

Art

The Georgians

This week we are looking at the overcoat or shawl that the women wore and for the men we are looking at the style of each King throughout the Georgian period.

Georgian Era Overcoats and shawls for Women

During this period women's clothing was much thinner so warmer outer wear became an important part of an outfit, especially in the colder months. Coat like jackets such as the spencer jacket, redingote or a pelisse were popular, as were the shawl or cape.

The mantelet was a short cape that was eventually lengthened and made into a shawl. Shawls were available in all weights of fabrics, including silk, lace, muslin, and cashmere wool, and priced for all budgets, shawls graced the shoulders of women in every strata of society.

The poorer Lady would wear the shawl for purpose such as keeping them warm or protected from harsh weather. The richer Lady would wear theirs as more of a fashion accessory - Large shawls of silk or mohair in various shapes; some in the form of a flowing mantle, appending from the shoulders, with a hood; others à la Turque; others again square. The most elegantly simple style of either the shawl or Egyptian mantle were those of plain or japanned white muslin, with a large Egyptian border of deep green embroidery.

Throughout much of the 19th century, cashmere (or Kashmir) shawls were at the forefront of elegant fashion in scarves and wraps. Made from the wool of the sheep in the Kashmir region of India, they were as luxuriously soft as they were warm.



The redingote, another popular example, was a full-length coat which looked like a man's riding coat, this could be made of different fabrics and patterns.

Short (high-waisted) jackets called spencer jackets were also worn outdoors by the Richer lady, along with long-hooded cloaks or an overcoat called pelisses -these were often sleeveless and reached down as far as the ankles. These outer garments were often made from fine Merino cloth, or velvets, and trimmed with fur, such as swan's down, fox, chinchilla, or sable.



The Georgian kings and how their style progressed



KING GEORGE I (1714-1727)



KING GEORGE II (1727-1760)



KING GEORGE III (1760-1820)



KING GEORGE IV (1820-1830)

Your task.

Choose either the Georgian Ladies coat or shawls or the Georgian kings style. Look at the shape, style, colour and pattern of the clothes. Again I have written some questions below, using these questions I would like you to design and draw a detailed picture of either an overcoat or shawl for a Georgian lady or an outfit fit for a Georgian King (please write which King you outfit is for). If you struggle with

sketching detail add notes or labels to your design telling me fabric, colour, pattern etc.

If you chose to design an overcoat or shawl -

How is the coat or shawl worn?

Does it have sleeves, a collar, a hood?

What length is the garment?

Is it fitted and tailored or is it draped?

What detail is in the pattern or edging?

Does it have buttons, a tie, a zip?

What colours were used?

If you chose to design an outfit for a king -

Look at how the style changed from one king to the other. If you need, research one of the kings to find a little more detail about his formal wear.

Does the king wear tights, a tunic, short trousers?

What colour does he wear - pastel, bold, dark?

Does he wear a cape, is it long or short?

What edging is on the cape - fur, gold braiding, both?

What shoes or boots does he wear?

How many garments is he wearing - tunic, coat, cape, shawl?

What belts, sashes, swords, jewels does he wear?

What shape are the sleeves, fitted, full and puffy, double layered, frilled cuffs?

What materials are used, shiny silk, fur, plain, patterned?

Does the king wear a wig?

Please draw your sketch on a piece of A4 paper and keep your drawing safe as at the end of the five weeks I would like to see a collage picture of all of your work.