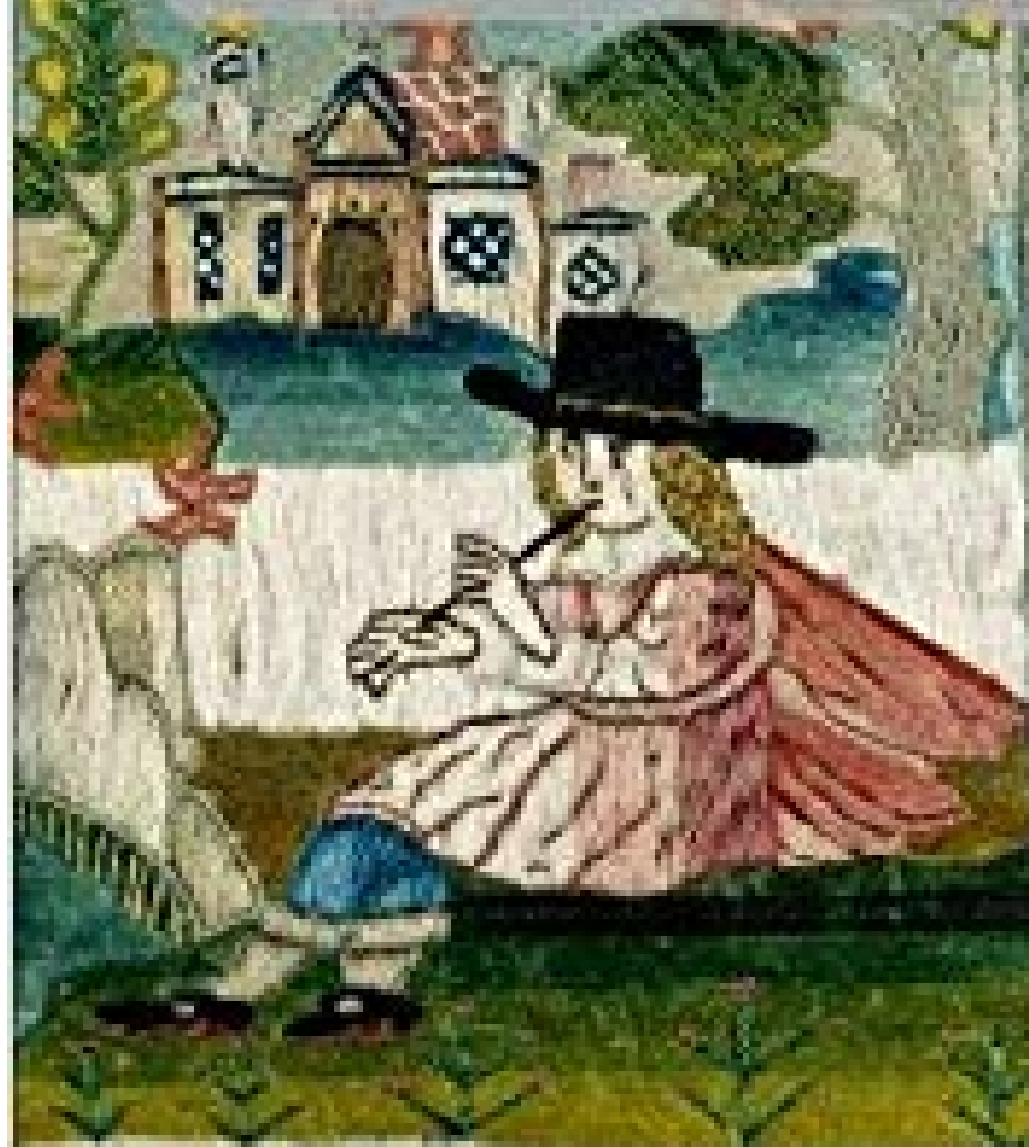


THE CLOTHING OF THE COMMON SORT

1570–1700



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AND
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PASOLD STUDIES IN TEXTILE HISTORY 19

Margaret Spufford and

The Clothing of the Common Sort, 1570-1700 (Pasold Studies in Textile History)



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Most histories of outfit in early contemporary Britain focus on the clothes of the sociable elite--on the silks and embroidery worn by courtiers, aristocrats, performers, the metropolitan rich. The Clothes of the normal Sort targets the clothing of children and young adults of the "common sort" through the period 1570 to 1700--the sons and daughters of "regular" people heading about their daily lives in towns and villages across England. But it leaves out the vast majority of the clothing worn by almost all of the population. They are both much more likely to have already been documented, and much more likely to have survived in museum selections. The study employs a number of innovative sources not previously exploited with the objective, including probate accounts and inventories. By doing this, it uncovers proof the myriad tradesmen, craftsmen, artisans and "females with a needle" who were involved in the production and dissemination of clothing and accessories in towns and villages across England in the past due 16th and 17th centuries. The quantity also examines the acquisition of clothes, from purchase of fabric, through production by tailors and 'women with a needle', to payment for ready-made products.



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