What Well Dressed Women Will Wear

BY Anne Rittenhouse

PARIS DESIGNERS REVIVE FASHIONS OF CROMWELL'S TIME

Other Ancient British Styles Also Being Adapted to Modern Dress by Versatile Dressmakers on the Seine With Surprisingly Good Results—Some Striking Examples

IT is a long cry from Henry II. to Cromwell, but fashion jumps that length in seven leagued boots and regards it a trifle. Fashion, indeed, places the two periods of the world's history together without apology. She takes a bit from one and a slice from the other and calls it a frock.

History has been ransacked for three years for inspiration, strange to record, when one realizes that a few decades from now fashion will probably start to register the impressions of these days, and throughout all the ages to come, if there are such things as fashions for women, those who build them will go to this era of world war as an aid to jaded brains.

Possibly Napoleon was sufficiently an egotist to foresee that the period he created in the world's progress would last the fashion designers at least a hundred years, as it has done.

None of the designers has gone far from the Napoleonic era, and their apology is that inspiration was drawn from every source during the reign of this one man, and that it would be difficult to find something which had been omitted.

It was a long cry then from the Tanagra figurine through successive stages of clothes to the costumes a l'Ecossaise, which were swirled in at the end of the Emperor's sway, and which were suggested by the great Caledonian ball given in London, at which the men and women of Scotland wore their plaids, at which the chieftains did the Highland fling and Continental society looked on as at a war dance of the American Indians.

Not From Original Source.

Truly there was not much that was untouched in fashion during that span of history in France. And whatever the designers have done these days has usually been copied from its reincarnation in the Napoleonic era and not from the original source.

There are certain phases of fashion of this time, however, that were more ancient and primitive than the Napoleonic era adopted. These are Peruvian, American Indian, Japanese and Chinese. We also have gone back to well defined periods of mediæval history that such women as Josephine, Mme. Recamier and Mme. Tallien cared little for and would not have tolerated unless they were arranged with less decency than we use them to-day.

One historian of fashions says that France in those days, like Rome, appropriated from the vanquished all it considered worth the taking. But it took, as a rule, that which was present and not that which was past.

There was once a time in the beginning of the Consulate when fashion in Paris was turned toward the ancient enemy across the Channel and borrowed ideas for dress. This was done in a spirit of perversity, but the Paris designers now turn there in a different spirit—one of intense gratitude and friendliness. Later she may remember Mesopotamia and Palestine, and linking them to Allenby and Marshall swirl back to Holy Land costumery.

Cromwell Idea Is Strange.

At the moment she is interested in eras of which she has thought little and cared less. It seems a strange thing that the temperamental designers of Paris should revive the fashions of Cromwell. Curious juxtaposition of ideas. None has ever arisen in French history who could be likened to this Puritan, and we may find the reason for this singular recrudescence in the pleasant fact that Cromwell was sandwiched between the two Charleses whose frivolity is historically foreign to Paris memories.

The Cromwellian inspiration is new; the revival of those fashions which were adopted before the word had any significance when Henry I. was King of England. In looking over a book of old costumery the similarity shown between the frocks of then and now is startling. "Is this as far as we have gone in dress?" is the exclamation that comes first.

There is a brown velveteen frock of this season, as an example of this similarity, which was created in Paris and has been widely exploited in this country which could go into history as a sketch of a gown worn by the women at the court of Henry.

Well, his Queen came from Louvain. Possibly just there is the reason for the revival of that especial gown; it is in a straight line from neck to heels; it is loosely girdled with ornamental cord going twice about the waist, and the slight decolletage in front is in the shape of a long slim wafer, outlined with a line of colored trimming.

It was this neck line that was indicative of the costumery during the reign of three British kings, William II., Henry II. and Stephen. It is now incorporated as part of our everyday costumery with hardly a thought of its connection with the long ago Queen who went from the city with the terrible fate that every American school child will know of as long as learning lasts, and that every mother and wife here to-day vaguely connects with the reason that her man is over there.

Sleeves Left to Individual.

The hanging sleeve which should by right of history be worn with this type of gown has been left to the individualist; the average woman accepts the straight line, the cord girdle, often the fastening in the back, but inserts a long tight sleeve.

