

**THE ILLUSTRATED TOILET OF
FASHION, OR, ANNALS OF
COSTUME, FROM THE EARLIEST
PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649340217

The illustrated toilet of fashion, or, Annals of costume, from the earliest period to the present time by Anonymous

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

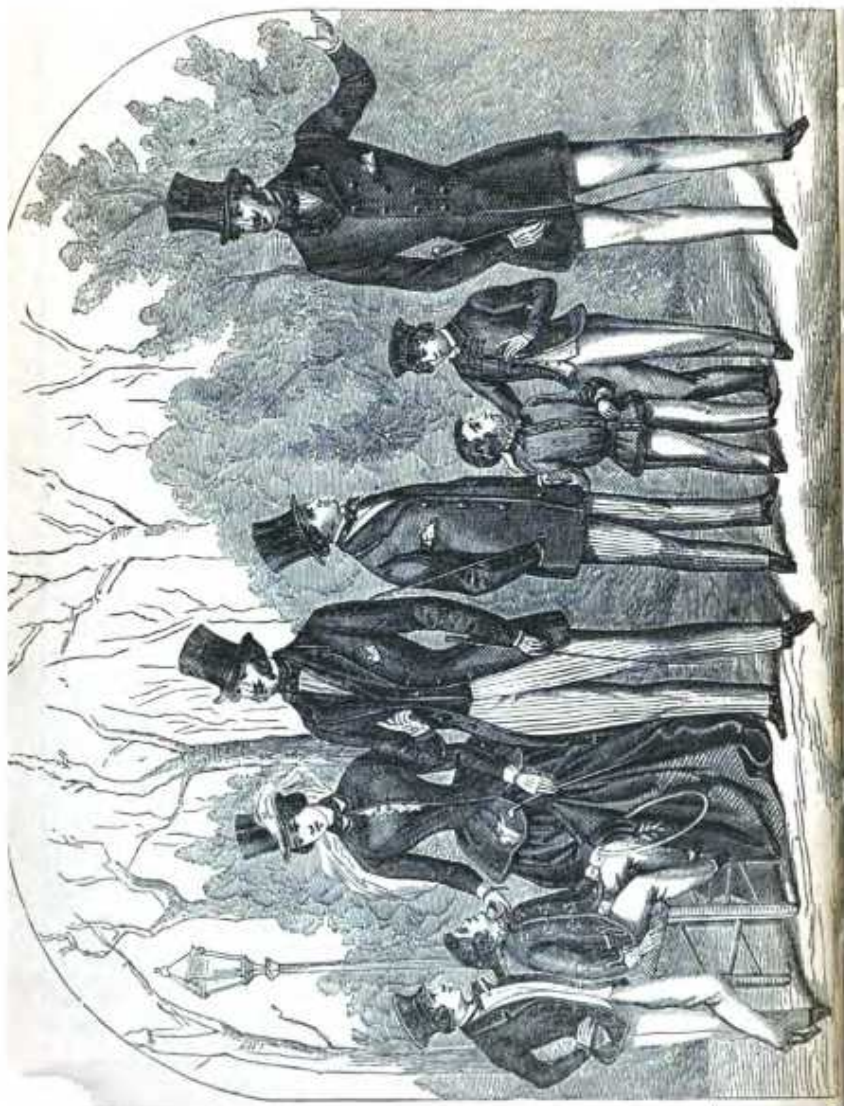
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANONYMOUS

**THE ILLUSTRATED TOILET OF
FASHION, OR, ANNALS OF
COSTUME, FROM THE EARLIEST
PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME**



Booth & Foster.
THE

ILLUSTRATED

TOILET OF FASHION;

OR

ANNALS OF COSTUME,

FROM

THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME,

Embellished

WITH ABOUT TWO HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD,

EXECUTED IN THE BEST STYLE OF THE ART:

TOGETHER WITH

A FRONTISPIECE

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LATEST PARIS FASHIONS.

E
NEW-YORK:

1850.

FA 1363.2

1851, June 20
Gift of Edward James, M.D.
of Rochester N.Y. 1026

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1850,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District
of New York.

NOTICE.

The author claims the plan, &c. of the present work as his own; and having been at great expense and trouble, and devoted much time to its production, he therefore respectfully cautions others interested in, or getting up, similar works, not to infringe upon his *copyright*.

STENOGRAPHED BY
RICHARD C. VALENTINE,
NEW YORK.

F. C. GUTIERREZ, Printer,
No. 41 John-street, corner of Dutch.

TOILET OF FASHION.

