

LATEST PARIS FASHIONS

SPRING and Summer Embroidered Satin and Voile Gowns



Blue Voile de Soie Gown
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Silk Embroidered Voile Gown
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White Crepe de Chine and Lace Gown
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Black Voile de Soie Gown with Guipure Lace
Maison Drecoil
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Liberty Satin Gown Embroidered in Silk
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BY MRS. A. T. ASHMORE.

To keep up with the changes in fashion, to be correctly informed weeks and months in advance as to the newest styles, to be able to announce authoritatively what will be worn during the coming season, implies not only a vast amount of knowledge in all matters pertaining to dress, but just now also requires a gift of prophecy and second sight that should make the proud possessor thereof a much to be envied individual. Never has there been a time when fashion information was so varied and so contradictory. Secret conclaves are held behind closed doors, novel schemes of color and design are given out from time to time, but in a tentative manner, as though they were asking for the approval of the public, not as though the order were issued as a command.

Early Victorian fashions are threatened—there is no other word to describe the situation. There are certainly many charming details of this period in dress, but the general effect was unbecoming, clumsy and best suited to hide any natural grace or slender lines. Exaggerated Empire styles are also menacing public safety and even decency, for with the tendency to overexaggeration of any eccentricity of dress that prevails to such

In appearance provided there is enough width just above the knees; when there is not enough width the skirt draws in to the figure in most ungraceful and unbecoming effect. The newest styles in skirts are quite complicated, but all apparently are designed to give the appearance of being quite scant around the ankles, fortunately calling for more width above—two and a half and two yards in width is perhaps an improvement over the narrower models of the autumn, when skirts less than two yards wide were attempted as a fashion.

Satin is again to be fashionable as a material for spring and summer, a much lighter weight, of necessity, than has been used for the winter costumes, but not the too light weight, for that is not appropriate. Black Liberty satin gowns, as well as the coat and skirt styles, will be made up in the various designs that have already appeared. For the daytime the short skirt will continue to be in style, but in late afternoon and evening the longer train will once more be popular. This applies especially to black satin. Black crepe de Chine, plain and figured, is to be smart, and in colors as well as black the figured or brocaded crepe de Chines are most effective—not in any conspicuous way, simply from the beauty of design and coloring.

Silk voile, marquisette and, in fact, all thin, transparent fabrics, are exhibited in endless variety and are to be most popular this spring and summer. Making up gray, white and light materials over dark or fancy linings is one of the marked styles this season, and, although not absolutely a new idea, is carried out so successfully as to give the appearance of being quite the latest notion. It seems a strange state of affairs, an odd taste, that demands that not only the lining itself but the trimming, far richer than the outer drapery, should be underneath and only show through the transparent fabric. In contradistinction to this, the lining of satin and cloth coats with chiffon has been thought very smart for some time. A brocade lining trimmed with bands of lace or passementerie is veiled with white or pale gray silk voile or marquisette, through which show distinctly the brocade and the trimming. The waist may perhaps reveal more of the trimming, for above where the fichu or surplice folds join at the belt there is a space left that is filled in with the trimming. It must be confessed the effect is attractive and gives the appearance of a delightful disregard of expense, for there are in this fashion two entire gowns, both of good material.

The white gowns for the coming season are fascinatingly beautiful. Exquisite laces and embroideries are combined with rare skill, so that each sets off the other's perfection of detail. The most popular of the lace gowns are on simple flat lines; the figure—that is, the upper part—is sharply outlined. If there are folds of material they are very flat and do not conceal any natural lines. Some of the skirts are made with a scant flounce, sometimes two flounces; others are all long, straight lines, for the straight lines are still in demand.

