



FURS ARE PROMISED A SEASON OF UNPRECEDENTED FAVOR

NEVER was Paris so enthusiastic over furs, and fur trimmings, and American furriers are already displaying the new coats and "small furs," as muffs and neckpieces are called, in all the familiar pelts as well as in some new skins which are just making their bow to Dame Fashion. Women are discovering the value of these wonderful enhancers of costume and of beauty, and fur coats and fur sets figure largely in the plans for the fashionable Winter wardrobe. Experience has taught women to buy good furs—the sort that will keep their luster and beauty through more than one season; for there is nothing so hopelessly shabby as a shabby set of furs. Worn shoes are not a circumstance to worn furs; and better far an inexpensive fur muff and neckpiece, smart in shape and fresh in quality, than a once handsome fur set matted with time and showing unpleasant many looking bare spots along the edges.

Clever women, who have discovered their own particular fur—the fur that brings out the colors of eyes, hair and skin to perfection, and that flatters both complexion and figure lines as only the right fur can—stick to this fur season after season; buying a new garment when necessary and utilizing the half-worn fur in trimmings. These fur trimmings promise to be extravagantly fashionable this Winter. They give an air of luxury to the simplest costume and when applied on velvet, they are especially beautiful and appropriate. Fortunately, the skirts are now so narrow that very little of the fur will go a long way, and a discarded muff and boa will nearly trim a whole costume.

Great care should be exercised in buying furs. By clever processes of dyeing, commonplace and inferior skins are made to resemble fine pelts; but the life of such furs is brief and if the skin, often made up of little scraps saved from the edges of large fur garments, does not soon pull apart, the hairs wear off and the color becomes dead and lusterless. Only first class furriers, on whose word one can rely, should be patronized; for in furs more than anything else, the ordinary purchaser must blindly trust to the dealer. At any rate, an investment which represents as substantial a sum as a handsome set of furs or a fur coat should not be made without some thought and deliberation, and one scarcely expects to "pick up" in a morning's shopping trip, the furs which are intended to do duty for two winters at least.

As a general rule a good set of furs should last through two seasons very satisfactorily—and perhaps well into a third, if sent during the Summer months to be relined and repaired in the worn places, and perhaps to have the shape altered a trifle.

This matter of shape is another thing that has great significance in furs—almost as much significance as the quality of the pelt. This year's shapes differ very little from last year's; except that the neckpieces are even larger and the muffs rounder and more barrel-like. A hundred years ago the bigger the muff, the more modish the lady, and it seems we are getting back to this idea. Nowadays, also, the bigger the muff, the more wealthy the lady, for the huge round affairs do take a deal of fur, and very often two handsome pelts are combined; like seal with sable or skunk, or broadtail with mink or chinchilla. The new "grandmother" muff is anywhere from three quarters of a yard to a yard long and the lining conceals a number of handy little pockets in which may be stowed away miladi's purse, vanity outfit, cardcase and half a dozen other trifles.

Not all women will carry the huge grandmother muffs, however, for many women insist upon clinging to the semi flat, round muff which is so easily carried, and which may be tucked under the arm when one wants to make change in one of the trying

pay-as-you-enter cars; or be crushed between one and the back of the seat at a theater. The grandmother muff might, indeed serve as a footstool; but one cannot imagine disposing of it in any other way in one of the crowded theater stalls.

Whether barrel-shaped or semi-flat, the new muffs are delightfully light in weight—and the lighter weights, the heavier the price; for the best models are made of the finest, softest skins on a foundation of chiffon or light satin, and the padding is of fine eider-down. Even the satin linings are thinner and lighter than used to be the case.

Fox will be as popular as ever. No other fur is more becoming to the complexion than this feathery pelt which has a charming way of flattering the skin and making it look milky white. Much of the black fox offered in the shops is simply our plebeian cousin the red fox of the fields, cleverly transformed by an expert dyeing process. Raccoon is also dyed to imitate foxfur. Many of these imitations are very satisfactory indeed, and when a smart looking set is desired at an inexpensive figure, dyed fox is a good choice to make.

White fox is very beautiful—and very scarce; and a handsome white fox set is sure to be costly. These snow-white pelts are lovely on young girls whose flawless skins can stand the severe test of the white fur against the face; but older women wear the white fox only in the evening, when it is extremely fashionable on evening wraps. A white coney evening coat, trimmed with white fox, and accompanied by a huge white fox against the face, but older women wear the white fox only in the evening, when it is extremely fashionable on evening wraps. A white coney evening coat, trimmed with white fox, and accompanied by a huge white fox against the face, but older women wear the white fox only in the evening, when it is extremely fashionable on evening wraps. A white coney evening coat, trimmed with white fox, and accompanied by a huge white fox against the face, but older women wear the white fox only in the evening, when it is extremely fashionable on evening wraps.

