

1870S YEAR BY YEAR

by Judith Hollenberger Dunlap

Editor's Note: An overview of the most ornate era ever.

The decade of 1870-1879 included drastic changes of silhouette in women's clothing. The large elliptical hoop of the late 1860s was pushed back into a bustle, which was quickly dropped for a form fitting 'natural' shape. Natural in name only, as it was achieved by lengthening the corset and adding ties to the skirts to retain the proper shape. The 1870's also began the rise of artistic dress and the seeds of dress reform for health reasons. More middle and upper class young women entered the workforce and consumers' demand for ready-made costumes bloomed.

Newly discovered aniline dyes came into vogue, sparking interest in bright colors. Outfits often featured two colors and even two materials. This was the great age of trimming...

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Finery is the newsletter of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild, an educational group dedicated to all aspects of costume and textile arts.

Finery is published six times a year. The next deadline for submissions is 2/15/13.

For publishing schedule, details about submitting articles, and advertising rate card, please see our website at www.gbacg.org or contact the newsletter editor Catherine Scholar at newsletter@gbacg.org.

WHEN A MUSLIN DRESS JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

by Jean Martin

Editor's note: Jean Martin is the editor-in-chief, writer and photographer for Science Fiction/San Francisco (www.efanzines.com/SFSF/). She is also the SF Costume Design Examiner for Examiner.com (www.http://www.examiner.com/costume-design-1-in-san-francisco/jean-martin). She is involved in costuming/cosplaying, dancing, singing and acting, and has won awards for costuming/cosplaying.

For most Regency events and balls, most of us costumers can get away with not wearing period-correct outerwear since we will most likely be indoors, or outdoors during the summer. However, if you want to wear a Regency costume this winter, or at an outdoor event such as the upcoming GBACG Tall Ship Adventure on the Lady Washington in October, what can you wear to keep yourself warm?

Women's clothing during the Regency era was mostly made of lightweight materials and had few layers, which offered little protection from the cold. Additionally, while women wore warmer clothing in the daytime with higher-collared gowns and long sleeves, they wore dresses with short sleeves and low necklines at night when it is colder.

For the ladies, shawls are a must-have accessory, which can be worn over dresses or even outerwear. Light tulle, muslin and silk shawls are particularly suited for evening dresses. The warmest Regency era shawls were primarily made from cashmere wool with beautiful embroidered patterns. It was not unusual for a Regency lady to drape a shawl over her jacket for additional warmth. Draped shawls emphasized the classical effects that women in Regency England strived for.

Spencers, tiny bodice-hugging, long-sleeved coats like bolero jackets, were also very chic during the Regency period. They were inspired by a military jacket named after the Second Earl Spencer. Spencers were cut along the same lines as the dresses and generally had long sleeves and high collars. They were made of every kind of material, from kerseymere to silk to velvet and other warmer fabrics. The jacket provided a brighter, bolder and contrasting color to the dress. They can be worn indoors and outdoors and with eveningwear, when they are called canezous. For very cool weather, some spencers were lined with fur. Military touches were in fashion during the Regency and, thus, many spencers and pelisses were covered in decorative braids, tassels, frogging, and cords.

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CARE AND FEEDING OF MEN'S HATS

Editor's Note: Reprinted with gracious permission from Cable Car Clothiers: www.cablecarclothiers.com

Your hats will actually improve with age with proper care! This is a brief guide explaining how:

Touch your hat with clean hands; oils from your hands may stain a light hat.

When you put your hat on or take it off or need to adjust it, handle it by the front and back of the brim, never by the crown.

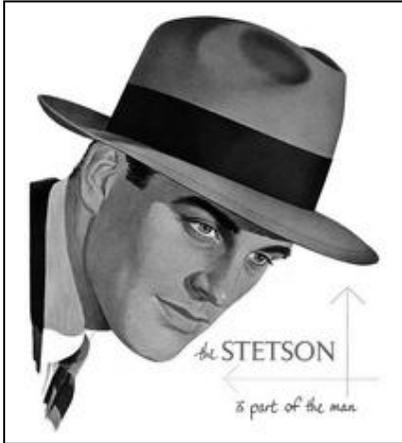
Unless your hat is "crushable," flexing or folding your hat may eventually weaken the body of the crown and brim and make it lose its ability to keep its shape.

