

Romantic Period

After French Revolution there was cessation of hostilities between England and France in 1802 but it was short lived and the two countries remained cut off from each other for next twelve years. By 1814 English and French fashions of women had diverged notably but French men accepted English dress as the law. This was also because of superior skill of London tailors.

The emperor Napoleon had established his imperial court on the Roman ideas of military power and he commissioned artists and craftsmen to establish a setting to his liking to impress the French populace with the character of his reign. He made the style Empire.

Political influence showed in the costume of France. Feminine admirers wore violet while French Royalists took eighteen tucks in their skirts in honour of Louis XVIII. In the first half of the century, the costume of the French women still showed Grecian influence. The cylindrical shaped dress took on the silhouette effect of a capital X. Women cultivated a delicate and pallid appearance in order to look romantic and the years from 1827 to 1837 became known as the Romantic period in fashion. A healthy appearance was considered crude and materialistic.



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And the years from 1827 to 1837 became known as the Romantic period in fashion.

Costumes of Men

Men wore a variety of coats.

A coat with a collar rolled high across back of neck and very long leg-o-mutton sleeves, sometimes with cuffs and no ruffle were worn.

Single and double breasted waistcoats were common.

Frock coats had flat collar of black velvet.

Riding coat was shorter and tighter. Coat tail and lapel were sewed on in 1820.

The cuts of waist coats varied.

Evening Dress coat was worn open to display the waist coat.



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Shirt frill was still worn by some men. White shirt with pleated front was common. Corset was worn by fashionable men.

Cravat or Neck cloth shaped with whale bone extended high above the neck. Stiff points of collar showed above the cravat.

Cape was worn for evenings.

Great coat or coat with overlapping cape was for travellers.

By 1830 full skirted double breasted over coats were worn with diagonal or vertical slit pockets.

Materials became more elaborate. Oriental silks and laces were used.



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1828

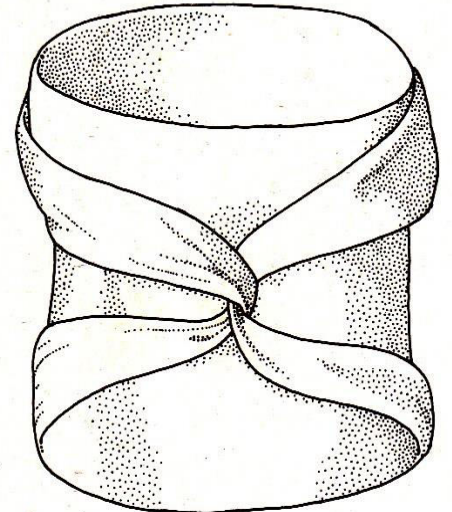
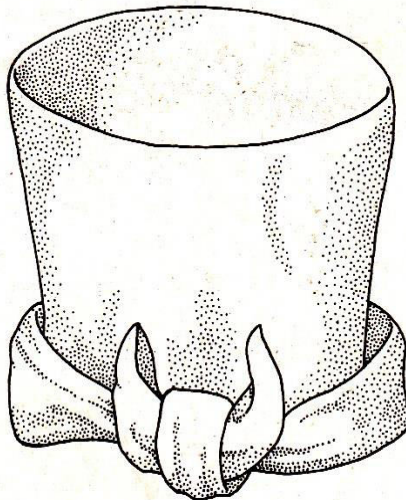
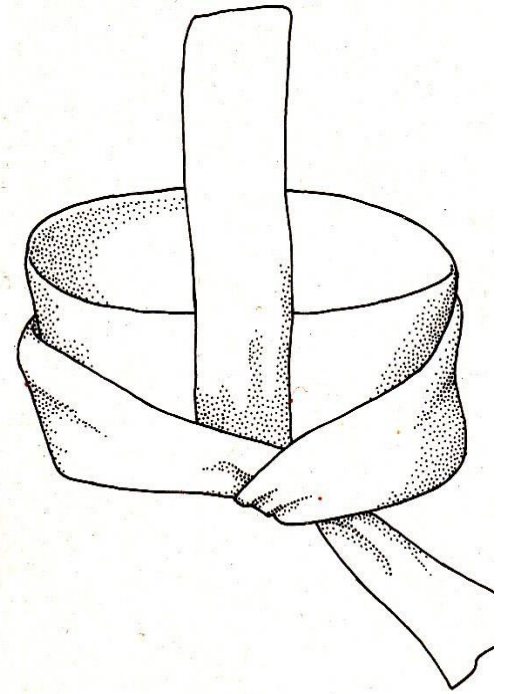
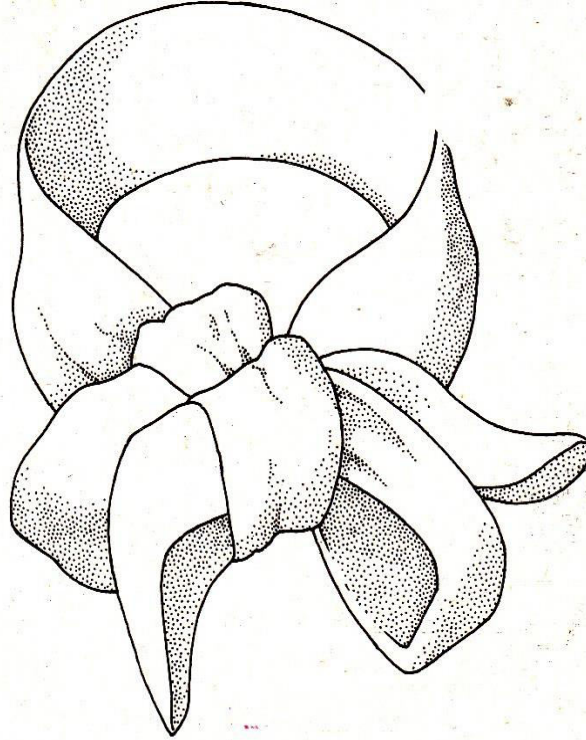
(2655)



