

Fancy Dress and Party Gowns

The New Picture
Costumes and Harem
Hats Described
By Lady
Duff-Gordon



The "Great Adventure" Gown Created in Green and Blue Spangled Net, with Orange Girdle and Yards of Pearls.

The Blue and Crystal Evening Gown, with the Odd New Looped-Up Tunic.

The Dresden Shepherdess Costume in Pale Blue and Rose Silk for the Debutante.

Striking Black and White Dancing Costume, with New Tulle Frill Outlining the Figure.

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women.

Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.

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By Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile").

Paris, November 6.
PARIS is just now keen on the subject of fancy dress. I am sometimes amused at the almost childlike eagerness of grown women to "dress up." There is still much of the child left in all of us, and it never shows more plainly than when we have an opportunity to wear fancy dress costumes. When I was in New York last winter I noticed that affairs of this kind were more popular than those where ordinary dress was required. I always enjoy making these "picture" costumes, as I like to call them. One's imagination is stimulated by them, and I can so easily put myself in the place of the pretty girl or woman who is to wear them.

If I make a Columbine costume, lo, I have all the feelings of the character while I am developing it. I am sending you pictures of several picture gowns which I have just completed. The most striking I call the Great Adventure, because the woman wearing it should be of the adventurous type. She should imagine herself as taking part in some great romance. The design is startling and the color most ef-

fective. The spangled nets are blue and green. The most underneath layer is flesh-colored chiffon. Over this are layers of the green and blue net, marvellously draped so as to seem all one fabric. The quantity of pearls is necessary, as they soften the brilliant effect of the spangles. The most striking note in the costume is the sulphur and orange girdle.

Another successful picture dress is the Dresden Shepherdess of rose and blue, two difficult shades to combine, but these two tones blend perfectly. The quaint panniers, very bouffant, are emphasized by the tight corset of the dull rose. Such a costume as this might well be included in the wardrobe of a debutante who is slender and graceful, preferably one whose face is piquant, and who lacks self-consciousness.

Women frequently make sad mistakes in choosing their fancy dresses. Sometimes I wonder tragically if women have no sense of humor. Nearly every woman who is fair, fat and forty years of age impersonate Juliet, while the shy, blushing debutante begs to be Carmen or Cleopatra. The tall thin woman wants to be a fairy

queen, with short skirts, and the short, fat woman always weeps because she cannot be a silk-tight page!

The debutante who chooses the Dresden picture dress will not go far wrong. Youth is always beautiful, even if noses are ugly and complexions sallow.

As I have the debutante very much on my mind this week, I have decided to send you an evening gown which might be worn with a flower mask at a fancy dress ball. The marvellously draped sash which forms a sort of tunic over the blue and crystal net gives the necessary fantastic touch. The colors are lovely, I think, the girdle being two shades of dull orange. This gown worn with an elaborate head-dress and the aforementioned mask would be most effective. Worth without the mask and with the head-dress shown here, it would be appropriate for any evening affair.

The fourth picture shows a black lace and white costume, which is not too mantronic for the debutante. The lace tunic is new. The double frill of tulle below the hips is very new and chic. The lace sleeves fastened on to the top of the bodice are girlish and becoming.

But I do not mean to devote my space to picture gowns. I have a few things to say about hats and how the feminine figure has affected the shape and size of all headgear.

Since the advent and the enthusiastic adoption of the frilled and looped tunic the feminine and fashionable outline has become sufficiently striking to satisfy almost any and all seekers after the sensational.

At any rate, so one might have thought.

But a (literally) crowning sensation is still to come in the form of a hat which repeats—but in inverted form—the shape of the aforementioned looped tunic, its width of brim tapering up into a high and narrow crown, whose slender circumference will (it is to be hoped) be matched by the wearer's ankles as clearly revealed by a slit-up skirt, or, at any rate, just as clearly silhouetted by a wisp of drapery.

And, so that they may be a still better match for the tunics, the hats are trimmed with frills. For example, an erection of pale pink satin will display a double flounce-like veiling of tulle in the same softly roseate color edged with a fringe of silver bullion, whose shining strands away from an encircling line of diamonds. And then, bursting out from the very summit of the crown is a gigantic bow of rose

pink tulle, a veritable foam of fulness and lightness, though there are some cleverly concealed wirings to keep it in permanent position.

Then again, a mauve satin hat has an edging of snugly set diamonds to follow and accentuate the curves of its brim and to shine out through veiling frills of black tulle, which in their turn are hemmed with silver.

And in this case still further height is given to the hat by means of a great upward and outward sweeping ostrich feather, which shades from palest mauve to deepest purple.

Imagine, too, the effect of a turquoise tinted satin hat with double frills of silver net edged with a shimmering silver fringe, white poised at the top is a big and beautiful butterfly, whose wings of silver tissue are outspread at either side of a mass of diamonds, two great stones finally blazing out from the quivering antennae, and gaining some new color and charm with every movement.

And now just a word about some new motor fixings that I have seen recently:

Positively I am filled with envy—not altogether from the personal point of view, please understand, but on behalf of hundreds and thousands of other women who motor.

It is a case only 33 inches long, 18 inches high and 10 inches wide. I want you to remember these modest measurements when you are learning all that it contains, and it fits into the front of the car, facing the luxuriously covered and cushioned armchair seats which provide accommodation and ease for the fortunate occupants.

You stretch out your hand, give a touch to the nozzle lock, and the front glides downward and takes up the position of a table flap, thereby disclosing two long and narrow mirrored doors—one at each side of a central and decoratively filled compartment. Another touch to one or other of these doors and, in whatever position you are seated, you can get just the right view of yourself in these conveniently sized mirrors, which remain at the desired angle just as soon as you lift your hand from their catch.