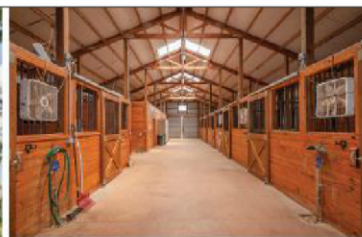




HUNTLEY CHILDREN'S PONY STITCHED BREECH, HALF CHAPS & WOVEN BAG

Huntley has everything, from beautifully crafted bridles to soft-shell show coats. But this season we're loving their children's apparel in particular, including the whimsical gray stitched breech (\$59.99; sizes 8-14). With well-cut tops and shiny swagger tags, their Brazilian black leather half chaps (\$129.99; sizes XS-L and heights short-tall) are classy enough to fool a judge, while the fully lined woven Nappa leather bag with equestrian print fabric makes the nomadic horse show lifestyle a lot more fun. \$199.99. HuntleyEquestrian.com.



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Foxhunting Fashion

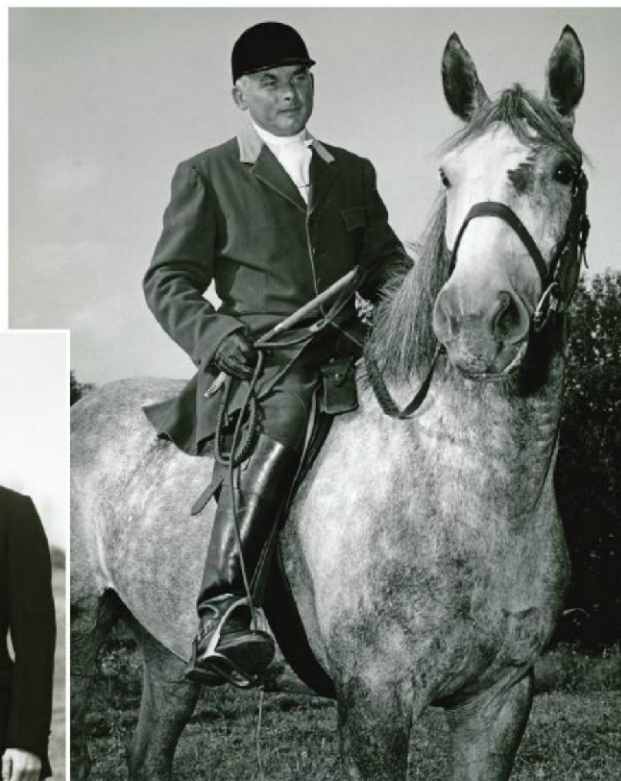
Through The Decades

Dressage riders have embraced the bling, show jumpers sport high-tech fabrics, and eventers are all about the body armor. But foxhunters, deeply rooted in tradition, have always tended to celebrate forward riding and censure forward fashion. A glimpse back into the Chronicle and National Sporting Library archives reveals the oh-so-subtle sartorial trends of the past half-century in foxhunting.

By KIMBERLY LOUSHIN

The 1950s

Breeches with blooming hips were all the rage in the 1950s. The design came from a desire to keep women's true figures disguised and were a unisex style, seen here on Mrs. Joseph (Averell) Walker Jr. (left) and her sister Mrs. John (Nancy) Hannum III of Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds (Pa.). Notice the height on their spurs—if you look at any hunt appointment, it states the spurs must remain level on the boot. Hair could be worn out of the hunt cap, but only if secured with a hairnet. At the tops of their boots you'll notice black garters—now worn almost exclusively by children in jodhpurs. The garter was originally used to keep the boot up and squarely on the leg and the breeches (which of course lacked elastic and a snug fit back then) from riding up, but it's now primarily a vestigial adornment that could be jerry-rigged to fix damaged tack if necessary.



While white was the color of choice for most huntsmen, brown or rust breeches were (and still are!) inarguably more practical for foul-weather hunts, and B.J. Naughton Jr. seems to have embraced that philosophy. The Jt.-MFH for the Waterloo Hunt Club in Grass Lake, Mich., is pictured here in 1957 wearing a longer hunt coat, as was the style in those days, which made for a warmer rider on frigid days afield. His saddle features a flat flap—knee rolls were unheard of at the time—and is placed directly on his sturdy mount without a saddle pad.

FREUDY PHOTO

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Tweed coats were incredibly popular and were considered appropriate attire for the hunt breakfasts, as seen in this 1953 photo of S. Prentice Porter, Jr.-MFH of the Orange County Hunt (Va.). His mount wears a double bridle, which, while still considered appropriate in many appointments classes, has largely fallen out of style in the field today. Porter's broad, flat leather tack remains as prevalent as ever, though. His saddle features a longer, straighter flap, which places his leg in front to give him a defensive seat.

