

ACCESSORIES

AROUND THE CLOCK



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

Perhaps the ability to select a costume comes naturally for you. Most of us need to study, practice and correct our mistakes before we can select clothing and accessories with confidence. Some knowledge of the basic art principles — harmony, proportion, balance, rhythm and emphasis — and how they apply to wardrobe planning makes the job easier. Let's explore these principles further:



Harmony — The impression of unity through line, shape, size, texture and color.



Proportion — Good proportion is pleasing space relationship. An area that is divided into two or three equal parts is less pleasing than an area that has unequal division of space, such as two to three or three to five.

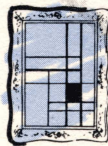
The same principle of proportion also applies to the amount of color used.



Balance — Restful effect obtained by grouping shapes and colors around a center in such a way that there will be equal attraction on each side of that center.



Rhythm — An easy, connected path along which the eye may travel. This path may be arrangement of lines, colors, objects or lights and darks.



Emphasis — Dominance — the eye is carried first to the most important point and from there to other details in order of their importance.

Design results from using these fundamental art principles. Good design shows an orderly arrangement of lines, forms, colors and textures to create beauty and style. A knowledge of these fine art principles eliminates guessing and frees us from indecision about clothing selections.

Accessories Around the Clock

RHEBA MERLE BOYLES

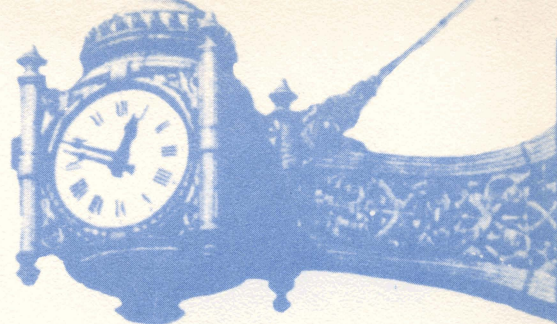
GRAHAM HARD

NENA ROBERSON

FANNIE BROWN EATON

Extension Clothing Specialists

The Texas A. & M. College System



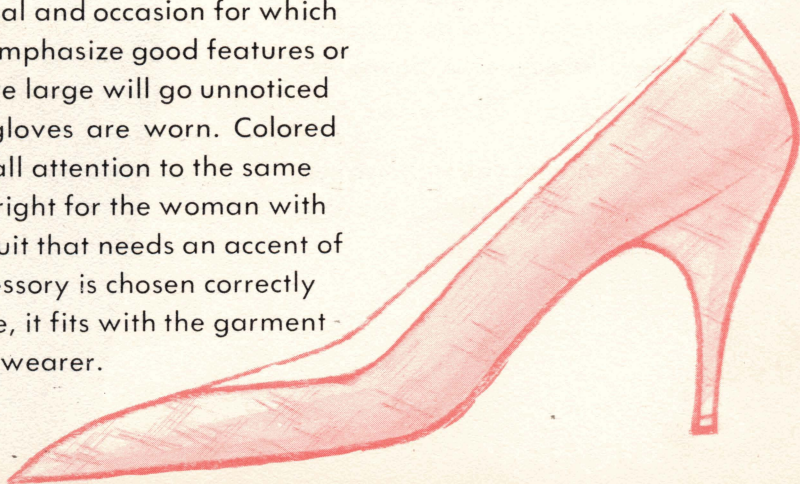
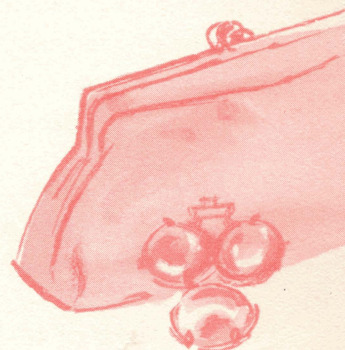
The well-dressed woman of today believes a wardrobe of fewer clothes, well chosen as to style, use and quality is less expensive, easier to care for and helps develop her personality better than a wardrobe of less style and quality but a larger number of articles. She believes that variety in dress may be achieved successfully through skillful use of accessories.

Accessories complete a costume and express the personality and taste of the wearer. They include hats, shoes, gloves, handbags, scarves, jewelry, belts, handkerchiefs, flowers, perfume and collar and cuff sets.

Accessories can add life and interest to an otherwise dull or tiresome costume. They are chosen for their beauty in design and color as well as for their usefulness. For this reason, it is easy to look overdressed if too many are used. If you do not need an accessory for its usefulness or its color accent, leave it off. Simplicity is a good rule to remember. Simplicity in fashion usually means well-constructed lines, beautiful materials, subtly blended colors and skill and imagination in combining them.