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Lower Garments

Knee breeches were worn for court function.

Ankle length trousers, full at top and tight from knee downward with open seam which was fastened on side with 4-5 buttons were worn.

Loose and baggy pantaloons were worn after 1835.

Hair

Hair was cut fairly short, parted usually on one side.

Men were clean shaven and occasionally had sideburns.

Head Dress

Usually top hat with bell shaped or high tapering crown was very fashionable. Later the crown was flatter and country people wore broad brimmed hat.

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Men were clean shaven and occasionally had sideburns.



Footwear

Shoes were ankle high with low square heel with small bow or buckle.

Accessories

Men carried walking stick with telescope or pedometer and wore light coloured gloves.

Perfume was used by all.

Costume of Women

Costume of women had Silhouette of figure. Bust and hip were about the same size forming the capital X.

Dresses were short waisted. Delicate appearance was in and a healthy appearance was considered crude and materialistic .

Drop shoulder was popular. Shoulder line was wider, sleeves were full at shoulders similar to leg-o-mutton sleeves. Sleeves varied in size. Whalebone and crinoline were used to support the sleeves. Sleeves were plain till elbow, then full and tight again at wrist.



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Shoulder line was wider

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High waist in Bodice became normal and became tighter and tighter, The use of corsets again became essential. The effect of tight lacing was increased by widening the skirt and puffing out the sleeves. The skirts that had become narrower after French revolution were weighted at the hem by a flounce, frills and other decorations sometimes even by a band of fur. Sash at waist was replaced by a band and smooth fitted bodice was covered by over drapery like ruffle, bertha collar or wide revers, emphasizing wide shoulders and narrow waist.



Puffed out sleeves.

The skirt decorated with a band of fur.

Sash at waist was replaced by a band

Smooth fitted bodice covered with bertha collar emphasizing wide shoulders and narrow waist.

A quilted and heavily starched petticoat was attached to bodice with shoulder straps.

By 1830 white cambric pantalettes or pantaloons trimmed in lace were worn by some young ladies.



Wide skirt and puffed out sleeves emphasizing wide shoulders and narrow waist. .

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The skirt
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Over Garments

Cashmere shawls were worn as an over garment usually square imported from India and later were made in France Paisley.

Pelisse was worn outdoors in daytime. It had enormous sleeves and many capes. It was a knee length fur cape having a broad collar.

Mantilla—a Spanish veil was worn draped over head and cloaks had a frog fastening (ornamental fastening with cord loop and suspended button).

Fichu was worn sometimes.



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Cloaks had a frog fastening (ornamental fastening with cord and suspended button).

Hair

During Romantic period hair were made into back curls held high by comb a side curls falling irregularly around the face and a chignon at the back.

Apollo knot was made on top of the head with artificial hair and decorated with flowers, feathers and combs.



Side curls
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Head Dress

Hats were extremely wide in the brim usually made of straw, silk and satin and were trimmed with flowers, ribbons and feathers in striking colours.

The hats were so huge that they served as umbrellas.

Caps with frills and puffs were worn indoors.

Hats with high crown were worn to accommodate high hair dress.



Wide brimmed hat
trimmed with flowers,
ribbons and feathers in
striking colours.



Foot wear

Shoes with rounded and square toe, heelless or flat heel tied around ankle some had embroidery or a small bow at top.

Striped or coloured stocking was worn, and silk stocking with silk dress.

Accessories:- Reticules were carried.

Muffs were fashionable through out this period.

A fan and a parasol was essential part of a fashionable lady's equipment.

Large bouquet was often carried.

Jewellery

Jewellery was worn in the form of locket, crosses, gold bracelets, gold chains supporting little bottles of perfume and cameo brooches.

Make up powder rouge and hair dye was used .

Main materials were satin, silk, taffeta, white cambric, Thick material was used for skirt Gauze was worn over silk petticoat and bodice for party dress.

Cashmere or lace shawl was worn.

