

Basic Detail Report

Title Bonnet

Date about 1888

Primary Maker Mrs. Hilliard

Medium Hand-stitched heavy silk faille, with faille ribbon and an open-woven

fabric for trim, cotton lining, and a heavily stiffened fabric and wire frame

Description Woman's bonnet entirely in black except for a line of white trim

around the face. The bonnet frame is covered with a black silk faille with heavy

ribs. The ribbon used for the ties and decoration is 2 1/2 inches wide, with a

much lighter faille weave and decorative edges. The bonnet is very square in

shape, meant to fit close to the head. The narrow brim is 1 1/2 inches wide at the

center top, narrowing to the corners. The bottom line of the bonnet is very

straight around to the back of the neck. The edge of the brim is decorated with

piping of the heavy faille; this continues around to the back of the neck. The

underside of the brim is first lined with the heavy faille. A tube (eleven inches

long) of a fine, open-woven, white fabric that has been starched is stitched on

top of the faille around the forehead area. This fabric has been turned and

gathered before sewing, but retains a tube shape. A bias strip of lighter faille is

sewn over the base of this trim to secure the bottom edge. The crown is

approximately 2 1/2 inches deep. The oval back is five inches wide and seven

inches high. The sides of the crown are decorated with four folds of the faille

next to the seam at the back. The bottom of the crown is cut flat across, keeping

in line with the front angle of the brim. Bows are used to decorate the bonnet. At

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the top of the brim, a bow of ribbon, with several loops on each side, sits on top of a larger bow made from the heavy faille. Another bow of ribbon is stitched, upside down, to the bottom of the crown at the back of the neck. The ribbon ties begin under this bow, the material being folded along the bottom edge before extending out from each front corner. The bonnet is lined with a black glazed cotton cut in two pieces. The first strip is stitched under the brim and drawn up over the second piece, which covers the back of the crown. The frame, made from layers of a brown open-woven fabric glued together, is very sturdy. Wire is used to stabilize the edge all around.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth): 7 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 4 3/8in.

(19.1 x 16.5 x 11.1cm)