Do not pick up your hat/fedora by the pinch... it may misshape it. In a straw fedora the pinch will crack. In a felt hat it may split the felt.

Do not place hat on its brim. It may flatten or lose its curve especially when it is wet. Always hang it. If no hook is available, store it by inverting it and placing it on its crown.

Do not leave your hat in the car or in the sun as the humidity may cause it to lose shape and the sweatband, cotton, wool or leather, could shrink or distort.

Hats of any material may be sensitive to prolonged exposure to direct sunlight causing colors to fade. ☞

**2013 GUILD EVENTS**

Editor's Note: We've put together an exciting calendar for 2013. I hope to see all of you at our fabulous upcoming events!

GBACG Open House: Saturday, January 19th, 2013. We invite all our Members, Non-members, and Sister Organization Members to join us for our annual meeting where we highlight upcoming events, give away door prizes, present a fashion show, and other fun stuff! Meet your board members, see old friends, and so much more! Location: Albany. Costume: optional. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

GBACG Goes to PEERS: The Rivendell Revels: Saturday, February 2nd, 2013. Elves, wizards, hobbits, dwarves, and humans alike are welcome at Lord Elrond's grand ball at Rivendell. Location: The Masonic Lodge of San Mateo. Costume: Tolkien-inspired fantasy wear optional. See <http://www.gbacg.org/about-gbacg/member-benefits.html> for information on discount tickets.

Lady and the Highwayman: A Beach Stroll & Refreshments at the Pelican Inn: Saturday, February 23rd, 2013. The dramatic coastal scenery and picturesque Pelican Inn at Muir Beach are fabulous backdrops for your 17th century attire. Are you a dashing highwayman, a lady in silk, or a courtier in disguise? Costume: 17th century. Ticket Price: \$\$

Costume Academy: Saturday, March 9th, 2013. Join us for fabulous day of workshops! Learn amazing tips & tricks, start on some cool projects, even do some shopping while you're

here! Location: Piedmont. Costume: not recommended.

Ticket Price: \$\$\$\$

Steampunk Soda Fountain Adventure: Saturday March 23, 2013. It's an afternoon of Phosphates, Flings and Fizzes at The Ice Cream Bar in San Francisco. Come enjoy hors d'oeuvres and extraordinary house-made sodas as we mingle at one of the Bay Area's sweetest new hot spots. Costume: 1890s/1900s and Steampunk. Ticket Price: \$\$\$

Hanami at Hakone: Celebrating Japanism and Art Deco: Sunday, April 21, 2013. Hakone Gardens is the oldest Asian estate and gardens in the Western Hemisphere. Built in 1917, it's an ideal setting for your Art Deco era creations. We will picnic and observe a tea ceremony and a kimono demonstration. Costume: 1920s/Art Deco. Ticket Price: \$\$

GBACG Goes to BAERS: Saturday, May 18, 2013. The Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) is famous for their Regency Balls, featuring country dances that are taught and called at the event. Costume: 1800-1825. Ticket Price: \$\$

Tissot Bustle Picnic: Saturday, June 22, 2013. A visit to the Ardenwood Historic Farm is a journey back in time. The 19th-century country estate, which features a beautiful mansion and elaborate gardens, also boasts a fully functioning farm growing crops with methods typical of the 1870's. Join us for a picnic at this remarkable site. Costume: 1870-1890. Ticket Price: \$

Pirate Bonfire: Saturday, July 20, 2013. Pirates, a stretch of beach, and a bonfire. Need we say more? Costume: Fantasy or Pirate of any era. Ticket Price: \$

GBACG Costumers Bazaar: Saturday, August 24, 2013. Buy, sell, and swap costume items with other costumers. Location: Albany. Costume: not necessary. Ticket price: free for members, \$5 for non-members.