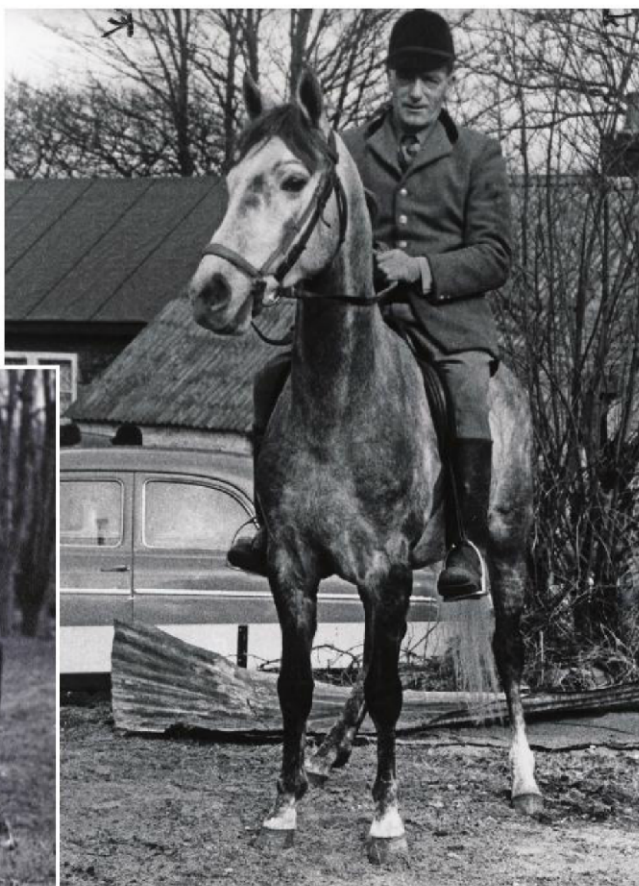
THE CLOTHES HORSE

The 1960s

Everything worn by huntsman Gustave Mollet of the Smithtown Hunt (N.Y.) is carefully dictated, down to the length of his spur. In the 1960s, tabs were a required part of any boot for a master or huntsman, and the tab was to be sewn to the boot, but not sewn down. Regulation boots were black leather, not patent, with brown tops.



MURIEL BROWN PHOTO



For brisk mornings, such as this one in January of 1967, heavy wool coats were the most practical, and the thick material also held up against scratching branches as you galloped along. Here one such jacket is sported by Tom Davies, the second whipper-in to the Banwen Hunt (England). Paired with rust breeches, Davies is perfectly turned out. His tiny Connemara stallion wears a then-popular drop noseband, and, of course, no saddle pad.

MURIEL BROWN PHOTO

The 1970s

Carrollton Hounds (Md.) huntsman Howard Arthur "Brownie" Brown's horse is outfitted in both a drop noseband and a standard cavesson connected to a martingale. The horse sports a standard hunter clip and a mud knot in his tail—perfect for a chilly December hunt in 1974.



DOUGLAS LEE'S PHOTO

The masters of the Fairfield County Hounds (Conn.) posed for this picture after the hunt was named champion of the 1978 Hunter Pace Series. Boots were still boxy then (no zippers, as seen on today's tall boots), but field boots were starting to emerge as an acceptable option, as seen worn by honorary whip John Rapetske (*far left*). Their breeches are all well fitted, with curving side seams and contrast knee patches a popular choice. Even for a hunter pace, neckwear was a must, and you can guarantee that each stock seen here is perfectly tied.



FREUDY PHOTO



JOHN KESSLER PHOTO



In the early '70s, top hats and bowlers were still the preference for most hunt members, as evidenced by this photo of the Green Spring Valley Hounds (Md.). The top hat was believed (incorrectly, we now know) to absorb shock in a fall because it would crunch like an accordion. If a woman chose to wear a cutaway, aka a shadbelly, she was expected to wear a top hat to match. Velvet hunt caps were still primarily only worn by masters and staff.



GhoDho

CLASSIC BREECHES WITH AN EDGE

RIDER: GIAVANNA RINALDI

THE CLOTHES HORSE

The 1980s



In March of 1985, the Midland Foxhounds (Ga.) and the Mooreland Hunt (Ala.) held a joint meet in Alabama. Just as warmbloods infiltrated the hunter and jumper scene, heavier horses made their way into foxhunting circles. After decades of Thoroughbred dominance, many riders began to prefer the slower pace a warmblood or draft cross could provide. This image also shows that thick faux fleece pads, rubber or canvas reins, and safety helmets with harnesses were also becoming acceptable for the first time.



DOUGLAS LEES PHOTO

In this photo from October of 1987, Richard Webb (left), MFH of the Moore County Hounds (N.C.) and president of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, and James Young, MFH of the Orange County Hunt (Va.) and second vice president of the MFHA, are perfectly turned out for an afternoon of cubbing. Young wears a tweed jacket cut much higher than seen in previous decades. Neither man wears gloves, a sure sign of the relaxed nature of the event, but their horses are still impeccably turned out.

