



Women's 1490's Italian Renaissance Ensemble Part 4: Accessories

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Accessories are usually the most overlooked part of any ensemble and yet they are often the single most important difference between taking an outfit look from a costume to “stepping out of a portrait” clothing.

These are the essentials to achieving that clothing look.

1. Shoes
 - a. Slippers - *pianelle*
 - b. flat shoes - *scapini*
 - c. ankle boots - *borzacchini*
2. Jewelry ensembles
 - a. Necklace – often pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, gold and silver beads. Central pendant fairly prevalent. Very symmetrical in design. Also popular in the period is a simple black cord with a pendant suspended from it.
 - b. Earrings – usually matches the necklace and utilizes the same materials.
 - c. Rings – very popular and numerous. Older rings tended to have cabochon stones, newest fashion incorporated the “faceting” of a stone. Unlike the faceting of today, the table was extremely broad and had very short sides.
3. Head coverings of various styles.
 - a. Veils - *Velo* – transparent, translucent and opaque all were used.
 - b. Netted cap, hair net or caul. Popular in Milan and Lombardian fashion, A broad plait or roll of hair, hanging down the back, often elaborately decorated with strings of pearls or with ribbons and/or transparent veiling and often worn with a *trinziale*, a sort of fine fabric or metallic cap covering the back of the head.
 - c. Large turbans that are richly adorned. Often more favored in the northern areas.
4. Handkerchief
5. Small pouch or pocket - *Saccoccia*. Worn on either the inside or a highly decorated on worn on the outside.
6. Fan – a fixed square on a dowel – often highly decorated or feathered fan.
7. Early partlets, or *colletto*, may also be referred to as *gorgiera* or *coverchiere*, began to be seen after a 1465 Florentine decree to cover their generous neck openings. Because they used such transparent fine silk, it really had the opposite affect and drew the attention to the chest.
8. Mantle or mantello- for outerwear was common for all regions and classes.



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