

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date about 1765-1789

Primary Maker Anne Beach

Medium Hand-stitched silk and linen, with silk fly fringe

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Description Woman's formal "open robe" dress of green silk brocade, woven

with a large-scale, multi-color design of flowers and curlicues. The dress, which

has a low, square neckline, extends in squared-off tabs on each side of the

center front opening, then curves up over the hips and down to the center back.

The skirt is open across the front to reveal a decorative petticoat; it is closely

pleated all around the curved bottom edge of the bodice. The "en ferreau"

bodice back is fitted by stitched-down pleats. The center back is designed to

appear as if it was cut in one piece with the skirt, though it is actually seamed;

the fullness of the center back pleats is released into the skirt in this area. The

elbow-length sleeves are straight and set into the shoulder with small pleats for

ease. "Engageantes," self-fabric ruffles which gradually deepen towards the

outside of the elbow, decorate the sleeve openings. The engageantes on this

dress are constructed in two layers, with the upper layer trimmed with multi-

colored silk fly fringe around the top, while the lower edge is trimmed with

cream-colored decorative cording. The lower layer is lined with plain, green silk.

The bodice is lined with plain linen. The green silk brocade of the bodice is

pieced along the center front edges and across the front tabs, perhaps to

accommodate weight gain by the wearer.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length x waist circumference): 53 1/2 x 26in.

(135.9 x 66cm)