

Basic Detail Report



Title Bonnet

Date about 1842

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Hand-stitched silk, wool flannel, starched buckram, silk ribbons, lace, faux flowers of starched fabric, and covered wire

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Description Woman's bonnet of stiffened buckram covered with ivory silk and

ornamented with light tan silk ribbons, faux flowers, and lace. The brim is

approximately 5 1/2 inches deep at the center top, and approximately 21 1/2

inches around the wired outer edge. This edge is trimmed with a lace, perhaps

an early machine-made lace with hand-stitched cordonnet, that is three inches

wide. The underside of the brim is lined with cream-colored silk. The crown is

approximately four inches deep at the center top. The angle between the brim

and crown is very shallow, so that the bonnet lies close to the sides of the face.

The crown is wrapped with the pale tan ribbon, from the lower center back to

the center top, where it is tied in a large half-bow. Both ends of the ribbon are

cut in a swallowtail; one end is tied into the bow, while the other end hangs

down the proper left side of the bonnet. Two large bunches of cream-colored

faux flowers made from cut fabric and wire are draped down each side of the

bonnet from the bow on top. The flower bunches also have buds formed by wire

dipped in a liquid that hardens to droplet shape (these are too hard to be wax).

The crown is decorated with a ruffle of box-pleated self-fabric stitched into the

seam around the top of the crown. The back of the neck is covered by a shallow,

flat curtain stiffened at the edge with wire. Wire is also set into the seam across

the top of the curtain; it is topstitched to look like piping. The same lace edging

that is used on the brim is stitched over the curtain. The inside of the bonnet

clearly shows the number of layers and types of fabrics used to create a stiff

base for the brim and crown. The crown is shaped by a loosely woven starched

fabric. A much more tightly woven and stiffer fabric is visible in layers next to the

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brim. What appears to be a starched wool felt is visible at the edge of the brim

between the layers of silk. The join between the brim and the crown is covered

on the inside with a loosely woven brown fabric. The ties of the bonnet are made

of 3 1/8-inch-wide, cream-colored silk ribbon with the end cut in a swallowtail;

the proper right tie is nineteen inches long, and the proper left tie is about

twelve inches long.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width across front x depth): 9 1/2 x 8 x

10 1/2in. (24.1 x 20.3 x 26.7cm)