

Victorian Era Fashion

A Creative Curation by: **Kerrigan Zambrana**



NCSU



1830

1832 -1834

1834

1836

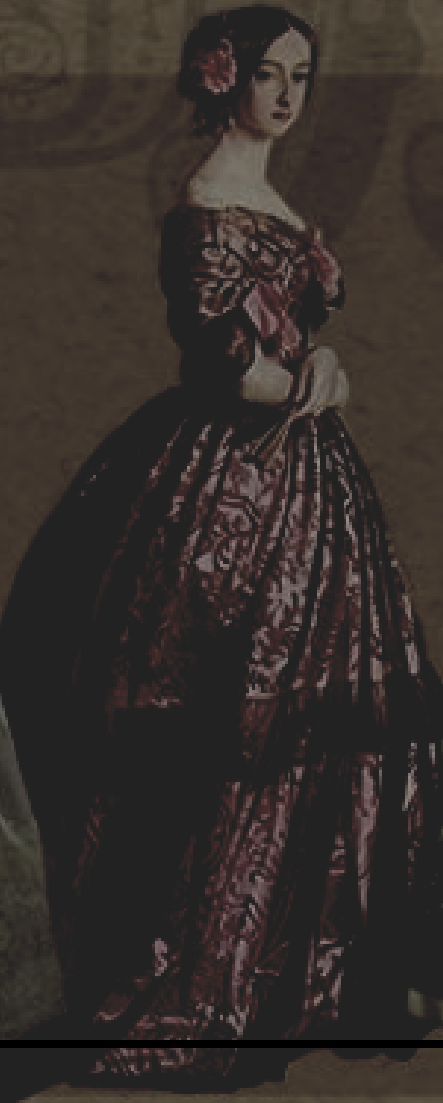
1838

1838

1839

1840

Abstract



LIT 453 | 2023

1840's

1846-1847

1847

1848

1852

1855

1855

1857

Introduction

The influence of a change in fashion style was inspired and curated by Queen Victoria's ability to redefine victorian era fashion.

Specifically, the Queen's ability to change the political power balance gave women more credibility in society, allowing for greater self-expression with their outfits.

Women still dressed very conservatively, but there were many textile adjustments to give a more expressive look.



Theoretical Framework

Overview

Fashion, and self-expression became a collective interest for both men and women. For women in particular, there was a big focus on shape. Big sleeves with an hourglass indent and a big skirt seemed to be the focus. The hourglass shape in particular emerged from this time period because it combined both a minimalist look, while also remaining modest because of how much coverage there was. This sense of self-expression was important during the victorian era because it ultimately gave women a sense of their own identity and not that of their male counterparts.



Fashion in the Victoria Era

Page 05



Expansion

Fashion in the Victorian Era was a revolutionary time for visual expression. Women's fashion in particular focuses on details and shapes. The sensation that a woman gave off through her outfit dictated her societal status.

Fashion was more and more considerably an art instead of just a casual choice that we make. Fashion began to take on our feelings and emotions as well.

The split busk

Tight corsets were trademarked by the Victorian Era

Began in the 1830's it was fashionable to have a tight torso and wide hips to give the appearance of more shape to their body

Extending the appearance of your hips was a renovated look for a woman because body shape become the focal point of the woman's body.



Cage Crinolines

- 1850's and replaced petty coates
- Bell shaped sleeves were paired with Cage Crinolines
- Dresses became heavier in weight
- Style of wealthy people



BUSTLES

Overview

- Used to stretch the skirts below the waist, in order to give the look of a larger butt/hips
- Replaced cage crinolines
- Worn both in fancy settings but also during the evening



Bertha Necklines

Overview

- **Low shoulder neckline to expose the shoulders and neckline**
- **Popular among upper class**
- **Working women who showed too much skin were looked down upon**



Top Hats, Stovepipe top hats, Bowler Hats

- Hats and Gloves were considered an essential part of the Victorian Era
- 1840's/1850's high crowns, perfect representation of industrial era
- So many different kinds of top hats
- 1800's-1850's - Abraham Lincoln hat
- This hat could be collapsed
- Opera house hat
- Worn by the working class during the Victorian era
- Dome shaped crown
- Named after Thomas and William Bowler



Power imbalance?

Sensation in the Victorian era meant that something was contributing to a new eruption of emotion.

The fashion discussed so far has pertained to those of the upper class. High fashion was not available to those in middle/lower classes not only because they could not afford it, but because technological advances could not support and produce it as quickly.

