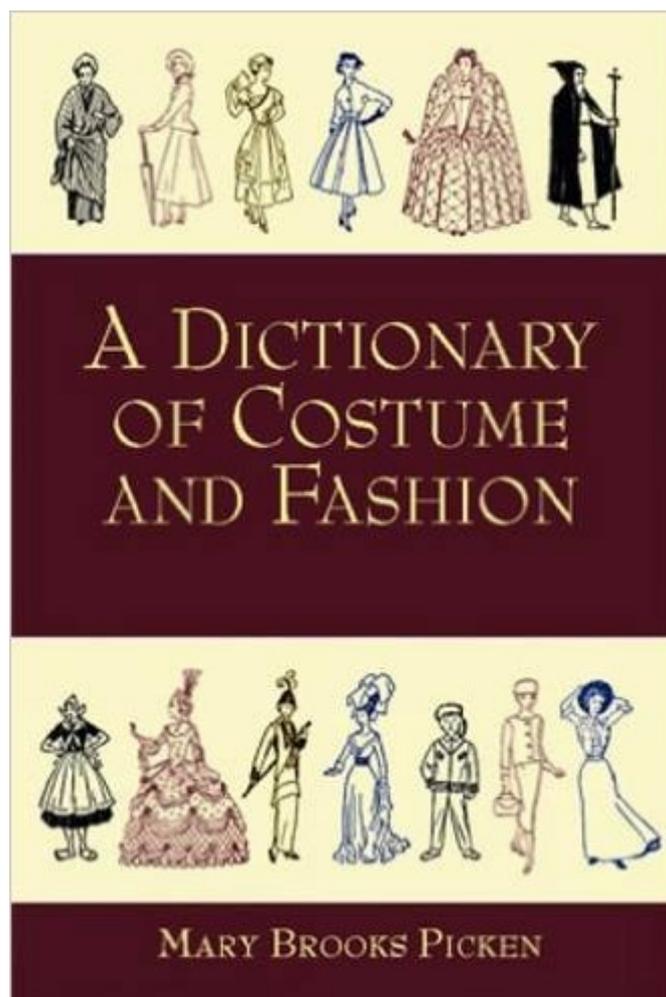


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# A Dictionary Of Costume And Fashion: Historic And Modern (Dover Fashion And Costumes)



## Synopsis

While most of us would have little difficulty in recognizing a buckle, hem, or seam, we might be considerably more challenged if asked to identify a godet, a trilby, or a vamp. With this handy book at your fingertips, however, you can quickly find the definition of over 10,000 words associated with wearing apparel and fashion. From bateau necklines, bobs, and bustles to plackets, havelocks, and bavolets, terms are assembled alphabetically or in groups according to dress parts, fabrics, elements of design, and other style categories. In addition, over 950 clearly detailed illustrations depict stitches, weaves, laces, garments, collars, shoes, jewelry, hair styles, and other sartorial features. This is the perfect reference for increasing fashion vocabularies, injecting a stimulating term or phrase in conversations about wearing apparel, or making articles written about clothing more understandable. Fashion writers, costume designers, manufacturers, buyers, sales people — anyone interested in the history of fashion — will welcome this thorough and comprehensive guidebook. "Unique in its field and containing material not easily accessible elsewhere, it definitely has a place in the general reference library for quick identification purposes and for anyone concerned with the fashion field." — Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The previous reviewer, Michelle Willingham, does not seem familiar with the use of a dictionary. It is not intended to be read, but consulted when information is needed. This is an excellent reference work, a classic in its field.

I found this book to be rather comprehensive in terminology and volume of terms. I would have liked to have seen some dates for items, at least approximately. Eg: It is important to know when the zipper was invented in order to make a historically correct dress. But all in all the book has been helpful with definitions and illustrations.

I just received my copy today, and I am thrilled with it. It is exactly what I was hoping for, a useful, easy to pick up (it's lightweight and not so large that it's a difficult reference), simple to use reference material for our costume shop. Includes broader headings (sportswear), as well as specifics, the pictures are great (although more would be helpful), and there are fabric descriptions as well. Highly recommended as a reference, do not purchase as a reading book. Perfect for a work setting.

If you need to discover all about a certain time period's costume details, this book isn't what you need. However, as a fantasy writer, I find this book an incredibly useful tool in helping me get the right word for costume parts. Organized in the form of a dictionary, the book requires you to know what you are looking to find; but it's still useful as more than a dictionary: You can look under general topics, such as 'skirts' or 'sleeves' and learn a lot about various styles in a backwards fashion. All in all, a bit difficult to use, but a good book to have in your library.

Truly a "dictionary". Handy as a reference tool to look up a historical clothing term but in my mind, pictures are worth a thousand words and it could use lots more pictures instead of simply, word definitions.

I believe the book is very complete, not only because of the word definitions, but also because of the pictures which show how costumes were in each fashion trend and in which we can see differences between time and place. I have just received the book and that is the impression I have from a quick look.

As a student in fashion school I purchased this to supplement my text books especially in Fashion History classes. It was useful for finding much of the more recent terms that I required. However, it was lacking in the earlier historical terms (Mostly Ancient Mesopotamia through the French Revolution eras.) Unless you'd like it specifically for those historical terms it will be useful for the

more everyday fashion lingo which needs definition.

I am a fan of Mary Brooks Picken's works. I had expected the book to be heavier with assumed content. It changed after turning a few pages. In the middle of the book there are monotone pictures of historical garments on unknown and forever known people. The illustrations are black and white, nice to look at (vintage + classy) and it reads like a dictionary, not an encyclopaedia. There are so many names or history behind garments I'd taken for granted, little considered, or was unexposed to until this book. It is true, there is no pattern breakdown. However, there are some great descriptions for hand-sewing that are both standard and highly unusual. I can't imagine I won't refer to it again and again until it falls apart someday. I do recommend this book!

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