

# WHAT THE BEST DRESSED WOMEN ARE GOING TO WEAR

## PARIS FASHIONS

Costly Evening Wraps of Brocaded and Embroidered Velvet



Sealskin Cloak with 'Pogsum' Collar  
(Photo by Talbot)  
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BY MRS. A. T. ASHMORE.

"SUPERB!" "Magnificent!" "Marvelous!" "Wonderful!" These are just a few of the adjectives required to describe the beauty of the modern opera cloak, one of the most expensive garments in the modern outfit. It is most unusual at this time of the winter to see so many new opera cloaks displayed, but this has been a record winter, socially speaking, and every woman knows how all important is the becoming up to date evening cloak. As is well known, there is no place where the artificial light is so pitiless and unbecoming as in the lobbies of opera house, theatre or restaurant, and a woman who has been declared a beauty and a belle within the ballroom fifteen minutes before can look a veritable witch of ugliness when she stands waiting for her motor. This

to the other will nevertheless make a woman look delightfully slender by reason of the long line and the "swing" from the shoulders that makes the back look so slender. All kinds of furs are used for these opera wraps, but one and all are most carefully designed not to be "bulky" or "thick." Sealskin and all its imitations, with ermine, sable, fox or much less expensive Australian opossum collars, are considered possible, if not very smart. Ermine and even cones, the latter of the most expensive quality, with collar of cinnamon bear, make most becoming wraps. And all are on the coat order, but with such sloping shoulders and kimono effect of sleeve that they are quite unlike the ordinary mantle or cloak, and the term opera cloak is consequently most misleading.

Such marvellous materials, such brocades, satin and velvet were surely never seen before, certainly not used for any such purpose as now. The quality, coloring and style are all unique and the variety is endless. The most wonderful of hangings, window curtains and portieres could surely have never been more exquisite in color and design. In the handsomest of these wraps old hangings are more than suggested, for there are shades and tones of color that were never before now seen in any garment. Among the most beautiful are curious old Venetian reds, gobelin blues and bronze yellows, in plain and figured designs, trimmed with the richest and rarest of furs, that enhance the beauty of the garment, and, incidentally, the beauty of the wearer.

### Wraps Appear Very Large.

The effect of almost all the newest wraps is that they are several sizes too large, excepting just around the neck, for it is required of every smart cloak that it shall fit to perfection around the neck and over the shoulders. The collar may be simply a flat piece of fur, just the size of the neck, or there may be both a small turndown collar at the back and wide, tapering revers in front. When the cloak is wrapped across only the edge of the fur shows and the outside is all of the brocade. This hint of the materials, each of the most expensive description, adds greatly to the cost, but for once the cost shows, as it does not require imitation in the art of dress to recognize the value of the fur and the brocade.

While the fronts are wide the backs are narrow, unless in the one or two models of somewhat different design in which the garment fits close over the shoulders, giving the sloping, slender appearance demanded, and then widening out until the wrap measures many yards in circumference—an advance note of warning, so say the learned in the mysteries of dress, a forerunner of what is to be expected before many months have elapsed, of exaggeratedly wide, full skirts. Be that as it may, it is quite safe to invest in one of the extra full wraps now, for they are extremely smart.



Blue and Silver Brocade Opera Cloak with Sable Collar  
(Maison Buznet—Photo by Talbot)  
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Baby Lamb Coat with Fox Collar  
(Photo by Talbot)  
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Brocaded satin and brocaded velvet—there is not much choice between them, for the most fashionable of the brocades is satin and velvet combined, with the raised figure in the velvet. Gold and silver backgrounds to the velvet designs are also fashionable, and the combination of coloring and design is certainly wonderful. Blue and gold is one combination that is popular and effective, black and gold is always a favorite coloring, while in duller shades of brown and gold are some most exquisite designs. Embroidered velvets and satins are also most effective, but the embroidery must be on the most elaborate order and of the finest workmanship. Bold, striking designs show to greatest advantage, and although



Blue and Silver Brocade Velvet Cloak  
(Photo by Talbot)  
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Tan Velvet Coat Embroidered with Gold  
(Maison Buznet—Photo by Talbot)  
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garments, really truly bargains in evening wraps. Of the softest finished cloth trimmed with effective fur collars and cuffs are many charming wraps that in the lighter colors are quite possible for any occasion, so that if the homemaker wrap is too great an undertaking, any woman with an average good figure, if she only take the time to select carefully, can purchase a most useful, becoming and smart garment that will cost less than she has ever paid for an evening coat. But let it be long enough and large enough, so that it shall not look small nor scant, for that will at once mark it as old style. And there must not be fulness at

at first glance there is something too theatrical and too striking about the gold on black velvet or satin, a second glance gives rise to a new thought, for the garment is of such regal elegance that nothing could be too elaborate or too effective on it. And the fashion is only intended for the woman who needs the most expensive clothes, who is gowned in accordance with her social position and whose life of unending social entertainments demands the most elaborate and expensive wardrobe.

