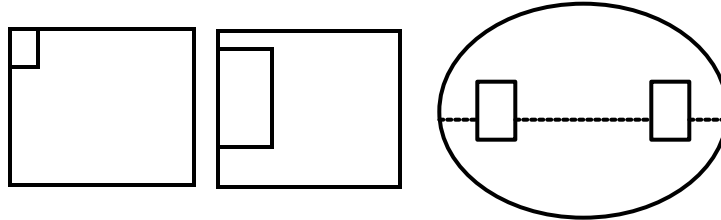


Chlamys

Project Sheet

Lady Meghan Elphinstone

A Chlamys is a cloak worn by men. Typically thought of as a rectangle, there is well-documented evidence for an oval shape.



The smaller rectangles are tablions, a medium to very large decoration positioned near the top to mid-way down the front edge of the cloak.

Please read the entire sheet before beginning and contact me if you have any questions.

To wear the Chlamys:

Oval version:

- Fold almost in half lengthwise, so that the seam (if there is one) is hidden on the underside of the oval.
- Proceed to the following paragraph.

Rectangular version:

- Put it around the shoulders like a shawl. The left side should cover the arm and hang somewhere between the knee for a common soldier and the top of the shoe for an attendant at court.
- Pin together over the right shoulder leaving the right arm free. If you are left-handed, fasten over the left shoulder.

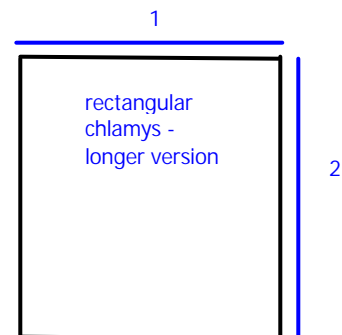
Purchasing fabric:

- Linen, wool and silk were used for chlamys. Silk and silk brocades could be choices for those of higher rank.
- Both sides of the fabric may show at times
- Finer weaves will give a nicer drape to the cloak and subconsciously suggest higher status.
- Chlamys could be either white or a color.
- The tablion could be a solid color, or have a design. The higher the status of the individual, the more complex the design.
- Chose a fabric/color for the tablion that contrasts with the chlamys and can be seen from a distance.
- If fabric is washable and you intend to wash the garment, wash and dry fabric before cutting.
- Purchase extra fabric if there is a possibility of shrinkage.

Fabric Yardage:

Rectangular version:

1. Around the shoulders _____ + 2 = _____. The fabric should be this width or wider.



2. Measure from the neck across the left shoulder to the length desired _____ + 2 = _____ / 36 = _____ yd. Fairly typical examples for a slender person of 5'9" would be 44" x 44" (1-1/4 yd) for a short version or 44" x 54" (1-1/2 yd) for a longer cloak.

Note: the oval version will hang better than the rectangular one.

Oval version:

The fabric for the oval version will need to be almost twice as wide as the desired length.

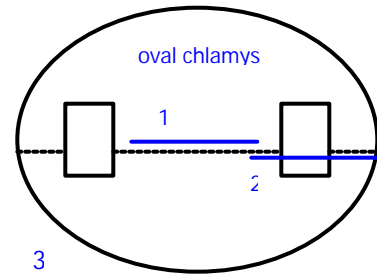
1. Around the shoulders _____.
2. Shoulder point to the length desired _____ x 2 = _____.
3. Overall Length: #1 _____ + #2 _____ = _____ / 36 = _____ yd. Double this yardage for longer version.

Note: If the person is small and the cloak is short, 60" may be wide enough. Otherwise it will be necessary to buy twice the yardage answer for #2. Tablecloth fabric at 72" and cotton quilt backing at 106" are the only fabrics typically obtainable wider than 60".

Construction:

Rectangular Chlamys:

- Cut out the cloak so that the length of the chlamys is along the grain/selvage edge of the fabric.
- Finish edge with a small double-folded hem.



Oval Chlamys:

- If a double length of fabric was purchased for the longer version of the cloak, fold the fabric in half so that the cut ends meet. For instance a three-yard piece (108") folded in half would be 54" long.
- Cut along the fold line.
- Right sides together, sew through both pieces along one side of the fabric. Unfold and press the seam. The dots in the line drawing illustrates where the seam would be in the garment.
- Mark an oval using the answer to #2 above. The width should be almost twice as wide as the desired length of the chlamys.
- Cut out the oval.
- Finish edge with a small double-folded hem.

Tablion (optional):

- Pin the chlamys in place over your shoulder.
- Experiment with paper or pieces of scrap fabric to decide on the size and placement of the tablion.
- Oval chlamys: position the Tablions equal distances from the each edge (line drawing) so that they meet on the front and back edges of the cloak. See attendant on left in the illustration below.
- Cut the tablion 1" larger in both directions than the size you want.
- Depending upon the fabrics used, there is a possibility the tablion may sag as it is worn. To avoid this, there are options available depending upon how modern you are willing to be:
 - o Take discreet stitches throughout the patch (not just along the edges) to secure it to the cloak.
 - o Back it with a fusible cloth interfacing (not pellon) before attaching it to cloak.
 - o Bond it to the cloak with a light-weight double-sided fusible web (be sure and turn the raw edges under first)
- Turn the edges of the rectangle under 1/2" and appliqué onto the cloak with small stitches.



This is a simple project sheet meant for fabric layout and sewing instructions only. For more information on this garment, please refer to the downloadable PDF on my web page:

Early Byzantine Clothing, Ornamentation and Accessories, 5th-6th Century – female and male

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