



MORGUE FILE

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1850-1900's: THE VICTORIAN AGE

The Victorian Age is the time period from the 1850's to the 1900's. The name derived from Britain's Queen Victoria, an influential monarch. In the early Victorian age, the sewing machine was invented leading to the mass production of garments and an increase in ready to wear. Haute Couture begins, led by Charles Frederick Worth and the House of Worth. Caged Crinoline was introduced and large, voluminous skirts made of steel hoops were in until the 1860's. For men, Sack jackets, Frockcoats, and tailcoats were popular. As far as social roles, Women stayed at home and took care of the family.

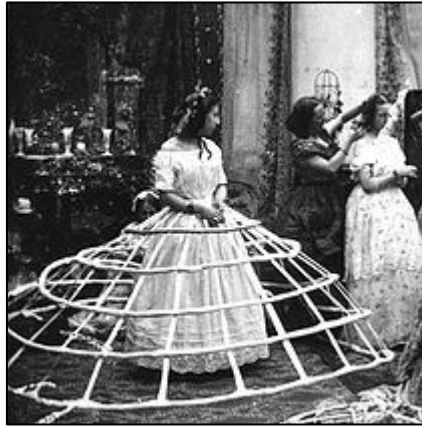
In the 1870's, there is an economic boom in England and the US. Department stores and mail ordering are becoming more popular. The bustle is introduced, which is an undergarment designated to shape and support fullness at the back of a women's skirt. Jeans and Princess Dresses, a one-piece dress with no waist seam gained popularity. The aesthetic movement also makes an appearance, which was a dress reform movement liked to pre-Raphaelites.

Women begin working in the 1890's and fashion changes rapidly for woman while remaining stagnant for men. Athleticism becomes more apparent and readier to wear keeps growing. The corset becomes more pinched and defined as spring steel is used to give a hour glass shape. Combinations, Tea Gowns and Union Suits are popular. The 1890's was considered "La Belle Epoque" or the beautiful age. It embraced art nouveau and eclectic revivalism.

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



The Bustle was an undergarment worn after the Crinoline period, around 1870. It was designated to shape and support fullness at the back of the skirt. The bustle began as gradual and sloping but towards the end of the period it was referred to as a "horses behind" giving a shelf-like effect as seen in the picture above.



The hoop skirt, also referred to as caged crinoline was popular around 1857- 1860. It was made of steel hoops worn under a skirt that gave it shape. They progressively got larger within the Crinoline period.



The aesthetic dress was linked to the aesthetic movement, a period linked to pre-Raphaelites. Women typically wore this without corsets, it was long and loose with leg of mutton sleeves. This was an influential movement and worn by a small group of people.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



The princess dress was introduced in the Bustle period. It's known as a one-piece dress with no waist seam. The dress is shaped close to the body with long darts.



Pagoda Sleeves were common among many dresses throughout the Victorian era. They were narrow at the shoulder wide at the wrist. They were often worn with detachable undersleeves that were full and gathered at the wrist.



Ball gowns came in many different variations. The one pictured above was a piece by Charles Worth.

MENSWEAR



Frock Coats were considered daytime apparel for men. The coats flared out from the waist seam and the hemline reached the knees.



The tailcoat was worn for more formal events. The coat ends at the waist seam in the front and extends in two tails to the back to the knees.



Union Suits were popular in the 1890's. This undergarment was a man's version of the female's combination, with both the under suit and drawers combined into one piece.

ACCESSORIES



Top hats were a fashion necessity for many men.



Parasols were used by women to prevent sunburn, which would signify that they were outside working. They were typically made of silk or linen.



Hats were a necessary accessory for women as well. They wore turbans, and Gainsborough styled hats with wide brims. They were highly decorated with flowers, feather, and fruit.

1901- 1919

Significant Events:

- 1901- 1910: King Edward acquires the throne in England
- 1901- 1909: Teddy Roosevelt is elected president in the US
- “New Women” Women become more independent, acquiring jobs and education
- Ready to wear becomes fully developed by 1910.
- 1914: WWI begins, leading to mass devastation

Notable Designers

- Paul Poiret- famous for an orientalist style. He didn't agree with corset; therefore, his designers were un-corseted with empire waists. Most influential from 1908 to the late teens.
- Mariano Fortuny was a designer that avoided tradition and found inspiration from ancient Greece and Italy.