The smartly dressed person selects accessories in scale with her size. A large, heavy-looking purse or hat does not compliment the small, dainty person. The tiny hat with dainty trimming is not becoming to a large person. (See proportion.)

Choose accessories for the individual and occasion for which they are to be used. They should emphasize good features or minimize poor ones. Hands that are large will go unnoticed if plain, neutral or dark-colored gloves are worn. Colored gloves or gloves with decoration call attention to the same large hands, but they may be just right for the woman with small hands and wearing a dark suit that needs an accent of color. (See emphasis.) If each accessory is chosen correctly for a carefully thought-out purpose, it fits with the garment into a harmonious costume for the wearer.



FASHION, STYLE AND FAD

Fashion is the style that is popular at the present time. The individual who follows the newest fashions is said to be fashionable or "in vogue." The individual who carefully chooses her clothing and accessories so that they increase her attractiveness and are distinctive is described as having style. The individual who employs judgment and skill in adapting the best in fashion to her own needs may obtain true elegance and distinction.

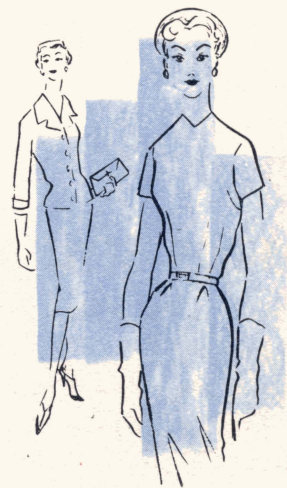
The term *high style* refers to the newest fashion. It is generally translated in materials and workmanship of quality. High style is the unusual and generally the expensive articles that only a few people can afford. An example might be that of matching shoes and dress of printed crepe. A high style, if good and meets the needs of many people, may become a classic.

A *classic style* such as the black basic dress, the plain pump or string of pearls may be worn year after year.

Fads are styles or tricks that are in fashion for a short time and are adopted by only a few. Some fads can be practical but often they grade you down on appearance.

Good taste is realizing the importance of wearing the right clothes for the occasion and the individual.

