

How Quaint Women Fascinate

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")

THE old adage that "Clothes make the woman" was never more true than it is to-day. In the period of tall women their femininity was entirely lost by very high-waisted, sweeping clothes and their towering hats and headdresses. Never were women so "quaint" as when some eighty years later the little heads and feet of the Victorian women appeared.

Two or three seasons ago the brilliant colors and flamboyant designs which were being worn before the war made all the debutantes nothing more nor less than sophisticated women, while to-day the hoop-skirts and again the small heads and tiny waists are making them, to my mind, the most charming, dignified and refined little ladies within the memory of any experienced chaperon. They are "quaint" and they fascinate. These pictures will show just how they do fascinate.

To begin with, the colors are much more soft than before, with the exception of the spiciest touches in some concealed piece of either shrill young green or lemon yellow. "Quaint" skirts concealing the actual outline of the limbs are much more modest and tantalizing than the close sheath skirts of the last few years, while the tight bodice and bare shoulders are the most bewitching setting for the tiny head with the close clusters of curls and braided bands which every woman and girl has adopted at the moment.

These dresses also are less vulgar in the way of tinsel and jewelry than before, as fashion tells us they must stick out and at all costs. The weight of diamond and paillette trimmings would only tend to pull them closer to the figure, and therefore for

them has been substituted the lightest of silver laces and the stiffest of shot taffeta in the daintiest of colorings, with clusters of Spring flowers or moire stripes.

Yet even with these "sticky-out" materials, the hoop is necessary underneath, and very attractive they are, for besides being made in plain material, they are all of silver, gold and in some exaggerated cases made of bands of diamonds.

This week I present for your inspection three little dresses of this type. The first is of flowered striped taffeta draped up at the sides. Although it has no actual panniers, it is in a pannier effect, showing my neatest little yoke—almost suggesting an apron—coming from the tight bodice of pink satin, which is tied across with two shades of china blue, the little net fichu being edged with skunk and caught together with

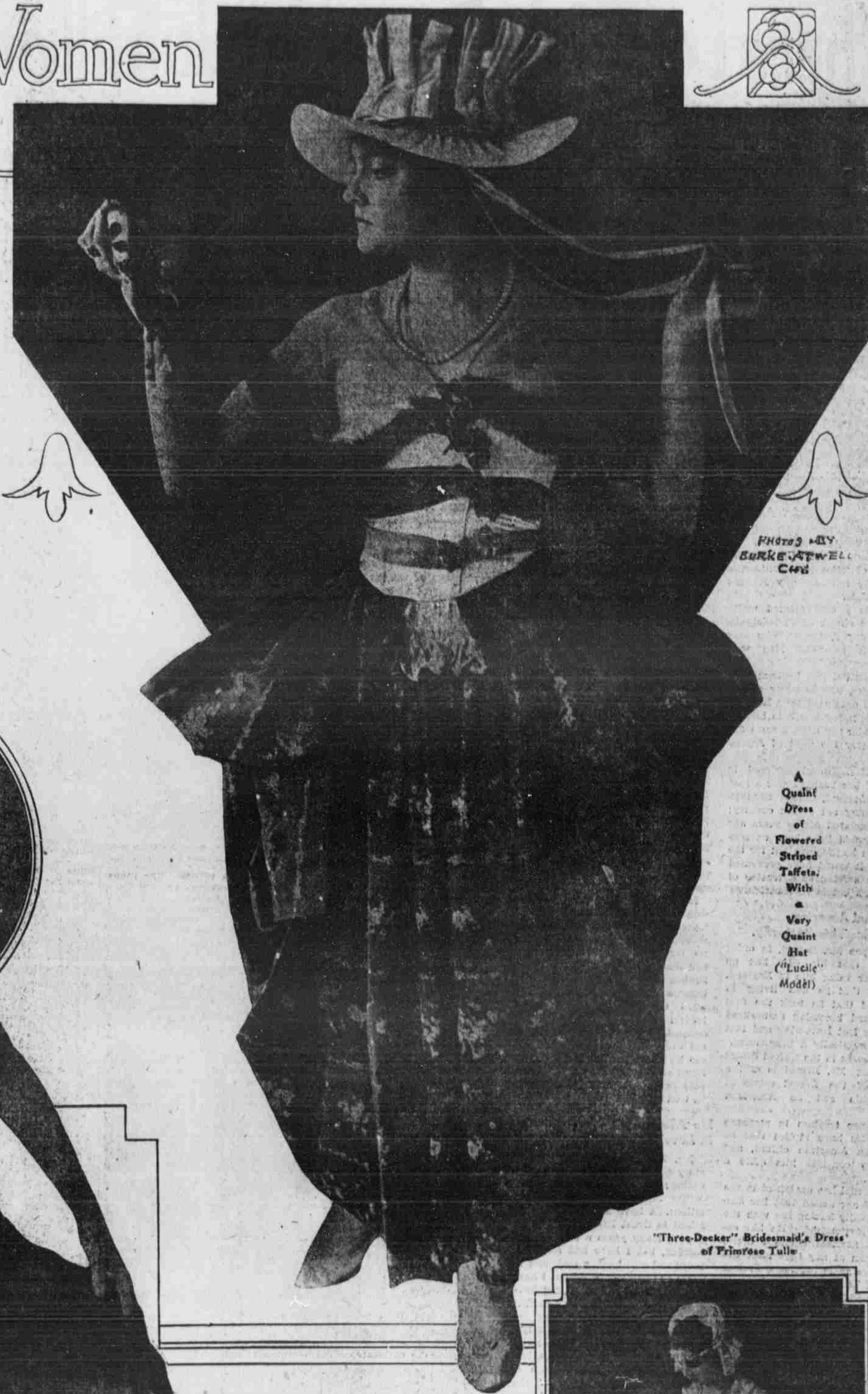


PHOTO BY BURKE ATWELL CANTON

A Quaint Dress of Flowered Striped Taffeta, With a Very Quaint Hat ("Lucile" Model)

"Three-Decker" Bridesmaid's Dress of Primrose Tulle



a cluster of flowers. The hat is of silver lace and loops of blue ribbon representing the same flowers in the tulle.

On the lower left hand side is a dress not unlike some of the "Greuse" pictures. It shows a petticoat of lace and embroidery made over hoops with the tight bodice and pannier of striped taffeta, the pannier being caught carelessly up and draping almost around to the back again, so large is it. Another tiny bouquet of flowers completes the line at the waist.

Look at her close little head. Do you not see how much more it brings out the character of her face than the frizzes and curls and psyches that one sees around us in the restaurants and stalls of the theatres?

My last little picture is a bridesmaid's dress of primrose colored tulle made three-decker fashion and bordered with rows of satin of the same shade, headed with the single ruffles of small garlands. The laced bodice is of the same satin, while the fichu represents the same trimming as on the skirt. The tiny cap is of lace worn well on the back of the head, caught across the forehead with a little garland of blue flowers, which is tied with a narrow string at the back and falls almost to the waist.

Her shoes are flesh to match her stockings, while high blue heels match the blue in the flowers. She wears neither gloves nor mittens, and should a bouquet be found necessary the smallest cluster of blue and yellow flowers would answer the purpose better than any of the magnificent sheaves of orchids that are, thank goodness, quickly going out of date.



Another "Quaint" Dress of Striped Taffeta, with Tight Bodice and Pannier ("Lucile" Model)