

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date about 1892-1894

Primary Maker Adelaide Rathbone

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with gutta percha

buttons, steel hooks and boning, wool hem tape, and machine-made lace

Description Woman's day dress of chocolate brown silk satin and velvet,

consisting of a bodice (.a) and skirt (.b). The bodice has a 2 1/2-inch-high,

standing collar of satin, gathered into a rosette at the center front and a large

bow at the back. The bodice is made of dark brown velvet, with a center front

triangular panel of pleated satin, edged along the left side with a 2 1/4-inch-wide

strip of satin suggesting a revers, tapering to one-inch-wide at the dipped center

front waistline. The leg-o'-mutton sleeves are made with a large puff of the satin

on the upper arm, gathered into a tight sleeve of the velvet reaching from the

wrist to the elbow. The two center panels of the back are cut extra long and

pulled up into decorative loops at the waistline. The bodice lining fastens with

gutta percha buttons at the center front; the triangular panel of pleated satin

fastens over this with metal hooks and thread eyes. The bodice is fitted with two

9 1/4-inch long darts on either side of the center front, while the back is cut in six

pattern pieces to achieve a close fit. Most of the darts and seams are boned. The

lining fabric is tan-colored cotton sateen printed with thin triple stripes in dark

brown. The front panel is lined in two different plain, brown cottons. The

buttons appear to have been moved and the buttonhole edge altered by sewing

old buttonholes closed and creating new ones. The skirt is made entirely of the

dark brown satin. It is slightly gathered in two rows across the front and

cartridge-pleated across the back. Four and a half inches have been added to

the waistband and the cartridge pleated let out only slightly, so that there is a

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gap in the center back opening when the waistband is buttoned in its new

position. The bottom of the skirt is trimmed with a bias ruffle of self-fabric

headed by a band of ruching. The edge of the ruffle is bound in self-fabric. The

skirt has a separate lining of plain, brown cotton edged around the bottom, with

the satin on the outside and with eight inches of a stiff, black-brown cotton on

the inside. Brown wool hem tape is applied flat to the bottom edge.

Dimensions Bodice (center back length x width between shoulders): 24 x 13 1

/2in. (61 x 34.3cm) Skirt (center back length x hem circumference): 39 3/4 x 84in.

(101 x 213.4cm)