

Hats of the Ancient World

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Image packet

Golden Hats: 1400-800 BCE, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland. The Bronze Age hats are likely from the Proto-Celtic Urnfield Culture, and consist of embossed gold foil over some sort of organic substructure.

<http://irisharchaeology.ie/2014/03/the-comerford-crown-a-bronze-age-gold-hat-from-tipperary/>

<http://jauntingjen.com/four-gold-hats-a-bronze-age-mystery/>

Petastos: 1200 to 146 B.C.E., Greece. A broad brimmed sun hat, often including a chin strap, was common throughout most of Greece. They were made of felt, straw, or leather.

http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture/The-Ancient-World-Greece/Pilos-and-Petastos.html

Tutulus: 8th - 2nd C BCE, Etruria. These conical hats were worn by both men and women, though women are often depicted wearing veils over the hats.

Pileus/Pilos: 4th C BCE, Greece. These conical hats were often associated with laborers because these hats were part of the manumission ceremony for freed slaves.

http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture/The-Ancient-World-Greece/Pilos-and-Petastos.html

Phrygian Caps: 4th C BCE through the modern era. These are the most common hats in the history of humanity, from what I can tell. They're named after a region of Turkey, but figure in art and graves in Dacia, the Balkans, Greece, Rome, Scandinavia, Sarmatia, etc.

http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture/The-Ancient-World-Greece/Phrygian-Cap.html

Borum Eshøj finds: 1351 BCE, Denmark. The find includes three bodies, a man and a woman who were each 50-60 and a man in his 20s. All three are buried in coffins made of hollowed out logs. The woman had an interesting sprang hairnet and the older man had a gumdrop shaped wool cap.

Cherchen/Tarim/Urumchi Mummies: 1000 BCE graves in Tarim Basin, China. The people interred have tattoos and clothing assumed to be related to Bronze Age Celtic culture. The finds include a simple blue cap on an infant, a pointy hat, and an undyed felt gumdrop shaped hat with a feather plume.

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-mummies-of-east-central-asia/>

<http://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/beauty-loulan-and-tattooed-mummies-tarim-basin-001227>

Arzhan 2 Kurgan: Tuva C. 650 BCE. This Kurgan contains the burial of a Scythian man and woman, richly dressed with gold ornaments sewn to their clothing and fantastic hats, which include a red blunted conical felt hat with gold plaques on the woman and a white felt hat with ear drops and applique work on the man.

<http://siberiantimes.com/science/casestudy/features/fo212-focus-on-tuva-stunning-treasures-and-macabre-slaughter-in-siberias-prehistoric-valley-of-the-kings/a>

Hochdorf Burial Mound: c. 530 BCE, Germany. A man in his early 40s was buried with a number of fantastic grave goods, including a conical birch bark hat with incised designs. A statue of similar date

from Hirschlanden, Germany, near the burial mound, depicts a man wearing a conical hat. Different scholars have posited different shapes for the hat, but the angle of the hat on the statue seems to be considered the correct style lately. <http://keltenmuseum.de/English/The-Celtic-Museum/The-Museum/>
<http://www.tempus-vivit.net/bibliothek/buch/edle-tuche-fuer-den-fuersten>
<https://nielsbergervoet.wordpress.com/2011/07/29/hochdorf-barrow/>

Pazyryk graves: 5th to 4th C BCE, Altai region, Siberia, Russia. Finds include a tall unicorn hat and a draped leather and fur hat with gold plaques and a zoomorphic diadem. A related grave in Kazakhstan found in 2012 and has been dated to a similar period and reflects a connected tribe--it contains remains referred to as the Golden Princess and the Golden Man. Hers is a very tall red conical hat with a small downward slanting brim and gold embellishments. His is a tall red conical felt hat with ear drops and extensive gold work. <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/museums/shm/shmpazyryk.html>
<http://www.pennmuseum.org/documents/publications/expedition/PDFs/32-1/Rubinson.pdf>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2198222/Fashion-beauty-secrets-Siberian-princess-died-2-500-years-ago-revealed.html>

Tollund Man and the Hallstatt mine hat: 4th C BCE, Denmark/8 through 3rd C BCE Austria. This bog body was found with a simple sheepskin conical hat with narrow ties under the chin. A similar hat was found in the Austrian salt mine.
<http://www.museumsilkeborg.dk/welcome-to-the-story-about-tollund-man>

Kausia/Chitrali: 3rd C BCE Macedonia, still worn in Afghanistan. The Kausia is a flat-topped woolen cap with a folded or rolled base. They are generally constructed by cutting a round of felt and sewing a rectangular column of felt to it. Strips of stitching along the column help limit stretching. It was reportedly introduced to popular fashion by Alexander of Macedon/aka Alexander the Great.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/504964?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
<http://www.historyofmacedonia.org/AncientMacedonia/MacedonianTombAmphipolis.html>

Orkney hood: 250 - 615 CE, Scotland. This is a wool twill hood with two stacked tablet woven borders, one of which is fringed. It has simple embroidery over the line of stitches that connects the fringe to the body of the hood. There is also chain-stitch darning work in various spots on the hood.
<http://www.archaeologyonline.org/Documents/TheOrkneyHood.pdf>
<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/orkneyhood.htm>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5KveU3OC5c>
<https://www.archaeologyonline.org/Documents/TheOrkneyHood.pdf>
<https://orkneymuseum.wordpress.com/2020/06/18/orkneys-iron-age-hood/>

Rasquert Cap: 7th to 8th CE, Rasquert, Holland. Diamond twill cap with a small brim. Red thread was used to assemble the cap with visible decorative stitching.
<http://jalc.nl/cgi/t/text/text-idx1d82.html?c=jalc;sid=095741f1231d8f86c4f63866855fbf08;idno=m0201a02;view=text;rgn=div2;cc=jalc;node=m0201a02%3A5.1>

Haithabu/Hedeby: 10th C CE, Germany. The dig produced a number of amazing finds, but the felt sheep masks are our focus. <http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/masks.shtml>

Skjoldehamn: 11th C CE, Norway. Simple three piece hood made of 2/2 wool twill. The pieces are whip-stitched together. There is increasing evidence that the person in the find was Sami and quite

possibly female--I am hoping for further evidence to come to light soon.

<https://nattmal.wordpress.com/2016/03/16/skjoldehamn-hood/>

Web Resources:

My Ancient Hats Pinterest Board: https://www.pinterest.com/amy_ripton/ancient-hats/

My blog: <http://www.crazylanea.com>

The Hermitage:

<http://hermitagemuseum.org/fcgi-bin/db2www/browse.mac/category?selLang=English>

National Museum of Denmark: <http://en.natmus.dk/>

National Museum of Sweden: <http://nationalmuseum.se/sv/English-startpage/>

Nille Glaesel's blog: <http://vikingdrakt.blogg.no/>

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