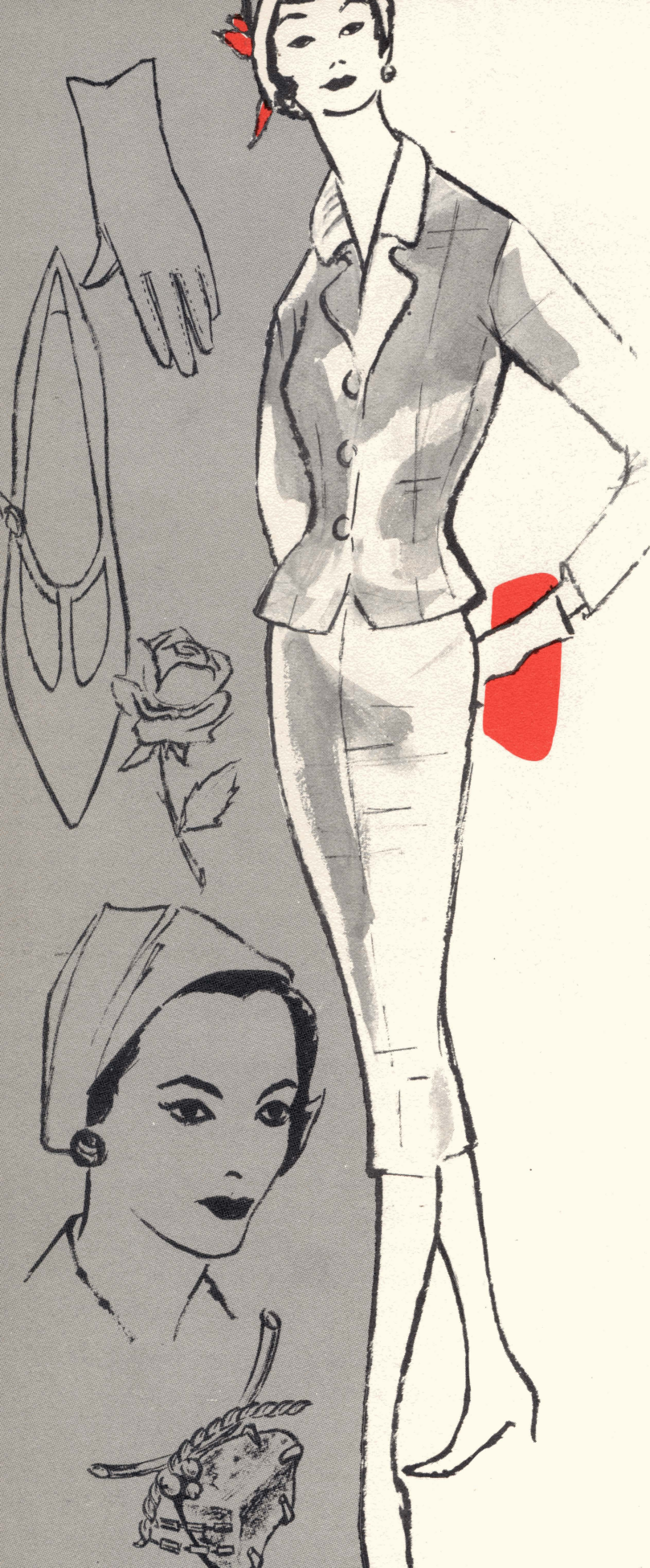




FASHION HINTS FOR LOOKING SMART

Accessories prove costly if they are good for only one or two wearings. You will choose more wisely if you heed these fashion hints:

- Expensive accessories, such as hats, shoes and handbags usually should be the same color as the basic garment; varied colors can be used in smaller, less expensive accessories. Good leather bags, gloves and shoes are a mark of a well-dressed person, and should be considered as investments which outlast and look good longer than several cheaper ones.
- Choose accessories that are simple in line and neat in workmanship.
- A few pieces of costume jewelry of real semiprecious stones cost no more than a lot of imitation jewels and are in better taste. In selecting costume jewelry, look for modern and conventionalized pieces rather than naturalistic, and with a design smoothly finished.
- Bright-colored wardrobes call for subdued accessories.



- If bright-colored shoes and bag are your choice, they usually need to be worn with navy, black, neutrals or harmonizing pastels.
- The effect usually is spotted if more than two bright-colored matching accessories are worn at one time. One bright-colored accessory often is smarter than two with the other accessories harmonizing in color.
- If a brilliant hat is worn with a black dress, wear dark shoes and bag.
- Gloves may match shoes, hat or bag in neutral colors or they may be selected in a harmonized color when either hat, bag or shoes are bright in color.
- Hats, shoes or bags, when worn with multi-colored print, plaids or other designs, should be of a solid color. Keep them simple in design.
- The smart shopper buys accessories that are suited for the places she goes. If in doubt about an accessory being correct for the occasion, leave it off.
- An all-black ensemble often demands a soft touch of color to relieve the monotone and light up the wearer's complexion.
- Before buying accessories, try them together with the costume they are to compliment. A slight change in shape, color and size may make or destroy that "smooth look of elegance."



SELECTING ACCESSORIES

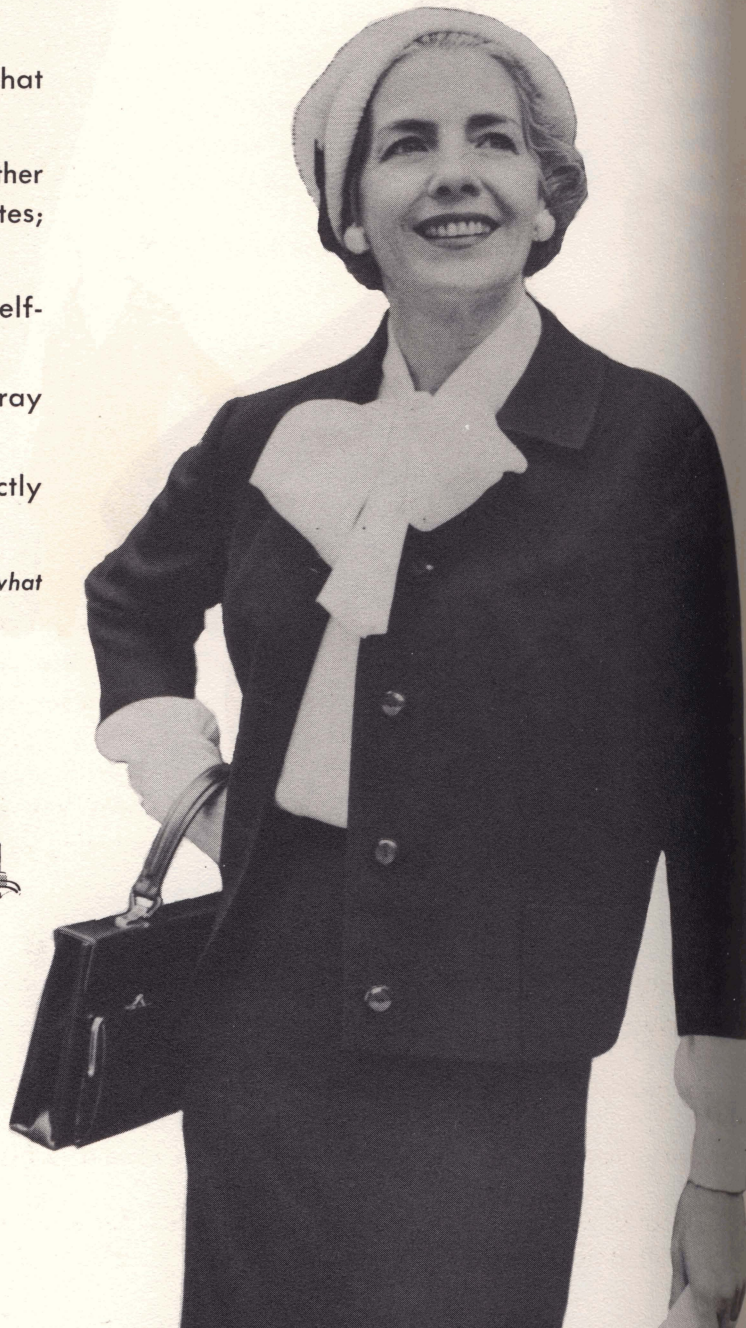
THE BASIC SUIT OR DRESS. Selecting accessories is easier if you have a given type of garment in mind. Many women find the basic suit or dress the answer to a well-planned wardrobe. A basic dress or suit is one that can be dressed "up or down" to fit the occasion and appear to be a change in costume. The wisely chosen basic suit or dress with three changes of accessories can keep you smartly dressed for street, travel, church, afternoon wear and for dress-up occasions after 5 p.m.