Most exquisite embroidery, hand work, in silk or in the material itself, is a noticeable feature of the new gowns, and this trimming forms a heavy, deep design around the skirt. It sometimes is finished at the hem with a fold of satin, silk, velvet or chiffon, and this is really more effective than the material itself. The colors of the embroidery are the subject of much thought. Whether the same color as the gown or several different shades of the same will be best, or whether some striking contrast will be most effective, individual taste or the taste of the designer has to decide. The craze for the China and pearl bead embroidery which is now rampant over the land has a certain but limited influence, and

bands are interspersed throughout some of the most elaborate patterns. This has nothing to do with the beaded embroideries of all kinds or the beaded net gowns, be it understood, which are quite another order of work.

Among the newest models are many very remarkable ones, both from the

standpoint of current fashions and from that of traditional good taste. Every law of dress, save alone that demanding originality to the point of eccentricity, is violated by some of the models, which are declared to be extremely smart and which have, in fact, the quality of startling one into an amazed interest, if

not admiration. A simple blouse costume—there seems no other word to describe the loosely fitting bodice, which blouses very obviously over the belt, made of Liberty silk—has, for instance, a most elaborate garniture of cyclot hole embroidery around the skirt. There is no trimming on the bodice at all. The blouse buttons down the front, is cut with a round neck and elbow sleeves. The girdle is broad and made of gathered material, producing the effect of an enormous waist line. The skirt is pleated and also has the effect of being fastened down the front.

An exquisite new model which would be becoming to a slender woman whose height is sufficient to carry off the elaborate effect of the waist and skirt garniture has a bodice of white embroidered crepe de Chine, draped with broad lace deeply pointed, which continues over the arm and forms the sleeves. The lace skirt is cut away to show an underskirt of embroidered crepe de Chine. The lace overskirt is finished with deep points on both sides of the front panel; the lace border extends over the train and is caught up the back of the skirt in a highly decorative fashion. The costume is completed with a ribbon girdle and long ends.

Practical Suggestions for Replenishing the Wardrobe

It is too late in the season to have gowns made trimmed with fur, and not many weeks are left when the wearing of fur garments, fur trimmed garments or even sets of furs will be possible. In the meantime, however, there will be many a cold day when furs will be absolutely essential to comfort, and a woman will not look smart without them. Besides, from an economical point of

view, this is a capital time to find rare bargains in coats and furs of all kinds that have to be disposed of before the next season.

Bands of fur are seen in many of the smartest evening gowns, and the mar-

about feather bands will be worn on evening and tea gowns all summer. A velvet or cloth gown that looks a trifle shabby in consequence of the winter's wear can now be renovated easily by a

fully plans, or should plan, what amount she intends to spend for her spring and summer outfit, and also should have some idea as to where her summer is to be spent. To buy too expensive gowns now, too expensive a style, even though the price be low in comparison with the value, is not a wise investment. A model gown that is distinctly new in lines but too light in color and of good material, if marked down to a reasonable cost, will do for next season as well as now, but at the same time this winter's gowns can now be remodelled at little outlay so they will last for the remainder of the season, and



Black Velvet Coat with Opossum Fur.

an alarming extent nowadays the weak points in fashion are always eagerly seized upon by the great band of would-be conspicuous women, and in these fashions lurk possibilities of exaggeration and eccentricity too appalling to contemplate.

Narrow Skirts Still Fashionable.

Narrow skirts will not be banished, unfortunately, but the ugly, so-called hobble skirt will not be considered smart. It never has been so considered by really well-gowned women, although it has had a momentary popularity. The scant but not exaggeratedly tight skirt can be attractive



Red Cloth Gown.



Satin Gown Trimmed with Black Velvet.



Black Velvet Gown.

band of fur that can be bought for a third of what was asked a month ago. In this country velvet, velveteen and corduroy go out of fashion quite as early in the season as does fur of all kinds, so that it is not the mistake it seems to put on new trimming in order to have the costume look well a while longer.

This is the season when the prudent woman buys most carefully. If she has but a limited allowance for dress she care-

then there will be the money saved to invest in the absolutely necessary spring costume.