

Basic Detail Report



Title Wedding Dress

Date about 1872

Primary Maker Unknown

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and starched cotton, with

bobbin lace, needle lace, metal hooks and eyes, unidentified boning (probably

baleen), cotton and wax faux flowers, and silk-covered wooden (?) buttons

Description Woman's dress of cream-colored silk faille, consisting of a separate

bodice (a) and skirt (b). The bodice is decorated with a square plastron of ruched

self-fabric at the neckline, bordered by a pleated ruffle of self-fabric. The

neckline is high and round, edged with a standing pleated ruffle of the faille. A

ruffle of fine needlelace trims the inside of the neck. The sleeves are cut in the

coat style; the top of the sleeves are of ruched self-fabric with a pleated ruffle

and bow at the elbow area. The wrists are trimmed with a pleated ruffle. The

bodice extends in two points on either side of the opening, which are decorated

with self-fabric bows. The opening fastens with hooks and eyes in the plastron

area and with four self-covered buttons below the plastron. The neckline in the

back of the bodice is trimmed in a V-shape with the pleated ruffle. Two short V-

shaped tails extend at the back of the bodice; these are edged with the pleated

ruffle. A bow effect is created by gathering up the fabric at the center back

waistline, over the tails. The bodice is fitted with two 7 1/2-inch-long darts on

either side of the center front opening. Cotton wadding is used to pad the bust

area inside the bodice. The bodice lining is cream-colored, plain-woven silk. A

woven ribbon petersham hooks around the waist to relieve strain on the seams.

The skirt has a very long train. It is smooth in front and cartridge-pleated across

the center back. A rounded apron-like upper layer is edged with pleated self-

ruffle. The skirt underneath is trimmed around the bottom with two rows of

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ruching and a pleated flounce. At the back, the skirt is pulled up to create a

bustle effect, with a bow and a bunch of faux flowers (they appear to be orange

blossoms and lilies of the valley) to the left of the center back. The skirt is lined

with layers of very stiffly starched cotton. It fastens at center back with a large

hook and eye.

Dimensions Bodice (front length x width across shoulders): 22 x 15in. (55.9 x 38.1

cm) Skirt (front length x waist circumference): 44 x 24 1/2in. (111.8 x 62.2cm)

Bodice (center back length): 27in. (68.6cm) Skirt (back length): 74in. (188cm)

Hem: 154in. (391.2cm)