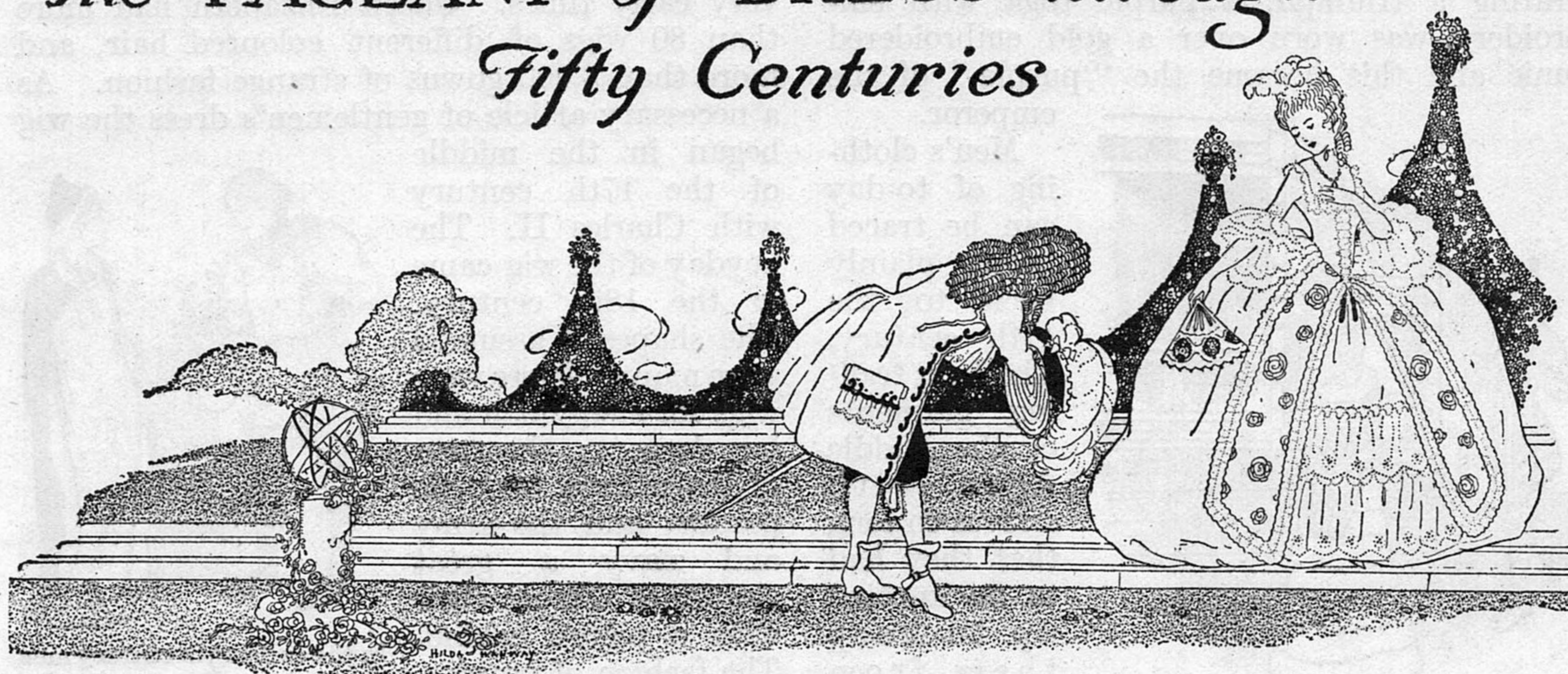


The PAGEANT of DRESS through Fifty Centuries



The Curious and Interesting History of Styles, from the Early Egyptian Loin-cloth to the Modes of To-day

COSTUME. With the spread of modern civilization, national costumes are practically disappearing. Humdrum overalls are replacing the picturesque cantonal dress of Switzerland, and the quaint Dutch national dress is rarely seen except in places where it is worn to attract tourists. Even in China and Japan, especially in the seaports, the more convenient dress of the western countries is being adopted. The kilt of the Highland Scots has practically disappeared except as the national court dress and the uniform of the Highland regiments of the British army. The old national dress of southern Albania is similarly preserved in the uniforms of the Greek army; it, too, is a kilted affair, with flowing white sleeves, a sleeveless embroidered jacket, and a broad sash.

The Origin of Fashion

Fashion was brought about largely by the desire to make the dress tell something of the position or rank of the wearer. In early Egypt and Babylonia, kings, priests, and other officers were distinguished by the vestments they wore over the ordinary apron or loin-cloth, which later developed into a long skirt. The draped costume reached its highest development in the dress of Greece and Rome. The garments were chiefly pieces of cloth hung in elaborate folds and fastened with girdles and brooches.

