COSTUMES

Basic rules for re-enactment costume.

- Cloth : hemp, linen, wool, silk (from lesser to highest),
- Guideline the more cloth is thin, the highest is social class,
- Leather : **collet végétal** self dyed, avoid chromium dyed leather,
- Stitches will be handmade when visible.

General view on medieval costume in the 12th century :

We do not mean to oversimplify nor pretend to possess the very truth, but here follow the usual way people get dressed here and there in western Europe through this period of history.

Civil outfit :

- Underwear :

- braies,
- shirt : homemade of hemp, linen, fine wool, silk (from lesser to highest).

- Clothes :

- tunic : commonly with braids (from ordinary appliqué linen band to an embroideries),
- chausses (leggings) : made of hemp, linen, wool, silk (from lesser to highest),
- shoes : natural leather, sometimes dyed according to statute,
- men's headdress : coif, scarcely worn by peasants,
other classes rather wear a woollen or felt cap,
- women's headdress : veil, without headband, frequent in all social classes,

Military equipment :

- Hauberks and byrnies :

- mail coifs are part of the hauberk (integrated in it), as well as are byrnie coifs,
- mail hauberks without coif are common, but NO separate mail cowls ! (thanks).

Following this few rules, hereafter are given more detailed clues you may use to compare your own favourite costume to what will be worn by most of the involved groups, or devise a brand new one that will be up to (12th) date...

Please note :

- **the number of detailed categories is voluntarily restricted to avoid you confusion,**
- **historic reality being more shaded, we won't be to rigid as long as logic and credibility will be respected (i.e : cavalers' equipment should be better than their servientes'.)**

COSTUMES OF THE LIMOUSINS

Local aristocrats :

Leaders of the crusade, they are central characters who will be subjects of particular personal claim beforehand on behalf of the participants (see special characters category).

Lesser rank local nobility :

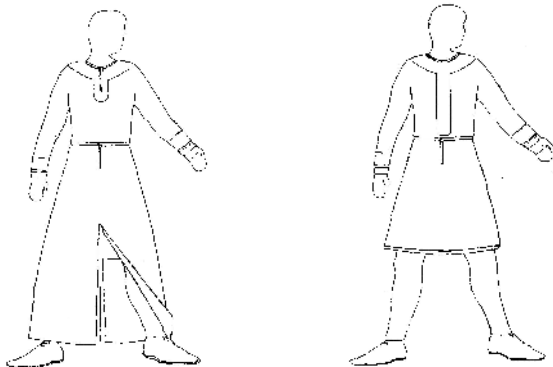
Civil outfit :

- Tunic : knee or calf-length, slit or not,
Linen, wool, silk of strong colours,
Braids around the collar, cuffs, and sometimes the lower edge of the skirt (non slit tunics), also sometimes around the upper arms.
Braids are often embroidered but they may be plain.
- The cut of the long **bliauts** can have a great fullness in the area (long and wide sleeves, etc...)
- Shirt : linen, fine wool or silk.
Collar and cuffs of the shirt can either be embroidered or pleated.

Military equipment :

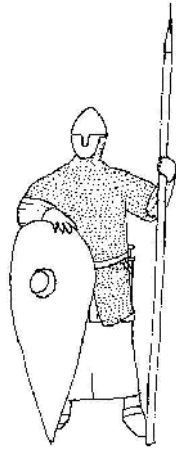
- Helmet with nasal, Phrygian type or conical, fluted or not,
Flat-topped helmets with face-guard available for those of highest birth.
Helmet with face-guard (either conical or Phrygian) are uncommon.
- Mail hauberk with long sleeves are given preference,
Mail coif attached to the hauberk,
Mail mittens integrated to the hauberk's sleeves, or even mufflers for the "optimates",
- Mail leggings (chausses) may appear (not closed : thong-laced behind the leg),
- Gambeson worn under the mail.
- Lance + banner.
- Sword with scabbard and waist belt.
- Kite shield with decorative, pre-heraldic or heraldic pattern.
- Spurs.

"Cavalers" (knights) :



Civil outfit :

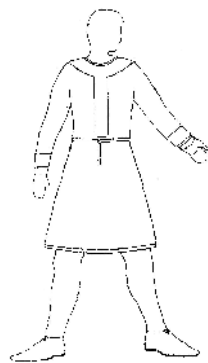
Tunic : knee or calf-length (the latter being slit),
Linen, wool of drab to strong colours,
Braids around the collar, cuffs, and sometimes the lower edge of the skirt (non slit tunics), sometimes around the upper arms.
Braids are usually plain but simple embroideries may appear.



Military equipment:

- Helmet with nasal, Phrygian or conical, fluted or not, also spangenhelm (with or without nasal).
- Mail hauberk with long or short sleeves, Mail coif attached to the hauberk, No integrated mail mufflers, but mittens may appear (uncommon for the local basic "miles")
- Byrnie with long or short sleeves.
- Gambeson worn under the mail.
- Lance (optional)
- Sword with scabbard and waist belt.
- Kite shield generally of plain colour.
- *Spurs*.

