

For special occasions, such as a general celebrating a triumph, a purple toga with embroidery was worn over a gold embroidered tunic and this became the "purple" of the emperor.



In ancient Crete the women's costumes were strikingly like some 20th century European modes.

Men's clothing of to-day can be traced pretty plainly back to the 17th century. The long trailing garments of the Middle Ages, with sleeves so long that they had to be knotted up to keep them from dragging in the mud, had passed; and so had the puffs and slashes and trunk hose, and the grotesque parti-coloured clothing of Elizabethan days, which, viewed from one side, seemed to be a costume of red and white, perhaps, and, seen from the other side, would probably be green and yellow.

The Coat's Ancestor

The doublet, the ancestor of the coat, had gradually become longer, and had buttons and buttonholes reaching its entire length, and the long loose sleeveless waistcoat showed beneath. The great petticoat breeches of the early 17th century became smaller and were fastened below the knee. Instead of the ruffs and lace collars of the earlier day, broad but plain linen collars were now worn.

For convenience in riding horseback, the ordinary method of conveyance then, the skirts of the long coat were turned back and buttoned in the small of the back, and men's frock coats still retain these (now useless) buttons. The tops of these early coats were cut so they could be fastened up round the neck, and the V-shaped nick which is in all modern coats is a survival of this custom. Gradually the coats were shortened and cut away in front. The modern evening dress represents a further such cutting away of material. When the "swallow-tail" coat was first worn, the tails reached the ground.

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Lovers of beauty in all things, the ancient Greeks achieved perhaps the most graceful costumes known.

Wigs of various kinds have been in use since very early times. Queen Elizabeth had more than 80 wigs of different coloured hair, and more than 3,000 gowns of strange fashion. As a necessary article of gentlemen's dress the wig began in the middle of the 17th century with Charles II. The heyday of the wig came in the 18th century. The shapes it assumed were many. There were wigs for clergymen and for doctors; the man of law wore a huge tie peruke, and the army and navy a great cluster of temple curls with a pigtail behind. The fashion of powdering the hair came in from France and continued through a considerable period. The wig is still worn in the Law Courts and by the speaker of the House of Commons.



In the early 15th century men in western Europe fancied puffed sleeves and pointed shoes.

About this time—1770—the high head-dresses for women came in and found their extreme examples in France. The bodies of these enormous structures were formed of tow, over which the hair, perfumed and kneaded with pomade, was drawn in curls and rolls. The whole was freely plastered with powder, and decorated with great bows, ribbons, feathers, and flowers. Sometimes these structures of tow and hair, pomade and powder, were crowned by a model of a ship in full sail, or a miniature garden.

The Passing of Knee-breeches

During the French Revolution the three-cornered hat, the powdered wig, the pig-tail, and knee-breeches all began to go out of style and simpler fashions gradually became settled. Long trousers were first worn by the rabble of the Revolution, but they soon became a part of the conventional men's dress of to-day. Knee-breeches, however, are still worn in English court-dress and for sports wear.

Long tight trousers were the style of the early 19th century, and the dandy wore doeskin trousers and a coat of blue, claret, buff, or brown, thrown back to reveal the waistcoat. Until near the close of the 19th century it was