

Grooming Rich American Women to "Meet the Queen"

"We Don't Care What It Costs!"
Cried the Exultant American
Matrons to London
Dressmakers—And the Very
Resplendent Result Dazzled
Even
Royalty
Itself

MRS. EDSON BRADLEY—
A Handsome
Gown of
Oyster Gray,
Gold and
Silver Brocade
Embroidered
with Cut
Crystals and
Pearls. The
Court Mantle
Is of Gray
Velvet, with a
Relief of
Silver and
Velvet
Roses.

MADAME DE GAMA—
A Magnificent Silver
Spanish Lace Gown with
a Manteau de Cour of
Ivory Embossed Velvet
Embroidered with
Crystals.

MRS. WILLIAM HAYWARD—A Lovely Gown of
Shimmering White Net Falling Over a Cloth of Silver. The
Court Mantle Is of Lovely Gold Lame Lined with Cloth
of Silver and Embroidered in a Beautiful Design of Lilies
in Yellow and White Crystals.

**MRS. JAMES CORRIGAN (At
Right)—**A Magnificent Gown of
Silver Cloth with Over-Panels of
Beaded Lace. The Court Mantle
Is of Real Lace Embroidered
with Crystal Beads in an Ex-
quisite Design. **MISS CAMPBELL**
(Above)—A Lovely Gown of Ivory Beante, the
Corrage Being Embroidered with Crystals, and
a Beautiful Crystal Girdle. The Manteau de
Cour of Exquisite Fine Silver Lace.

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"I DON'T care what it costs!"
This lavish "carte blanche" order
was issued simultaneously, in sub-
stance, by the forty-five American women
who were chosen by Ambassador Harvey
from among two hundred to meet the
Queen in this season's formal levees at
Buckingham Palace.

The orders went to London's most ex-
clusive and expensive dressmakers and
jewelers.

The sky was the limit—and the result
was that forty-five American women, com-
peting with the mediaeval splendor of the
English court, succeeded in dazzling roy-
alty itself by their gorgeous gowns and
jewels!

At the first "big court" since pre-war
days American women, many of them
regally beautiful, most of them wives of
millionaires and multi-millionaires, scored
a spectacular triumph.

Forty-five husbands or fathers, scattered
from New York to San Francisco, will
have to write heavy checks when the bills
roll in; but forty-five happy women are
sighing ecstatically, "Well, it was worth
all we spent."

The whole of London is still buzzing
with descriptions of the gowns and the
sums they cost, but the comment is with-
out envy or malice, for the Queen herself
was distinctly pleased with the display—
and a formal court presentation is an oc-
casion when the most lavish and expensive
costumes may be appropriately worn with-
out implication of bad taste or ostentation.

How Ambassador Harvey made the final
choice of the forty-five women out of the
more than two hundred who went to Lon-
don hoping to meet the Queen is a secret
only he can tell. The disappointment was
somewhat softened for many when he did
succeed in obtaining tickets, instead, to the
royal enclosure at the great Ascot races.
For this occasion, too, American gowns
were costly and beautiful.

Paris, the recognized fashion centre of
the world, has looked on the generous ex-
penditures of the Americans in the Eng-
lish capital with longing, envious eyes.
Gowns for the races, marvellous costumes
for the court and stunning creations for
the royal garden parties and racing—
American society must have spent a cool
million with London dressmakers this sea-
son!

Never since pre-war days has London,
usually drab and gray, presented such a
gay front and entertained such a variety
of distinguished and wealthy American
guests.

But it was at court that the really splen-
did gowns were worn. Many members of
royalty gasped their surprise as woman
after woman was presented by Mrs. Har-
vey, wife of the ambassador. Some of the
jewels nearly outshone the royal diamonds,
and certainly they glittered more bril-
liantly than did those of many a dowager
leader of English society.

Still, it is said, British society, taking its
"cue" from the gracious Queen, felt no
objection to the lavish display made by
their American guests, for they felt it

helped to add to a beau-
tiful and impressive oc-
casion of which they all
were proud.

