

The Porteous & Mitchell Company



SPRING SUITS & GOWNS show MANY NEW FEATURES

By
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MISS LA MODÈ is no respecter of history, chronology, nor seasons. In less than a twelve-month she has stepped airily out of King Dagobert's trowsers into the culms of the Middle Ages and thence into the courtly costumes of Louis the Fifteenth's time. Now her capricious head has been turned by military regalia and though the summer months are approaching she is donning the modified uniform of the Russian Cossack, with complete indifference to the fact that it is obviously a winter effect. So the puzzled purveyors of her ladyship's whims have had to skirmish exceedingly to adapt the style to spring and summer usage. The result is an infinite variety of bloused and belted garments, but all showing the unmistakable Russian influence, even to the trimmings of brocade ruses and the buckles and clasps bearing the Russian eagle's head. Conservative buyers in this country, however, sound a warning note in the declaration that the Russian models will undoubtedly be favored in the greater suits and three-piece costumes, but that the seven-eighths fitting tailored suits, twenty-six to thirty-two inches in length, will easily hold their own. These will be made with long roll and notched collars and the left side lap, approaching almost to a blazer style when the roll collar is emphasized. A novelty in these tailored garments is the introduction of lingerie effects. Pleated German valencienne lining the collar and cuffs adds that touch of lace distasteful that feminizes the most strictly tailored suit.

The developments of the Russian blouse effect range from the simplicity of the blouse coat brought into the waist line with a patent leather belt, to the satin coats that are striped or pleated into belts of gold braid or silk embroidery. It is whispered in the inner circles of the fashion modistes that before the end of summer the regrettably-relinquished Eton and bolero will come into distinct favor again. We had had the long coats for several successive seasons now and the pendulum may naturally enough swing from their length to the abbreviation of the Eton and bolero. The home dress-maker will rejoice at this change, for the simple style of the short coats does not present the difficulties in making—or the expenditure—that the longer garments do.

But there seems to be a law of compensation in fashion as in other things. When two yards is subtracted from the coat four yards is added to the skirt. A has the skimp, clingy skirt of yesterday. Pleats are back again in every delightful style of frog-frou. The novelty in the season's skirts is of course, the ruffled or half-draped effect over a pleated rounce. The apron tunic is shown in many of the ready-made models, but since there are no hip seams whatever to allow alterations, it is necessary to obtain a perfect fit in the beginning, which is not always an easy matter. The side pleated skirt, which proved so becoming to most figures, has returned to favor as has also very variation thereof—the plain panel alternating with a pleated one, side coats alternating with "ox pleats, shaped apron confining pleats below the hip line.

toned diagonal, basket cloths and mat weaves will be used in the more expensive suits. The tendency is toward the soft, rough cloths, including homespun and worsteds. The pin-stripe serges it is expected will be much worn, especially those with the hair-line stripe of black, from one-half to three-quarters of an inch apart, on a white ground, or the white line on a navy blue ground. Although the three-piece suit in the more elaborate styles will persist, the silk suit, consisting only of skirt and coat, bids fair to push to the front again as the smart apparel for semi-dressy occasions. Tussah and pongee silk are used almost exclusively in these suits, though ribbed and corded effects are also good. Foulards, which grew and grew to such extravagance in sprawl and color that they lost favor with the discriminating woman, are insinuating themselves into her good graces again by their soft colorings and modest designs. The smaller the pattern, the smarter the foulard is considered to be. Another revival of a once popular silk is that of the changeable or chameleon silk, which is to be found in the taffetas and satins. Many of the new suits and coats are lined with this changeable silk, in a contrasting shade.

Though the suit coats have all been shortened up into Russian blouse and even Eton lengths the separate coat for spring continues to be full length, though often developed in the Russian effects. The straight cut garments on closely fitting lines are easily in the lead. Silk coats of black taffeta, or the natural shades of pongee and tussah, will be much worn. One model in tussah illustrates a new feature in the combination of a blouse front with a belted effect, without a belt, however. The fullness of the blouse front is confined in three narrow tucks to which is extended the skirt panel, thus forming a sort of low, broad belt. The very long roll collar is the distinguishing feature of the new coats, together with the left side lapping. Sometimes a single button fastens the coat at the waist line, and more than three are never used.