Not that the sleeve is unknown to present fame; it is so often worn that the designers have created under sleeves of velvet or fur in the old fashion to fill in the hiatus between its hem and the wrist, but as a rule it is put on another kind of frock.

The strong difference between now and then is that the brown velveteen and its many followers are much narrower than the loose frock worn in the twelfth century.

Those were severe fashions when Cromwell interrupted the pleasure loving Stuarts. Some one has said that when Charles II. came to the throne England with a sigh of relief laid aside her hair skirt to show that she wore a silk one beneath.

On the outside she was Puritanical, however, for fashions have and will always reflect history and the character of those who govern. And yet the designers have found a good field for sartorial adventure, it seems, in English costumery of that epoch.

Signs of the Old Times.

Just recently there have appeared several sorts with battlemented hems, a strong sign of those times, and a double row of buttons on each side of a long straight front opening. The wide linen collar and cuffs are added, and one sees that it is a new fashion.

Not so new but equally Cromwellian is the sleeveless blouse or short tunic that our shops sell as casually as they once did the American shirtwaist. These also were battlemented at the hem, which ours are not, but they also showed the full sleeves of the shirt beneath. In those days the man chose the under shirt in broad yellow and red barred stripes.

As we wear this other coat, the battlemented one with long sleeves, fastened at the neck, but not below, the effect is good. It provides a variant from the accepted styles of jackets. It is beltless, which is a fashion the French designers are striving hard to establish. The slim lines of this coat keep the widths from awkwardness and the small armholes aid the clean cut look.

It may be a happy fact, one that gives cause for rejoicing, that designers have no objection to "bunching" the countries when it comes to fashions. To put the Oriental hip drapery alongside the coat of Cromwell and the chemise of Adele of Louvain is legitimate business.

All's well that once looked well, might be their motto, and they go on making a sartorial Tower of Babel, for if a costume could speak this is what would happen in any representative gathering. The Orient is always too seductive, too easy of imitation, to escape constant usage; there may have been periods in social history when it would not have been possible to persuade well placed women to appear in the clothes of the temple girls and those of the bazaars, but we don't happen to belong to one of them.

May Return to License.

Sedateness has entered into costumery during the last two years of this warfare, but now when victory is on the lips of all we may see a return to license in costumery that may make pre-war fashions appear anemic. Let us hope that joy won't be too unconfined.

If there is a pleasing sedateness with freedom from demureness and drabness then we will see good costumes. Already there is a gracious way of employing Orientalism which cannot be objected to by conservatives, even in the hip drapery whose swathings are the sign and symbol of the Eastern dancers.

There is a tendency to combine colored satin with black thread lace in the Oriental frocks which takes away the suggestion of the East except in the swirl of fabric that goes about the hips. The lace is caught in front with a great plaque of jewelled embroidery and the entire frock suggests a new use for old lace to those who have pieces of it stored away.

By this time it is quite apparent to even the casual observer that old lace has come into its own again and that there is a revulsion of feeling against the severe neck line except by women who know they look extremely well in such severity. It is not especially trying when the decolletage is square, but when round or V shaped it takes a woman with remarkably regular features to carry it off. This refers to day frocks. There is no attempt to relieve the neck line of evening gowns when they are deeply decolleté, as the bodice is rarely of heavy or opaque material.

New Afternoon Frock Wins.

The introduction of an afternoon frock with a deep U shaped decolletage half filled in with a tucker of lace and outlined with a flat ruffle of lace has met with sufficient popularity to insure a reasonable measure of success.

Against this judgment there are a host of objectors who insist that the severe neck line is smart and that the other is out of the picture, but as soon as enough well dressed women adopt the advancing method, then she who is out of the picture will be in it. It is merely a question of the eye.

It was quite surprising to see how quickly, for instance, women put their shirt waist collars inside the neck of their jackets when fashion ordered them in, and now that fashion says collars out, the flat bands of lace are appearing as if by magic. The sailor collar came out of fur coats and disappeared from blouses almost over night, and the long collar may give way to the Cromwell and Stuart kind before Christmas.

The stole of fur is again the style in Paris, the cables say, and here the coachman's collar has taken the place of the fox on jackets and many cloth blouses.

