

Basic Detail Report



Title Polonaise

Date 1870-1875

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with silk-covered ferrous metal buttons

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Description Woman's polonaise of twill-woven silk printed with scattered

bouquets of lavender and pale blue flowers. The polonaise closes at center front

with nine green ribbed silk-covered buttons; seven more non-functioning

buttons continue down the center front to the bottom. A green silk grosgrain

ribbon attaches to the bodice at the second button and is carried over the

shoulders to behind the shoulders, where it is finished with a hanging loop and

long, trailing tails. The neckline is high and round and finished with a narrow

binding of self-fabric; the shoulderline is dropped and the armscye seams are

piped. The polonaise is cut with a waist seam at the sides only; the front and

back panels of the skirt are cut one with the bodice, so that an L-shaped seam is

formed at the front and back of the hips. Two twelve-inch darts on either side of

the opening extend from the bust to below the waistline. The sleeves end in a

vandyke points bound with green silk, around the wrist openings and up the

outside of the arm for about six inches. An edging of finely pleated organdy is

stitched under the vandyke treatment, so that it appears between the points. The

bottom edge of the polonaise also has the vandyke points bound with green silk.

The back of the polonaise is longer than the front; it is full, having inverted box

pleats at the seams on either side of the center back. Also, the back skirt panel is

pleated into the side back seams, creating more fullness. The sides of the

polonaise are pleated up and held in place by four green silk-covered buttons.

The polonaise is lined with plain white cotton in the bodice and brown glazed

cotton in the skirt.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (center back length x width across shoulders):

48 1/2 x 15 1/2in. (123.2 x 39.4cm) Other (center front length): 39 1/2in. (100.3cm)