The clothes of the wealthy were studded with precious stones. Men wore embroidered jackets, fur-lined robes and short, padded trousers called breeches. They carried daggers which they used for eating, as well as swords. Rich women had skirts with frames underneath to make them wider. Some ladies wore the ‘gabled hood’.

Men and women wore ruffs, or starched collars around their necks, unless they were poor. The children in this picture come from a wealthy family, but all children dressed in the same way as adults. Rich girls were forced into tight corsets reinforced with iron and whalebone to shape their bodies. This sometimes gave them broken ribs and stopped their lungs from growing properly.