The Starverse Picnic: Sunday, September 29, 2013. The dramatic view from Oakland's Middle Harbor Shoreline Park provides an inspiring backdrop for Starverse denizens from all walks of life. The massive, otherworldly cranes at the Port of Oakland (which inspired George Lucas' AT-AT walkers in The Empire Strikes Back) will set the mood beautifully. Costume: Star Wars, Firefly, Fantasy, SciFi or Steampunk. Ticket Price: \$

Prohibition Speakeasy Crawl: Saturday, November 16, 2013. Break out the beaded gowns and rolled down stockings. On this chauffeured joy ride through San Francisco, we'll taste some of Prohibition's finest forbidden delights. Costume: 1920's. Ticket Price: \$\$\$

Tall Ship Adventure on the Lady Washington: October 2013, Date TBA. A three hour San Francisco Bay sail on the tall ship Lady Washington. Costume: Regency attire 1795-1820. Ticket Price: \$\$\$\$

GBACG goes to Dickens: Saturday, December 8th, 2013. The GBACG goes to the Great Dickens Christmas Fair. Visit with friends and make merry in Dickens' London with our annual GBACG meet-up! We'll meet up at various locations throughout the day and admire each others costumes, meeting old friends and making new. Costume: 1840-1865. Ticket Price: \$\$ to the Great Dickens Fair.

A Venetian Carnivale: February 2014, Date TBA. Enjoy an evening of appetizers, desserts and dazzling feats of skill in the glittering atmosphere of the Venetian Carnivale. Costume: 18th Century, all classes or 18th Century Fancy Dress. Masks required! Ticket Price: \$\$\$\$ ☞

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...Multiple layers of trim became standard. The flounce on a skirt could not be plain, it must be augmented with flutings, piping, bias bands, fringe, lace, etc. What follows is a year by year guide to the fashions and world events of the 1870s.

1870 – Black males receive the right to vote, and the Confederated States of America is officially dissolved when Georgia is the last state to be readmitted into the Union.

1871 – The rise of the Polonaise. The bodice and tunic become one and puffing at the back of the waist declines. The first professional baseball league debuts.

1872 – Fashionistas begin to use different materials



between the Polonaise and skirt. Outfits are no longer made of all wool or all silk. Yellowstone National Park is established as the first National Park in the United

States and Susan B. Anthony casts an illegal ballot in the presidential election to publicize the cause of women's suffrage.

1873 – The amount of trimming increases. A day dress might have two or three flounces, each headed with a band of puffing and a narrow frill. Up to forty yards of fabric could be used in a single dress. A magazine recommends that flounces must be “piped and edged and waved and headed with a score or more of less fanciful devices.” Against this backdrop of frills, a New York stock market crash in September begins a five year economic depression in America.

1874 –

The overall shape of women's outfits is flat in front with all fullness pulled to the back,



the sides are slender. Tieback skirts come into fashion. “The wearer no longer stands in the center of a circle, but the front of an ellipse.” This year marks the culmination of the movement begun in the 1860's with the move to the elliptical hoop. The cuirass bodice appears and the bustle begins to diminish. Waists become longer.

1875 – The cuirass bodice and the tieback skirt with a train grow in popularity and gain the nickname 'mermaid's tail.' These tight-fitting fashions cause difficulty for women when walking and sitting. The puffs in the back at the bottom of the bodice and the bustle itself disappear. From a period magazine, “Were it not for the back-train, dresses would look

like a towel wrapped round.” The horse Aristides wins the first Kentucky Derby.

1876 – The long, tight bodice, narrow sleeves, and narrow skirts encased women's bodies. Trimming became asymmetrical, and in 1876 a style arose of placing large ornate pockets far back on the skirt or polonaise. This was



pickpocket heaven! Women began adopting a loose dressing gown for breakfast, the forerunner of the teagown. In other news, Alexander Graham Bell makes the first phone call and General George Armstrong Custer is killed in the Battle of Little Big Horn. The United States government decrees that all Native Americans must move onto a system of reservations.

1877 – Women's clothing continued to be narrow and close fitting, emphasizing a vertical line. In the latter part of the decade the teagown and tennis dress appear, as does the 'tailor-made', an outfit similar to a riding habit. In Britain the teagown, although slightly scandalously loose fitting, becomes acceptable wear for five o'clock tea in the country.

1878 – The Aesthetic Dress movement affects general fashion's color schemes and styling. Neutral tint foundations and gorgeous needlework vie with the aniline dyes and layers of trim. Fashion trends fall mainly into three groups: the

Aesthetic with simple flowing folds; the mainstream closefitting bodices with tie-back skirts and mounds of trimmings; and the tailor-mades with streamlined shapes and conservative trimming. The short (ankle-length) dress is re-introduced and yokes appear in day bodices. The pannier even returns. Thomas Edison patents the phonograph.



