

Basic Detail Report



Title Dress

Date 1896

Primary Maker Editha Laura Jacobs

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Medium Machine-stitched and hand-stitched silk and cotton, with wool tape,

ferrous metal boning, wire, ferrous metal and brass hooks and eyes

Description Young woman's dress, consisting of a bodice (.a) and skirt (.b) of

pink silk, with a wide neckline and very large, puffed, elbow-length sleeves. The

bodice has a dipped waistline at front and back. The fabric is ruched into the

center front waistline, with the fullness released to the neckline, where it is

gathered again. The neckline is edged with a self-fabric ruffle, which has been

cut off at the back of the neck. The sleeves are very tightly gathered into the top

of the armscye, which falls at the natural shoulderline. The lining of the sleeve is

slightly shorter than the fashion fabric, creating extra puffiness to the fullness of

the arm opening. The sleeves are made to appear even larger by a wired double

ruffle running the length of the sleeve. (The sleeves are actually constructed with

two panels which are gathered and joined together down the outside length of

the arm, 3 1/4 inches from the edge of each panel, with the extra fabric wired to

stand up, forming the ruffle.) Six-inch-wide ribbon of a color perfectly matching

the silk forms a large, loopy bow with 25 1/2-inch-long tails at the center back

waistline. This ribbon is pleated for its length to form a band which hooks

around the waist. The bodice is lined with plain, white cotton. It is fitted with

two seven-inch-long darts on each side of the center front opening, which

fastens with hooks and eyes. The back is constructed from six pattern pieces to

achieve a close fit. All darts and seams are boned. A white silk, twill-woven

petersham ribbon hooks around the inside waist. The fashion fabric fastens with

hooks and eyes over the lining. The gored skirt is very full around the bottom,

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while being smoothly fitted around the waist to the center back, where it is

gathered. It is unembellished. There is a pocket in the proper right back seam.

The lining is plain, white cotton. The waistband is wool tape, and the hem is

edged with velvet over a flat, flexible wire or similar material to help stiffen the

hem. A scalloped pink silk ruffle (a "balayeuse") is stitched inside the hem, over

an extra six-inch-wide lining of white cotton. The center back opening extends

about 10 1/2 inches and fastens with hooks and eyes. Like the bodice, the seam

allowances are bound with white silk tape.

Dimensions Bodice (length x width between shoulders): 18 x 10 1/2in. (45.7 x 26.7

cm) Skirt (center back length x hem circumference): 42 1/2 x 198 1/2in. (108 x

504.2cm)