Dressing the Part

Contents

- Fabrics
- Styles
- Recommendations

FABRIC: FIBERS AND PRINTS

Print Techniques
- Block Print
- Roller Print
- Gouache on Paper
- Paper Impression
Weaves
- Canton
- Check
- Changeable Fabric
- Cord
- Sateen
- Twill

All Over Sets
French 1795-1800
French 1810-20

Block Prints and Bonnes Herbes

Indigos
Leaves, Trailing Vines and Florals
Grasses and Wheats

Mill Engravings

Mill Prints

Woolens – Garment Weight
• Worsted
• Bombazet
• Broadcloth
• Cashmere
• Cassimere (Kersycymeres)
• Drab

• Flannel
• Jersey
• Lustrene
• Merino
• Serge
• Shalloon
• Stuff
Use of Color

Trims and Closures
• Avoid obviously synthetic trims
  — Use cotton lace
  — Seek out vintage trims (eBay)
  — Invest in trims (consider reusing)
• Avoid plastic or “cheap” closures
  — Use vintage buttons
  — Consider hooks and eyes or pins

COMMERCIAL PATTERNS

Recommended Patterns
• Fig Leaf Patterns (very extensive instructions)
• Sense and Sensibility (on-line tutorials)
• Past Patterns (great directions, assumes some hand sewing)
• Kannicks Korner (great directions, patterns fit together well)
• Daffodown Dilly (photo instructions - but sizing not well marked)
Recommended for the Experienced Seamstress

- La Mode Bagatelle (instructions are not extensive)
- Rocking Horse Farms (instructions are not extensive, some fitting problems)

Patterns Noted with Reservations or Qualifications

- Reconstructing History (instructions are not extensive, several fitting problems)
- Other patterns
  - Folkwear (these are ok but not the most historic)
  - Winego (have not tried these)

UNDERPINNINGS

Underpinning Styles

- Shift or Chemise
  - Traditional Chemise
- Bodiced Petticoat
- Stays or Corset
  - Demi Stays (Short Stays)
  - Wrap Stays
  - Full Stays
  - Transitional Styles
Fabric and Pattern Recommendations
Shifts/Chemises

- **Fabrics**
  - Cotton Mull
  - Fine Muslin
  - Fine Linen

- **Patterns**
  - Past Patterns #002, Two Early Nineteenth Century Chemises
  - Woman's Shift 1790-1820 (Kannick's Korner)
  - Regency Underthings (Sense and Sensibility)
  - Regency Wardrobe (La Mode Bagatelle)
**Fabric and Pattern Recommendations**

**Stays/Corsets**

- **Fabric**
  - Coutil
  - Farthingales
  - Silk Brocades
  - Linen Twill

- **Patterns**
  - Short Stays
  - Regency Underthings (Sens and Sensibility)
  - Silhouetteilly Regency for Halter Maxi
  - Full Stays
  - Regency (c. 1800–1815) (The Manka)
  - Past patterns #001: 1820s-1840s Corded Stay
  - Past Patterns #030: A "Transition Stay" Fashionable Circa 1796-1806
  - Past patterns #038: A Partially Boned "Transition Stay" Fashionable Circa 1793-1820

**DRESSES AND OUTERWEAR**
Types of Dress (As described in the Early 19th Century)

- Morning Dress
  - Formal Daytime wear
  - In the Mirror of Graces; or the English Lady's Costume, published in London in 1811, the author (“a Lady of Distinction”) advised:
    - In the morning the arms and bosom must be completely covered to the throat and wrists.
    - From the dinner-hour to the termination of the day, the arms, to a graceful height above the elbows, may be bare; and the neck and shoulders unveiled as far as delicacy will allow.
    - Chemisettes, fichus
    - Spencers, Redingotes
    - Gloves

- Walking Dress
- Half Dress
- Afternoon Dress
- Evening Dress
  - Dinner Dress
  - Opera Dress
  - Ball Dress

Dress Styles

- Round Neckline
  - Scoop
  - High collar
  - Chemisettes
- Square Neckline
- V Neckline
- Outerwear

- Back Closing
- Front Closing
  - Draw string
  - Bib-front
- Wrap
- Pull-over

SCOOP AND JEWEL NECKLINES
Fabric and Pattern Recommendations

**Fabric**
- Cotton
- Linen
- Muslin
- Silk twill
- Lightweight wool
- Silk taffeta, organza, jacquard
- Light weight wool
- Linen (common dress)
- Silk taffeta, organza, jacquard
- Some high teched day wear

**Patterns**
- Regency Gown (Sense and Sensibility)
- Elegant Lady’s Closet (Sense and Sensibility)
- Regency Wardrobe (La Mode Ragazina)
- Circa 1796-1806 Lewis & Clark Era Front Closing Gown (Past Patterns)
- 1795 Work Dress (fig leaf)
- 1799 Alden Envelope Front Gown (fig leaf)
- Bib-front Muslin Dress (Period Impressions)

**SQUARE NECKLINES**
**Fabric and Pattern Recommendations**

- **Fabric**
  - Cotton
  - Silk twill
  - Linen (common dress)
  - Silk taffeta, organza, jacquard
  - Even weight muslin
  - Lightweight wool

- **Patterns**
  - Regency Gown (Sense and Sensibility)
  - Regency Wardrobe (La Mode Bagatelle)
  - Early 1800s Lewis & Clark Era Front Closing Gown (Past Patterns)
  - 1795 Work Dress (Fig Leaf)
  - Bib-Front Muslin Dress (Period Impressions)

**V-NECKLINE AND WRAP DRESSES**
Fabric and Pattern Recommendations

Fabric
- Cotton
- Muslin
- Silk twill
- Light weight wool
- Linen (common dress)
- Silk taffeta, organdie, jacquard
- Tourmaline
- Silk chiffon

Patterns
- Elegant Lady's Closet (Sense and Sensibility)
- Regency Wardrobe (La Mode Bagatelle)

SPENCERS, REDINGOTES, PELISSES
Riding Habits and Two-Piece Garments

Redingotes

Pelisses
Fabric and Pattern Recommendations

- **Fabric**
  - Cotton
  - Tussah
  - Silk twill
  - Wool
  - Linen (heavy weight)
  - Polished Cotton

- **Patterns**
  - Regency Spencer and Pelisse (Sense & Sensibility)
  - Elegant Lady's Closet (Sense and Sensibility)
  - Regency Wardrobe (La Mode Bagatelle)
  - High Waisted Petticoat and Petticoat Pattern (Period Impressions)
  - High Waisted Petticoat (Past Patterns)

---

FOOTWEAR

---

---

---
Other Questions and Considerations

• How high should my waistline be?
  — Age, station, religion, geography
• What fashion is appropriate for my age?
  — "comfort level" and personal style

Questions and Discussion