

The probate of Hans Dinesen and his wives, Denmark 1584-86

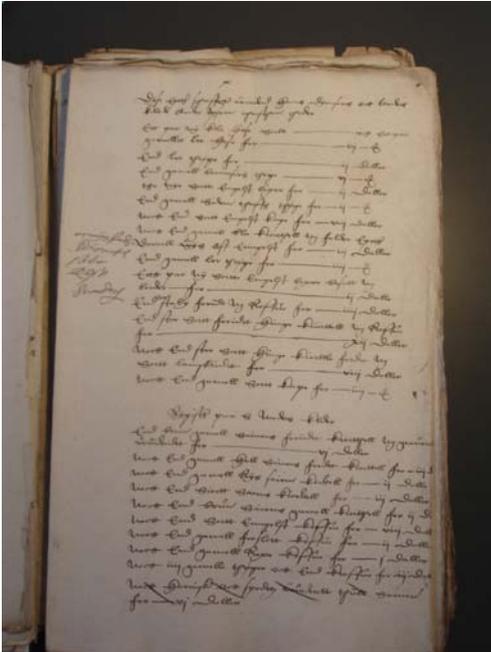


Image 1 : List of clothes belonging to Hans Dinesen and his first wife Karen in the probate inventory of 1584-86.

About

Prepared by Camilla Luise Dahl & Maj Ringgaard, Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen

Probate records are some of the most informative sources for dress in 16th and 17th century Denmark-Norway. From probates and inventories we gain insight into how not only the wealthy, but how people from almost all social classes lived, what they owned and how many and what kind of garments they possessed. A large number of probates for townspeople have survived and are stored in local and national public archives.

One of these is the probate inventory of the Danish burgher Hans Dinesen and his family from 1584-86. From this inventory we gain insight into how wealthy people in a larger 16th century Danish town lived and dressed.

The probate record is kept in The Local Archive of Funen in Odense, Denmark (LAO), registered as Odense byfoged (Bailiff): probate documents 1541-1641 (Dokumenter til skifteprotokol 1541-1641), probate 1584-86.

Hans Dinesen was a wealthy citizen and member of the town council in the Danish town of Odense on the island of Funen, central Denmark. Hans Dinesen and his wives belonged to some of the most

prominent families in 16th century Odense and his children all married into wealthy prominent families.

The probate records that he was married twice, first to Karen Clausdatter who deceased and then second to Anne NN. There were four children from the first marriage, while the second marriage was childless. The four children were: 1:Else Hansdatter married to Bishop Niels Jespersen¹; 2:Willum Hansen, citizen of Odense; 3:Anne Hansdatter (deceased), who had been married to Claus Hansen Mule and left behind a little daughter named Margrethe; and 4:Boild Hansdatter who was unmarried.

The probate also mentions Karen Clausdatter's two children by her first husband Willum Petersen Kelbrecker, a prominent citizen of Odense who died in 1556.² These two children were Marine Willumsdatter married to Henrik Mule and Peter Willumsen Kelbrecker, citizen of Odense.

Hans Dinesen and his wives left behind a large and rich home with furnishings, movables and other goods of high value, which had to be distributed among the heirs. The matter of the probate took two years to settle.

The original document contains lists of jewellery, furnishings, household items, textiles and other valuables owned by the couple. The probate inventory also contains a list of some of the garments owned by Hans Dinesen and his first wife Karen, as well as clothes owned by their youngest daughter Boild Hansdatter, who was still living at home at the time of the death of the parents. Not all of the couples' clothes, however, appear in the probate. It is only the part that was inherited by the youngest daughter Boild that was recorded. A list of clothes and linen given to the daughter Anne on her marriage is also given, as the amount of money used for Anne's wardrobe had to be given to Boild as well. It was important that all the girls in the family were given the same amount of money for their dowry.

In this extract only the garments of Hans Dinesen, Karen Clausdatter and their daughter Boild Hansdatter are given, whereas the inventories of other textiles, costumes and jewellery have been omitted.

After the 1536 Reformation in Denmark, dark coloured clothing became the fashion. Looking at the colours mentioned in this probate, black and brown are predominant. More than half of the items where the colour is mentioned are black, a quarter of them are brown or violet-brown and women have some red and flesh-coloured garments. The only yellow mentioned is a fabric for embroidery and the one blue garment is "an old blue kirtle with pleats in the old fashion". Except for the white linen, no other colours are mentioned among the garments.

We do not have any depictions of Hans Dinesen; but we have one depiction from 1576 of his sister-in-law and her family wearing garments similar to those mentioned in this probate (see related images at the end of this section and on the project website).

¹ Her second marriage was to goldsmith Diderik Fuioren (Fyring) and her third to Doctor Jens Hansen Mule.

² His probate is dated 25th of June 1556.

