

ACCESSORIES

THE accessories of a costume may be many: The hat, gloves, belt, shoes, parasol, jewelry, and all dress trimmings; and they must be subordinated to the costume and its structural lines.

THE HAT

Of all the accessories the hat is the most important, because it must be closely connected by a fine relation of line and color with the dress. Above all, it must

1. Fit the head.
2. Be of correct size.
3. Be in correct position on the head.

Perhaps the hat is first mentioned in history as being worn by Sarah, wife of Abraham. In the temperate zone, hats were not worn in early times except at feasts or public entertainments as a mark of victory. Men wore hats before women, as a protection to the head in the chase or in war. Hats assumed more importance in the north than in the south, because of the cold.

Hats are made of felt, silk, velvet, linen, cotton, stems of plants, straw, hair, fur, metal, in fact, almost everything.



PLATE X.—Modern Hair-dressing from the Greek Lines

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The following points about hats must be remembered:

1. A hat should not cover the eyebrows.
2. It should not look perched on top of the head.
3. The crown front line should continue the forehead line.
4. At the back it should not extend beyond the hair.
5. The weight should not fall too far back, and the weight of the crown should be evenly distributed over the crown of the head in order to give good balance and follow the head and hair lines.
6. The crown should not extend beyond the side contour of the hair, nor be smaller than the continuation of the side lines of the head.
7. Crowns are made to protect the head.
8. Brims are intended in front to protect the eyes; on the sides and at the back, only for balance in line. They should not extend beyond the shoulders, because of the inconvenience they might cause to other people.
9. The trimmings should furnish fine balance to keep the hat in the proper place on the head. They should be placed either in front or at the sides.

10. A hat light in texture may be larger than one which is heavy in texture. Of course a light colored hat will look larger than a black or dark one.
11. A hat should be adjusted so that it looks well from all points of view.
12. The center of interest should be either at one side or in the front.
13. A small hat is in better balance with a short skirt than is a large hat.
14. A large hat balances a figure with a train gown.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that trimmings and insertions must be put on a gown or hat with the idea of the relation of lines to the figure. In trimmings, reject shortening horizontal lines in diamond-shaped medallion type or cheap metallic decorations. It must not be forgotten that gay colors and large figures in decoration, and large, high-peaked, over-trimmed, over-decorated, plumed hats caricature and are grotesque.

In all trimmings and decorations, for the gown as well as for the hat, there must be very careful planning, because everything is offered to the purchaser, suitable and unsuitable. There are wild assortments of trimmings made from animals, vegetables, and minerals, such as gimp, leather, fur, braid, and ribbon. Sometimes these may ruin a gown. There is no need to bolster up the figure with bustle, paddings, hoops, puffs, and very tight waists, because these

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makeshifts fail to add beauty or grace. Always if ease and comfort are sought intelligently, the result will be beauty, and lines will follow lines rhythmically.

JEWELRY

From the earliest age savage men decked their bodies with shells and bones, rings were worn in the nose, lips, ankles, and wrists, and they wore necklaces chains, bracelets, anklets, and every variety of ornament, made of any kind of material. The love of ornament appears to be carried to greatest excess by the most civilized and the most uncivilized of nations. The colored maid of Africa prides herself upon her beads and shells, while the elegantes of England and France glitter in diamonds from Golconda, and sapphires and rubies from Peru; and at the present time, precious stones are more exquisitely set than ever before.

Of all the accessories of a costume, it is necessary intelligently to omit jewelry when it is superfluous. It is often tragically true that refinement, or the lack of it, in a person expresses itself chiefly in the wearing of jewelry. It indicates individuality and character quite as much as the gown. Therefore it is much better to wear none at all or else wear an attractive ribbon around the neck or wrists, if one can not afford to buy well-designed silver, gold, or platinum jewelry.

One should wear with tailored suits, afternoon

dresses, shirt waists, and everyday working clothes, silver jewelry of simple and good design, set with semi-precious stones, such as jade, lapis lazuli, or turquoise matrix, cut cabochon or facet. This style of jewelry is suitable for young girls. Semi-precious stones are beautiful in color and lend themselves to many combinations, but often a mingling of colored stones is apt to be unbecoming unless the blending is harmonious. Not only the color and shape of the stones are to be considered, but also the shape and size of the settings. With evening gowns more elaborate jewelry, set in gold or platinum, with precious, facet-cut stones such as diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires, should be worn; and facet-cut stones should also be worn with velvets, silks, or elaborate afternoon frocks.

Diamonds are ostentatious and may not be worn by everyone. They enhance the brilliancy of a costume if worn with restraint, but more often they detract from the personal appearance, dim the lustre of the eyes, and take life away from the skin. Their clear hardness communicates itself to the features, bringing them out in strong relief. Diamonds always appear hard and cold if they are not set in enamel or with colored stones. Emeralds have a similar effect, without lighting up a costume. They should be worn with gowns of harmonizing color.

Pearls are a trifle less ostentatious than diamonds. They are generally becoming and suitable for almost all occasions. Their color is often chosen to match the complexion.

Turquoise stones are perilous to nearly everyone, having the effect of darkening the skin and detracting from the youthful look. They are better worn with an accompaniment of pearls than by themselves.

A painfully thin person should not wear long necklaces. They accentuate thinness and angularity as does no other article of dress. In fact, one should not attempt to wear a neck chain of any sort without first trying its length and noting its effect on the contour of the figure, for it actually adds or detracts from one's apparent height. Large spottings of jewelry, such as oversized rings and too large necklaces, or bracelets, or hair ornaments, are always in extremely bad taste. Often colored stones matching the color in gowns are effective.

Now that sets of jewelry are being made fashionable again, earrings are sold to match the hairpins, and rings on the fingers are made to harmonize with the buckles which clasp hair ornaments of various kinds.

Many less valuable gems, such as jade and aquamarine, amethyst and topaz, are lavishly displayed. They are threaded on gold to hang about the neck, making an impressive splash of color upon a filmy lace corsage. Never, surely, were the various precious stones of the universe more exquisitely set for the adornment of women than at the present time.