

### Bride Fashions Delicate Look

There is much in the way of fashion news to interest the bride-to-be of Spring, 1953! There's the "debutante" look with the fuller-than-ever collar and akiris created of the airiest of fabrics . . . the barer look in bridal and bridesmaids' gowns . . . and the new importance of bridal separates.

is definitely of the formal gown design with a full skirt that billows out from a tiny waistline. This type of wedding gown is floor-length and is designed of the sheerest fabrics. Foremost among the fabric choices are: nylon tulle or net, laces, with a definite emphasis on "imported," plain and em-

broidered organdies, and silk organdies. The barer look in bridal gowns is achieved with the strapless bodice, always shown with a separate cover-up jacket or stole, or through the wider décolletage and off-shoulder treatments. If a net yoke is used, it is highlighted with pearl embroidery or lace applique where it joins the bodice.

In addition to the floor-length gown, the ballerina and the waltz length (just above the ankles) are leading favorites.

Separates are gaining much importance in the bridal picture. They are usually shown in a waltz-length skirt, bare top bodice, tiny jackets, lace gauntlets, and pleated cummerbunds to achieve the one-piece look.

Enchanting separates are shown for the bridal party, too. They feature styling that makes them appropriate for formal wear later. Satins, silk taffetas, nylon net or tulle, laces, and embroidered organdies all appear in the separates field. Furthermore, there is equal representation of informal, semi-formal and formal designs in the three popular lengths.

An exciting newcomer in the bridal picture for Spring is the color, Forsythia Yellow. This pastel is being shown in wedding gowns of embroidered organdie, as well as in dresses for the attendants.



A front peplum effect falling into a fishtail in back, highlights this Spring 1953 ivory wedding gown. Styled of imported Chantilly-type handclipped lace, the gown is short-sleeved with matching lace mitts. A nylon tulle yoke fills in the illusion neckline. (Photo N.Y. Dress Inst.)

### Story of Silk Is Ages Old; Its Interesting History Told

From the day that the fourteen-year-old bride of a Chinese Emperor discovered silk, it has spun its gleaming thread through tales of Oriental splendor to the latest fashion stories of today.

More than 4,000 years ago, Hsi-ling-shi, while playing with a cocoon dropped it in a hand basin of warm water. She watched, fascinated, while a delicate tangle separated itself from the cocoon. When she drew it into the air, one incredibly fine filament unwound endlessly from the cocoon.

Hsi-ling-shi had discovered silk.

How much of this legend is fact and how much is fable, but it is true that silk was first discovered in China. And, until the fall of the Chinese Empire, one day each year was set aside for the Empress of China to feed the silk worms, and so pay homage to Hsi-ling-shi, the "Goddess of the Silk Worms."

For nearly 3000 years, the Chinese guarded their secret of the silk cocoon. Death and disgrace faced the traitor who disclosed the origin of silk to the outside world.

Not until 300 A.D. did Japan learn the mystery of silk, and

it was still later that India learned to grow the silk worm and reel the thread.

The perilous silk routes across the heart of Asia were blazed by caravans transporting silk to Damascus, the market place where East met West.

Silk found its way from Damascus to the Roman Empire, where it became so highly prized that Julius Caesar passed an edict limiting it to his exclusive use.

Today, every American woman can enjoy the luxury of silk! The development of the power loom enables weavers to produce the finest silks at lower costs and America imports more raw silk than any other country in the world.

Silk is the strongest of all natural fibers and gives incredibly long wear, which belies its delicate, luxurious appearance. It takes dyes with clarity and purity, and can be woven to almost any desired weight.

Now with new emphasis — silk appears throughout the fashion picture — from the filmiest lingerie to the loveliest daytime fashions and the most glamorous formal gowns.

That important all-around fashion, the knit dress, takes on new importance for Spring! Styled with a softer air, knits

Fireworks of black sequins and rhinestones are splashed over this white Alencon lace evening gown. Photo: N.Y. Dress Institute.

are appearing in wool, Orlon, and cotton. The turtle-neck or open necklines are replacing the class-jewel neckline.

### Lingerie Wears Dainty Air

Lingerie for Spring takes on the costume-look in charming ensembles that reflect evening dress styling. There is an important innovation in the dress length nightgown with matching dress-length negligee.

There are pajamas in shortie lengths, frequently rompers . . . in long lengths . . . in tapered pedal pushers — all with a costume look.

The close coordination with ready-to-wear is emphasized in the slimmer slip — sheath-skirted styles with strapless bra tops, camisole or tailored form-fitting bodices, linen slips to wear with suits in place of a blouse. Petticoats are important but are pared-down, and have smooth hiplines.

In silhouettes — slimmest is the new look in handbags cued by the prominence of ready-to-wear's slim silhouettes. This look gives a renewed import-

ance to the slender underarm bag which is prominent in all Spring bag fashions. The box bag in many new variations, the shoulder strap with a larger than ever bag are the silhouettes of Spring's brilliant galaxy of handbag fashions.

### Season's Fashions Give Extra Thot To Tall Girl Need

Tall girls will take heart when they see the first Spring showings at their favorite store! More and more attention is being given to the customer who's 5'7" and over.

Appearing this Spring are separates, dresses, swimsuits, and knitwear in tall sizes, supplementing the proportioned suits that have been available for some time.

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## Spring Festival

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(Above) Glitter and pseudo pearls highlight the daisy embroidered collar! This coat dress buttons to the hem with great white buttons. Linen-like rayon "Linarney" in Pink, Bermuda Blue, Navy, Brown Honey. 14½-22½. (Left) Lacy eyelets and dyed-to-match lace medallion accents the flattering neckline! Gently flared skirt fits neat and trim at your waist. Rayon "Linarney" in Pink, Bermuda Blue, Navy, Brown Honey. 14½-22½.

Fashions—Second Floor

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