

LAVISH ELABORATION RULE

Even the Apparently Simple Gowns Are Sometimes Deceptive.

EXTRAVAGANCE STILL THE KEYNOTE

Stylish Simplicity of Detail the Touchstone of Success in the Morning Frocks—Uses of the Gumpes.

Where should one begin in an account of the new models which are increasing in numbers so rapidly and are so worthy of note? That is the perplexing question.

Materials and trimmings are exquisite and expensive, and a wealth of elaboration is bestowed upon the smart models, even upon those which appear comparatively simple. Hand embroidery and all forms of hand work are more popular than ever and appear upon everything from the morning frock of linen to the gorgeous evening gown.

And yet that is too sweeping a statement. There are simple frocks and charming ones, too; but a general survey of the imported models does give one an impression of lavish elaboration.

The lines, on the whole, tend toward simplicity, and at first glance many a model is deceptively unpretentious. Take, for

example, the white and black striped silk mousseline which figures in one of the small cuts.

The French are past masters in this artfulness. In models of this type, even more than in the gorgeous frocks, they show their consummate taste and talent. In linen models and numerous morning frocks of silk, the shirt waist frock so-called, smart simplicity of detail is the touchstone of success. Some little note of originality in color or trimming differentiates the chic shirt waist frock from the commonplace one, and it is such details which the wise woman will study in planning her summer wardrobe.

There is a decided predilection shown this season for the cool colors and strong colors and similar tones in linen, and some of the most attractive morning frocks in linen are made up in such coloring with a touch of brown in the trimming. One pretty frock has a blouse cut down in V shape at the neck to show a gumpes of lace and batiste and is sleeveless.

The blouse is laid in plaits on the shoulders and the neck and armholes are bordered by bands of the ecru linen embroidered in large dots of brown—the dots being about the size of a 2-cent piece and set in line. At the points of the V two palm leaf motifs of real elmy lace are set and four tiny bands of brown cross the V point between the curving lines of the lace motifs. A hand embroidered in large brown dots

of the armhole trimming, and scarf ends of black silk fell from the collar.

The very sheer silk, silk and cotton or silk and wool materials with deep printed border designs are being used by the dress-makers with unprecedented skill, and possibilities heretofore unrecognized in border stuffs are being developed under the stimulus of the exquisite new materials in this class which the manufacturers have furnished this season. An attempt to describe

Perfectly plain plaited blouses and skirts of fine linen are made for practical wear and will receive their cachet from separate lingerie frills and collars, hand embroidered or lace trimmed, or from hand embroidered collars and cuffs without the plaited front frills. The extreme daintiness and charm of the hand embroidered collars, cuffs and other blouse accessories which are the rage of the moment present new possibilities for the morning frock, and though these accessories at their best are expensive luxuries, many women will prefer to put money into them and let the

color schemes and designs of these beautiful stuffs would be futile. One must see them to appreciate their beauty, but the large cut will give a good idea of one of the simpler ways in which border designs may be used.

Here the material was a marquisette in black thickly strewn with white wafer dots, while the border was formed of very large white dots on black. The model was a beautifully cut and shaped princess with the fullness of bodice and skirt vanishing into plaits at the waist line and over the hip curve.

The material was apparently used lengthwise instead of crosswise, as is common with extra wide bordered stuffs, and the border was plaited in to form a front panel running the full length of the gown shaped closely by plaits at the waist but falling loosely toward the bottom of the skirt. The same effect was repeated in the back. These bands of black satin were set around the skirt bottom and a band of black satin trimmed each sleeve cap or over sleeve. In the long narrow V of the front was a dainty chemisette of embroidered batiste and valenciennes and the undersleeves matched this chemisette.

An eminently serviceable and practical frock this, yet one of peculiar grace and distinction, though boasting no costly elaboration of detail.

A very lovely Doucet model in white chignon cloth with a floral border above a border of plain black, had the material so handled that the border ran from shoulder to girdle and around the round neckline below the transparent lace gumpes. The same arrangement was repeated in the back and, in both back and front, the border drapery from the shoulders was continued down the skirt in soft drapery giving a tunic suggestion. An additional note of elegance was given to the frock by setting a continuous garland design of fine lace into the plain black part of the border.

The Fifth avenue house which is showing this beautiful model has, too, a particularly attractive French frock in an odd silvery pink and white. The skirt is of pink taffeta, falling in plain graceful lines from slightly short waist line, and cut up the front to disclose a petticoat of pink gros tulle and dyed pink Alencon.

