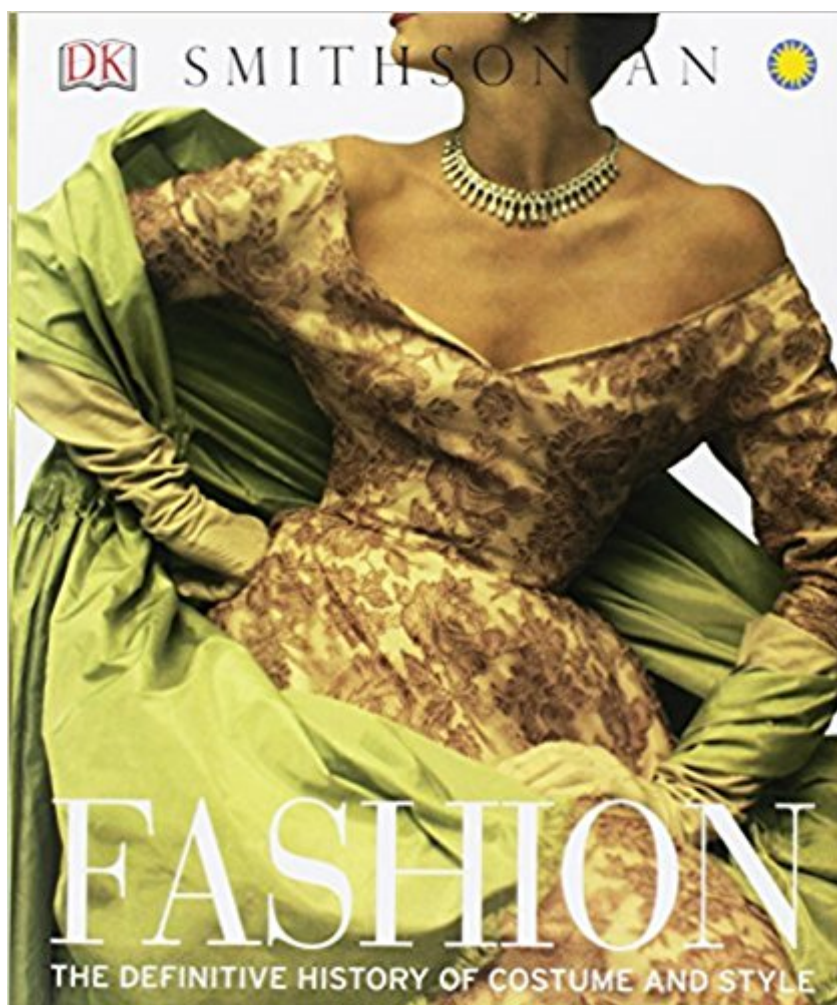


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Fashion: The Definitive History Of Costume And Style



Synopsis

Tracing the evolution of fashion from the early draped fabrics of ancient times to the catwalk couture of today Fashion: The Definitive History of Costume and Style is a stunningly illustrated guide to more than three thousand years of shifting trends and innovative developments in the world of clothing. Containing everything you need to know about changing fashion and style from ancient Egyptian dress to Space Age Fashion and Grunge and information on icons like Marie Antoinette, Clara Bow, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Alexander McQueen, Fashion catalogs the history of what people wear, revealing how Western fashion has been influenced by design from around the world and celebrating costume and haute couture. Fashion will captivate anyone interested in style whether it's the fashion-mad teen in Tokyo, the wannabe designer in college, or the fashionista intrigued by the violent origins of the stiletto and the birth of bling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Whether you are a fashionista or a walking fashion faux pas, you will thoroughly enjoy this chronological look at fashion and history!" Portland Book Review "[I]f one wants to learn about the history of clothing, this is the ultimate resource book." Winkbooks.net

Okay; I am a professor of costume history, so I admit I came to this book with something of a finicky eye. That understood, I was a bit shocked at how sort of 'lazy' (for wont of a better word) the writing was here. For example, Medieval hennins (those high headdresses) were not described as such, but instead, simply pointed out as 'tall headdresses'. 'Gigot sleeves' of the 1830s are described as

