

## Bongrace Cap

The bongrace cap is defined as a hat, which provides shade for the wearer. It may be that the hat was developed as simple indoor caps, which then were transitions to an outdoor. It is hard to tell given the pictorial evidence.

The bongrace can be seen on the serving woman to the right of the woman in the round tipped pleated hat. – 1582 – person 5<sup>th</sup> from the left.



In the picture above, one can see the woman wearing a bongrace with the back veil turned up over the front billeting – 5<sup>th</sup> from the left. There are a variety of outdoor scenes in which people are depicted in this type of cap. This type of cap doesn't seem to be specific to any one region but can be seen in portraiture from England, France, Italy, and Spain.

The picture on the right is a better close up of the bongrace as worn in Henrician England. Note how the billeting seems to extend over the face.

However, there are other versions which reveal the front of the hair as seen in the effigy sculpture of St James church Derbyshire

1627 – likely started long before it's reported completion date



7. (left) A French hood in black fabric overlaid with gold upper and

A black bongrace - 1548



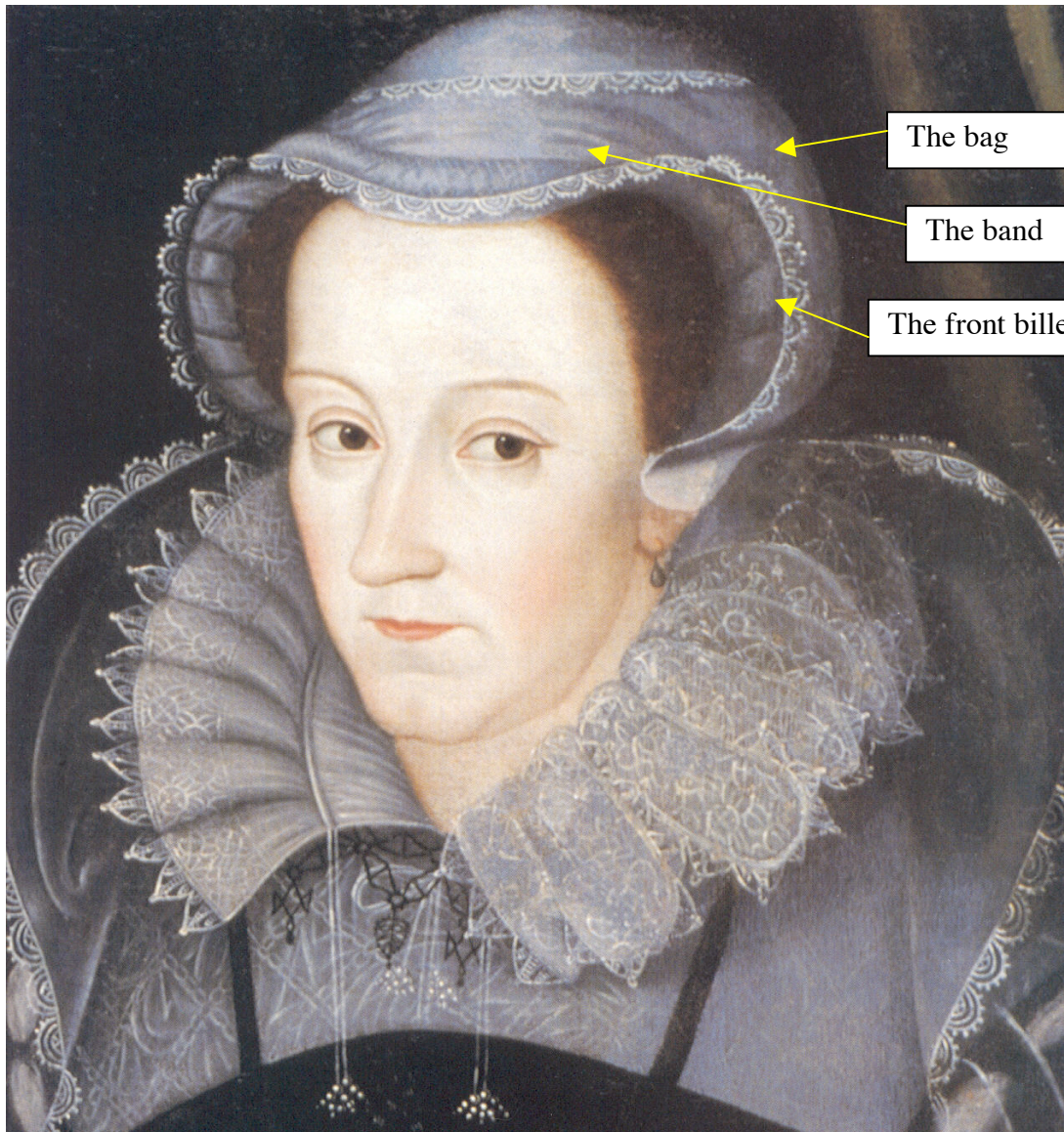
## The heart shaped bonnet

This ubiquitous little cap is seen in sculpture, portraiture and wills throughout England, France, Spain, and Italy. While it may have regional differences, the basics are the same.

It is made of 3 pieces:

- 1 - The front billets which can be shaped, round, or slightly scallop
- 2 - the band which hold the cap on.
- 3 - the back for the hair.

The heart shaped bonnet is has a very distinctive shape. In this pic, you can see three distinct section of the cap.





The heart shaped bonnet is seen from the early Henrician period right through the Elizabethan period. It seems to undergo some changes, such as size of billet and amount of hair that is visible as well as how the hair is arranged.

The bonnets could be made of linen, lace, velvet or other fine fabrics. There is some type of stiffening used in the cap. Likely some type of buckram or papier-mâché. The edge would also require some type of wiring

1577 - French

II4 THE PURSUIT OF FASHION



1602 – Isaac Oliver's wife Sarah Gheerserts