The probate of Hans Dinesen and his wives Karen and Anne, Odense 1584-86

Anno Domini 1585 den 12. nouember: Jthem thette epttherskrevne fantz i Boilddt Hansdathers kiste, som oc wurderitt bleff:	Anno Domini 1585, nov. 12th. Goods stored in Boild Hansdatter's chest which was valued:
<p>Først 5½ allne oc 1 quorther røtt liiffaritt klede, huer allen 2 dr er ... 11½ dr som hindis fader køffte hiem fraa Hamborg oc gaff hinde. Noch 7 korthet sort engellst allnen 6 mk, er ... 10½ mk Som hindes moder gaff hinde till 1 trøye oc 1 Krauffe. Noch 10 sællantz allne røtt machej allnen 1 mk er ... 10 mk Som hindis moder gaff hinde for 10 aar siden oc bleff køfft till Oluff Bagers oc strax betaldt. Noch i 8 allne flamsk drætt allnen 3 mk er ... 6 dr Noch 2½ allne gulltt huercken att sye paa, allnen 6 sk er ... 15 sk Jthem 5½ m huid gørn, marken 6 sk, som hun siellffue haffde spundit, er ... 2 mk 1 sk Jtem 2 allne lerrudt allnen 12 sk ... 24 sk, som hindis moder gaff hinde till halls klæder. Jthem 1 rockehoffuid, med 1½ mark hør paa, marken 2 sk er ... 3 sk Jthem 2 gamle dammaskis kraffuer, 1 sort oc 1 brun, som hun haffuer hafft i sin faders oc moders tid, den enne fick hun till sin søsters Anne Hanßdathers brullup. Jthem 1 fiolbrun fløigells kraffue, som Mester Niels gaff hinde till markidtz gaffue eptther hans brullup wor staaitt. Jtem 4½ allne brunt gemeent engillst, allnen ... 1 dr, som hindis fader haffuer giffuit hinde 4 aar siden. Jtem 1 sort slitt marcheis wnder kiortill, Jtem 1 ny fiolbrun engellst kiortill, Jtem 1 rød slitt macheis wnder kiorthill, som hun fick till Marrin Willumsdathers brullup. Jthem 1 gammill brun kiortill, Jtem 1 gammell wnder kiortill aff saien, Jtem 1 sort engillst kobe som hindes moder haffuer giffuit hinde till Doctor Peders brullup. Jtem 1 sortt hallffslit engillst kobe som haffer weritt hindis moders, seths for ... 5 dr Jtem 1 sortt hoße skind for ... 1 mk, som hindes moder haffuer giffuit hinde. Jtem 3 rødlask skind styckitt 12 sk er ... 2 mk 4 sk</p>	<p>First: 5½ ells and 1 quarter red flesh-coloured cloth, each ell 2 daler, is ... 11½ dr - which her father bought home from Hamburg and gave her. Also 7 quarters black English cloth, each ell 6 mark, is ... 10½ mk - which her mother gave her for a jacket and a collar.³ Also 10 Sealandic ells red marcaye⁴, 1 mark the ell, is ... 10 mk - which her mother gave her 10 years ago and which was bought by Oluf Bager and paid right away Also 8 ells of Flemish wall hangings, 3 mk the ell, is ... 6 dr Also 2½ ells yellow linsey-woolsey to sew on, each ell 6 skilling, is ... 15 sk Likewise 5½ mark white yarn, each mark 6 sk, which she had spun herself ... 2 mk 1 sk Likewise 2 ells of linen, each ell 12 sk ... 24 sk - which her mother gave her for partlets. Likewise a spinning wheel spindle with 1½ mark linen on, each mark 2 sk, is ... 3 sk Likewise two old satin collars, one black and one brown, - which she had had while her parents were alive, one of them was given her for her sister Anne's wedding. Likewise 1 violet brown velvet collar, which Master Niels gave her as a market gift after his wedding. Likewise 4½ ells brown ordinary English cloth, the ell ... 1 dr - which her father had given her 4 years ago. Likewise a black worn 'under kirtle'⁵ of markeye, Likewise a new violet brown kirtle of English cloth, Likewise a red worn 'under kirtle' which was given her for Marin Willumsdatter's wedding. Likewise an old brown kirtle, Likewise an old 'under kirtle' of serge, Likewise a black cloak of English cloth, which her mother gave her for Doctor Peder's wedding. Likewise a half worn cloak of English cloak which used to be her mother's, valued for ... 5 dr Likewise a black hose skin for ... 1 mk - which her mother gave her. Likewise three pieces of red leather, each 12 sk ... 2 mk 4 sk</p>
<p>Dyse eptther schreffne wurderd Hans Dynesens bos kledes klæder: Anders Jpsenn, Christoper Schreder: 1 par ny kle hose sorte ... 5 mk 1 par gamelle ler hose for ... 3 mk 1 ler thrøye for ... 2 dr 1 gamell bomersies thrøye ... 6 mk 2 nye sorte engelst buxer for ... 2 dr 1 gamell sidenn thaffts thrøye for ... 2 mk Noch 1 sortt engelst kape for ... 8 dr Noch 1 gamell bla kiorthell medt folder eptther gamell wys aff enggelst for ... 3 dr 1 gamell ler thrøye for ... 4 mk</p>	<p>These following of Hans Dinesen's clothes of cloth, valued by Anders Ibsen and Christopher Tailor: A pair of new black hose of cloth ... 5 mk A pair of old leather hose for ... 3 mk A leather doublet for ... 2 dr An old bombazine doublet ... 6 mk Two new black breeches⁶ of English cloth ... 2 dr An old silk taffeta doublet for ... 2 mk Also a black cloak of English cloth ... 8 dr Also an old blue kirtle with pleats in the old fashion, of English cloth, for ... 3 dr An old leather doublet for ... 4 mk</p>

