Notes from: What Working Women Wore

Class at Pennsic War, 2011

Recommended Book: The Well Dress'd Peasant

Smock

- Round or a rounded square neck
- Website for smock pattern generator (see notes)
- May have to take in this pattern to adjust, or cut neck differently a 9" circle neckline is too big.
- Gored sides, gussets under arms, for Tight style, gussets give room for busts if using smallest measurement for body
- Knee to mid-calf length, not long

Stockings

- Woven or knit.
- Linen, silk, wool

Shoes

- Wooden clogs poplar (recommended) or willow
- Smoke & Fire sells them

Kirtle

- Side lacing with eyelets
- Linen (or wool) faced with canvas (flat lined?)

Overdress

- Lacing rings hidden
- Generally wool but can be linen, flat lined with linen
- Can be one layer or lined in contrasting color
- 3" opening or wider down front.
- Length to give shoe clearance, not long. Ankle length would be appropriate.
- Make a deeper 3-4" hem to help it hold the dress and pleats properly

Lacing

• Card-woven silk

Aprons

- White is predominant
- Examples exist in browns, tans, red, olives, etc.
- ½" ties, knot up sides for pouch.

Sleeves

• Tube with angle at top, get pinned at top of overdress straps.

Partlets

- White ruffled partlet, with cord at neck
- 1 pin in front, and tied under arms at sides
- Black partlets are all wool, never worn without the white partlet underneath

Caul

- Braid hair, fix into circle, pin caul over top
- White linen band with a puff
- Pin with bobby pins or hair comb inside for a cheat

Straw Hat

• Really most any style of straw hat is appropriately documentable

Misc.

- Rolled around pleat, 3x
- Lacing rings sewn around on the inside, and 1 tack through to the outer fabric to keep in place and from shifting when laced.
- The underdress should be well fitted, and the overdress should lace across the top but not need to be pulled tightly, so there shouldn't be much stress on the lacing rings anyway.