

Basic Detail Report

Title Bonnet

Date about 1840-1850

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Hand-stitched woven and braided straw, possibly with some wire

Description Woman's bonnet made from woven straw, with straw (or reed grass--

the fiber is not determined) used for both the warp and weft. Green stripes were

made by spacing a piece of straw dyed green with four pieces of light brown

(natural) straw throughout the bonnet's pieces. The brim of the bonnet (the

"poke") is constructed from two pieces diagonally plaited and attached at the

center top, which is approximately 4 1/2 inches wide. The corners or ends of the

brim at each cheek drop down well below the neck curtain and curve up

towards the connection with the crown. There may be wire in the outer edge of

the brim. The crown is 3 1/2 inches deep at the center top and is constructed of

two pieces also constructed on the diagonal, stitched together at the top and

bottom. The flat back of the crown is approximately four inches in diameter with

the green stripes running vertically on the circular piece. A band of straw braid

covers the seam between the sides and top of the crown. A narrow curtain also

on the diagonal is attached to the bottom of the crown and the back side of the

brim. This, and the brim itself, is edged with a fine bias-woven edging of straw.

The two narrow bias-tape ties (1/2 inch wide) are sewn one to each back edge of

the curved parts of the brim. They are about six inches long. A strip of fabric is

used to cover the seam allowance between the curtain and the bottom of the

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crown. The sides of the crown are lined with a very loosely woven strip of fabric

which also covers the seam allowance for the brim and crown.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x length x depth): 9 1/2 x 7 x 9in. (24.1 x

17.8 x 22.9cm)