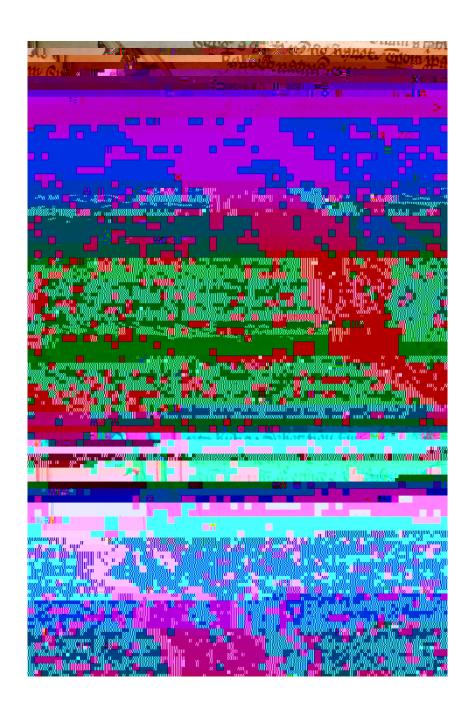
A Marginal Follower of Fashion

Historians of fashion often look to the court of King Richard II when discussing the birth of haute couture he aspirant bourgeoisie started to ape the fashions of the court, having become sufficiently prosperous to afford the silks and luxury textiles that were such a hallmark of the age. The aristocrats, so as to preserve the outward and visible signs of their exclusive station in life, were compelled to change their codes of dress regularly; and even if the business of staying one step ahead did not yet quite involve the exhausting iterations of Milan or Paris or New York, the current mode of dress was used for the first time as a statement of exclusivity. One of the more outré crakow, a pointed, long-toed

shoe, whose length steadily increased as the aristocrats sought to outrun their imitatorsl although physically outrunning anyone at all would have been impossible, for the toes eventually became so elongated that courtiers had to tie them to their legs so as not to trip over them. Crakows became popular in 1382 after the marriage of Richard II to Anne of Bohemia; it was Bohemia where the fashion originated; Kraków in Poland is the city from which the shoe takes its name. Needless to say, New ounder, Bishop William of Wykeham (d. 1404), would have had little patience with any foundationer who might have felt moved to flaunt crakows on his own feet state that it is absolutely forbidden to each and every scholar and fellow to wear red or green hose, pointed shoes or hoods with frogging, within the University or without).



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