

Garters and Stockings

By Baroness Kaleeb the Green Eyed



Patterns of Fashion, p.41.

In Tudor England children wore knitted stockings and Men wore one-piece wool cloth hose. “Knitted hose were not only elastic and therefore practical for active young boys but it was less costly than cloth hose, as yarn was cheaper than fabric.” (*The Tudor Child*, p.32.) Time has not changed the relative cost of stockings/hose for active boys. I have purchased most of William’s stockings from the sock man at Pennsic, except for the pair that William won. Stockings seem to come in a wide range of colors.

William wears his socks almost to his hips, because they are men’s socks. Some days they stay up and some days they do not. I have woven William a pair of garters to try and help his socks stay up. I know that garters will help William’s socks stay put, I just do not know if he will tolerate them.

When researching garters and stockings I came across a lot of artwork depicting the Order of the Garter, a chivalric order in England. It seems that members of the order wore a

fancy garter on their right leg, most often below the knee. William will need to wear his garters above the knee. That style seems to come in two forms; narrow bands of cloth tied out of site behind the knee or thin bands of silk tied in a bow at the outside edge of the upper calf. If I have any hope of William wearing a garter it had better be the narrow band style without an elaborate bow.



The Tudor Tailor, p.32.



The Tudor Child, p.32.



King James I, *Tudor and Jacebean Jewellry*, p.18.