1879 – As the 1870's come to a close the pannier begins to replace the sheath and Artistic Dress influences, and tailor-mades come to the forefront. Artistic Dress colors such as dull greens, peacock blues, and deep reds become more popular. The vertical line is softened, and panniers emphasize the hips. President Rutherford B. Hayes signs legislation allowing women attorneys to argue Supreme Court cases.

From bustles to cuirass bodices and tie-back skirts to the return of the pannier, the 1870's exhibited drastic changes in women's fashions. From the final dissolution of the Confederacy and technological advances to the burgeoning women's suffrage movement we saw equally drastic changes in American society. ♪

WHEN A MUSLIN DRESS... *Continued from page 1*

For more warmth, women can wear pelisses and redingotes. Pelisse is a general term for a light overcoat and is quite flexible in design and length. They could be an open or closed garment, with either armholes or sleeves, and floor-length or just below-the-knee. In the winter, they were constructed of heavier material like wools and velvets, and lined or edged with fur. The popular colors for pelisses were golden brown, dark green and blue. The pelisse was normally worn over pale gowns that were visible when worn open at the front.



Jane with a shawl and Sheila in a pelisse.

The Redingote, a derivation of "riding coat," is a long, lightweight coat or robe-like garment that can be worn both indoors and out. Indoors, it is worn open to reveal the dress beneath, while the outdoor version is made of heavier materials and of darker colors. Although the terms pelisse and redingote are often used interchangeably, the redingote usually features a close-fitted top and flares out at the hemline with a more tailored or military look than a pelisse.

For even colder weather, there are cloaks, capes and mantles for the ladies. Long, hooded cloaks were quite popular in the Regency era and were often made of red fabric. Capes were sleeveless garments, usually hanging over the shoulders and back, and tied at the neck. Mantles were large, long, shapeless cloaks with arm slits and hoods, which were often worn in the evening as part of an ensemble for the opera.

Other fashion accessories to keep ladies warm include tippets, muffs, gloves, undergarments, stockings, bonnets and caps. The tippet was a long slender boa used to wrap the neck area. It was a fancy version of the scarf and could be made of swans down or fur. Muffs of fur and other soft material encased the hands. As for gloves, long ones that reach right up to the sleeves were worn at night while short ones were worn during the day.

Men have an easier time with cold weather Regency fashion as they already have to wear some kind of coat. The tailcoat was the de rigueur article of clothing for men during the Regency era. It was high in the back of the neck and fitted in the back, chest, and abdomen; it had long tails and wide "M-notch" lapels. A tailcoat could be either single or double

breasted and could be worn open or closed. It was cut high in front, so that even when closed, a strip of the waistcoat could be seen below it. Since tailcoats were usually made of wool, they're perfect for chillier days. Color options during the day were numerous, but for the evening, darker colors such as black and navy were the most fashionable.

For even more protection against the elements, gentlemen can wear long overcoats, or greatcoats, whose collar and lapels are styled similarly to the tailcoat. Or for a completely different look, men can also wear military jackets with, of course, accompanying military clothing.

Men also have additional fashion items to keep warm. Voluminous cravats keep the upper chest and neck covered, while leather or deerskin breeches and pantaloons are superior for leg warmth. Men also wore woolens beneath their attire as well as woolen waistcoats. Lastly, tall leather boots protect the feet, leather gloves the hands, and beaver hats the head.

There are many ways for ladies and gentlemen to protect themselves from the elements and still look appropriate, and even fashionable, for Regency outdoor events and colder weather events. *F*



Jean in a spencer and Christopher in a tailcoat.



Chris in a greatcoat.

Upcoming Guild Events

NEXT UP

GBACG Open House

Saturday, January 19, 2013

Location: Veteran's Memorial Building, Albany

We invite all Members, Non-members, and Sister Organization Members to join us for our annual meeting, where we highlight our upcoming events, win door prizes, see a fashion show, and other fun stuff! Meet your board members, see old friends, and so much more! <http://www.gbacg.org/current/open-house-13.html>

Suggested costume: admired but not required!

