

Crinoline Period
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The man in this image is wearing a sack jacket and trousers. This set of items is the closest we have come to a modern suit so far. Although we have lost stocks, cravats are still around and that is the neckwear he is wearing. We cannot see it in this photo but he would also be wearing a waistcoat under the jacket.

Disdéri (Paris, France). Portrait of Fred and Harriet Topham.. n.d. (circa 1860-1870). Artstor, [library-artstor-org.proxy.library.kent.edu/asset/SCHLES_130739100](https://www.library-artstor-org.proxy.library.kent.edu/asset/SCHLES_130739100)



This is a great example of the bell-shaped skirts and pointed bodices of the early crinoline period. The neckline is still low from the romantic period. The corset would be worn underneath, and the addition of a caged hoop skirt helps support the volume of the skirt without many layers of petticoats.

Woman's Evening Dress: Bodice and Skirt. c. 1850-55. Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA.

Bloomsbury Fashion Central. Web. 06 Feb. 2020.

<<https://www-bloomsburyfashioncentral-com.proxy.library.kent.edu/products/berg-fashion-library/museum/philadelphia-museum-of-art/womans-evening-dress-bodice-and-skirt>>.



I think the embroidery in this suit is inspired by Indian designs. It is called a lounge suit in the source it was found in, this is what the sack jacket is called in England. This outfit has matching pants that are also embroidered, it looks like it is made of cashmere or fine wool.

“Cultural Intersections - Lounge Suit.” *Reigning Men Fashion in Menswear, 1715-2015*, by Sharon Sadako Takeda et al., Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2016, pp. 94–95.



For a late crinoline period day dress, this magazine illustration has multiple great examples. They each have the great pyramid shape in the skirt. There is little, if any, gathering at the waistline meaning the skirt pieces are gored. The middle, middle left, and right dresses have Basques extending the bodices down the skirt line.

“Bustles and Puffs- Country Toilettes.” *Victorian Fashions and Costumes: from Harper's Bazar, 1867-1898*, by Stella Blum, Dover Publications, 1974, p. 8.



Women

1. Corset

The slot and stud closure gains popularity as it allows women to get into their corsets without the help of another person. The corsets are still long, going from over the bust down past the stomach in the front, however it was no longer needed to cover the hips so they often scooped over the hips. They were still made from cotton or linen.

2. Drawers

These were still knee-length, and now sometimes were trimmed with lace or embroidery at the ends. The crotch was still left open for convenience, and they would be made from cotton or linen in the warm months, flannel in winter for warmth.

3. Corset cover

Chemises were still worn under the corset, but now corset covers were more common as they helped smooth the lines of the corset. It would end at the waistline.

4. Stockings

Still made from cotton, silk, or wool, the stockings were typically white. However, some could be colorful or even have a plaid design.

5. Hoop/cage

No more heavy layers of petticoats! The cage hoop skirts were created with whalebone or steel hoops that were sewn into tape or fabric creating a cage shape. The hoops would not go to the floor and were surprisingly easy to navigate as they collapsed quickly.

6. Crinoline

Worn over the cage, the crinoline was a petticoat with stiffened hemlines created with horsehair braid. These garments helped smooth the lines of the hoops, and held the skirt out where the cage ended.

7. Basque

This is an extension of the bodice. Could be in the front or the back, this helped continue the line down the skirt. Similar to what we call a peplum.

8. Shoes

Daywear shoes could be short heeled boots. These require button hooks to fasten. At night shoes are still slippers. Slippers at this time are dyed to match the color of the gown.

9. Bodice

A popular feature of gowns in this time were interchangeable bodices. A day bodice was not attached to the skirt, so it can be switched out with a night bodice. Allowing the cost to be less as most of the fabric is in the large skirts.

10. Skirt

These skirts are now created with gored panels. This is more expensive as it is wasteful with the fabric. This skirt is pyramid-shaped.

Men:

1. Drawers

Now men's drawers are knit. They tend to be tighter to the skin as they had to be worn under pantaloons that were skin tight. They would be made from cotton or wool, there was a superstition that you must wear your undergarments or you would get sick.

2. Undervest

Another item created to help you avoid becoming sick. This is the precursor to the undershirt. Usually, these garments were long-sleeved even in the summer.

3. Shirt

Because most jackets and waistcoats closed higher up the chest, shirts were not seen as much. This meant the shirts could lose the tucking or other frills.

4. Cravat

We have lost the stock, and the neckwear has stopped eating the men's faces. Now the cravat is the most popular neckwear.

5. Waistcoat

It is hard to see in this image as the man is holding his jacket closed with his arm, but he would be wearing a waistcoat. They are ending above the natural waist, and are still pointy in the front and often double-breasted. Evening waistcoats are longer and single-breasted

6. Trousers

Menswear is also joining the trend of plaid fabric, however, this particular man has solid color trousers. They now have a button fly, and the fall front is gone. Straight legged and ending with a slight break at the shoe, these are most similar to our modern pant.

7. Sack Jacket

There is a new suit in this period. This is the precursor to the modern suit. It is short, without a waist seam, and is cut fairly loose and straight. They had small collars with short lapels.

8. Shoes

Men now had options for how they wanted their shoes to close. Laces, buttons, and even elastic at the side. They were often short for regular day and evening wear. But spats could be added for sportswear to add a layer of durability.

9. Hair

Although this man is not sporting facial hair, it was very popular by the 1860s to have mustaches or giant sideburns. Their hair would be fairly short, and curls or wavy hair was popular.

10. Suspenders

These are still used and would continue to be embroidered gifts from women they are courting.