Ermine also is reserved exclusively for evening—or for afternoon carriage wear by women of best taste and is never worn with dark street costumes. A fastidious woman would as soon appear on a beach of a midsummer morning decked in all her diamonds, as to shop of a morning in town in her ermines.

The pointed foxes are supremely lovely—for those who can afford them; but as everybody knows most of the "pointed fox" furs shown in the shops are really pointed by hand, a genuine set of pointed fox being worth from two to four thousand dollars. This fur pointing is an art in itself. The white hairs must not only be carefully inserted in the skin but must give the character and show the design of the natural pelt. Only the softest and whitest badger hairs are used and these are inserted one by one in the skin and glued fast. To point a Sitka fox pelt requires two days' labor by an expert.

In the brown furs, skunk is by far the leader. This erstwhile humble—and not below—pelt has risen by leaps and bounds to the pinnacle of favor, and alas! the price also has risen by leaps and bounds, until an imitation seal coat trimmed with skunk boasts a price not to be sneered at. Hudson seal is another of the brown pelts which is extremely fashionable; and this imitation of genuine seal is often almost as soft, velvety and beautiful as the real skin. Hudson seal is really only another name for French rat, and this imitation sealskin is used for some of the richest of the new fur coats and wraps.

Another brown fur is fisher, which sprang into sudden favor last season because of the whim of a Russian lady of rank. Fisher is a most beautiful fur, soft and velvety and with mottled shadings over a deep, dark brown at the heart of the fur. Mink is always good—provided it is of fine quality; but this fur is perishable. It fades quickly and for this reason is not an economical fur for the average woman. Some of the matched mink coats are rarely beautiful, and there are tremendous barrel muffs to match them; but the price is almost prohibitive to any but the wife of a plutocrat. Cheap mink should be avoided like the plague; for of all the furs,

this one is most impossible in its imitations.

Fur neckpieces grow larger and larger. Some of them are almost peltries and hang down the back as far as the waist. On the other hand there are pert little rarat ties which cross over the coat collar in jaunty style; and with these the muffs are quite as big and luxurious as those carried with the huge, luxurious neckpieces. A great deal depends on the way those "small" furs are worn. Some women will go through a whole winter carrying the muff in a demure or precise fashion at the end of the arms, while other women will find a hundred ways of expressing coquetry with this implement, which is placed beneath the chin, beside the cheeks; looked over, stroked in meditation beneath downcast lids; or shaken in saucy pettishness. A muff has quite as many ways of saying things as a parasol—or a fan—if one but knows how.

The neckpiece last Winter was often slipped around to the side so that the fastening came on the shoulder instead of directly in front, and this fad seems likely to be followed this year also. The French manner of crossing the fur stole in front and allowing the ends to hang over the shoulders toward the back will also prevail in this country. Beware of a dignified neckpiece hanging straight down in front with tabs falling below the waist. This effect is sure to be mature and matronly.

Long coats of seal and broadtail are shown, with luxurious borders of fox or skunk. These are for carriage or limousine wear. The favorite fur coat for street wear is a jaunty hip-length jacket which fits the figure rather closely and crosses over in front to fasten at the left side in the Russian fashion. These coats are most youthful and graceful, and have a girlish air that will be sure to make them popular. One sees them in seal and imitation seal, with skunk trimmings, in pony, in caracul, in Persian lamb and in broadtail. They are also shown in matched mink and even in matched chinchilla. With them will be worn jaunty velvet turbans with fur brims, or Persian-silk draped turbans with a fur edge.

Persian silk linings veiled with chiffon make some of the shawl wraps for evening and carriage wear very luxurious. Many of these dainty, shaped fur wraps are shown by the smart furriers, who call them theater, or bridge wraps. Delmans, peltries, victorias and all sorts of quaint, old-timey shapes are built of the furs, with borders of longer haired pelts; and dainty pleatings of velvet ribbon are set along the edge between fur and lining.

A new pelt which is immensely fashionable in wraps of this character, is the Australian opossum. This fur is very like the chinchilla in general effect, though not as blue gray in color, having a browner tinge. It is also much more serviceable than the perishable chinchilla; and less expensive too; genuine chinchilla being now very rare and costly.

One of the new Dolman wraps of this Australian opossum is built in the peasant shoulder effect, with a long, graceful line from throat to upper arm, and below this a "ruffle" of the fur—really a shaped flounce with the marking set the other way—falls to the waist at the back, while in front the garment extends to the knees. Matched by a huge grandmother muff of the same fur, this opossum set is not only quaint and charming, but extremely handsome. This fur is used also in dressy scarfs and muffs for evening use; strips of the soft, fluffy fur being attached to thin, soft silk or chiffon, and the big muff being formed in the same way. Such a scarf and muff are feather-light and as soft as thistle-down. Broad collars of the opossum are also put on rich seal coats, and the effect is very good, though many women prefer the darker collar of skunk fur.

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