

**FANCY DRESSES
DESCRIBED; OR, WHAT TO
WEAR AT FANCY BALLS**

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Fancy Dresses Described; Or, What to Wear at Fancy Balls by Ardern Holt

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ARDERN HOLT

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BY ARDERN HOLT.

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FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON:
DEBENHAM & FREEBODY,
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GIFT OF
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P R E F A C E.

THE Fourth Edition of Arden Holt's "Fancy Dresses Described" being exhausted, we have made arrangements for the publication of the Fifth Edition with such corrections as experience dictates, and a *very* large addition to the number of characters detailed.

The suggestions we have received have been carefully noted, and the result is a larger and more comprehensive work than any hitherto published.

The inquiry for Coloured Plates has induced us to select sixteen favourite Models for Illustration in Colours, of a completely new character, as well as a new series of smaller Illustrations, and we trust they will add greatly to the usefulness of the book.

The Author's name is a guarantee for the correctness of the descriptions and accuracy of details; and we have endeavoured (as in former editions) to maintain such simplicity as will enable many ladies to produce the costumes at home.

DEBENHAM & FREEBODY.

LONDON :

WIGMORE STREET AND WELBECK STREET,

December, 1887.

M94388



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INTRODUCTION.

BUT, WHAT ARE WE TO WEAR?

This is the first exclamation on receipt of an invitation to a Fancy Ball, and it is to assist in answering such questions that this volume has been compiled.

It does not purport to be an authority in the matter of costume, for, as a rule, the historical dresses worn on such occasions are lamentably incorrect. Marie Stuart appears in powder; Louis XIV. wears a beard; and Berengaria distended drapery. No one would probably view the national costumes with more curiosity than the peasantry they are intended to portray, although certain broad characteristics of the several countries are maintained by Fancy Ball-goers.

Several hundred characters, which a long and varied experience has proved to be the favourite and most effective, are here described, with every incidental novelty introduced of late years. A glance through these pages will enable readers to choose which will best suit them, and learn how they are to be carried out.

Among the Costumes adapted to BRUNES are Africa, Arab Lady, Arrah-na-Pogue, Asia, Autumn, Bee, Gipsies of various kinds, the Bride of Abydos, Brigand's Wife, Britannia, Buy-a-Broom, Carmen, Cleopatra, Colleen Bawn, Connaught Peasant, Diana, Druidess, Earth, Egyptian, Erin, Esmeralda, Fenella, Fire, Greek, Luti, the Indian Girl, Harvest,

Maid of Saragossa, Maritana, Rose of Castille, and Zingari, together with Italian, Spanish, and Oriental dresses.

For **FAIR WOMEN**, among others, the following are suitable:—Arctic Maiden, Air, Bride of Lammermoor, Aurora, White Lady of Avenel, Canada, Canadian Snow Wreath, Danish Peasant, Day, Dew, Edith Bellender, Elaine, Fair Maid of Perth, Fairy, Flora, Gabrielle d'Estrées, La Belle Dame sans Merci, Marguerite in Faust, Moonlight, Norwegian costumes, Ophelia, Peace, Polish Peasant, Rainbow, Rowena, Sabrina, Swiss, Schneewittchen, Titania, Twilight, and Water-Nymphs.

The most notable **HISTORICAL DRESSES** described are Queen Anne, Anne Boleyn, Catherine of Arragon, Catherine Howard, Catherine Parr, Catherine de Medici, Charles I. and his Family, Madame Elizabeth; Elizabeth, Queen of England; Elizabeth of York, the Georgian Period, the James II. Period, Princess de Lamballe, Louis XIII., XIV., XV., XVI. Periods, Marguerite de Valois, Marie Antoinette, Marie Stuart, the Queen's Maries, and Philippa of Hainault.

For **ELDERLY LADIES** the following costumes are suitable:—Mrs. Balchristie, Griselda Oldbuck, Dowager of Brionne (*see* large Coloured Illustration), My Grandmother, a Lady of the Olden Time, Night, Puritan, some Vandyke dresses, Quakeress, Mrs. Primrose, wife of the Vicar of Wakefield, Peacock, the Duchess of Orleans, a Maltese Faldette, Mother Hubbard, Mother Shipton, a Sorceress, a Gallician Matron, and some Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds's dresses.

GENTLEMEN'S FANCY COSTUMES are not included in this volume.* The following can, however, with a little ingenuity be arranged at home:—Evening dress of the

* They are published in a separate work, entitled "Gentlemen's Fancy Dress: How to Choose It," published by Wyman & Sons, 74-76, Great Queen Street.