

Feminine Look Prevails in Easter Styles

Women Seek Pretty
Clothes in Wartime

By LOUISE FLETCHER
Times Women's Editor

IT'S AN OFTEN-QUOTED saying that women's clothes grow more feminine in wartime. Psychologists, delving for whys and wherefores, come up with the answer that as more men go off to war and competition for masculine attention grows keener, the ladies look for prettier clothes.

Whatever the reason behind it, there's no question that feminine styles are prevailing, and the fact that they are here, even though government regulations decree a plumb-line silhouette, is a tribute to the designers' ingenuity.

Figure-defining cut, frills and bows and hand-detailed touches are things relied upon to make Easter (and post-Easter) frocks the eye-catchers they are.

EVEN A STYLE as apparently simple as the middy overblouse is not the naive garment of school-days. Its long torso effect is curved in and shirred at the midriff. It appears in beltless crepe models for dress-up occasions and in jersey that fits close as a stocking for general wear.

The long torso line, expected to gain still more importance as fall approaches, is carried out also in one-piece frocks with low-placed hip sashes or bows.

Narrow silhouettes are sometimes varied by adding back interest with skirt fullness, drapery, bows or perky peplums. This is another fashion highlight scheduled to carry over into fall styles. It is a happy idea because it can camouflage a hip bulge or a sway back.

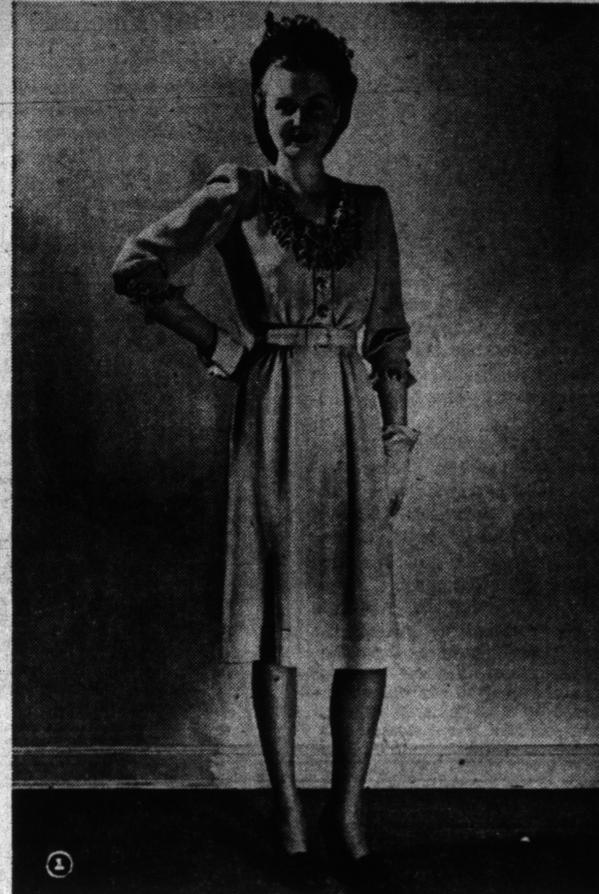
Again, fullness moves to the left front for a one-sided look, occasionally achieved with a panel of tiers. The same effect results from wrapping the skirt over and tying it with a bow.

BOWS ARE A recurring motif. They line up on blouse fronts to make a jabot; they "finish off" cummerbunds and sashes; they tie in big loops at the necklines of both dressy and sports frocks.

Scarfs occur again and again as integral parts of dresses, emerging as continuations of yokes to float down as far as the hipline. One New York designer calls this a Winged Victory model.

Easter dresses cast an eye toward summer coolth and comfort through the paring down process. Sleeves are in the going, going, gone stage. Some are shortened to loose kerchief and capelet types; others are abbreviated caps with deep armholes, and the ultimate in fabric saving is reached with the sleeve that's merely an extended shoulder line.

Collarless, deep-cut, open necklines are another designed-for-cool-

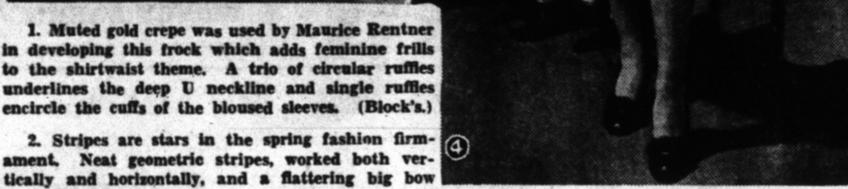


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Easter Dress
Rehearsal



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