INTRODUCTION.



A HISTORY of Costume at the first glance may be considered by some as too frivolous a subject to merit the attention of men of mind. Yet a little reflection will suffice to convince them that the philosopher and the statesman may gather from this source wisdom and knowledge of the most practical utility. Indeed, Costume comprehending all that relates to dress and fashion, furnishing a standard of civiliza-

tion, involving the interests of the arts and of commerce, is in fact an important element in the prosperity of a country. Not only the progress of nations, from barbarism to the highest state of civilization, may be traced in the history of their costume, but to the gentleman of pleasure, or the lady of taste and refinement, the perusal of this subject cannot fail to prove a theme of exciting interest.

Dress, considered merely as a covering for the body, and as a means of promoting warmth, needs no explanation. In the early ages, it was simple as the manners of the people who invented it. Leaves, feathers, and skins, formed the clothing of our first parents. As civilization gradually spread over the world, and as the invention and genius of man found means to change a raw hide into leather, the wool of sheep into cloth, the web of a worm into silk, flax and cotton into linen; to extract from herbs, flowers, woods, minerals, and insects, dyes and colors that vie with the rainbow in richness and variety; mankind gave way to the caprices of vanity; they quitted the simple garments of their forefathers, and gradually gave themselves up to an almost incredible degree of luxury and extravagance in the adornment of their persons.

So extensively, and so rapidly, did this passion for dress and finery of every kind, spread over the world, that edicts, laws, and ordinances, have been passed, from time to time, by many nations, to arrest the growing evil; an evil created by that desire for personal distinction which dwells more or less in every human breast, whether male or female, and which marks the untaught savage of the Sandwich Isles, as well as the enlightened and well-educated inhabitant of Britain.

It may appear incredible to those who have not dived into the mysteries of dress and fashion, to learn that revolutions have been caused at different times, and among different nations, from the determined resistance opposed to the various laws and decrees which have been directed against the too great love of dress and ornament; and so powerfully has this passion exhibited itself in the human mind, that blood has actually been shed to support it.

In the history of China, we find that even that meek, quiet people were roused to fury, when their Tartar conquerors ordered their luxuriant tresses to be cut off; and so strenuously did they oppose the arbitrary decree, that in more than one instance, the unfortunate Chinese preferred losing their heads to parting with their beloved ringlets. We are also told that the Tartars waged a long and bloody war with the Persians, and declared them to be infidels, because they would not clip their whiskers after the fashion of the former.

Even so late as the eighteenth century, a very serious *émoué* took place in Madrid, on an attempt being made to banish the *capa* and *sombrero*; and, marvellous as it may seem, the obstinate resistance opposed to those who wished to change the fashion of these cherished articles of dress, caused the disgrace and flight of the prime minister.

In England many laws and edicts have been made, at different times, to check, not only extravagance in dress itself, as regards the richness and splendor of its materials, and the ornaments that decorate it, but also to correct and regulate the shape of various parts of the apparel of both men and women. Several of our early kings waged war against the ridiculous and enormous length of *piked* shoes, and by enacting a law restraining their points to a certain standard, hoped to correct the evil. But Fashion was not to be so ruled by the will of a monarch: angry at her wishes being disobeyed, she immediately put it into the heads of her followers to invent a

mode equally absurd; the *crakoues* and *poulaines* disappeared, but were soon replaced by shoes of so extravagant a width, that another law was, ere long, found necessary to circumscribe their breadth.

Queen Elizabeth, though herself so devoted a follower of fashion, and so passionately fond of dress, still made many laws respecting the attire of her subjects. She commanded the lower orders to wear on the Sabbath-day a cap of a peculiar shape; and, perhaps to restrain the love of foreign fashions which had long been so prevalent in England, she enacted that this head-dress should be made of wool, knit, thicked, and dressed in Britain. She also made a decree to limit the size of the ruffs and swords worn by her courtiers, to the standard she considered fitting for subjects to assume; and, fearful that so arbitrary a law might be in some way or other evaded by the votaries of fashion, she appointed officers, whose sole duty it was to break every man's sword exceeding the limited length, and clip all the ruffs whose size infringed upon her regal ordinance.

Elizabeth, too, busied herself in arranging the costume usually worn in the inner court, and particularized the shapes and colors of the garments, and the embroideries she considered befitting so grave an assembly.

Under Elizabeth's successor, a serious debate took place in Parliament, concerning the enormous size of *verdingales*; and some years afterwards laws were passed to put a stop to patching and painting.

