

Additions for Sewing Room Article

This arousing of the sense of the possible provocative meaning in dress perhaps has something to say to those brought up rigidly as we were in the '90's, carefully to cover our bodies. You could cover yourself from neck to toes, wear innumerable garments, swing your hoop skirt. The intention behind the swing of the hoop skirt, the going about in shorts - just another example of the Branch characterization - All through the ages it has been not how much or how little a woman wore, it is the way she wore it.

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The dressmaker chosen then came the decision of how the dress ~~it~~ was to be made. We depended on our favorite fashion magazine - Demerest - for that style, also for the pattern. These patterns gave you full information on their envelopes about the number of yards to use, lining, whale bones, stiffening, suggestions about trimmings, warnings about the use of the pattern. That decided there was a large collection of extras to be provided - linings, whale bones.

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The dressmaker's coming was fixed the season before, that is the Fall fortnight was settled before she left after her Spring fortnight. She had regular clients; her schedule was fixed and only illness or disaster in a household caused a change of that schedule. It was everybody's pride to be courteous then about changing if misfortune overtook one of the clients.

For days beforehand Mother was busy preparing. The most important were the goods, that is dress patterns, for these best dresses.

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When all was ready the process began on time - cutting out, basting, fitting, trying on, changing and finally deciding on the trimming. This was the stage of the game in which I took particular interest, particularly so when it was decided that the decorations should be buttons. They played a great part in my early ideas of beauty in dress.

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