

In 2012, I began a degree at Yorkshire Coast College in Scarborough in Historic and Performance Costume. The course requires construction, design and academic skills, and necessitates a work placement in the second year. Particularly interested in researching historic costume, I was lucky enough to gain a placement with The Tudor Tailor. Jane and Ninya discussed my interests and were careful to map out a potential research project which I could use to meet a variety of learning outcomes on my course, whilst providing me with the opportunity to continue with the project after the placement had finished. To undertake research in the twenty-first century, IT skills are vital and Jane was keen to help me develop mine, so introduced me to file sharing via the Cloud, and allowed me to access The Tudor Tailor's research database to input information.

The project required the examination of an early set of woodcuts of *London Cryes*, to ascertain their usefulness as a costume reference. One problem with costume in the early modern period is the variety of different names which have been used to refer to the same items of clothing, not helped by different descriptions being given by modern costume historians. In order to assist me with descriptions used on The Tudor Tailor's database, Jane and Ninya kindly supplied me with reference books. The woodcuts themselves provided a fascinating exercise in the difficulties of identifying clothing layers from a two-dimensional image. The original printed sheets were part of a collection in Samuel Pepys' library, now held at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and although it is likely they would have once included the printer's name and date, they were cut up and remounted, so this information is missing, making definitive dating impossible. The images did, however, prove to contain a wealth of interesting detail, and suggested several avenues of future research, not only in costume, but in social history and popular culture.

The following year, I was given the chance to present my findings at the Medieval Dress and Textile Society Conference in London. Somewhat daunted to be presenting among so many experts, including Jane and Ninya, I had a wonderful day, with a very receptive audience, even though I had to curtail a great deal of my prepared talk due to time constraints. Having completed my degree, I applied to the University of York to study for a Masters Degree in Early Modern History. My experience of presenting at the conference proved to be an enormous asset when my application was considered by the history department.

Throughout my internship and since, I have received constant encouragement and support from both Jane and Ninya, and very much hope to contribute to their research in the future.