

MORE THOUGHTS ON WOMEN

"A man may chastise [discipline] his wife and beat her for correction, for she is of his household, therefore the lord may chastise his own."

—Nicolas Byard, 13th century

"It is plain that wives should be subject to their husbands and should almost be servants."

—Canon Law, 13th century

"All inhabitants of Villefranche have the right to beat their wives, provided they do not kill them thereby."

—Gascony Customary Law and Practice, 13th century

One day in public, an aristocratic wife scolded her husband. This made him so angry that he "smote her with his fist down to the earth, then with his foot he kicked her face and broke her nose...so that ever after she was shamed to show her visage [face], it was so foul blemished."

—The Knight of La Tour-Landry, 13th century

"...Copy the behaviour of a dog who always has his heart and his eye upon his master; even if his master whip him and throw stones at him, the dog follows, wagging his tail....Wherefore for a better and stronger reason, women ought to have a perfect and solemn love for their husbands."

—Goodman of Paris, 14th century



Blond was the most sought-after hair color during the Renaissance. Women would sit outside with an herbal concoction similar to bleach on their hair. However, since fair skin was considered the most beautiful, women wore a crownless hat to protect their faces from the sun.



Appearance was everything during the Renaissance, so dressmaking was an important art. Popular fabrics for nobles included silk, velvet, and brocades. Commoners wore cotton and wool.



Women were not allowed to work outside of the home; however, at no point could they be idle. For that reason, spinning, carding, and weaving wool occupied much of the day.