



## TRAPPINGS



Over 70 miles of thread have been used in stitching costumes for *Napoleon*, according to costume designer Jane Tschetter.

Designs for the opera have been researched through paintings of the period, Tschetter said.

"The basic dresses cost from three to five dollars. With around six yards of trim per costume, the decorations often cost more than the dress," Tschetter said.

The men's clothes are elaborately trimmed. Eighteen buttons are used on each soldier's costume. Discarded University band uniforms were donated for this use.

"That alone saved around \$300," Tschetter said. Eagle trim, feathers, gray overcoats were also salvaged. Tall boots for the generals were borrowed from the University Theatre.

Costumes were started early in November. Over 340 yards of material went into the male chorus uniforms.

"I'd never cut so many of one kind of coat before," Tschetter said. She and her crew of "two-and-a-half" people (two fulltime workers and "lots of help") constructed the costumes.

Brocades, velvets, sheers, and fur become most elaborate in Napoleon's coronation scene. Tschetter said designs for the scene's costumes were copied as closely as possible from a painting of Josephine's crowning.

Tschetter said the costumes reflect the immoral attitude of the Revolutionary period in Paris, using clinging, sheer fabrics for women, with men contrasting in stiff collars and high boots in battle and pumps and stockings in court festivities.