The silk overskirt is devoid of trimming save for a line of hand stitching running along the hem of sides and bottom. A picturesque little draped bolero of flowered silk in pink and white and gray surmounts this skirt.

It has long shawl ends or tails in the back reaching almost to the floor and touches of the plain pink silk appear on neck and

morning frock itself be of the simplest possible order.

The frock will tub easily and well, and the embroidery sets, being removable, need not be entrusted to the ordinary laundress and need not be laundered every time the serviceable blouse and skirt go into the tub. Not only in practical tub frocks, but in shirt waist frocks of silk or voile the blouse and skirt to be worn with separate collars and cuffs divide allegiance with gumpes motifs.

One New York girl who dresses remarkably well on a somewhat limited dress allowance has several frocks which she had achieved with the aid of a home seamstress and in which she will look uncommonly trim and modish next summer when she wants a dark, yet cool, frock for travel or for a day's shopping, etc.

One was a brown and white foulard in a design of tiny pin-point dots and an occasional large dot. Blouse and skirt both were full and plain, with horizontal tucks decorating the bottom of the skirt, running around the blouse at the bust line and continuing around the sleeve puff. A narrow crush girdle of the foulard had two-inch line of plain brown taffeta at its top and a scarf of brown silk tied under the embroidered white linen collar, which, with corresponding cuffs, represented an outlay which considerably increased the cost of the frock.

The other frock included among the sketches was of soft, natural lined pongee. All the stitching of the frock was done in brown.

The plaited skirt was untrimmed save for little loops and buttons of brown silk at the bottom of a plain front breadth, but the blouse had narrow plaited frills of brown silk bordering the front plait, the high turn-down collar and cuffs. Loops and buttons of silk also appeared on the cuffs.

Colored blouse and skirt frocks may be beautified by plaited frills, collars and cuffs of white lingerie or linen, with narrow tailored hems matching the color of the frock material, and such sets are shown ready for wear, in white and light blue, white and pink, white and lavender and white and light brown.

Delightful little shirt-waist frocks are made, too, in fine white lingerie stuff, with front frills, collar and cuffs whose edges are buttonholed in color. Sometimes an embroidered design is added, but the plain scalloped edges with their lines of color are particularly dainty. Many of these models have a plain close collar, scalloped and embroidered around the top, instead of a turn-over collar, and a little lingerie bow with embroidered edges matching the frill, collar, etc., heads the frill at the throat.

Similar models, made with blouses buttoning in the back and with no front frill, are very simple and attractive and are usually made in striped, dotted or checked cotton with white ground and color lines. The tiny embroidered scallops of collar, cuff and bow repeat the color in the material.

Hand embroidery in self color is considered very modish upon pongee and many very chic little French frocks among the imported models are in pongee of natural tone, dull blue or brown, embroidered in self tone and lightened by some contrasting touch of color and by lace or embroidered batiste on the bodice. A pretty bolero and shirt model in natural lined pongee carried out this idea successfully, the only trimming of the skirt being embroidery in self tone.

The loose little bolero, with its loose picturesque sleeve cut in one with the coat, also had a touch of self tone embroidery, but it had, too, a gleam of vivid red in the embroidery of the small collar

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BLUE LINEN.

sleeves, white pink gros tulle and lace like that of the petticoat fill in the open front and form the gumpes and undersleeves. Description of the model suggests patchwork, but the frock was beautifully harmonious both in line and color and strikingly individual.

NECKTIES ARE BRILLIANT

Four-in-Hands in General Demand, but Bow Ties Grow in Favor.

Neckties, both four-in-hand and bow ties, will be about the same width as last season. There is also a marked tendency toward strong colors and a wave of the ever-recurring popularity of the polka dot fad is due to sweep the domain of dame fashion. There are plaids, polka dots, stripes and small figured ties of every style and color displayed and it cannot be said that any particular fad will prevail, so it will be safe to pick out a tie of any color or style with the assurance that it is the very acme of fashion.

As in shirts, the "self color" fad will not prevail to any extent, and the black ties will probably prove a drug on the market with the many hues displayed.

The four-in-hand style is the most popular at the present time, but bow ties will be worn in greater numbers during the very hot summer months. Ascots are associated with snow and steam heated rooms, but may be worn with the many fancy vests that will be in use this season.

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