What Callot Has Done.

When Callot sent to this country those primitive garments without belt or curve, cut straight from two pieces of cloth, or so it appeared, and sewed up at each side, women simply uttered an emphatic negative and passed them by. Even that little group of extremists which can be depended on to try out everything once at least were too doubtful of this experiment to put money in it. And yet here it is creeping in among all the best gowns from important houses and is promised as the ruling contour for spring.

Cheruit was not long behind Callot in introducing that squareness. The jackets from that house, and also from the house of Doucet, were remarkable to the average American eyes last October when the importers showed them here, but this month we are beginning to talk about boxlike outlines as if we knew from the beginning that they would succeed and were their prophets and disciples.

The squareness is more perceptible in the new jackets than in the skirts. There is not the shadow of a suggestion of a curve over the chest or at the waist in Cheruit's jackets and the end at the hips. In Callot's frocks the line does not break until it reaches the knees, where it begins to slope inward toward the ankles.

Waist Size of No Moment.

If this silhouette prevails by the opening of the new year we need no longer despair over the large dimensions of the average waist measurement to-day; it is to be hidden so completely that twenty inches or forty will look much the same under the boxlike contour.

The large woman will not accept this fashion in an exaggerated form of that one may be sure; maybe she is right in objecting to it, but there is an accepted adage among those who make clothes that it is often better to accentuate than to attempt to conceal a defect.

It is true that women who have risen to heights in their costumes have been those who played up their weak points. The thin have looked emaciated, the broad have looked like Burne-Jones women, the gray haired have powdered it until the Colonial wig was suggested, those with long feet have worn the pointed shoes of the twelfth century, those with long thin arms have wrapped them with fabric that reached to the finger tips.

It is a new theory of dress, one that would have shocked the preceding generation who gave its best thought to the concealing of physical defects and the enhancement of whatever physical charms there were.

It is fascinating, this new theory. It is a chapter to be written by the dress historian who does not have to meet the dressing demands of writing the hour's fashion, no matter how the psychology and the mental changes beckon.

It might be called the bravado of the modern woman.

Oriental frock for dinner and theatre, of bright blue satin. The bodice is of black thread lace and the girdle is caught by a placque of colored beads.

Gown of sweet-gum colored velours showing the square contour. The back of the skirt is pleated, the front plain. Under the square bodice there is a sash of Indian red crepe.

Street hat of seal brown silk plush with pleated crown and rolling pointed brim. With it is worn the new neckpiece of fur with one end run through a wide buttonhole at the side.

Mincemeat Made Now Is Best for Christmas

YOU must make your own mincemeat this year. Of late years perhaps you have been buying it in little tin cans, but now no one buys anything in tins that she can possibly make for herself.

Don't imagine that you need go without this time honored adjunct of the Christmas dinner, however. If you glance through any mincemeat recipe you will see that though fairly expensive in ingredients and what the old time housewife would call rich, it is not rich in the ingredients that would make it unpatriotic. And with a little clever substitution it can be made as good a war time dish as johnnycake or corn dodger.

Mince pies are really sacred to Christmas, and it has been through a rather natural running together of our ideas of Thanksgiving and Christmas that we have sometimes had them on the first occasion as well as at Christmas. But in these days we don't indulge in more sweets than we really crave, and surely one kind of pie is enough.

So it is the wise housewife who has reserved mince pie till after Thanksgiving. Make a good batch of mincemeat now, mellow it till your Christmas baking, and then leave it on hand to make into pies for desserts occasionally during the cold weeks that follow Christmas.

Here's Hooverized Mincemeat.

Here is a Hooverized recipe for you. If you have a well tried recipe of your own perhaps it is better to stick to that, substituting corn syrup for almost all the sugar and lessening the quantities of meat used. This one, however, is excellent:

Two pounds of lean beef finely chopped, two pounds of suet also finely chopped, a quart of corn syrup, a scant pound of sugar, three or four quarts of firm and tart apples finely chopped, three pounds of chopped seeded raisins, three pounds of finely chopped citron, two pounds of currants, two teaspoons of salt, a cup of strong coffee, two cups of boiled cider, one teaspoon of cloves, one teaspoon of allspice, two teaspoons of cinnamon, and if you have it a cup of currant jelly. All these ingredients should be put together and cooked for two hours and then turned into an earthen crock.