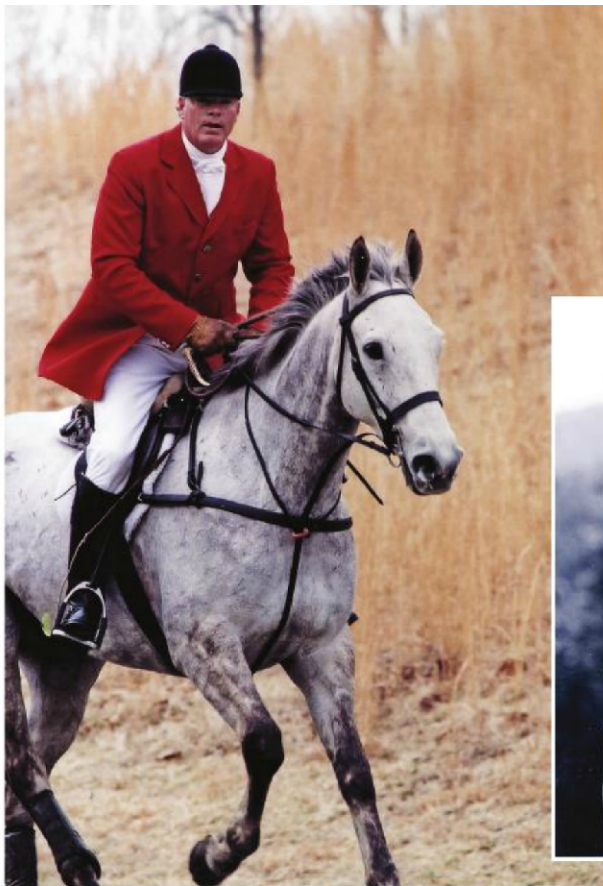
The 1990s



Ronald P. Stewart, MFH of the Fairfield County Hounds (Conn.) in the early 1990s, is shown here in an outfit typical for an out-of-season hunt. His attire is decidedly more casual, with plain dress shirt and tie. While his mount is sparkling clean, the square white saddle pad and Stewart's lack of headgear would only have been acceptable for an informal occasion.



As the new Jt.-MFH for the Norfolk Hunt (Mass.), Mrs. Nicholas D. (Rhonda) LaVerghetta certainly looked the part. The three gold buttons on her coat would have the hunt's logo emblazoned on them. Her mount wears conservative leather galloping boots, and we can see that rubber stirrup pads have come into the picture. LaVerghetta's helmet has the signature clear plastic harness typical of the times.



DOUGLAS LEE'S PHOTO

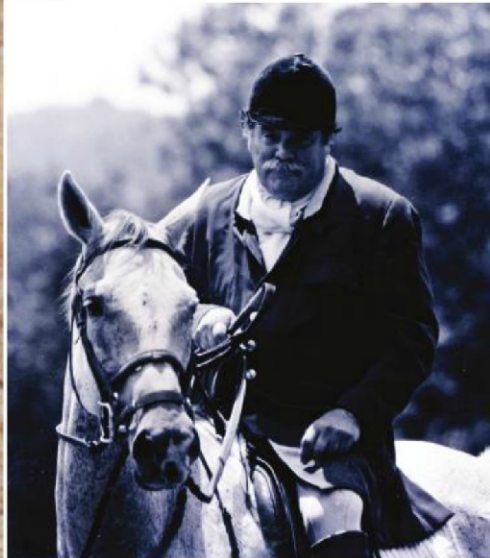
While much of Orange County (Va.) Jt.-MFH John Coles' attire is a throwback to the earliest days of foxhunting, modern touches can be seen, such as his flexible branch stirrups, which were becoming popular in the show ring in the early 2000s. Also notice the sheepskin seat-saver on his saddle.

Ever wondered where huntsmen keep their horns while making chase? They have two options: the leather case on the left side over the coat, as worn by Brenda Yost, huntsman of the Mill Creek Hunt (Ill.), or in a leather case fastened to the front of the saddle. This prevents the horn from being a burden, but allows a right-handed rider easy access.



PEGGY ASSED PHOTO

The 2000s



The stock tie and pin have never been about fashion in the hunt world, and you won't catch a dedicated foxhunter sporting a decorative pin. A plain silver or gold one—as worn by Jonathan Tatham, a Jt.-MFH and huntsman of the River To River Hounds (Ill.), in 2004—will always be preferred. The stock can be used as an emergency bandage for an injured horse or rider, and the pin will keep everything in place.

The 2010s



VALERIE DUDON PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

You might think, given the top hat and birdcage veil, that this 2015 photo is straight from the set of a period film or an episode of *Downton Abbey*, but Devon Zebrovious is participating in the opening meet for the Middleburg Hunt (Va.). Her side-saddle habit is made of thick wool—no technical fabrics here—and her green collar and MH buttons denote her position in the hunt.