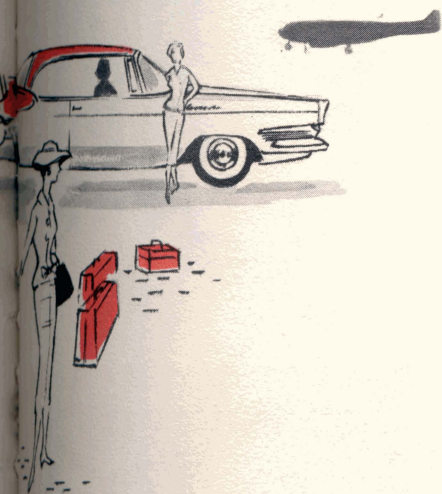


Characteristics of a basic suit or dress:

- Soft, dressmaker type— not dressy nor severely tailored; collarless or with soft round or shawl collars; very little detail
- If a suit, designed to be worn with or without a blouse
- Classic or conservative in cut that is right for you
- Fabric weight suitable for wear either summer or winter in most climates; not patterned
- No contrasting fabric or trims; self-covered buttons
- Color of black, navy blue, dark gray or deep, dark brown
- Well constructed and fitted correctly

Fashion is something we buy, but style is what we give the things we wear.





ERY SHOPPE

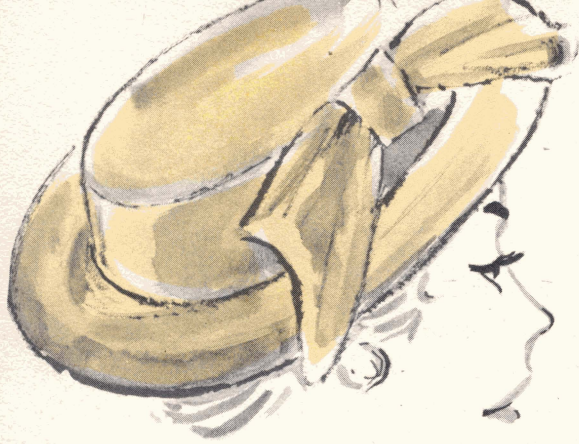


FOR STREET, TRAVEL OR BUSINESS. Daytime or street occasions demand their own special type of accessories to wear in town, for business, train and air travel. Accessories for these occasions are characterized by tailored smartness.

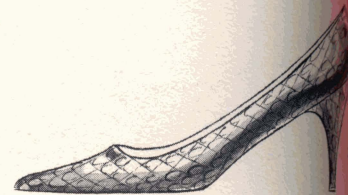
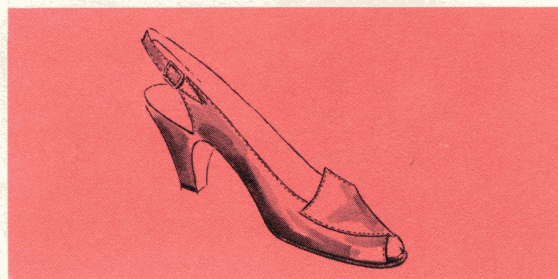
The hat usually acts as a frame for the face. The way you wear a hat is what gives it style. The lines of the hat make it becoming or unbecoming.

Remember:

- The width and height of a hat should be in balance with your face and figure proportions.
- Horizontal and curving lines round and broaden your face and figure.
- Vertical lines lengthen and slenderize your face and figure.
- Diagonal lines help to diminish bad features — for example, a square chin that is too prominent.



