

Fashioning Anti-Fascism:
National Sporting
Uniforms and Outdoor Leisure Clothing in Britain Between
the Wars

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Central Saint Martins



- Order of Woodcraft Chivalry (OWC), founded by Ernest Westlake, 1917
- Kibbo Kift Kindred (KKK), 1920 led by John Hargrave
- Woodcraft Folk, 1925, group from the KKK established by Leslie Paul

Olympic Stadium, Berlin 1936

'Ennobled by the memories of the past, athletes all over the world will learn to know one another better, to make mutual concessions, and to seek no other reward in the competition than the honor of the victory. One may be filled with desire to see the colors of one's club or college triumph in a national meeting; but how much stronger is the feeling when the colors of one's country are at stake.'

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, *The Official Report of the 1896 Olympic Games Part One, The Olympic Games B.C. 776 – A.D. 1896*, p. 79



Thomas Curtis (USA), Winner of 100m Hurdles, Athens 1896,

“Crumbo” by
“Spy”, *Vanity
Fair*, 19 March
1896, p.205



‘ a fine young specimen of English manhood ... a very well-built young fellow of much symmetry and proportion ... ‘a beautiful complexion, an almost girlish look, a very frequent blush (which is the outcome of much modesty), a temper that will bear much chaff, and a chin that in times of depression looks as though it would fall off and explode on the floor.’



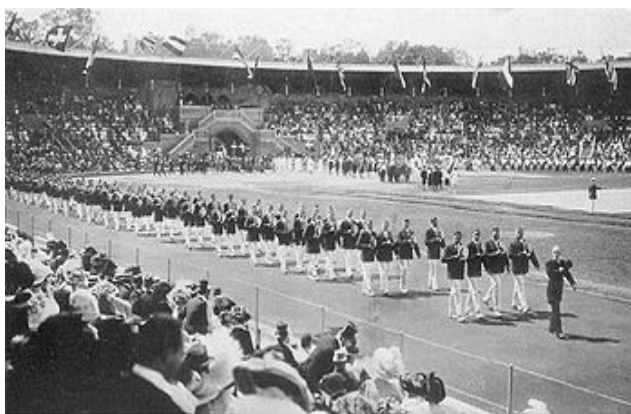
‘A Votive Vase of Modern Olympic Competitors, *The Illustrated London News*, July 18, 1908



‘All the World’s Sportsmen’, *The Sphere*, July 18, 1908



**United Kingdom Team,
Opening Ceremony, London 1908**



*USA Team, Grand March Past, Stockholm, 1912. Plate 109, The Fifth Olympiad,
The Official Report of the Games of Stockholm 1912, la84 foundation.*

'Few of us would care to see England take its games quite in the American spirit, and the admiration which we feel for those splendid bands of Scandinavian gymnasts is not unmingled, in the case of most of us, with a certain shamed contempt.'

Official Report of the Olympic Games in Stockholm (1912, 63)

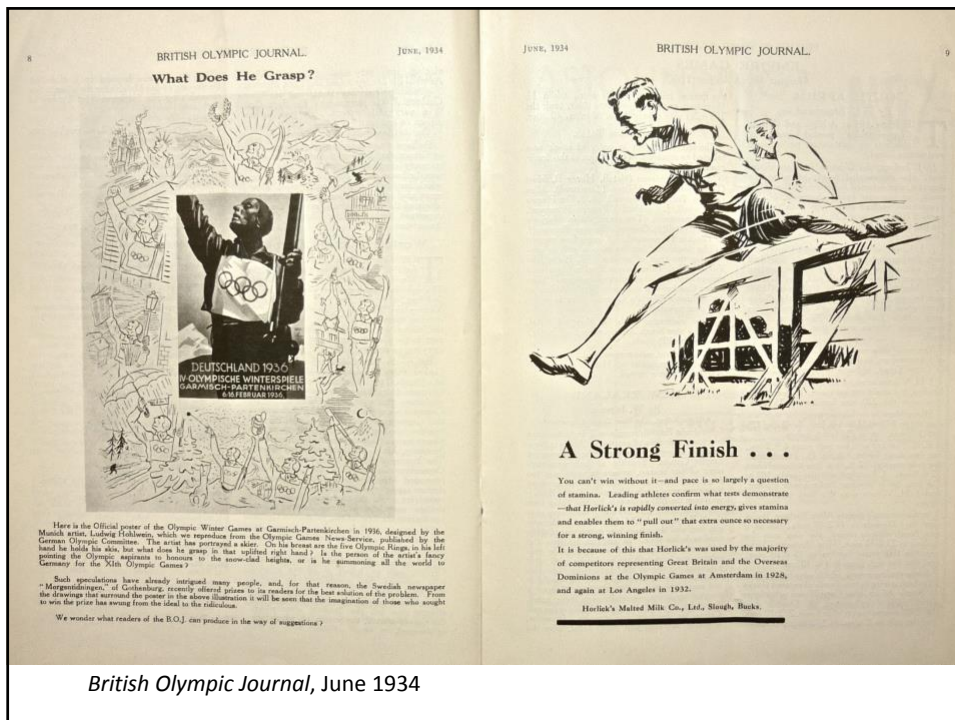


Cyril Ellis (Birchfield Harriers), in team blazer, Amsterdam 1928 (finished 5th in 1500 m,)

'The British Olympic Committee is resolved to collect money sufficient to provide adequate funds for competitors while assuring the British Public that in those events in which Great Britain is to be represented the principles of true amateurism have in no way been sacrificed.'