³ Short cape.

⁴ Cloth of Mark.

⁵ Petticoat.

⁶ A pair.

1 par ny sorte engelst boxer besatt <i>medt</i> border for ...	2 dr	A pair of new breeches of English cloth with trimmings ...	2 dr
1 sortt staby foriidt <i>medt</i> reffue for ...	4 dr	A black upper gown lined with foxes for ...	4 dr
1 stor sortt foridtt hinne kiiortteell <i>medt</i> reffue for ...	12 dr	A large black furlined hanging kirtle with foxes for ...	12 dr
Noch 1 stor sortt hinge kiorttle foridtt <i>medt</i> sortt lamskindtt for ...	8 dr	Another big black hanging kirtle lined with black Lamb skin for ...	8 dr
Noch 1 gamell sortt kape for ...	4 mk	Also an old black cloak for ...	4 mk
Rygisther paa <i>salig</i> moders kleder:		Inventory of the late mother's clothes:	
1 brun gamell saienns foriidtt kiortthell <i>medt</i> grauerch wurderidtt for ...	6 dr	An old brown kirtle of serge lined with miniver, valued at ...	6 dr
Noch 1 gamell hall saienns foridtt kiorttell for ...	3 dr	Also an old half serge lined kirtle for ...	3 dr
Noch 1 gamell rys saienns kordtell for ...	2 dr	Also an old fine serge kirtle for ...	2 dr
Noch 1 siortt sarens kiordtell for ...	3 dr	Also a black kirtle of serge for ...	3 dr
Noch 1 brun saienns gamell kiortthell for ...	2 dr	Also a brown old kirtle of serge ...	2 dr
Noch 1 sortt engelst koffue for ...	8 dr	Also a black cloak of English cloth ...	8 dr
Noch 1 gamell forslitt koffue for ...	2 dr	Also an old worn out cloak ...	2 dr
Noch 1 gamell rexe koffue for ...	1 dr	Also an old travelling cloak for ...	1 dr
Noch 4 gamelle thrøyer och 1 kraffue for ...	3 dr	Also four old doublets and a collar for ...	3 dr

Related material

An epitaph painted 1576 of wealthy merchant Oluf Bager and his wife Margrethe Clausdatter and their children shows the dress of the bourgeoisie of the period. Margrethe Clausdatter was the sister of Karen Clausdatter married to Hans Dinesen. The epitaph shows clothing similar to those mentioned in the probate of Hans Dinesen and his family: furlined cloaks, kirtles and collars (capes). The probate above even mentions fabrics bought from merchant Oluf Bager which was given to his niece Boild. Photograph: Erik Fjordside.



Related image 1: Epitaph of merchant Oluf Bager and his wife Margrethe Clausdatter and their children, 1576.

Related visual sources (see website for related images):

Related image 1: Epitaph of merchant Oluf Bager and his wife Margrethe Clausdatter and their children, 1576.

Related image 2: Margrethe Clausdatter and her oldest daughters.

Related image 3: The sons of Oluf Bager and Margrethe Clausdatter.

Related image 4: Oluf Bager and his oldest son.

Related image 5: Margrethe Clausdatter.

Related image 6: The three daughters Lisebet, Else and Marin.

Related image 7: The two youngest daughters Ane (deceased) and Ane.

Related image 8: The house of Oluf Bager and his family

For more information about early modern Dano-Norwegian dresses see:

http://ctr.hum.ku.dk/other_research_projects/earlymodern/postdocproject/

http://ctr.hum.ku.dk/other_research_projects/earlymodern/postdocproject/extracts/

www.livinghistory.dk

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Svend Larsen, Studier over det fynske Rådaristokrati i det 17de Århundrede. Bd. 1-2. Aarhus Universitet & Odense bys museer, 1965.

Camilla Luise Dahl, Extract of the probate of Hans Dinesen 1584-86:

http://ctr.hum.ku.dk/other_research_projects/earlymodern/postdocproject/extracts/Skifter_fra_Odense_udvalg.docx.pdf/

<http://www.gravstenogepitafier.dk/bogense.htm> (The family of Karen and Margrethe Clausdatter).