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Introduction

This book is written with the hope that it may convey to those interested in costume, a simple but definite idea of the styles of garments and of ornament for the various periods in history and give inspiration to those who are endeavoring to create original designs.

By giving a series of lectures to the teachers of the Indianapolis Schools who were interested in this subject, I realized what a task it was for one to gain a definite impression of historic dress, because the vast amount of material shown in museums and the many volumes on costumes in the libraries leave only a confused idea unless a great deal of time is used in selecting and rearranging the information. Out of this realization this volume has grown.

It is not the object of this book to give a description and illustration of all the styles used in each period but rather to condense all such information and give only those which seem typical of each age, to describe the few styles upon which the others were based, and thus to lay a foundation upon which much may be profitably built by more extensive study and research. To suggest a few of the underlying principles of design and create enthusiasm for more artistic apparel and greater individuality in modern designs is the purpose of this volume.

The interest and assistance so generously given by friends and persons in the museums and libraries has been of infinite help and I wish to express my appreciation to each of them. Information was gained or sketches made for this volume in the following places, — The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Hispanic Society of America, and Astor Library of New York City; The Pennsylvania Museum and the School of Industrial Art, The Museum of the Pennsylvania University, Museum of Independence Hall and the Libraries of Philadelphia; The Carnegie Museum and Library of Pittsburg; the Library of Indianapolis; Mt. Vernon, The Congressional Library and the Smithsonian Institution, the United States National Museum of Washington, D. C.