It matters not how new and fashion-right a hat is, it will not be smart on the wearer unless it compliments her. The most important consideration is its proportion or balance with your figure and costume. Try on a hat with the dress or suit with which it is to be worn. If the hat will be worn with a top coat, try it on with the coat. Avoid a hat that rubs the coat collar.

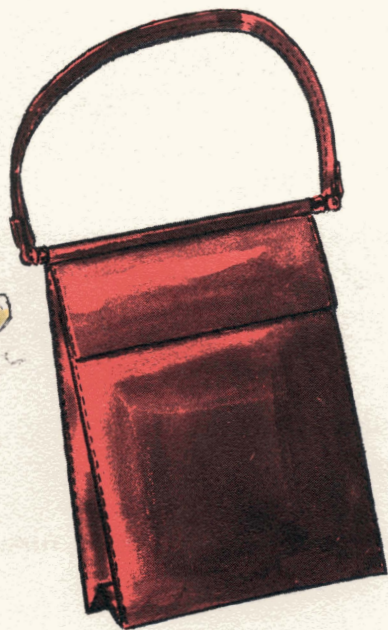


Hats. Hats for street or travel usually are made of felt, ribbon and straw. Shape and size vary with fashion but should be becoming. The color of the hat must harmonize with the rest of the costume, but not necessarily match. Select a hat in about the same quality range as your suit or dress so that neither one cheapens the other.

Shoes. Shoes also should indicate the purpose of the costume. The street or travel shoe is tailored and of durable material. Select a medium-heel pump, plain dress oxford or a one-strap tailored shoe. The material may be polished calf, kid, reptile or suede.

Shoes, if they fit and are well-made, put you in the mood for happy living and serve you well if treated kindly.

The plain pump is the smartest shoe you can buy for tailored or street wear.



Handbag. The handbag for street or travel should be durable, simple in line and as large as the proportion of the individual allows. The material of the purse should harmonize with the rest of the costume or be the same as that of the shoes. Bags in lizard, calf, patent, kid and fabric are used for street or travel.

Styles in purses change but usually there are versions of the envelope type, the bag with handles and the clutch type. Bags with large handles are carried with handles over the wrist.

Gloves. Custom and etiquette call for gloves to be worn for most social and business occasions. For the street or travel costumes, leather or woven fabrics are suitable. Fabric gloves are more practical since they can be laundered and worn the year around.

Glove length varies from the shorty-type glove to the long, elbow-length glove. Length is determined by the number of inches from the base of the thumb to the top of the glove. If the distance is 4 or 6 inches, the gloves are the four or six-button style. For daytime wear with a long-sleeved suit or coat, the four-button slip-on glove is correct. For the three-quarter or short-sleeved dress, wear a longer glove which stretches up or crushes down.

Gloves never should be conspicuous. They should fit well and be comfortable. For most basic dresses and suits the best choice of gloves is a neutral or matching color. Bright-colored gloves to match bright shoes and bag only call attention to the hands and give a spotted effect to the costume. When gloves match a bright-colored hat, the eye is held within the boundary lines of the matching colors.

Instead, allow the eye to move out and away by harmonizing the colors. For instance, wear light-gray gloves with a cool-colored hat of gray green or light, neutral gloves with a warm-colored hat of red. Gloves which do not match your dress make your hips appear larger, since a different color makes a line across your body and gives the illusion of extra breadth.



Scarves. A scarf can keep a costume from appearing dull at any hour of the day. For street or travel the texture of the scarf must be appropriate, such as flat silk with a geometric design, or if you have trim on your hat, a scarf of one color is attractive.

