

Basic Detail Report



Title Bonnet

Date about 1855

Primary Maker Steele family

Medium Hand-stitched velvet, with silk linings, cotton or wool batting, reed supports, and silk ribbon ties

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Description Woman's winter bonnet made from a burgundy velvet, lined with

white silk and insulated with wool or cotton batting. The soft bonnet has a deep

ruffle of the velvet around the face, 2 5/8 inches wide at the center top and

narrowing towards the bottom corners. The inner edge of this ruffle is gathered

around a reed threaded through a casing, used to support the front of the

bonnet. The sides and back of the bonnet are made from one strip of velvet. A 5 3

/4-inch-wide strip is gathered lengthwise with a double row of stitching, 1 1/2

and three inches from the intersection with the brim. The additional 2 3/4 inches

are then gathered to the circular back piece (approximately four inches in

diameter). Note how the side is cut so that part becomes the bottom for the

back, around the center circle. Red velvet piping is used in this seam. A curtain, 2

1/2 inches wide at the center back, is sewn to the entire bottom of the bonnet. It

is gathered over another reed threaded through a casing. This casing appears to

be made from a pink, bias-cut piece of fabric that can be seen under the lining

inside. The ruffle has a smaller ruffle made from a fine, white silk underneath it

to frame the face. This silk is also used to line the inside of the bonnet. Between

the lining and velvet is cotton or wool batting, used for warmth. The ties are

made from a silk, woven in a fine diaper weave or similar decorative pattern. The

ribbon is three inches wide, with each tie being eighteen inches long and cut

square at the end.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth): 9 x 8 x 7in. (22.9 x 20.3

x 17.8cm)