The beauty of mincemeat is that the goodness all depends on the palate of the one who makes it. It is never too late to add a little more of this ingredient or that.

Some Things Missing Now.

In this recipe the candied lemon and orange peel are omitted with satisfactory results, because white sugar is required if they are used. Likewise some recipes give a little lemon juice and orange juice, but as these fruits are extremely high priced this year it is an omission that can well be made in the cause of war time thrift.

Brandy and sherry formerly had a prominent place in mincemeat, but perhaps we can forego the flavor added in that way this year, when even our cooking has "gone dry" and the harmless bottle of cooking sherry that sometimes used to be enthroned on the shelves, where no'er a drop was ever sipped, has gone the way of other luxuries of peace, largely because of its high price.

Old time cooks used to make their mincemeat up after some standard recipe and then leave the crock in a convenient place, well covered with an earthen cover. Then as opportunity afforded they would add to it. Perhaps to-day they would have the rich juice left over from a jar of brandied peaches, to-morrow a few raisins would be left from dinner, and another day it would be convenient to add a little boiled down cider. But always there was constant tasting, and nothing was ever added without the most careful discrimination by the housewife, who became in the course of many years' preparation of the Christmas pie quite an expert in the delicate art of tasting mincemeat.

There is a good suggestion there for the war time housewife. Of course you will want to put the meat and apples and suet and other things in that need cooking and the spices and boiled cider that are needed to preserve the other ingredients at the outset. Of course brandy and sherry, if you use them, should not go in till boiling is over; they would spoil the flavor. But such additions as currant jelly and fruit juices may well be added later and put in the crock from time to time as you happen to have a little of these things left over. Then your mincemeat will become a real war time dish.

Fresh Baked Pies the Best.

Now here is a suggestion for baking the mince pie. Don't bake up a batch of the pies and then keep them on hand a week. They are not so good to taste and far less wholesome that way. They are best when fairly fresh, but not piping hot. The mincemeat itself may be kept on hand for weeks, even months, in a cool place, but once baked the crust becomes soaked, and it is far from wholesome if allowed to stand many hours.

Many persons bake the pies with a lower crust only and criss crossings of pastry for the upper crust. Others use plain pastry for the bottom crust and puff pastry for the top covering.

Mock Mincemeat Palatable.

"Mock mincemeat," as it is called by the Food Administration, is not something that was invented specially to meet the demands of the war, for it is really no more or less than the green tomato mincemeat that old fashioned country cooks have long made. They refer to the pies when made as tomato pies. Here is the recipe as given by the Food Administration in a recent pamphlet:

Three pounds salted green tomatoes, two pounds apples, one cup chopped suet, two cups molasses, one cup corn syrup, one pound raisins, one cup vinegar, one teaspoon cloves, two tablespoons cinnamon, one teaspoon allspice, one teaspoon nutmeg. Soak the tomatoes for two hours and chop them fine. Chop the apples. Add the other ingredients and cook the mixture until it is thick. This mincemeat will keep for some time in a covered jar.

It is especially given in this pamphlet as one of the ways in which to use salted green tomatoes. They are made by packing well washed tomatoes in a container, covering them with a 10 per cent. brine, covering them and weighting them down on top. It is best to cover them with a layer of grape, horseradish or Swiss chard leaves and to weigh them down with a large clean stone resting on an inverted plate.

If you have any salted green tomatoes you will find this an excellent way to use them.

Hints of Fashion From Many Sources

IN spite of the fact that some of the newest frocks have no white at the throat, and that others favor the rounded neck, with lace and a tucker, others feature a white satin collar that is high at the neck and that extends in the front over the bodice to the waist line.

Elaborate evening frocks are not being much worn this year, but are occasionally called for. Then the train is sometimes seen. It is sometimes separate from the frock, hanging like a panel from the waist or even from the shoulders.

Sometimes the only trimming on a velvet frock is a bit of bead embroidery with a dependent tassel. This is usually placed at one side of the front low down on the bodice.

