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Society's Love for Strange Clothes

Furore for Elaborate, Extravagant and Fantastic Gowns That Reflect Many Nations, and That

Parody the New Fashions

THE European war has moved every place in the world up just a little closer to its neighbor. What used to be an impossible mental journey through geographical defiles and jungles of maps has become a daily commuting incident for the American mind. An American citizen who used to hear of the Euphrates river as a stream somewhere near the site of the original cottage of our first parents now knows intimately the bends of the stream, along with its neighbor, the Tigris, and is able to picture in his mind's eye the



Miss Carolyn Gerken in the Rich Turkish Costume She Wore at a Recent Ball.



Miss Eugenie Rand Dressed as Princess Katherine of the Henry V. Period.

Miss Florence Everett as Seen at Miss Gerken's Ball.

The New Hooped Gowns Are Made the Excuse for Costly Exaggerations at Fancy Dress Parties.



One of the Lavish Oriental Gowns Seen at a Private Fete in Chicago.



location of a battery where Paul stood and talked to the Ephesians.

The shrinking of the globe to our own mental range is nowhere shown more strikingly than in the prevalent mania for tableaux vivants, and every sort of social device that gives the excuse for fantasies of clothes. On every side, with the summer season as the chief end of man and woman, the passion for representing the costumes and the dances and poses of foreign lands has grown. The native costume of Turkey, of Serbia, the sort of clothing that the Russian woman affects, the styles that obtain in Sweden, and even the curious trappings of my lady of Senegambian fame, are becoming as well known to the American woman, through the influence of the war, as the Fifth avenue styles used to be.

The summer program of entertainments will follow the lead of the winter and at country and seaside homes there will be outdoor and indoor entertainments in which foreign lands have been robbed, or will be robbed, of their picture and their color.

One of the most brilliant of recent costume fetes was given by Miss Carolyn Gerken of King's Highway, New York. The Gerkens have a mansion, one of the oldest and most historic homes on Long Island, and annually give a big affair to which eastern society looks forward. Miss Gerken, Miss Mildred Bale and Miss Florence

Everett appeared in Turkish costumes. The orient was, indeed, curiously represented in many picturesque drappings and decorations.

Like entertainments have become the fashion throughout the country. Brilliant costume parties have been held in Chicago, in St. Louis, in Denver, in San Francisco and in Seattle, while Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other cities of the East have been striving to give a new turn to the costume idea. One of the vagaries of the season has been to take the fashionable hooped gown and exaggerate its effects until the result has been to produce a picture quite as startling as any that have been borrowed from far countries or distant times. The fashionable use of gold and silver trimmings has lent an element of the barbaric to the modern mode. This is so far true that the step to orientalism seems less startling than at any recent period in the strange history of fashion.

But it is true, undoubtedly, that the war, and the resulting spread of information as to hitherto mysterious regions, have had most to do with the present revival of fascinated interest in the devious whimsicalities of costume, so fruitful of pictorial surprise. What results of these excursions into the remote may have on future American devices for the decoration of the feminine form may well engage the speculation of specialists who consider the whole philosophy of clothes.