Significant Characteristics

1901-1910

- Ideal body: soft, defined waist with an emphasis on the butt. Characterized as a “S” shape
- Shift in the corset, pushes bosom and chest out
- Fashion inspired 1900-1910 by Art Nouveau involving organic shapes and lots of curvature.
- Pompadour hairstyles: hair piled high in the front and sides in a large pouf, usually with a bun on top.

1910- 1919

- Ideal body: The S curve silhouette is disappearing and becoming straight up and down with geometric shaping.
- Skirts become shorter, waist is just above the natural waist
- A rise in activewear
- Men begin wearing more slim fitting suiting

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



Bishop Sleeves were a style of a woman's sleeve that was full below the elbow with fabric that pouched into a fitted wrist.



Duster's were beige colored coats that women wore while motoring to protect clothes from dust and dirt.



A middy was a nautical style dress. The garment was considered activewear as it was popular for young women's sports.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



The Delphos dress is a style consisting of a long, tightly-pleated dress designed by Mario Fortuny. The garment was designed to be worn without a corset.



Evening gowns in this time era consisted of lots of beading and attention to detail. Their sleeves were shorter compared to years prior.



Hobble Skirts were widest at the hips and narrow at the bottom of the skirt. This style restricted leg movement.

MENSWEAR



The Tuxedo is an evening suit with a Sak jacket instead of a tailcoat, worn for semi-formal occasions.



Men's trousers became pleated in the front.



Men's suiting became more slim fitting in the early 1900's. Single breasted styles were often preference in this era.

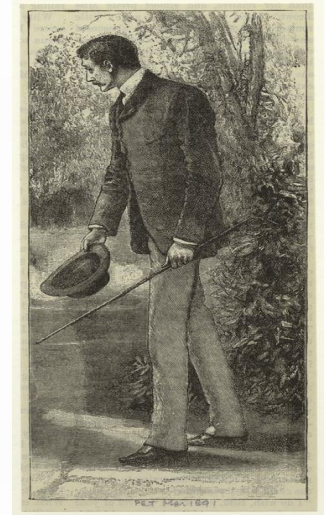
ACCESSORIES



Shoes in this era are mostly pointed toe and Oxfords are increasingly popular.



Hats are a staple in a women's wardrobe. They were large with lots of decorations such as feathers.



Walking Sticks were accompanied by men in the Edwardian era.

1920's

Significant Events

- Art Deco begins to influence fashion
- Rayon production takes place, being produced as a silk substitute
- 1925: Oxford bags are introduced
- 1927: Charles Lindberg flies across the Atlantic
- 1928: Evening hemlines reach the floor
- Speakeasies open due to the prohibition of alcohol.

Notable Designers

- Coco Chanel: famous for simple and comfortable garments which she designed according to her standards on what she would like to wear.
- Jeanne Lanvin: designed dresses for her daughter that customers would request to have themselves. She's known for her attention to detail and embroidering.

Significant Characteristics

- Large emphasis on youthfulness and sensuality within women
- Men are ideally strong and muscular with a collegiate look
- The Bob is the trending hairstyle of the 20's
- Waistlines are low
- Evening dresses are sparkly and "over the top"
- The stereotype of the decade was a woman who danced, drank, smoked, and wore revealing clothing, also known as a flapper.

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



Chanel suits that were popular daytime wear. The skirts are typically pleated with a drop waist. They were comfortable, loose-fitting and simple. Mary Jane-like shoes and cloche hats were also often worn.



Fur was also popular in this decade. The two young women have accessorized their daytime appearance with fur coats and matching accessories.



Swimsuits were one-pieced in the 1920's. There was a rule that swimsuits couldn't be over 6 inches above a woman's knee. This is seen in the image above.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



Flapper Dresses were created of silk or silk-like fabric that created movement when dancing. These dresses pictured above are beaded with precise detailing.



The little black dress originated from Coco Chanel. It's a simple garment that reflected elegance of the time.



This evening dress follows the simple fashion of the 20's. It has a drop waist and lots of drapery giving the garment movement.

MENSWEAR



Plus Fours were men's full-cut knickers worn for sports and leisure. They were often worn with sports jackets and knee socks.



The Prince of Wales style popular in the 1920's and was characterized by narrow lapels, padded shoulders and a straight fit at the hip.



Men's trousers became very oversized oxford bags. They typically were held up with suspenders and had a high waist.

ACCESSORIES



Cloche's were small, close-fitting women's hats with a brim that turned down around the face. These were an important accessory in everyday wear for a 1920's women.



Shoes in the 1920's were almond toed with a 2-3 inch heel, that resemble Mary Janes.



