A ruff is an item of clothing which was worn around the neck from the mid 1500s onwards. Ruffs were worn by men, women and children. They started as a simple collar but grew more and more elaborate throughout Elizabeth I's reign. People often think of ruffs when they think of that time in history. Ruffs were a circular collar made from a pleated frill. The quality of the ruff was a sign of status. Very rich people would have ruffs made of expensive linens and decorated with lace, gold, silver and silk. Poorer people, if they had a ruff at all, would wear one made of cheap, rough and rather scratchy material.



SHAKESPEARE WEEK

WALKER BOOKS

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