

Basic Detail Report

Title Dress

Date about 1880

Primary Maker Alice Cheever Lyon

Medium silk, glass

Description Pink ribbed silk dress, c. 1880, worn by Alice Cheever Lyon (1854-1922) of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The dress is composed of the (a) bodice and (b) skirt, both are constructed of silk faille and are heavily embellished. (a) The bodice has a v-shaped neckline. The front of the bodice ends in a point while the back has looped fabric details. It is heavily boned to create a fashionable shape. The bodice is decorated with glass beads around the collar, and framing the button closures and is lace with a floral motif at the neckline. The sleeves are three-quarter length and have horizontal pleated details. There are glass bead decorations at the cuff with lace extending from the cuffs. (b) The skirt is designed to be worn with a bustle. The overskirt extends down the front sides of the underskirt to create the appearance of a petticoat with an open skirt and features a slight train. The overskirt is decorated with glass beads and fringe, the underside of the train portion of the overskirt is decorated with lace. The underskirt features four horizontal panels decorated with ruched pink silk, the lowest tier features three horizontal runs of beaded fringe to match the overskirt.

Dimensions Bodice (Center Back Length x Waist Circumference): 24 × 23in. (61 × 58.4cm) Skirt: 58 × 26in. (147.3 × 66cm)