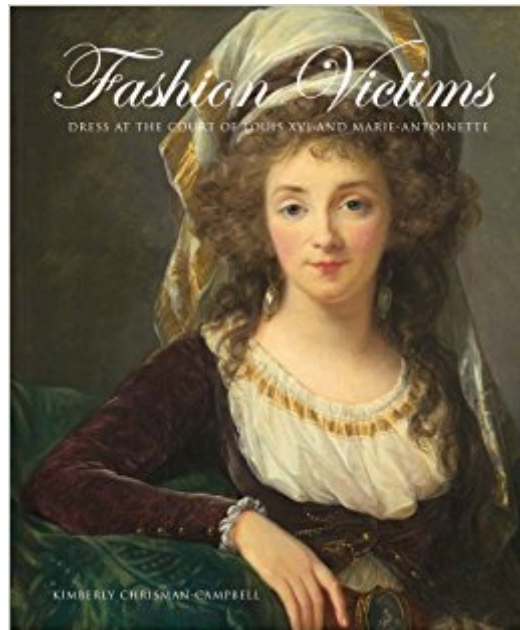


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Fashion Victims: Dress At The Court Of Louis XVI And Marie-Antoinette



Synopsis

A thoughtful, lavishly illustrated, and highly readable account of the fabulous French fashion world in the pre-Revolutionary period. This engrossing book chronicles one of the most exciting, controversial, and extravagant periods in the history of fashion: the reign of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette in 18th-century France. Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell offers a carefully researched glimpse into the turbulent era's sophisticated and largely female-dominated fashion industry, which produced courtly finery as well as promoted a thriving secondhand clothing market outside the royal circle. She discusses in depth the exceptionally imaginative and uninhibited styles of the period immediately before the French Revolution, and also explores fashion's surprising influence on the course of the Revolution itself. The absorbing narrative demonstrates fashion's crucial role as a visible and versatile medium for social commentary, and shows the glittering surface of 18th-century high society as well as its seedy underbelly. *Fashion Victims* presents a compelling anthology of trends, manners, and personalities from the era, accompanied by gorgeous fashion plates, portraits, and photographs of rare surviving garments. Drawing upon documentary evidence, previously unpublished archival sources, and new information about aristocrats, politicians, and celebrities, this book is an unmatched study of French fashion in the late 18th century, providing astonishing insight, a gripping story, and stylish inspiration.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300154380

ISBN-13: 978-0300154382

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 1.1 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in *Books > Arts & Photography > Fashion > History* #43 in *Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Beauty, Grooming, & Style > Style & Clothing* #79 in *Books > History > Europe > France*

Customer Reviews

"Anyone interested in social and political history, in art and in dress, will learn much from this book.

It is lively and well-written, with the high-quality design and attention to detail of Yale University Press: the illustrations, including paintings, fashion plates, extant garments and some beautiful textiles, are sumptuous."~•Aileen Ribeiro, Art Newspaper"~Illustrated with beautiful images of fashion plates, portraits, and photographs of rare surviving garments, this thoroughly researched book is highly recommended for readers who are interested in the social and costume history of the 18th century."~•Library Journal, Starred Review"~There are many books on this period in history, and Fashion Victims stands up as a worthy addition to the canon. It is an excellent addition to the bookshelf for both the scholar and those with a more casual interest in history."~•The Fashion Historian"~As visually sumptuous as the fashions it details, this title offers a well-rounded assessment of the factors that influenced fashion at the culturally whimsical but politically tenuous royal court in France in the two decades preceding the French Revolution."~•ARLIS

This thoughtful, lavishly illustrated, and highly readable book offers an account of the fabulous French fashion world in the pre-Revolutionary period.

This is a beautiful book with many color plates and great writing about the fashions of the court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette - don't know how people got around in those days - but let's face it - they probably didn't do much - although one print shows Marie-Antoinette on a horse - for the hunt! Surprised they could get her on the horse! The copy I got was at a reduced price - which was great - I've been fascinated about this period of history - and this book is very helpful.

One of the most fascinating works about eighteenth century French fashion I have read. This book is beautifully illustrated and written. Often historical works can be dry, but I found this analyses of the fashion of the era, thoroughly enjoyable.

The book is beautifully illustrated and well researched. It is certainly more than a coffee table book. I was not looking for this book but happened upon it by chance and after reading the reviews purchased it and am very pleased that I did.

An interesting history of the odd and sometimes too sophisticated French generation that saw it's demise at the Revolution. It's a great addition to any library where the events of the past seem to be reflected in the costumes of the times.

I had to wait a year almost and it was worth the wait and the cost. There are few books that cover the period after the Rococo and French court dress and the French Revolution. While I've seen some of the paintings before in this book, most are reproduced here, large and showing more details. Yummy, both in illustrations and text! The unfortunate Marie Antoinette, while a fashion leader, never could win: dressing as Dauphine and young queen, she was accused of wasting France's money(although she was supporting the silk industry, lace makers, and most of the French fashion industry), when she started wearing simpler clothing and being painted in the revolutionary chemise, she was criticized for wearing imported cotton instead of French silk. In the French public eye, only a king's French mistresses spent money like water--as for nearly two centuries, some mistresses of the nobility spent a good portion of the French treasury--a queen was supposed to bear children and pose for formal portraits, not often in the latest style. The really, revolutionary styles we associate with the French Revolution and the decade following began 10 to 20 years earlier

All I can say is, "What a beautiful book." The illustrations are gorgeous and the text is very informative, as well.

Having taught History for years in college, and having a special passion for this period(I've read over 7 biographies of Marie Antoinette and so many more books on this subject) ,I believe Ms Chrisman-Campbell's book to be a true masterpiece; it is beautifully illustrated and with this subject that is truly vital (duh!), but I found that from the first chapter I was mesmerized her powerful writing skills and insights. Thank you ,thank you for writing this beautiful and rich book

I cannot praise this book high enough, or stress how this book is the definitive authority on late 18th century French fashions! I thought I knew everything about the fashions of Marie-Antoinette through other books, "Queen of Fashion" or "Marie-Antoinette's Head," but this goes beyond Marie-Antoinette to include French society as a whole and more. There are distinct chapters covering the Queen, marchandes de modes, marriage, court dress, mourning, fashions Ã la l'AmÃ©ricaine, Ã la Reine, Orientalism, and even Fashions in Exile and briefly after the Revolution. With all the beautiful photographs, fashion plates, and extensive bibliography in the back, you can tell this author did her research and showcased it beautifully and elegantly. The information is very easy to read and is peppered with some French terms to keep it interesting. You will not be disappointed if you buy this book. I certainly didn't!

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