

Basic Detail Report



Title Bonnet

Date 1858-1868

Primary Maker Brainard family

Medium Hand-stitched braided straw, with silk ribbon trim, silk lining, loosely woven cotton lining, net, and wire

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Description Woman's bonnet made from natural-colored braided straw. The

bonnet is trimmed with silk ribbon, 2 3/4 inches wide, patterned with small

white checks broken by two black stripes on a black ground. The pattern of the

braided straw is ornamental, creating a scalloped design along the outer edge of

the strip. The brim is meant to angle slightly away from the face, more at the

center top, which measures approximately 3 1/2 inches. The underside of the

brim is lined with a very loosely woven cotton. There are thread pickings and

heavier yarns under the brim which suggest the loss of other decorations. The

inner edge of the brim underside, and perhaps the whole crown, seems to have

been lined with a white silk fabric. This fabric is almost entirely gone. A heavy,

covered wire is stitched along the edge of the brim for strength and shaping.

This wire extends around the entire bottom of the bonnet. The brim ends extend

down several inches below the back of the bonnet, creating two deep points at

the chin line. The intersection between the crown and the brim is very indistinct.

The crown measures approximately 3 1/2 inches at the center top, but there is

no side to the brim at the bottom or back of the neck. The bottom edge of the

crown is bound with a strip of plain braided straw. A narrow curtain made from

straw is attached to the bound bottom edge. A wide ribbon is used to decorate

the bonnet and create a curtain at the back of the neck. The ribbon is twisted

and draped around the intersection between brim and crown, with a decorative

bow stitched to the proper left side. A piece of the ribbon, lined with dark brown

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net, creates a curtain (a "bavolet") over that of straw, with double box pleats at the center back and double pleats to each side. There are no extant ties on this bonnet.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth): 10 1/8 x 8 x 6 3/8in.

(25.7 x 20.3 x 16.2cm)