



The House of Worth Silk Satin Damask
New York City College of Technology
By : Hazeer Shittu



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Since the beginning of time, fashion has played a significant role in numerous societies. What you wore represented so many things. What you wore spoke a tale about where you came from, your social standing, your area of work, and so much more. It was significant throughout the centuries, but especially recently when fashion was incredibly inventive and defied the conventions of normalcy. There were so many timeless pieces developed in the nineteenth century that will be recognized in the fashion hall of fame long after we are gone. Charles Frederick Worth designed the House of Worth Silk Satin Damask in France in 1900. "This stately

damask dress was originally designed by the House of Worth, which was known for elaborate fabrics during the late 19th century. This was a legacy of Charles Frederick Worth, who began his career selling textiles. The dress's silhouette was later refashioned, further illustrating the lasting style of the fabric" (Museum, 1970). This piece will help people learn the time period in which it was manufactured and worn.

The House of Worth's silk satin gown was made in France. The silk satin damask evening gown by House of Worth that is on display at the Museum of FIT may have been worn by any number of well-off and stylish women in the late 19th or early 20th century. Aristocrats, royals, and wealthy socialites were known to wear clothing from the renowned Parisian fashion house The House of Worth at this time. The world was undergoing significant transformation at the time. Many social movements were emerging, and World War II tensions were rising. France was becoming more industrialized, and Paris in particular served as the hub of French life on all fronts: economically, politically, culturally, and socially. The president at the time was Giscard d'Estaing, and one of his goals as president was to modernize the famed Louvre Museum, which was founded in 1793. This is a clear push for the development of creativity and art. Many painters emerged at the time, including Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Georges Braque. Paris becomes a crucial aspect of the revolutionary aesthetics that were taking over the art world. The s-shape corset form was a popular silhouette that was carried over from the previous era. "These corsets pushed the bust forward and the hips back in an attempt to avoid pressure on the abdomen (Laver 213). The prevailing look was overall that of a mature sophisticated and graceful woman. "The silk satin damask dress is an evening dress, and these dresses were different

because of their more Revealing with very low décolletage and short sleeves. Day dresses on the other hand had blousy high Collared bodices “(Reddy 2020).

The question now is, why the s-style corset? Why was it so popular at the time, and why did it succeed? “The objective of corsets was to improve the body type of very woman (Jaeger, 2020). The hourglass shape has long been attractive. Some argue that the world is a patriarchy established by men for men, which may explain why corsets were so popular. There has been research to determine what males like in terms of women's physical attractiveness. Waist to hip ratio has been a very researched topic in the studies that try to identify what men are naturally attracted to (Bovet, 2019). Men associate an hourglass shape with a woman’s ability to procreate and whether she has procreated already. There is solid evidence in favor of a selection of men's preferences for a mate They also find it very attractive fashionable and associate with intelligence and health. Devendra Singh, a psychologist at Texas University, investigated the relationship between body health and aesthetic perception. She discovered that dimensional factors such as general body fat distribution as evaluated by waist to hip ratio, breast size, and hip width enhance female attractiveness and appeal.

This dress is made of silk and satin with a damask design, hence the name. A fabric known as damask has a pattern that is created by weaving and is reversible and made of silk, wool, linen, cotton, or synthetic fibers. Worth's design skill is evident in the silk satin damask gown. It has a slim cut, a low neckline, and short, puffed sleeves. The skirt is floor-length and voluminous, with a train that extends behind the wearer. The dress is comprised of a rich peach silk satin damask fabric with delicate floral and foliage designs woven into the fabric. Lace, embroidery, and beads are used to decorate garment extensively. The top of the dress is embellished with flowery lace

appliques and beadwork, and the skirt has a broad panel of lace trim around the hem. The sleeves are similarly beaded and laced, and the neckline is accented with a lovely lace ruffle.

The silk satin damask dress from the House of Worth is a true piece of art and a monument to Charles Frederick Worth and his group of designers and artisans' talent and ability. It is also a priceless historical relic since it offers a glimpse into the style and design fads of the early 20th century.

The growth of the women's suffrage movement and the transformation of women's roles in society were two of the biggest shifts. Fashion became a means for women to demonstrate their newly acquired freedom and independence as they started to demand greater social and political equality. As a result, clothing that was more functional and comfortable began to appear, such as looser-fitting dresses and pants.

The impact of the Art Nouveau movement, which prioritized organic and natural forms in design and artwork, was another aspect. This encouraged the use of soft, draped fabrics and flowing, asymmetric lines in fashion.

The evolution of technology contributed to the change in fashion. Since clothing could be produced on a greater scale and for less money thanks to the creation of the sewing machine and other industrial equipment, a wider spectrum of individuals now has access to fashion.

The catastrophic events of World War I also had a significant influence on fashion. The war affected many of the major fashion hubs, including Paris and London, and many artists and creators were compelled to emigrate. Designers drew inspiration from other nations and traditions, which resulted in a larger diversity of fashion influences and styles.

Overall, a mix of economic, cultural, and technological advancements as well as the effects of historical events like World War I were what led to the significant change in fashion in the early 1900s.

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