Mrs. William Hayward,
wife of Colonel "Bill"
Hayward, who command-
ed the colored regiment
in France during the
war, furnished the sensa-
tion of the evening at
the second court, held at
Buckingham Palace, and
the fashionable world of
London is still discussing
her wonderful appear-
ance.

The gown she wore
was fashioned by Re-
ville, who made Princess
Mary's wedding gown
and who is thoroughly
conversant with court
dress through his long
experience in creating
the coronation and court
gowns worn by Queen
Mary.

Neither money, time
nor labor was spared
on Mrs. Hayward's magnificent costume
of shimmering silver cloth, heavily em-
broided in finely cut white net. The
court mantle, falling from the shoulders
and trailing for at least a yard on the
floor, was fashioned of gold lame lined with
cloth of silver. The train part was beau-
tifully embroidered in small lily designs
with white and yellow diamonds.

A girdle of yellow small-cut diamonds
added additional splendor to the gown, and
other jewels completed the dazzling and
radiant picture. On Mrs. Hayward's golden
hair was a handsome diamond tiara of
Russian design. Around her neck were
two ropes of pearls, and in her ears spark-
led a pair of pear-shaped ear-drops said to
have been once the property of Marie
Antoinette.

No wonder royalty, although accustomed
to jewels and grandeur, gasped at this gor-
geously arrayed American, whose charm-
ing manner and delicate blonde beauty
made her appear, even in this court cos-
tume, little older than a debutante.

Those who attended this court declare
that Queen Mary fairly beamed when this
bewitching beauty from overseas curtsied
before her.

"Who can she be?" whispered men and
women alike, as their eyes followed her
in her triumphal course down the long
room. And then the scarlet-coated herald
satisfied their curiosity by calling out her
name as she was presented to their majes-
ties.

Mrs. James Corrigan, of Cleveland and
New York, whose entertainments this
summer and last season have been func-
tions of grandeur, furnished a sensation
at another court levee by appearing in a
wonderful metallic gown shimmering with
brilliant embroidery of rhinestones and
silver. Her court train, falling from the
shoulders, was made of silver Alencon lace
embroidered with finest white rhinestones
over a foundation of silver cloth, adorned
with tassels of crystals.

Not undimmed by the glory of these mag-
nificent costumes were those worn on three
different occasions by Mme. de Gama, wife

of the Brazilian Minister. The most sen-
sational of her three gowns was the one
composed of gray tulle embroidered in
rhinestones and silver, giving a sort of
coat-of-mail effect. The train was silver
lace and gray velvet embroidered with
crystals. Across the train where its square
extremity fell on the floor was embro-
idered a Chinese bird in small diamonds,
with eyes of sapphire.

Nothing outside the Arabian Nights
could rival the dazzling beauty and glitter-
ing magnificence of the court scenes in
which these and other American women
participated so gracefully.

Mrs. Hayward, whose own toilette cre-
ated such a sensation, was enthusiastic
over the beauties of the other costumes.

"It was the most superb spectacle I have
ever witnessed," she said. "It seemed like
fairytale—the lights, the music, the lovely
costumes of the women, and the glittering,
resplendent decorations worn by distin-
guished members of the diplomatic corps.
I shall never forget it. The Queen was
splendidly regal in her court dress."

Miss Mabel Gerry, of New York, one of
the two American women (the other being
Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt) who had the
honor last summer of entertaining the
Prince of Wales at a big dinner dance in
her London home, was one of the few
women to wear black at this season's court.

She wore a draped gown of black em-
broided velours souple, with underskirt
of silver lace. Her train was of beautiful
black brocade chiffon, shot with orange and
gold. With this she wore a marvelous
necklace and crown of turquoise and di-
amonds.

Among the other American women who
were noted for their stunning gowns at
this season's presentations were Mrs. Wil-
liam Howard Taft, Mrs. James M. Beck,
Mrs. Ollie James, of Kentucky; Mrs. T.
Morris Murray, of Boston; Mrs. Edson
Bradley, Mrs. Ogden Hammond, Mrs. S. S.
Howland, Mrs. Adrian Joline, Miss Ger-
trude Cuthbert, Miss Marcella Chalkley, of
Kansas City; Mrs. Julius S. Morgan, Sr.,
and Mrs. James Larkin.