Ticket price: free for members, \$5 for non-members



Looking forward to 2013!

EVENTS

(For our complete calendar, please visit <http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html>)

GBACG Goes to PEERS: The Rivendell Revels

Saturday, February 2, 2013

Elves, wizards, hobbits, dwarves, and humans alike are welcome at Lord Elrond's grand ball at Rivendell. This tribute to *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* will feature glorious dance music by Avalon Rising, a Celtic and Medieval Rock band.

Location: San Mateo

Suggested costume: Tolkien-inspired fantasy wear is admired but not required.

Ticket price: \$, advance discount ticket info here: <http://www.gbacg.org/about-gbacg/member-benefits.html>

Lady and the Highwayman: a beach stroll and refreshments at the Pelican Inn

Saturday, February 23, 2013

The dramatic coastal scenery and picturesque Pelican Inn are fabulous backdrops for your 17th century attire. Are you a dashing highwayman, a lady in silk, or a courtier in disguise?

Suggested costume: 17th century

Ticket price: \$\$

Ticket price guide:

\$ 0-20 dollars
 \$\$ 21-40 dollars
 \$\$\$ 41-60 dollars
 \$\$\$\$ 61-80 dollars
 \$\$\$\$\$ 81+ dollars

WORKSHOPS AND SALONS

Costume Academy

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Join us for fabulous day of workshops! Learn amazing tips & tricks, start on some cool projects, even do some shopping while you're here! Location: Piedmont. Class descriptions and registration will be available soon. For more information, email Mia at costumeacademy@gbacg.org.

Costume Salon: Bustle

Sunday, April 7, 2013

Salons are free and no dress-up is required. Location is TBD. If you'd like to attend, email

costumesalons@gbacg.org.

Workshop: Glovemaking

Saturday, April 13, 2013

For more information, email

workshops@gbacg.org.

SISTER ORGANIZATION EVENTS

Discount ticket information:
<http://www.gbacg.org/about-gbacg/member-benefits.html>

PEERS: Victorian 12th Night

Saturday, January 5, 2013

Location: San Mateo

<http://www.peers.org/12th2013.html>

PEERS: Rivendell Revels

Saturday, February 2, 2013

Location: San Mateo

<http://www.peers.org/rivendell.html>

BAERS: Cyprian's Ball

Saturday, February 16, 2013

Location: San Mateo

<http://www.baers.org>

PEERS: Jane Austen Ball

Saturday, March 2, 2013

Location: San Mateo

<http://www.peers.org/janeausten.html>

PEERS: April in Paris Ball

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Location: San Mateo

<http://www.peers.org/paris.html>

ADSC: Preservation Ball

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Location: Oakland

<http://www.artecosociety.org/>

Interested in joining the GBACG or renewing your membership? Want to purchase tickets to events or workshops? You can do all of this on the GBACG website:

- Join/renew your membership: <http://www.gbacg.org/about-gbacg/join-gbacg.html>
- Purchase event tickets: <http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html> - see individual event webpages to order online (via PayPal), or to print out a form that you can mail in with a check.
- Purchase workshop tickets: <http://www.gbacg.org/gbacg-calendar.html> - see individual workshop webpages to order online (via PayPal), or to print out a form that you can mail in with a check.
- Post or view pictures on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/gbacg/>
- Follow GBACG on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=82972516868>

The Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Deborah Borlase, GBACG President

2012 has drawn to a close, and 2013 is about to start. We are so excited about the coming New Year, and the changes that will be taking place (all for the good) as GBACG becomes a non-profit organization again.

One of the differences you will notice at our Open House is that instead of having a raffle (which is not allowed, at least for the first year for any nonprofit), we will be offering door prizes. We encourage all of you to bring your fabric, trims, patterns, etc. for donations as usual. The difference will be that we will give EVERYONE an opportunity to win something. Every guest will be given one door prize ticket when they arrive. You may purchase any number of additional door prize tickets, for a welcomed monetary donation. We will be drawing winners' names as usual. We hope that you will all find this an even better experience, along with many of the other changes that we will introduce at the Open House.

Please reserve your spot for the event by emailing me at openhouse@gbacg.org. I hope to see all of you there!