Basic Detail Report

Title Corset and Busk

Date about 1820-1830

Primary Maker L. Rumsey

Medium Hand-stitched linen with non-ferrous metal eyelets (which are not original to the garment), wooden busk

Description Woman's corded corset (a) of beige linen. The corset is stiffened in the upper half with parallel rows of narrow cording, except for the center front which is corded vertically for the entire length. Behind this center front section is a slot for accommodating wooden busk (b); it is open at the bottom, so that the wearer may remove the busk. The waist is slightly high; the waistline is indicated by a 1 3/8-inch-wide band of vertical rows of cording. Each side of the front over the bust is corded in rows of gradually shallower curves. The back is similarly corded, while the sides are not corded. The channels for the cording are worked in backstitch with a cream-colored silk thread. The shoulder straps are 3 1/4 inches wide in the back, tapering to 1 1/4 inches wide in front. The wide, square neckline is bound with self-fabric, as are the armholes and the bottom edge. The center back opening has eight pairs of metal eyelets (the corset would originally have had bone eyelets) for a lacing. The beige linen is also used for the interior fabric.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (length x waist circumference): 19 1/4 x 21 1 /2in. (48.9 x 54.6cm)