Costume Jewelry emerged in this era and included pearl necklaces, all types of beads, drop earrings, and chunky bracelets.

1930's

Significant Events

- The Great Depression starts
- 1933: FDR enacts the New Deal
- 1933: Prohibition is repealed leading to the rise in nightclubs
- Lastex yarns are introduced, adding stretch to fabric
- Celebrities patronize haute couture and Hollywood begins having a strong influence on fashion

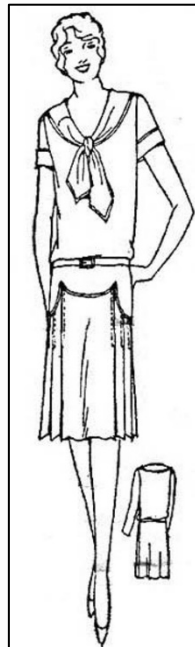
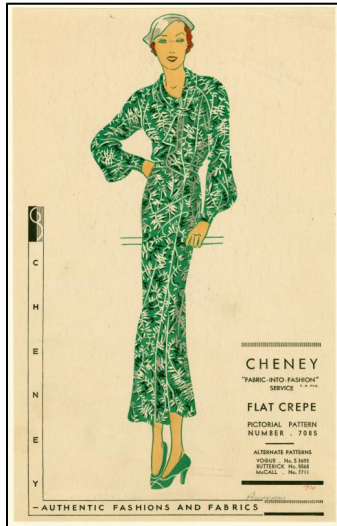
Notable Designers

- Madeleine Vionnet was a French designer known for her intricately- pieced biased gowns with little decoration and simple style
- Elsa Schiaparelli was an Italian designer known her intricate, surrealist style, she tended to bring a sense of humor into her designs. She was also known for strong shouldered jackets, and her use of the color “shocking pink”

Significant Characteristics

- Ideal body of this decade is long and lean
- Garments have longer hemlines with movement at the bottom of skirts and natural waistlines
- Knits become more produced
- Hemlines begin to creep up towards the end of the 30's
- Streamline, Art Deco, and Surrealism all influence fashion

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



This women's day dress represents the 30's with a longer hemline, sloping shoulders, and a lean silhouette with an emphasis on legs.

Later in the decade, women begin wearing long tunic tops ovetop of their skirts. The hemline slowly creeping up towards the end of the 30's.

Pyjamas were a women's garment that included pants. They were most frequently worn for leisure activities.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



The Letty Lynton dress was the most popular and well-known Hollywood garment of the 1930's.



Evening dresses of the decade were often sleek with shine and drape. Many were close-to-the-body and had a bias-cut.



Pictured above is an evening outfit created by Elsa Schiaparelli. The strong shoulder signifies that this garment was created towards the end of the 1930's.

MENSWEAR



The ideal men's silhouette had changed in the 1930's to incorporate broader shoulders as seen in the image above.

Fred Astaire was a Hollywood star that was perceived as a fashion icon.

Summer Suits were made out of lighter fabric that was more comfortable to wear in the Summer Months. Resort wear was also popular in the 1930's.

ACCESSORIES



Moccasin shoes were commonly worn for casual occasions. The style was influenced by Norwegian fishermen.



Fedora's were a staple accessory worn by men, especially in the Summer months.



Pumps were the most worn shoes in this decade. They typically had a high arch and many included straps.

1940's

Significant Events

- 1939- 1946: World War II begins
- Couture houses close in England due to the war
- Clothing restrictions and rationing are implemented into society
- US designers are given the chance to gain recognition and influence fashion due to couture houses closing in England
- Women are working more since men are at war

Notable Designers

- Gilbert Adrian was an American costume designer. He was influential within Hollywood as his garments were worn by actors, actresses, and celebrities. He was also known for suits, gingham style, and use of ancient motifs.
- Claire McCardell was also an American designer known for functional, simple garments. Alike Chanel, she designed garments she needed herself. They were typically comfortable, loose and playful.

Significant Characteristics

- Ideal body consisted of a hourglass shape with an emphasis of shoulders and bust.
- Men were portrayed very manly with big shoulders and chest.
- Pants become more relevant for leisurewear
- Emphasis on island wear and tropical influences
- Hollywood is becoming more influential

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



This popover dress was created by Claire McCardell and was meant to be worn by busy women who had to take on more duties due to the war.



Shirtwaist dresses were common in the 1940's. The hemlines of day dresses in this decade rose to the knee and shoulders appeared more 'boxy'.