"Sirvientes" (sergeants) :



Civil outfit :

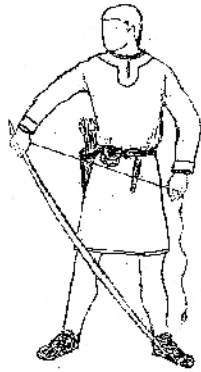
- Short tunic, knee-length, without slit, Hemp, linen, wool, of drab colours, Braids around the collar, cuffs, and sometimes the lower edge of the skirt, sometimes around the upper arms.
- Braids are always plain.*



Military equipment :

- Helmet, Phrygian or conical, (fluted or not), and spangenhelm (all of them with or without nasal).
- Mail hauberk with short or long sleeves, short (elbow-length) being more common, Sometimes with mail coif attached to it,
- Byrnie with short or long sleeves, short (elbow-length) being more common, With or without hood.
- Mail hauberk with short or long sleeves, short (elbow-length) being more common, Without mail coif, but with a hide hood tucked in the collar.
- Gambeson worn under the mail hauberk.
- Gambeson only (therefore, it must be thicker)
- Spear, Sword (optional) with scabbard and waist belt, falchion,
- Axe, (sappers "sirvientes" wield axes which they use two-handed),
- Kite or round shield of plain colour.
- *Spur, (mounted "sirvientes" may wear an unique spur).*

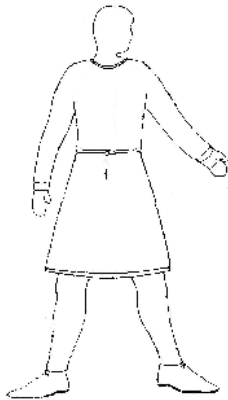
Bowmen :



Assimilated to common people among which they are recruited for a short time, they fought under the command of "sirvientes" archers.

Their dress is the "dress of the trade" in their category, but with a bow...

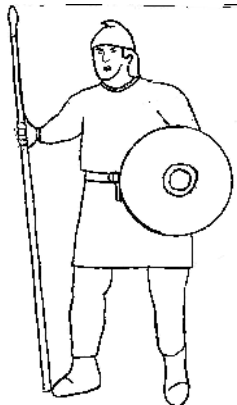
Commoners :



Civil outfit :

- Short tunic, knee-length, without slit,
- Hemp, coarse linen, coarse wool, unbleached or drab and faded colour,
- Sometimes, braids around the collar, cuffs, and seldom the lower edge of the skirt, Braids are always plain.

Cap



Military equipment :

- Helmet : bowl, conical, spangenhelm with or without nasal.

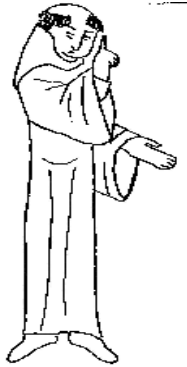
In this case, the peasant will be given a spear and a round shield (plain colour if ever painted).

- Axe.
- Falchion.
- Club.
- *Agricultural tools: scythe, pitchforks, quarterstaff.*

Clergymen and assimilated :

They all carry the tonsure.

The tonsure of the monks is the "corona spinea" whereas it is reduced for secular clergymen and clerks.



Monks of Clunisian obedience :

- "Black" woollen cowl with attached hood and large sleeves,
- Under garment : linen or wool, unbleached, grey, or light chestnut...
- Shirt : linen, fine wool or silk,
Collar and cuffs of the shirt can be pleated.
- Scapular worn under the shirt,
- Leather belt or no belt at all (but no belt made of rope)
- *Closed shoes are common (no "sandals ")*

Clerks :

"Black" cowls made of wool (or linen)
Clerks of less importance wear garment of the common folk and can be tonsured,

Priests :

They are clothed as the usual villain.
As far as we know, nothing indicates that in the 12th, they had to be tonsured.

Abbots and Bishops :

These are central characters who will be subjects of particular personal claim beforehand on behalf of the participants (see special characters category).

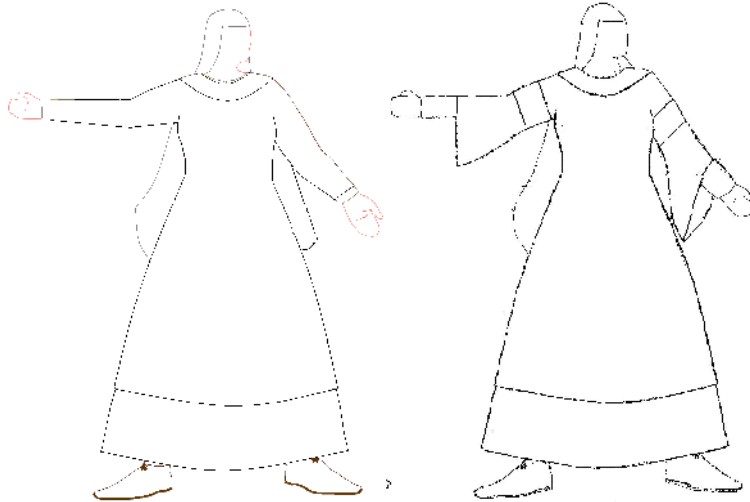
Women :

On the battlefield, the involvement of women concerns mostly those of the common folk joining the crusade. Therefore there are few noblewomen and therefore few noble dresses (ample and long with wide sleeves).