### Bargains in Materials.

Fortunately for the great majority of women who are obliged to keep up the pace but whose bank accounts are sadly inadequate to meet such demands there are many superb materials, at this time of the year, to be bought at wonderfully small cost. There are also the special sales, and at these special sales opera cloaks are marked down often to a third of their original prices. An opera cloak is not an impossibility for even home manufacture provided a

can all be combined. The ultimate cost will be far less for the same results, and even while there may be lacking that indefinable smartness that can only be given by an artist, a most effective and beautiful wrap can be turned out. It is

opera wrap is worn tightly wrapped around the figure much in the same way that the Indians wear their blankets, and the idea is made all the more realistic by the trimmings of fringe. Of softest satin lined with satin and worn over one of the narrow satin evening gowns slenderness is certainly attained, if at the price of comfort. Any extra interlining would be out of the question, and the only possible compromise is the wearing of a wide, absolutely flat scarf of sable or ermine around the shoulder, not under the wrap, the scarf wound tight about the figure. One must suffer to be beautiful, is the thought suggested by this fashion, but after all there are not many evenings of intensely cold weather, and certainly the style is conspicuous and shows off a good figure to the highest perfection.

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### NEW LINEN FROCKS.

SMART linen frocks are now being shown in all the fashionable shops, and most of them are so fresh and dainty looking that it is difficult for the average woman to resist their appeal and refrain from purchasing at least one of these simple and fetching frocks.

Among the most striking of these little morning gowns are those made of striped linen in white and colors. The most attractive ones are not of the plain striped designs, but those with fancy stripes, made up of blocks and rings. The stripes are far apart, showing a great deal of the plain white linen, so that the effect is very light and delicate.

The frocks are made up into one piece garments that have a general air of simplicity, but on closer inspection prove to be rather complicated little affairs after all. They are trimmed with linen in the plain color of the stripe, just a little of this plain colored linen being used in such a way that it does not make the frock look spotty. The plain white linen is also used on these frocks and embroidered in linen thread and in light, open designs that do not make the gown look at all elaborate.

The skirts are made with the stripes arranged in such a way as to make the gown look as if it were paneled, and then there is a front panel opening slightly at the foot to show a plain piece of the colored linen. The waist also has the stripes running up and down and opening over a waistcoat effect made up of the stripes running the other way or of plain linen with a little of the light embroidery.



Brocade Evening Wrap

is one reason why the sensible woman makes such a point of having an opera cloak that is as becoming and effective as possible, thinking the high prices paid well worth while in consideration of the results. For the forced-to-be-economical woman the long fur wrap is the best investment this winter, and while the handsomest of these cost a king's ransom, and a good thing at that, there are any number of less expensive models that are most effective, and while the fur is of the cheaper quality it is eminently satisfactory, provided always that the shape and effect of the cloak be up to date. A most difficult task has it been, by the way, to combine the large, all enveloping quality with the slender appearance demanded by Dame Fashion, but it has been accomplished and a wrap wide enough to cross over one side



White and Crystal Gown



Chiffon Evening Gown



Embroidered Silver Tulle Gown

a mistake, however, to attempt the most costly of materials, such as the embroidered velvets and satins. There are so many brocades that are everything that could be desired in color and design, so many plain satins and velvets that are well suited for opera cloaks that it is far better to select something more practical.

### Warm Linings Needed.

Above all, if an evening wrap is to be made at home care must be taken to have it made with a warm lining or interlining. A fur lining is always delightfully comfortable, but unless it is of some expensive fur the fact this year is to cover it with satin, securing the needed warmth with the latest fashion. An ermine or sable lining can be put into lace, chiffon or brocade and is never out of style.

It is inconceivable at the same time the thin wraps that some women are wearing. One favorite and extremely smart



Yellow Brocade Gown

at the top of the sleeves, for the sloping shoulder and wide armhole are marked features of this season's models.