The color note for spring is a subdued one. Soft, silvery greys, greens with yellow glints in them, natural ponce shades, and all the pastel colorings predominate. In the changeable silks and foulards the tans, grays, rose, violet and green are preferred. The neutral tones of the street costumes are often relieved, however, by a touch of brilliant color at the neck, and the use of contrasting color in some of the new linings makes subtle color harmony possible. A striking pongee coat having a shawl shape, collar of orange taffeta, embroidered in the same color, had a lining of coin spotted foulard—having black dots on a burnt orange ground.

Belted Effects Prevail in House and Evening Gowns.

The popularity of the ready-made gown for every day or dress occasions has resulted in a wide selection of these to be found in the shops. They range in price and elaboration from the simple tailored effects in silks or light weight wool materials to the dinner gowns and evening costumes, swathed in chiffon and a-glint with tinsel. The modistes seem to have conspired to add the woman who thriftyly "makes things over." Overskirts, draperies, sashes, the use of several different materials on the same gown, sleeves made from net or chiffon or gold cloth—what possibilities for the refurbishing of the old director's gown or ruffled evening dress, or worn jumper suit these fashions present!

The materials favored for the simple

dresses are tussah and foulard silks, wool batistes, voiles and cachemire. The Russian influence is strongly shown in the insistence upon a normal waist line, either suggested or encircled with a girde, or belt, of leather, or folds of material, often in a contrasting color. Though it was predicted that the vogue of the fabric would be fleeting many variations of its simple outlines are being shown. The most approved style is cut off at the knees and is either of even, round length or falls in points below the hips. With a short skirt the effect is not always graceful, so that tunic modes are best employed in the more elaborate costumes. The trimmings of the plainer dresses consist generally of self-covered cording, or braids in the cord or tubular effects. The preference for the military styles, with the side lapping of coats and costumes has brought out many new ideas in ornaments and loops. Embroidery in coarse silks and yarns, and cross stitching is much used on dresses, and coats also. It is predicted that laces will be used to a greater extent than they have been for years. Irish laces will continue popular, but the lighter laces, such as the Orientals, Chantillys, Herre and valencienne will be especially in demand because of their adaptability to draped effects.

The chiffon-veiled effects which have been so well liked in evening gowns the past season are now being used in reception gowns and dinner frocks. Black chiffon tunics over blue or green or orange satin foundations are among the more favored styles. Evening gowns for early spring are more profusely spangled and beaded and glittering than they were during the winter season, if that is considered possible. A more man remarked the other day that a woman in fashionable evening dress looked like a streak of lightning and was as audible as a glass factory in an earthquake. But that doesn't matter at all. She has exhausted the supply of tinsel, so that now two-toned metal effects are being shown in laces and trimmings. Beads and bugles and cloth of gold and of silver are found on all the more elaborate gowns.

Sleeves need no longer be of the same material as the gown. Indeed they may be different for each arm if one wishes to adopt one of the latest caprices of fashion. Lace, net, gold and silver tissue and chiffon are largely used.

Linen and lingerie gowns already give promise of unusual popularity. Pastel shades in linen, hand embroidered, are shown in many tailored effects. The princess lines of the strictly lingerie gown which were anything but practical, have given way entirely to the full skirts and belted waists. Madeira and Lorraine embroideries are much used on these dresses, and flouncings to a width of twenty-seven inches are seen. One model has the body of the dress made of narrow strips of all-over connected with insertion with narrow galleons above the flounce.

Spring Opening Days

Women's Tailored Suits, Dresses, Capes, Coats, Waists and Skirts

We extend a general invitation to visit our Second Floor during Opening Days and view Fashion's newest ideas as embodied in our assemblage of Women's Spring Outerwear. No other showing in Eastern Connecticut can compare with it.

NEW Models in Tailored Suits for Women and Misses, a great diversity of styles—\$12.50 to \$37.50.

NEW Models in Women's Spring Coats, in all the fashionable materials, some with the "Presto" collar—\$6.50 to \$17.50.

NEW Models in Women's Dress Skirts, of silk, voile, melrose, serge and mannish mixtures—\$5.00 to \$22.50.

NEW Models in Women's Long Capes, in all the fashionable colorings—\$5.00 to \$12.50.

NEW Models in Women's White Lingerie and Lawn Dresses, newest designs—\$10.00 to \$22.50.

NEW Models in Women's Waists, in lawn, taffeta, messaline and China silk—\$1.00 to \$6.50.

We respectfully invite your attendance and inspection.

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