... no matter how humble or supposedly inconsequential, no form of uniform or official dress just materializes out of the blue. Every one is the product of prolonged thought, not just about the mission of the group being outfitted but about the meanings associated with its cultural function and authority.

Paul Fussell, *Uniforms: Why We Are What We Wear*



British Olympic Journal, June 1934



Resistance Subversion
 Appropriation
 Non-Uniformity
 Costuming
 Folk Nationalism



7th Northamptonshire Regiment (18th Division), photo taken 9th August 1917 near Dickebush, showing cut down Service Dress trousers



Tank Corps Officer Western Front 1917, from Windrow (1979), *Tank and AFV Uniforms since 1916: 65*



Kibbo Kift
 Kindred

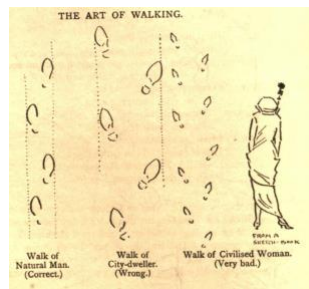
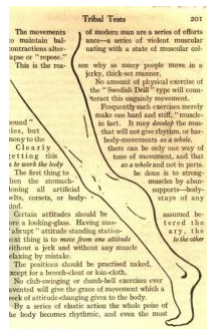


Rolf Gardiner
 The Travelling
 Morrice

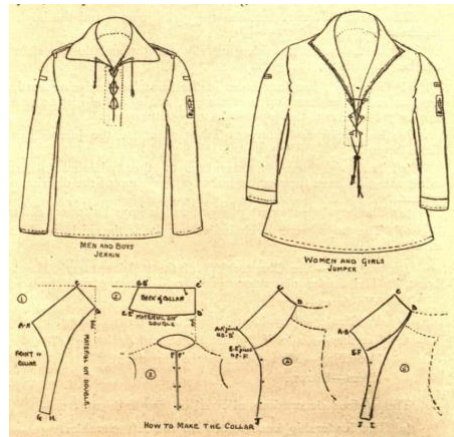


Men's Dress
 Reform Party
 1932

John Hargrave, (1919) *The Great War Brings it Home*



Tribal Training, 'The Test of the Supple Limb' and 'The Art of Walking', in *The Great War Brings it Home* (1919)



Order of Woodcraft Chivalry (1917)

Order of Woodcraft Chivalry
 'Uniform Notes', *Pine Cone*, Vol. I No. 3 January - March 1924, p19-22



OUR GRAND KEEPER OF THE HONOURS TALLY: GREAT BEAR.



OUR GRAND KEEPER OF THE FIRE: GRAY SQUIRREL.

'The uniform as adopted is very serviceable and hygienic, and withal picturesque. It is not recommended that it should be worn as an everyday garment in camp, but only on certain occasions, e.g., councils, walks, and treks...'

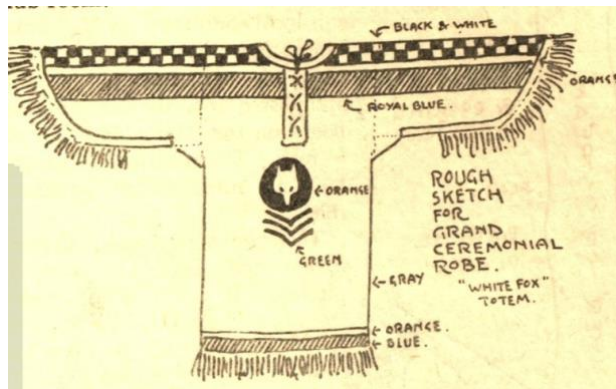


Kibbo Kift Kindred Annual Althing 1928
Museum of London



John Hargrave, 'White Fox'

Their uniform was to serve as
'a symbolic violation of the
social order'



Kibbo Kift Kindred

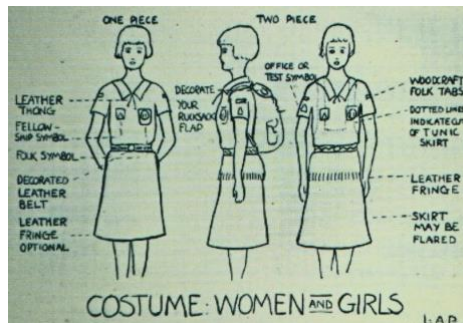
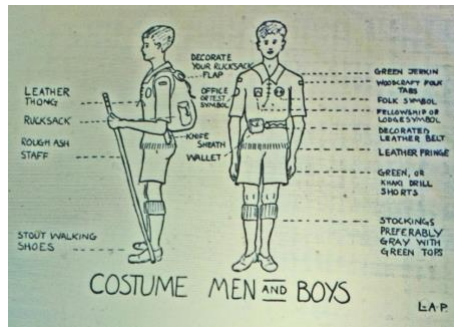
Ceremonial robes for 'Keeper of the Council Fire'
Suggested Designs and Decorations



Woodcraft
Folk



'every symbol, every totem, every song has its own peculiar value ... We are the revolution'.



Wedding of Miss Lily Chandler and Mr Richard Goss outside "Nia Hejmo"
The Wheatshaf, July 1930, p.XVIII



'a mark of respect for the
smashed socialist youth
movements of the continent'

'green clad shock troopers
of the people's fighting
front'