Nevertheless the dresses of the peasantry in Limousin of this part of 12th century show that sleeves cut has widened, but less than those of the nobility.

Women wear veils on their head.

Noblewomen :



- Gown with $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves, or sleeves **en carène**, tight fitted long or short sleeves.

Linen, wool or silk, strong colour,

Braids around collar, cuffs and sometimes lower edge of the gown, and also around the upper

arms,

Braids are either embroidered or a sewn band of dyed linen.

- Shirt : linen, wool, or even silk, pure white or unbleached, but sometimes pale colour.

Collar and cuffs can be embroidered or pleated.

- Veil (without headband) set on a supple felt coif.

- Shoes : closed or ankle boots.

- *Please, forget your "babies" shoes which were men shoes in the 12th century!!*

Common folk women :

- Dresses with $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves, or sleeves **en carène** (not too wide), tight fitted long sleeves.

Hemp, linen or wool, colour, unbleached or drab colour.

Braids : dyed linen bands sewn around collar and cuffs,.

- Shirt : hemp, linen or wool, unbleached or faded colour.

- Veil (without headband) set on a supple felt coif.

- Shoes : closed.

- *Please, forget your "babies" shoes which were men shoes in the 12th century!!*

- Staves.

- *Agricultural tools.*

COSTUMES OF THE BRABANTINES

The term “stipendiaire” (hirelings) was used commonly in the chronicles to designate ruffians and other soldiers of fortune, whatever was their origin. The term Brabançon (Brabantine) stands in head to designate these characters in our area, certainly because of the exotic origin of those manning their ranks, (considered by the inhabitants of Limousin).

Brabançons of Hainaut fought the battle of Malemort, but alongside with Basques, Navarrais and some “exotic characters”, they were organized in 20 companies (overall total ranging from 2000 to 3000 men).

Brabantines’ costume differs from the Limousins’ insofar as they come from peripheral areas and even from faraway (France, Brittany, Normandy, Burgundy, Germany, Italy, Spain). Therefore the field of possibility is greatly extended for the participants. One will be careful however to remain confined in a coherent geographical area and to present a reasonable number of such characters. Thus, if some Germanic or Siculo-Norman costumes are plausible, one will avoid to come dressed in Russian or in Greek. In addition, one will agree to respect the same consistency in respective wealth between costumes.

In facts, among mercenaries, very few scale hauberks or lamellar armours were available.

Nobility :

Few here, aristocrats acts as captains.

Leaders among the Brabantines they are central characters who will be subjects of particular personal claim beforehand on behalf of the participants (see special characters category).

Noble of lesser standing follow the general “stipendiaires” rule.

Outfit and equipment will vary according to the region of origin of the personified character.

The following armour types will be treated case by case :

- Lamellar worn over mail hauberk,
- Scale hauberk.

“Cavalers” (knights) :

Outfit and equipment will vary according to the region of origin of the personified character.

The following armour types will be treated case by case :

- Lamellar armour worn over mail hauberk or worn alone,
- Scale hauberk or scale habergeon.

“Sirvientes” (sergeants) :

The costume will vary according to the region of origin of the personified character.

The following armour types will be treated case by case :

- Lamellar armour worn alone,
- Scale habergeon

Women :

Chronicles tell of numerous women among the Brabantines slain on the battlefield.

- Most women will be without armour, provided with staves, polearms or throwing weapons.
- However, one can imagine among the ranks of the fighters, women wearing the garb of “sirvientes”, or even “cavalers”...

The Basques and the Navarrais :

"The Navarrais and Basques look alike in regard of meal, dress and language, but Basques have whiter face than Navarrais. They dress in short black clothes which are only knee-length, to the manner of the Scotsmen; they wear shoes that they call "lalbarcas" made of raw hide still having its hairs, being attached to the feet with straps, they only protect the sole of the foot so the upper side stay bare. They wear long woollen coats of dark colour reaching the elbow, with fringes, like hoods, and wich they call "saias". (...)

Wherever a Navarrais or a Basque will go, like a hunter he will carry a horn suspended to his neck, and he will usually hold two or three javelins, that he calls "auconas" in his hand. " (Guide of the pilgrim by Picard Aymeri).



Basque mercenary
(attempt of reconstitution)