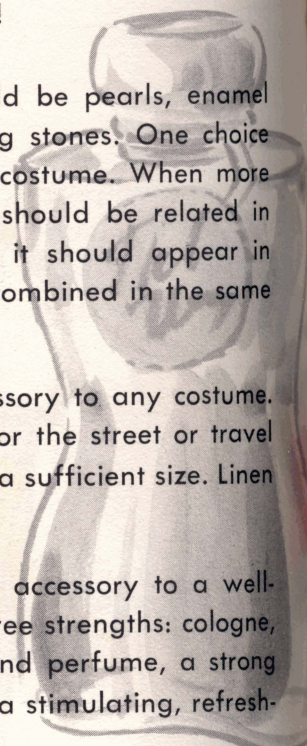
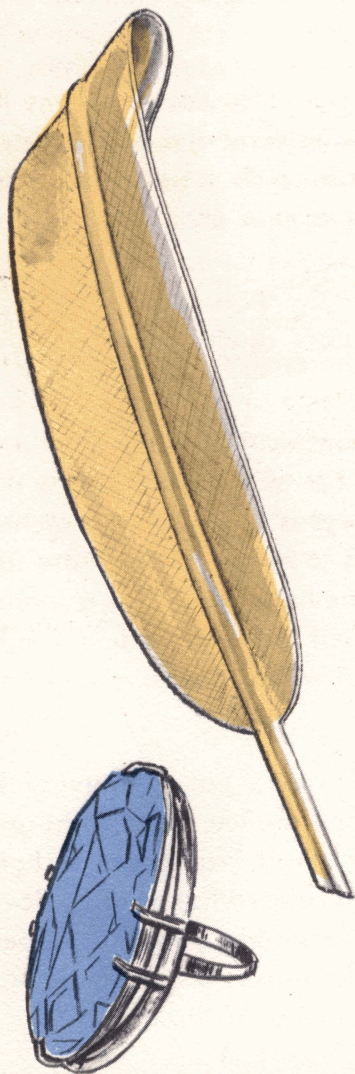
The fashion in scarves as to size, shape and how worn changes from season to season, but their usefulness in the wardrobe remains the same. Watch the fashion magazines, window displays and advertisements for what is new in scarves.

To tie, pin or arrange a scarf skillfully takes practice—to get the effect for a smart appearance. Work at it to get that special effect!

Jewelry. Jewelry for the street or travel should be pearls, enamel porcelain, jet, plain gold or silver; not glistening stones. One choice piece of jewelry gives smart accent to a simple costume. When more than one piece of jewelry is worn, the pieces should be related in texture and type. If gold is used in earrings, it should appear in necklaces or bracelets. Gold and silver may be combined in the same design, but they clash when in separate pieces.

Handkerchief. A handkerchief is a smart accessory to any costume. Carry a tailored handkerchief inside your bag for the street or travel costume. The best choice is plain, tailored and of a sufficient size. Linen is the preferred fabric.

Perfume. Perfume is an unseen but important accessory to a well-planned costume. Fragrances are available in three strengths: cologne, the weakest; toilet water, second in strength; and perfume, a strong concentrated essence. For street or travel choose a stimulating, refreshing cologne.





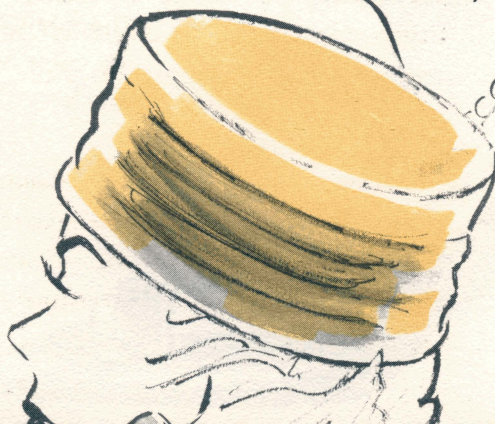
FOR CHURCH AND AFTERNOON WEAR.

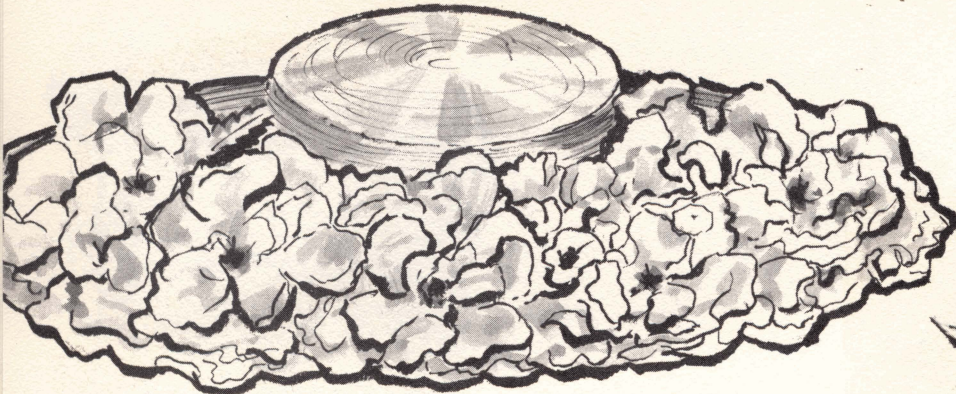
Traditionally, the dressed-up day begins at 11 a.m. However, often it is necessary to leave home earlier in the morning dressed to arrive at certain social functions on time.

With a change of accessories, the basic suit or dress can be made appropriate for church, special club meetings, important luncheons or fashion shows.

Hats. Make your afternoon outfit dressy with a hat. Fabric and trim suggest the tempo for the ensemble. A touch of color or white near the face usually compliments the skin for afternoon wear. The size of the hat may vary from a small hat to a large one, depending on the wearer. The afternoon hat may be fabric, felt or straw.