"The lower class included people who did physical labor and were either paid hourly or daily. The middle class population was the people who did the "clean" work and were paid monthly or annually. The upper class did not need to work; their income came from the inherited lands and investments ("Victorian England")" (Ltd, 2022).

Fashion and occupation often correlated because the nicer your clothing was, the less you worked if at all.



The Power Imbalance of Victorian Era Fashion

Overview

The lower class in the Victorian Era commonly wore duller and more raggedy clothing. The lower class almost dressed as if they wore hand-me-downs from the upper class. Hats and gloves were often a detailed piece to an outfit, and it seemed that a majority of men always wore a hat. I feel like the Victorian Era fashion trend for men to wear a hat is equivalent to today's trend to wear a watch.

Fashion during the Victorian Era, as it does today, can tell a lot about your 'status' in society. The Victorian era placed a great emphasis on fashion, not only because of the art and creative expression behind it, but because it kept the class system in tact.

Quality of clothing = wealth status



Victorian Era Fashion Recap in Video detail

Part:

01

[https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkxbfng1laz
oNm9sE2nMQqEn0JTWSGHfLcf](https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkxbfng1laz
oNm9sE2nMQqEn0JTWSGHfLcf)

02

[https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxR1UD4tKY
i5_zo8ljolekIP5oZx_46yct](https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxR1UD4tKY
i5_zo8ljolekIP5oZx_46yct)

03

https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxPDcpWhkJLjzuMX-wyosNWK_ZecDoruq



Bibliography

PHOTO

Pg 2 - Sabherwal, S. (2019, February 5). Victorian era fashion. Medium. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://medium.com/@shradhasabherwal/victorian-era-fashion-8586d851cb2d>

Pg 3 - Fascinating things you didn't know about queen victoria. Town & Country. (2022, May 20). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a14510744/queen-victoria-facts/>

Pg 4 - Monet, D. (2011, January 5). Victorian era women's fashions: From hoop skirts to bustles. Bellatory. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://bellatory.com/fashion-industry/Fashion-History-Victorian-Costume-and-Design-Trends-1837-1900-With-Pictures>

Pg 5 - Wikimedia Foundation. (2022, August 14). Victorian fashion. Wikipedia. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_fashion

Pg 6 - Busk. Fashion History Timeline. (2018, August 18). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/busk/>

Pg 7 - Kara Jorgensen. (2015, April 26). Woman in a cage: A steampunk feminist's perspective of the victorian crinoline. Kara Jorgensen. Retrieved October 27, 2022, from <https://karajorgensen.com/2015/04/26/woman-in-a-cage-a-steampunk-feminists-perspective-of-the-victorian-crinoline/>

Pg 8 - Elliptical cage crinoline, victorian hoop skirt, 1860s, civil war era: Fashion, hoop skirt, worst wedding dress. Pinterest. (2020, January 26). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/577375614714711319/>

Pg 9 - Willem. (2017, May 19). Bertha. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://trc-leiden.nl/trc-needles/individual-textiles-and-textile-types/daily-and-general-garments-and-textiles/bertha>

Pg 10 - Late victorian clothing for men at historical emporium. Historical Emporium. (n.d.). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.historicalemporium.com/mens-late-victorian-clothing.php>

Pg 11 - Deborah Gilbert | @E20LaunderetteBritish TV Maven & thirteen.org contributor. (2021, March 11). Victorian slum house on PBS: What American Audiences should know. THIRTEEN. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.thirteen.org/blog-post/american-audiences-need-know-victorian-slum-house-pbs/>

Bibliography

CONTENT

Agnew, M. E. (2022, August 19). Victorian Fashion And Its Royal Influences. Eternal Goddess. Retrieved October 4, 2022, from <https://www.eternalgoddess.co.uk/posts/victorian-fashion-and-its-royal-influences>

top10thingsto. (2020, November 1). Little known victorian era fashion secrets. YouTube. Retrieved October 27, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jry9lxsVT1U>

“What Happened during the Victorian Era?” *Royal Museums Greenwich*, <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/what-happened-during-victorian-era>.

Ltd, A. A. (2022, July 29). Social class during Victorian England. UK Essays. Retrieved October 27, 2022, from [https://www.ukessays.com/essays/history/a-persons-social-class-during-victorian-england-history-essay.php#:~:text=The%20lower%20class%20included%20people,\(%E2%80%9CVictorian%20England%E2%80%9D\).](https://www.ukessays.com/essays/history/a-persons-social-class-during-victorian-england-history-essay.php#:~:text=The%20lower%20class%20included%20people,(%E2%80%9CVictorian%20England%E2%80%9D).)