

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date about 1875

Primary Maker Fanet & Beer

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with silk-covered

buttons (possibly wooden), non-ferrous metal boning, and brass hooks and eyes

Description Woman's two-piece day dress, consisting of a bodice (a) and trained

skirt (b), of deep purple silk faille, accented with pale lavender silk faille. The

bodice has a pointed waist at center front and back; the bottom edge of the

bodice is trimmed with a double row of piping and fringe made of lavender silk

tassels tied with dark purple silk. The bodice closes at center front with four

purple silk-covered buttons (three are embroidered with stars, and the fourth

appears to be a replacement). The collar turns down to show the lavender silk.

The waistline is high, measuring five inches at the side under the armhole. The

sleeves end with a four-inch pleated ruffle of the purple silk, lined with the

lavender, and topped with a gathered band of the lavender silk. The bodice is

fitted with two six-inch darts on either side of the front opening; the darts are

boned. Ecru silk lines the bodice, and a watered silk ribbon petersham hooks

around the waistline to take pressure off the button closure. The skirt is draped

with an attached overskirt in two tiers pleated up the center front. The top tier is

the purple silk, trimmed with a fringe of purple tassels tied with lavender; the

second tier is lavender silk trimmed with a fringe of lavender tassels tied with

purple. The overskirt is pleated into its own narrow waistband. At the back, each

tier is gathered up on either side of the center back opening, and decorated with

a self-fabric bow in the lavender silk; purple silk ribbons tie it closed over the

opening. (A brass pinch-hook is attached to a brass loop on the back of the

overskirt; at the other end of the hook is another loop which has apparently torn

Basic Detail Report

free of where it was originally anchored.) The underskirt is decorated around the bottom of the front and sides with an 11 1/2-inch-wide gathered flounce of the purple silk, over a narrow ruffle at the hem of the lavender silk. The back panel of the skirt, which forms the train, is gathered up and scalloped over a flounce of the lavender silk. The bottom edge of the skirt is bound with purple wool tape. The skirt is lined with stiff, open-weave ecru cotton, with a finely pleated ruffle trimmed with lace inside the hem.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (Bodice front length including fringe x width):

21 x 14 1/2in. (53.3 x 36.8cm) Bodice (bodice front length, excluding fringe): 19in.

(48.3cm) Bodice (back length, including fringe): 25in. (63.5cm) Bodice (back

length, excluding fringe): 22 1/2in. (57.2cm) Skirt (back length): 58in. (147.3cm)

Skirt (front length): 40in. (101.6cm) Hem (circumference): 160in. (406.4cm)