The principal garment of Greece was a long sleeveless tunic of light texture (called "chiton") worn next to the skin. Over this was draped

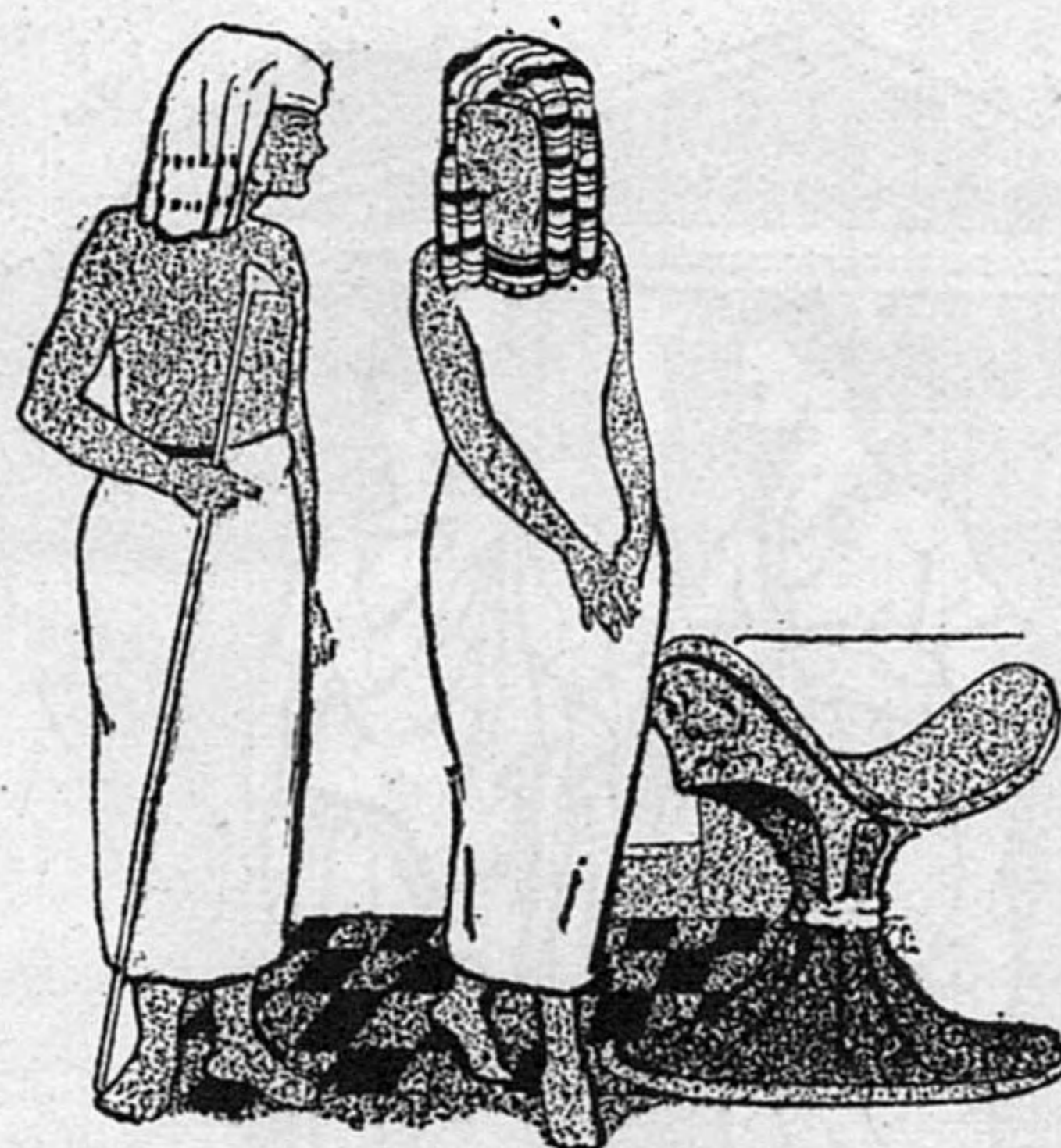
the "peplos"—a square piece of woollen cloth about a foot longer than the height of the wearer. The upper quarter was folded down, and the whole garment was then doubled and wrapped about the body, and fastened over the shoulders with brooches (called in Latin *fibulae*) of the type of our modern safety pins. This remained the dress of women, especially in the Doric states. The peplos was usually worn girdled about the waist, and in Athens it was customary to sew up the right side from below the arm.

Other Greek Garments

Men wore also the "himation," a square of woollen stuff similar to the peplos but draped across the chest and over one arm; and women wore the himation in different colours as an over-garment. A lighter garment was the "chlamys," a short mantle worn by young men.

The "toga" was the national dress of Roman citizens, and was always worn outdoors, except when at work. It was a great circular piece of woollen material and corresponded, but for the difference in cut, to the Greek himation. The women wore a long tunic ("stola") with a border of darker colour along the lower edge. Over this was draped a garment called a "palla," arranged in many graceful ways, according to the whim of the wearer.

The toga worn by lads under 16 years of age—and also by certain officials—had a border of purple and was known as the *toga praetexta*.



Thanks to the torrid climate, "cool and simple" was the rule in old Egypt.