

## OUR SPRING FASHION SHEET

History of Gowns From the Fig Leaf  
To the Transparency of Today  
Sketched By Our Famous  
Authority on Style,  
Mlle. Marie

(Proper Gander)

Before discussing this subject, we must first know of its beginning. Eve, who was the first woman God put into the world, was the first woman to be clothed. The occasion for this was her eating the forbidden fruit, and bringing sin into the world. After this sin she and her husband, Adam clothed themselves; Eve's first garment being made of fig leaves.

The first garments after those of Adam and Eve were very loose ones which seemed merely to be thrown around the body rather than styled. But, as the world began to advance in civilization, its styles of dress also advanced in material and adornment. The majority of people were neatly dressed yet not extravagantly for a while. Let us look back at our pilgrim mothers who came to America, and see the sipleness of their dress. These ladies wore black dresses with large white collars and cuffs modestly designed. They also wore very plain white caps.

Let us now look back into the age of our grandmothers when we consider the styles of dress at that time, we would think them very queer as compared with our modern styles. The women in this age wore very long dresses with full skirts. Many dresses of which there were long trains. Our grandmothers also wore their dresses very high at the neck. Their evenings gowns were neatly designed with many ruffles and frills, ribbons and laces.

Since this time the dress of woman has greatly changed and in this present, year nineteen twenty-one, there are such styles before us which were never dreamed of a half century ago. Women have begun to think that dress is the very purpose of their existence; and that they must be extravagantly clothed. I do not criticise the desire of a woman to look well and be becomingly dressed, for such things she owes to herself, her family, and her friends. But to be becomingly dressed does not mean that one must be continually buying and spending beyond her means.

Since we have said that style of dress has greatly changed, let us compare a few fashions of nineteen twenty-one with those of fifteen sixty. Instead of skirts sweeping the ground and gathering up countless germs, we must now regard the present day skirts, exposing the knee even; for the stockings are being rolled below the knee, and with the dress above, it is quite a picture to behold. There is a change from those dresses with high collars choking the wearer most uncomfortably to those of the present day, so low that they scarcely merit the name of a waist. From the neat and modest evening gowns, we must note the change to those with no backs at all and nothing to support the fronts, so that the mystery is how they remain in position. Ofttimes we see ladies hobbling around as though they might be physically affected. There are those who would not be able to run in case of life for death. When investigating what do we find to be the cause of all this? Simply the change of fashion. For those very wide skirts of our grandmothers have changed to those so narrow that one has to walk as a Chinese. Last but not least of these changes that I shall mention is the change from those manifold petticoats of our grandmothers to the present day fashion of none at all and garments so sheer that everybody's eyes are X-Rays.

What is the meaning of all these immodest garbs with which the ladies of nineteen twenty-one are adorning themselves? It is simply that after a long age of improvement and bettering of the fashions, they are beginning to decrease and become inferior to those which have been. If the women continue to indulge in such styles as are now before them, the beauty of dress will be gone and the styles will gradually grow worse, so that the coming generations will not know what styles are considered (by wise persons) modest and what immodest; what decent and what indecent; what styles become a woman and what do not. If the women do not act for themselves to try to throw off these evil fashions, I fear it will be left to the control of the men and laws will soon be passed by congress and the legislatures forbidding such things.

—Maria Neuffer.

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