

Party Dresses



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.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
("LUCILE")

SPAIN is the dominant nation so far as dancing gowns are concerned this season. The Spanish note is supreme in the color, the silhouette and the fabric in that garment in which a pretty woman looks her prettiest, her party dress.

First the silhouette. It is bouffant. The skirts are undeniably full, the fullness being emphasized by the paniers. The tiny hoops worn over the hips and extending there the soft draperies give the wideness of outline characteristic of the Spanish dancing costumes worn, not by professional dancers, but by the ladies in waiting of the court. The bodices are tight. High darts and gussets are used to give in its mould-like effect. Pointed stomachers add further to the illusion of dancing gowns worn by beauties of old Spain.

The fabrics used hark back to Spanish models, for the skirts are made for the most part of the lace, beloved of women of the southern peninsula, since the women of Castile wove it, lace of silken threads. Even the Spanish colors—red, yellow and black—are oft repeated in the ball gowns seen in the late Winter and to be seen in the Spring.

After the Spanish motif the Watteau claims popularity in evening attire. Glimpses of our grandmothers' finery are granted us in the low-cut bodice defined by a ruffle of narrow lace and by tiny ribbons, and the wide skirts of flowered silks.

The three models that are shown on this page are illustrations of the Spanish and Watteau motifs. The skirt of the first is a straight tunic of lace over a petticoat of embroidered fllet. The bodice is of white satin, tightly fitting, with a crushed girdle of the same. A jacket of cherry colored silk, trimmed with chinchilla fur and a conventional design of the same cherry shade on bodice front, introduces a striking note.

The photograph in the lower right hand corner shows another "party gown" of Spanish tendencies—a very simple one.

The smaller picture is of a girlish gown in pastel blue shade in which are woven clusters of deep blue forget-me-nots. The upper part of the skirt is of white net. A sounce of the same shades the elbow sleeves. The girdle is of dark blue velvet.



Evening Gown of Blue Silk, with Girdle and Corsage Showing the Use of Ribbons as Trimming.

PHOTOS BY BURKE ATWELL CHI.

A Dancing Costume of Lace and White Satin, with Coat of Cherry Colored Taffeta.



A Distinctively "Spanish" Dress, with Tight-Fitting Bodice and "Pantalettes"

"Lucile" Models.