Many of the best of the new frocks of serge are trimmed horizontally. This in spite of the fact that every other effort is made to emphasize the narrow ankle line. These frocks have bands of braid or sometimes of striped fabric, running about the bottom of the skirt, and similar bands on sleeves and bodice or vest.

You can buy tassels for trimming bags and frocks and blouses at home. There are lovely ones, of all colors of silk thread, for 60 cents each in a three or four inch length. There are huge ones of chenille for several dollars. And between these there are others of all sorts and all prices, some of them distinctively beaded, some of them with an intermixture of metallic threads.

Black satin evening slippers have long jet beads fastened around the top in rows, three of them. Then there is an embroidered design of beads at the toes.

Lace and fur are cleverly combined on a smart dinner and theatre hat made with a foundation of chiffon velvet drawn tight and smooth over the mushroom frame. Then there is a frill of black Chantilly lace standing upright about the crown and another that spreads out beyond the edge of the brim. The two frills of lace are joined by a band of sable with two little crossed tail ends.

Long floating sleeves of tulle are held down at the point with a dangling tassel of heavy jet beads. This treatment gives dignity to an otherwise rather light and floating sleeve arrangement in a velvet evening frock.

Darts are not an unknown feature of the frock of the moment. However darts nowadays are not used to emphasize the pinched in waist, but rather to shape the fabric at the shoulders and bust.

Fluted ribbon brims are a part of some of the new hats. The crowns are of fur, of velvet or of beaver, and the brims are rather narrow, formed of a row of fluted velvet ribbon heavy enough to stand stiff and firm.

Some of the new, long tight sleeves are buttoned as far as the elbow.

Some of the new velvet suits show vests of fur, of the shorter sorts, like squirrel or beaver, that button or fasten tight under the chin.

Shops are showing heavy silk sweaters for winter wear. They are especially desirable for indoor wear when the low supply of coal makes it impossible to keep up the normal degree of heat. These new sweaters have many odd bits of finishing, such as vests, deep collars, fringed edges and unusual cuffs—anything for the sake of novelty.

Real Are Foods of Real Value

WE have heard much in recent years about two very important "growth promoting substances," called vitamines which are said to be vitally necessary for our well being. One of these is found in butter fat, milk, egg yolk, the leaves of plants, glandular organs, such as kidneys, liver and sweetbreads; in traces in the germs of seeds, muscle tissue, animal fats. The other one is in almost all foods, except bolted flour, degerminated cornmeal, polished rice, starch, sugars and in fats and oils.

It is no more of a problem to get these substances in our food than it is to get plenty of mineral matter in the same way. In fact, as far as the second one of these "growth promoting substances" is concerned, there is almost nobody in the United States who does not get it without any special effort on his part.

In order to get plenty of mineral matter and a good supply of the first "growth promoting substance" we need only to remember to eat plenty of milk and milk products, and plenty of the leafy vegetables. These should be considered as protective foods, and we should eat some of them every day. They will make good the elements lacking in bread, cereals, potatoes and other tubers and in vegetables, such as beets, turnips and radishes.

Drink plenty of milk. Eat all the pure ice cream you want, [illegible] do not run over your sugar [illegible] Use butter and cheese. [illegible] milk soups and milk desserts. Try to include one of the following in your day's meals: Cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard, collards, [illegible] lettuce, celery, spinach or [illegible]

If you happen to be one of those persons who eat all of the salad [illegible] lettuce leaf mend your ways. [illegible] tuce is one of those leafy vegetables which contain mineral salts [illegible] essential to the welfare of the body.

Do not let people tell you that lettuce is not much of a food because its food value is so low. Mineral matter is [illegible] as important as "calories."

Eat plenty of salads—let [illegible] leaves and all.

NEGRO TROOPER'S APPEAL

Negro troopers were [illegible] a storm hit their trains [illegible] them came from the [illegible] were afraid of the [illegible] dusky fellow was on [illegible] down on his knees [illegible] was his prayer:

"Good Lord, I know [illegible] so much a-doing in the [illegible] haven't got no time to [illegible] ally to a pore nigger's [illegible] do wish you'd send a [illegible] angel for to call these [illegible] attention."

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