The addition of a veil often makes a hat more dressy.





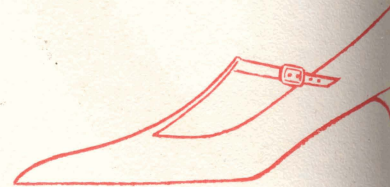
Shoes. Shoes for church or afternoon wear are more dressy than tailored shoes. Suede is worn most often with dressy hats. Opera pumps or strap-type shoes are appropriate for luncheons, afternoon parties and teas. For these occasions, extra fine suede, kid or faille may be worn.

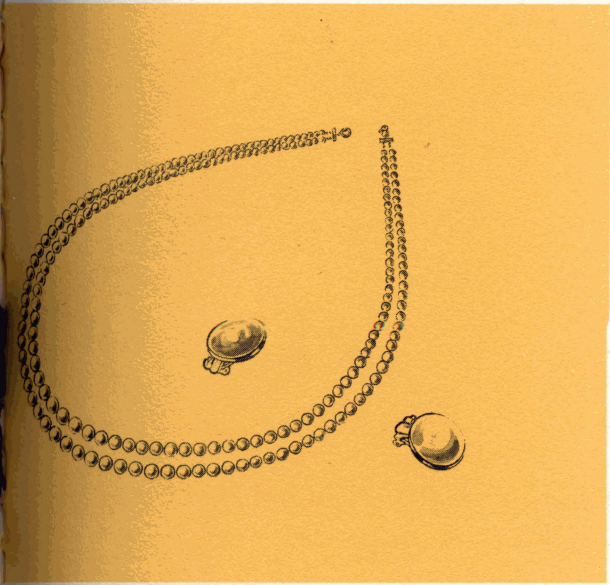
Jewelry. It is modest and smart to wear jewelry with dress-up costumes. Wear a few well-chosen pieces. Save glitter in jewelry for "after-five" occasions.



Gloves. Gloves are important in afternoon or church-type dress. Some occasions may warrant going without a hat; nevertheless, wear gloves to reveal that you have finished dressing.

Gloves for afternoon wear should be suede, fabric, lambskin, doeskin or kid. They may be four or six-button style or longer, depending on the sleeve length of the costume. The gloves should harmonize in color with the costume or be white or flesh.





Handbag. The purse for afternoon is smaller with soft lines or a box type of silk, faille or velour which matches the dress. Inside the purse there should be a white handkerchief; it may be embroidered or edged with lace.

Perfume. A light, airy, delicate fragrance in toilet water is usually chosen for afternoon use.





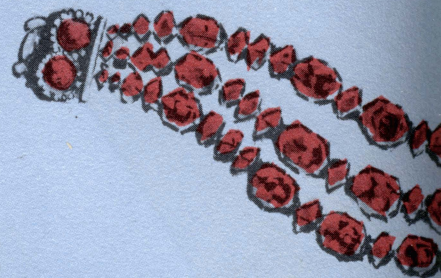
FOR INFORMAL PARTIES AND AFTER-FIVE OCCASIONS.

The basic suit or dress may go out nights, too. For any "dress-up occasion" the main idea is to establish a happy, gay, light-hearted theme.

Hats. Hats are small for dress after five. They usually are brimless and small enough that they need not be removed in an auditorium. They may be made of fabric with glitter, flowers, feathers, velvets and silks. It is not always necessary to wear a hat after five with formal clothing, but never wear a hat without gloves.

Shoes. Shoes for dress-up occasions are high heels, pumps or sandals. For the individual who cannot wear high heels, low-shaped heels may be worn.