'puffed sleeves', and only one Egyptian headdress is given its correct name (the 'nemis'); everything else is just described as 'a headdress' (when each headdress had its own name and symbolism). Further to this, there is absolutely no analysis as to the 'why' of anything. WHY did Neo-Classicism happen? WHY did silhouette change between the 1400s and 1500s. Basically, it's just a book with pictures of clothing that is grouped together intelligently, yet seems to exhibit no real research or academic knowledge of Costume History. HOWEVER... Out of all of the Costume History books I own (and I own them all, lemme tell ya!) this is by far away the most gorgeous in terms of presentation; costumes appear clearly and are arranged in a manner that makes sense to the eye. And it really does cover (almost) everything, although I was surprised that it only kicks off Ancient Egypt, ignoring Sumeria, Galettian culture of the Paleolithic Era (and all that shell beading), etc. I use it as a required text for the images, as it really does give students an instant 'visual read' on, say, what men wore in the 1770s, etc. Yet this isn't an academic text. It offers no real 'discussion' as to any of the costume periods in hand; instead, what we are left with is pretty light cocktail banter. A lovely coffee table book and general overview of the subject, but not really worth of Smithsonian publications in terms of academic or historical depth.

I own multiple DK books and multiple volumes about the history of fashion. This book follows DK's tradition of gorgeous, informative coffee table books, as well as offering new information to someone with an amateur interest in historical dress. (For some context, here are some of the fashion books I already own: Taschen's Fashion, John Peacock's The Chronicle of Western Costume, and John Peacock's 20th Century Fashion.) The chapters focus on eras, and within those, the individual page spreads focus on specific topics (suits, sportswear, silhouettes, etc.) with multiple pictures of outfits on each page in a timeline format. DK uses this format to trace different trends, so sometimes there are several spreads that cover the same decade. The book differs from Taschen's and Peacock's books in that it has much more explanatory text and a greater variety of pictures: full costume photos, detail photos, period illustrations from advertisements and fashion plates, and examples from fine art. This tome covers men's and women's fashion from King Tut to Kate Middleton, and mostly focuses on Western costume. If you're an expert on the history of fashion, this may end up being little more than a book of pretty pictures for you (and pretty pictures they are!). If you have a hobbyist's interest, then this book has a lot to offer. Either way this book definitely lays out information in a way that cannot be found anywhere else.

With 480 10" X 12" glossy pages with full-color illustrations and photographs, in addition to

informative text, this is a great coffee-table book. It claims to be "The Definitive History of Costume and Style" and that may or may not be true, but it is certainly one of the loveliest and more impressive books on the history of fashion that I've seen. The book is divided into ten chapters. Chapter One covers fashion from Prehistory to 600 C.E. Chapter Two from 600-1449. Chapter Three from 1450-1624. Chapter Four 1625-1789. Chapter Five 1790-1900. Chapter Six 1901-1928. Chapter Seven 1929-1946. Chapter Eight 1947-1963. Chapter Nine 1964-1979. Chapter Ten 1980 onward. (Since this edition of the book was published in 2012, "onward" only takes us to there.) In addition, following these chapters there are some informative 2-page spreads on 3000 Years of Women's Wear, 3000 Years of Men's Wear, 400 Years of Women's Shoes, 200 Years of Women's Hats, 200 Years of Bags and Purses, 300 Years of Shaping the Body, followed by a 30-page glossary and a 12-page index. This is a great reference book for the layman. Perhaps it doesn't delve as deeply and thoroughly into fashion as a historian or fashion-history expert would like but I am very happy with it, and the illustrations and photographs are gorgeous. As a lifelong reader of historical fiction and historical romance, I find it's a great way to peek at what the characters of these books were wearing at a given period of time. It's also fun to go to my birthdate and beyond to see how fashion has changed just in my lifetime. This book is big and it's heavy. Possibly as I age I can also use it for arm exercises, in addition to using it as eye candy.

Way BIG book, coffee table, grab it anytime of the day or year or month, you learn something. Gorgeous pictures, tons of information. I purchased it for reference because I sell vintage. I love learning all about Fashion now that I have the time to do so. This is a lovely large wonderful addition to anyone's Library, certainly to my own, and what a special gift for inspiration to that person who sews, or maybe who is in school!

Oh gosh it was so nice to see close up and see the kind of materials are made. It is so beautiful back in 1700's, just perfect handmade. So silk and siky; it's for many years until down to cheap cotton clothes.

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