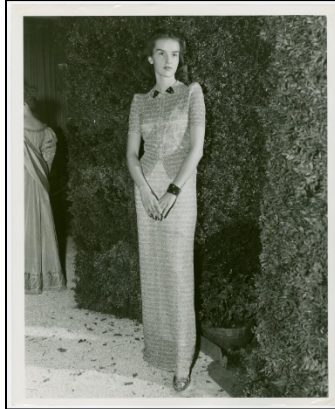


Play clothes included comfortable, fashionable items such as halter tops, cotton shorts, and sun suits.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



Evening dresses of the 1940's began to gain a fuller skirt and strapless gowns became popular towards the end of the decade



Hemlines for evening dresses remained long. There is also a prevalent emphasis on the shoulder of this gown.



This dress was created by Gilbert Adrian and would be worn out to a formal occasion. The dress is sleek and simple.

MENSWEAR



Zoot Suits were known for their short-tapered trousers, and oversized jacket with a strong emphasis on shoulders. They were typically worn by African American and Latino teenagers.



Island shirts gain popularity in the 1940's due to Hawaii standing out in the outset of the war.



Dinner jackets were white jackets that would be worn with a tuxedo to less formal events.

ACCESSORIES



Wedges become popular in this decade along with ballet slippers, open toes, platform pumps, and espadrilles.



Stockings begin to be made out of nylon, giving them more stretch. However, they were removed when the war began and women would begin painting their legs to look like stockings.



Straw hats were casually worn in the summer. Smaller hats were also common such as fedoras and berets.

1950's

Significant Events

- 1950: Dupont begins production of the acrylic fiber Orlon
- 1954: Dior introduced the "H" look, Chanel reopens her couture house
- 1955: Dior introduced the "A-line"
- The end of World War II brought prosperity
- The civil rights movement gained momentum
- 1957: Birth rate boomed after men came home from the war

Notable Designers

- Christian Dior was a French designer known for his signature "new look" and creating very fitted styles. His garments featured softer shoulders and a more feminine style.
- Cristobal Balenciaga was a Spanish designer known as an architect of fabric. He was excellent in his draping and tailoring abilities. Balenciaga tended to create shape with his fabric.

Significant Characteristics

- Silhouettes were either bouffant or pencil
- Narrow, pinched in waistline
- Film stars such as Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe were influencers of fashion of the decade
- Abstract Expressionism is influential
- Fashion in the 50's is more conservative and polished as the war ends

WOMEN'S DAYWEAR



Dior's new look was characterized by sloping shoulders, a pinched in waist, and bouffant skirt that fell just below the knees.



Shirtwaist dresses were standard in the 50's. They were usually made of cotton, buttoned up in the front and had a defined waist.



The sack dress was introduced towards the late 50's and were loose, unfitted dresses. The garment was easy to construct making it easy to be mass produced.

WOMEN'S EVENINGWEAR



Cocktail dresses resembled day dresses but were usually made of nice fabric such as silk and incorporated more pleating and decorations.



Evening gowns of the 1950's were intricate. Many were strapless and included boning. The extensive back draping was a characteristic of the 50's. The dress above was designed by Charles James and would be worn for a very formal occasion.

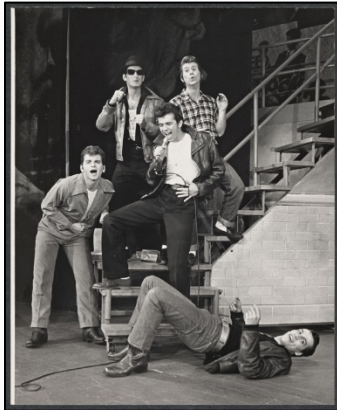


Pictured above is another variation of an Evening gown by Charles James. Elaborate draping and craftsmanship is prevalent, however the silhouette of this gown is full, with a bouffant styled shape.

MENSWEAR



Single breasted suits were more common than double breasted. They had softer shoulders and narrow lapels.



The greaser look consisted of blue jeans, leather jackets, t-shirts and slicked back hair. This style was rebellious in the conservative 50's.



This Hawaiian sports shirt would likely be worn open at the neck, paired with Bermuda shorts.

ACCESSORIES



Towards the end of the 1950's, the Stiletto heel gained popularity. These shoes typically had pointed toes.



Wearing a girdle and bra was important to many women to achieve the desired look with the new silhouettes of the 1950's.



Men wore fedora's and snap brim hats all year round.

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