

Glossary of Textile Terms

Baize: coarse woolen fabric with a long nap, sometimes frizzed on one side like flannel

Branched: adorned with a figured pattern, embroidered with flowers

Broadcloth: a fine smooth woolen fabric (so called because it was originally made of greater width than ordinary woolens)

Camlet: fabric of plain weave, could be woven in many widths, some camlets were made of goat's hair, some were partly silk or linen. Figured camlets had figures stamped on by means of a hot iron.

Diaper: type of linen with a twill weave, used for tablecloths, towels or napkins. Made in Holland and named after its place of origin in Ypres, Flanders.

Dimity: stout cotton cloth with woven-in stripes or flowers

Doublet: a close-fitting garment covering the body from the neck to a little below the waist

Dowlas: coarse linen cloth

Flannel: cloth made of woolen yarn that is slightly twisted and of open texture, resulting in a soft cloth

Fustian: a general term covering a large category of linen and cotton

Grogram: silk and worsted (or mohair) cloth, often stiffened with gum

Holland: linen

Huke: a cape or cloak with a hood worn by women and, later, by men

Kersey: cheap coarse woolen cloth of twill, usually ribbed. Used for overcoats because it kept out the wet and cold.

Kirtle: a tunic or short coat reaching to the knees

Linsey-Woolsey: a fabric made of mixed linen and wool

Moll or Mull: soft fine white cotton from India. Used for hankies and petticoats.

Murrey: mulberry or purple-red colored cloth

Pennystone: a coarse woolen cloth, always sold in white

Perpetuana: a durable woolen fabric with a twill weave

Philip and Cheney: a worsted material

Rash: a wool fabric, usually twilled. The term covered a wide variety of goods -- some close-cropped, some shaggy.

Say: thin woolen stuff or serge, of twill weave

Serge: a twilled worsted cloth

Stuff: a general term for worsted cloth, it could be twilled or plain, often made of common wool. Stuff was found in black as well as every other color.

Taffaty: silk or silk and cotton cloth, often in bright colors

Ticking: closely-woven strong linen or cotton, used for mattresses

Twilled: slightly ribbed

Waistcoat: a short coat without sleeves, a vest

Worsted: lightweight cloth made of long-staple combed wool yarn

Wrought: embroidered