

Embroidered pouch made by Ellina dicta Vintdenwürvel (mundane name: Christine Fiebig)

The pouch(es) I based this pouch on are from mid to late 13th / early 14th century, mostly from (what is now) Germany and France. The measurements are taken from an online pattern for this kind of pouch (see source 1).

Material:

It's made out of linen, with wool thread (and a small amount of modern sewing thread).

Extant embroidered pouches from the 14th c were often made out of linen or canvas, the linen I used is a very good match for that.

The white linen is bleached, the orange linen is chemically dyed but in a color that very closely resembles a madder dye. You can see how well the colors match when you look at where the straps are sewn to the pouch.

The green thread is wool, handdyed with plant dyes by a friend (I don't know more about the dye) and the orange thread is madder dyed from Renaissance dyeing.

The gray thread used in the embroidery is handspun undyed gray wool (spun by myself).

I used a small amount of modern sewing thread both in the sewing and the embroidery, because I didn't find anything else to achieve the effect.

I chose the orange linen for the strap because it's a nice color contrast to the white outer fabric and the embroidery and because I had more of that fabric available.

Execution:

I first cut out both parts of the pattern, once from white linen and once from orange linen. Then I embroidered the arms on what will be the flap of the pouch.

The embroidery is mostly couched, because I only had a very limited amount of the green thread. Couching was used in the 13th c and onwards mostly for gold thread (as far as I could find), its use with colored wool thread was mostly found in earlier times. But because I had so little of the green thread I chose the technique that uses the least thread and is still SCA-period.

That's also the reason why I used the escutcheon form instead of filling the whole flap with embroidery.

After the embroidery was done I took one white and one orange piece (of matching size) put them together wrong sides facing outwards and sewed them together with (modern) white sewing thread. I left the shortest side of each piece open for turning the right side outwards. After turning I smoothed the seams (and the seam allowances on the inside) with my fingers, "pressed" it down with lots of pins and sewed along all seams to make a flat edge that will stay flat. In this step I also closed the open sides (folding the seam allowance inside before sewing, of course).

I joined these two parts with just a few pins and then carefully sewed together the orange part of the edges with orange wool thread.

For the strap I cut two strips (the fabric wasn't long enough for one long strip) out of the orange linen, one as long as the fabric permitted, the other long enough to achieve the desired strap length and both twice as wide as I wanted the strap to be (plus 1 cm seam allowance on each side).

I then joined them at a short side, folded the (now really long) strip lengthwise and ironed it really hot. Then I folded the seam allowance on one side inside and ironed that too. I repeated that step with the seam allowance on the other edge and took care that the ironed edges match.

After the fabric cooled down I secured the ironed "layout" with pins and sewed it together with the orange wool thread.

The last step was to attach the strap to the pouch.

Sources:

- (1) German pattern/tutorial for such a pouch: http://www.tempora-nostra.de/mode_umhaengetasche.shtml
- (2) Extant pieces <http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/468622>