The Turks, despotic in every thing, will not allow the Grecian ladies the poor privilege of wearing petticoats of the length that fashion in their country has declared to be proper and fitting; they have officers whose duty it is to nibble off as much of the jupe as ventures to extend beyond the length fixed by their barbarous masters.

The Turks also have laws by which none but their own august persons are allowed to wear yellow slippers; and, while their haughty brows were encircled with turbans of the finest and brightest-colored muslins, with silks of the richest dyes, or with shawls of the gayest tints and most delicate texture, their Grecian subjects were condemned to wear dark cotton caps, as a mark of their servitude; the Armenians, too, they oblige to appear in ridiculous-looking, balloon-shaped cappas; and the crouching Jews look doubly miserable, when forced to bend to the Turkish law which permits only their heads to be covered with brainless caps, much resembling inverted flowerpots.

These despots have, however, themselves been, within the last few years, constrained to bend to the decree of Sultan Mahmoud, who ordered that a red cloth fez, or military cap, should be worn by the followers of the faithful, instead of the lofty calpac, or ample turban. This law was, however, received with the most determined and indignant remonstrance and opposition, and so obnoxious to the Turkish feelings was this new-fashioned head-dress, that the discontented party set fire to the houses of those who were favorable to the change; and, though the sultan's wishes passed into a law, his subjects are still highly disgusted with their forced adoption of any coiffure in the place of the turban so long worn by their forefathers.

Besides the many decrees made by the English monarchs concerning dress, a particular costume was arranged by Charles the Second and his council, for the nobility to appear in, and one in which great extravagance of gold, silver, lace, and jewels, was not necessary; for during this reign, in England, the immense sums lavished upon dress and ornaments were almost incalculable.

Gustavus of Sweden also invented, or at least ordered, a court habiliment, in which all who wished to be admitted to his presence, both men and women, were obliged to appear; and Bonaparte followed his example, to the no small disgust of his officers, and to the despair and anger of *les belles Françaises*. Even during the Revolution, when blood, murder, and misery, were spread over devoted France,—when the prisons echoed with the groans of the unfortunate victims of political despotism,—when the scaffolds were crowded with the dead and the dying,—dress was not forgotten, and stormy were the debates on this important subject held in the National Convention!

Woman is defined by an ancient writer to be, an “animal that delights in finery;” and it is to be feared the annals of dress in every land, the most savage as well as the most civilized, will but prove the truth of the assertion. Certain it is, that the peacock, in all its pride, does not glitter in more various and gaudy trappings than does a modern woman of fashion.

But while thus speaking of woman’s love of finery, which appears from the most ancient writers to have belonged to her since the world began, we must not omit to mention that man also was, and in most countries still is, as much devoted to this passion as the fair sex. Though in these days, at least in most civilized nations, it is considered effeminate for men to adorn their persons with trinkets and embroidered garments, still, however extravagant women have been in these respects, men have equalled, if not surpassed them, in profusion and magnificence. Among savage nations, to this day, the warriors deck their persons with all the finery they can procure, with feathers, shells, beads, and paint; while their wives are often obliged to content themselves with their blanket covering and but few ornaments.

Among the numerous inventions for the improvement of beauty, painting the neck and arms with white, the cheeks with red, the eyelids with black, and the fingers with rose-color, is perhaps the most ancient. Almost every nation of the world, men as well as women, whatever complexion Nature may have bestowed upon them, have, at one time or another, followed this baneful fashion, for beautifying the complexion, and rendering it clear and transparent.

One of the dangers of this practice is illustrated by an amusing anecdote. A lady who piqued herself on the beauty, freshness, and pure white and red of her complexion, went to attend a chemical lecture. She had not been there long, when suddenly her face was observed by all present to become perfectly blue. Unconscious of the change, or of the attention directed to her ghastly features, she smilingly continued talking to her acquaintance, and, if she remarked the wondering eyes turned towards her, doubtless attributed their gaze to the fairness of which she was so vain. At length one of her companions ventured to whisper in her ear the strange and alarming alteration that had taken place, and which on her making a precipitate retreat, was attributed by the lecturer to its true cause;—the cosmetic she had used being affected by some salt or acid employed in his experiments, had caused the marvellous transfiguration.

The danger to health from this practice is very great; and illnesses of serious kinds are said to be consequent on the use of enamelling. Cosmetics, too, and washes employed to render the skin soft and smooth, are equally deleterious; and the approach of wrinkles and age is in reality hastened by their frequent use.

While speaking on this subject, we must mention the savage custom so prevalent among the wild, uncivilized nations of America, Africa, and the South Sea