Period Influences Superb Fabrics

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

FORMAL gowns for the midwinter social season are said to be the most elegant, the most sumptuous and most extravagant that has been seen at any time since pre-war days. The "dress-up" movement is growing more and more so with each passing hour. From style centers come reports that an astonishing number of formals are selling this season and that the call for handsome afternoon gowns in rich metallics, velvets and laces is reaching beyond the usual.

Gorgeous, glinting, gleaming, sparkling and arrestingly colorful are the fabrics and laces that are fashioning the luxury apparel noted at fashionable gatherings. Then, too, the trend to greater elegance is expressed in the emphasis placed on luxurious accessories, on flattering little dinner hats and elaborate evening headdress.

Even more thrilling than the elegant materials and the vainglorious accessories that distinguish this season's formal modes are the various period influences that mark their styling. Designers seeking inspiration for the costume creations are delving into fashion lore of centuries past as they never delved before. The picturesque Tyrolean and Dalmatian mood is expressed in terms of colorful embroidery which is generously used at present and in other intriguing details that are adding greatly to the gaiety of current fashions. Boleros are flourishing in the mode both day and night and in the evening the latest is to throw a lace mantilla over head and shoulders and wear a red, red rose for corsage—fashion has gone as picturesquely Spanish as that!

One of the most outstanding gestures toward recapturing styles of the past is the reincarnation of the lovely Empire gowns taken from the days of Josephine and Napoleon. The stately and very beautiful dresses worn by the standing figures in the illustration bespeak the new Empire move as interpreted by designers in the style apparel creator group of the Chicago wholesale district. In these gowns we see the modern woman transformed into a glamorous true-to-tradition Napoleonic type. The silhouette, as you see, achieves a fashionable figure launched with a new profile of erect carriage and imperious dignity, accenting a high bust and waistline, flat diaphragm, deep decolletage, short puff sleeves and long graceful skirt.

Superb lame weaves gleaming with gold and silver and striking color are used for these gowns. The gown to the left is of an eye-catching metal brocade in an alluring tangerine color. Handsome lame in a vivid emerald green fashions the center dress with narrow green-metal ribbon accenting the high bust line.

The spirit of embellishment and splendor in keeping with the new luxury trend has invaded the lace realm also. Very lovely Chantilly laces have their floral patternings outlined in metal threadwork, while some laces add a decorative touch of embroidery or perhaps are starred with sequins, pearls and such. A dinner and evening ensemble stressing the vogue for the jacketed formal gown is attractively expressed in metalic-outlined Chantilly as worn by the seated figure in the picture. The neckline of the dress is square and the jacket ties softly with a bow. Which is the same as telling you when you buy lace for your frock it is not enough, you must allow an extra length for a jacket. In this way it serves a twofold purpose—with the jacket informal enough to wear to the simple dinner party, without the jacket a gown formal enough for the most pretentious evening occasion.

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Whims of Fashion

Leopard is the surprise in fur coats.

Paquin evening gowns are slim-skirted.

Pearls may be worn by young or old—by men or women.

Boleros are popular, some matching and many contrasting.

Wear flowers, ribbons, feathers or glittering ornaments in your hair.

Generous use of color and glitter is noted in scarfs, girdles and handbags.

All-fur hats and hats with fur trimming are receiving wide indorsement.

A mink coat is still the gem of the wardrobe and this year's models are lovelier than ever.

Knitted frocks are nicer than ever, and women are said to be buying them for many occasions.

Wool dresses have come out of the "trimly tailored" category and may grace gala evenings.

There is considerable interest in both flannel for sports. Broadcloth, particularly chiffon broadcloth, is worn for formal evening wear.

Showing Three New Styles

YOU who sew-your-own will be more enthusiatic than ever after making realities of these three new styles. Each is truly a delightful fashion and best of all there's something for every size in the family—from the "little bear" right on up.

Pattern 1997 is the smartly styled smock that probably has an option on a little portion of your heart right now. Fair enough, follow the dictates of your heart and you can't go wrong. This little wardrobe nicety will serve you becomingly as well. It will add to your comfort too. Make it of broadcloth, gingham, sateen or chintz for prettiness and easy maintenance. There is a choice of long or short sleeves and the shiny gold buttons offer just the sort of spicy contrast one likes in informal apparel. Available for sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44. Size 34 requires 3½ yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1204—This new day frock for sizes 36 to 52 is the final word in style and charm in any woman's language. To don this flattering fashion is to step blithely into the realm of high fashion. The soft feminine collar is most becoming and it serves as an excellent medium for contrast. The sleeve length is optional. Slender lines are the main feature of the skirt and a very pleasant effect results from the wide and handsome flare. Satin or sheer wool would prove an excellent material choice. In either your new frock will most assuredly win your friends' approval and perhaps just a little of their envy. This pattern is designed for sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Size 38 requires 4⅝ yards of 39 inch material. Less with short sleeves. The collar in contrast requires ⅞ yard.

The adorable little number for Miss Two-To-Eight, Pattern 1994, is surely without competition in the way of downright intrigue. It's the essence of youthfulness with a lot of grown-up technique added to make it a crackajack. Why not do things up right and cut this model twice—panties too, naturally—using sheer wool for the "best" occasion frock and gingham or seersucker for school, play and all-purpose use? Pattern 1994 is available in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8 years. Size 4 requires 3½ yards of 39 inch material plus ¾ yard of bias binding for trimming.

Send for the Barbara Bell Fall and Winter Pattern Book containing 100 well-planned, easy-to-make patterns. Exclusive fashions for children, young women, and matrons. Send fifteen cents in coins for your copy.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 367 W. Adams St. Chicago, Ill. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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CHIC TWEED COAT

Red, white, and blue plaid in an imported tweed makes this striking version of the coachman's coat. It has ample flare and a vent back. The lining is red crepe. The hat is white toyo with red grosgrain inserts in the crown and ornament.

Household Questions

Place bacon, fried fish or fried potatoes on brown paper before placing on the serving platter to avoid that greasy appearance. The paper will soak up the grease.

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Wilted and shabby black silk ribbons can be restored by sponging with vinegar and ironing on wrong side.

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If a tablespoon of flour is mixed with the sugar put in custards, the latter will not curdle so readily.

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If you will fold your tablecloths lengthwise as you iron them, and in thirds rather than in halves, you will have a smooth section in the center which will help you in setting an attractive table and in arranging your table decorations.

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Glasses which are used for milk or any milky substances should always be washed in cold water in preference to hot. The latter is apt to leave a cloudy appearance and necessitates a great deal more labor in the washing. The same rule applies to perfectly new glasses which have not been used.

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