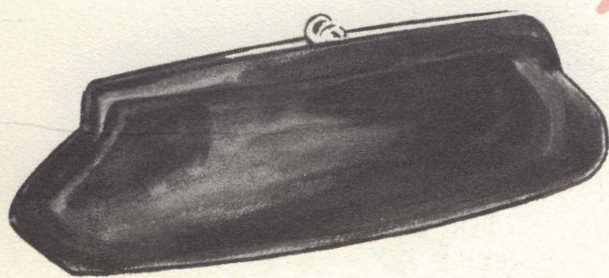
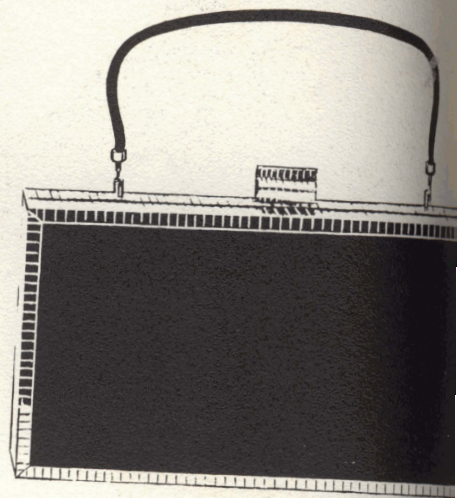
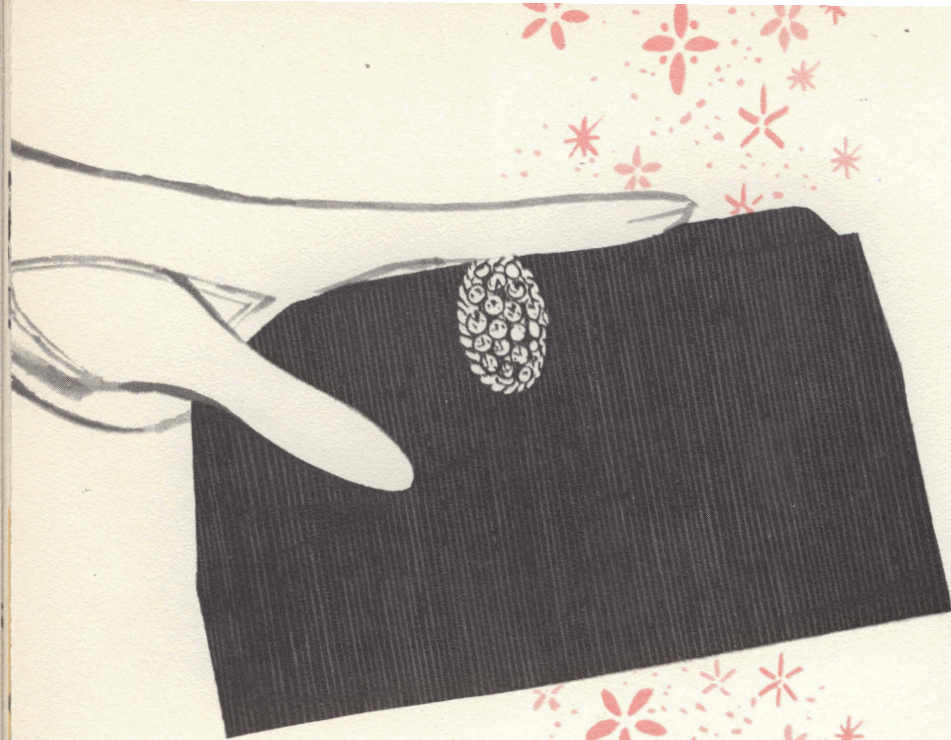
Jewelry. Glitter and glamour are naturals for night and fun time. Rhinestones and other types of sparkling jewelry can change the identity of the basic suit or dress for night wear.





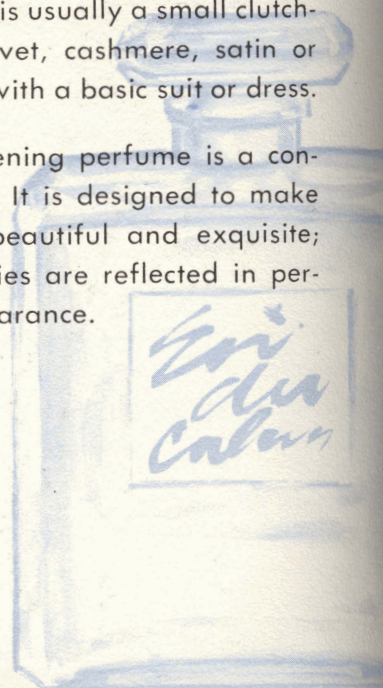
Gloves. Traditionally, gloves are a sign of dignity. Grandma's words of wisdom, "A lady is known by her gloves and her shoes," still holds. Gloves should be worn and not carried. Gloves worn with a basic dress or suit to a dress-up occasion should be similar to those worn in the afternoon. Try to blend gloves with your clothes or choose white or flesh tones. Fabric, kid and suede gloves may be used. The length depends on the individual and her costume; however, gloves long enough to be crushed at the wrist are more dignified. Never wear jewelry outside gloves.





Purse or Bag. The bag carried for a social occasion after five is usually a small clutch-bag, made of velvet, cashmere, satin or faille when worn with a basic suit or dress.

Perfume. The evening perfume is a concentrated essence. It is designed to make the wearer feel beautiful and exquisite; those same qualities are reflected in personality and appearance.





The accessory-wise individual has satisfaction and self-assurance of being well-dressed. She need not shop at the most exclusive places or wear the labels from the best fashion houses—but she knows:

- herself
- her needs
- her color
- her size
- her wardrobe

She has used the *basic art principles* in choosing her accessories.

She has spent *time* and *energy*.

She has *patience* and *imagination*.

She *works at it*.

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