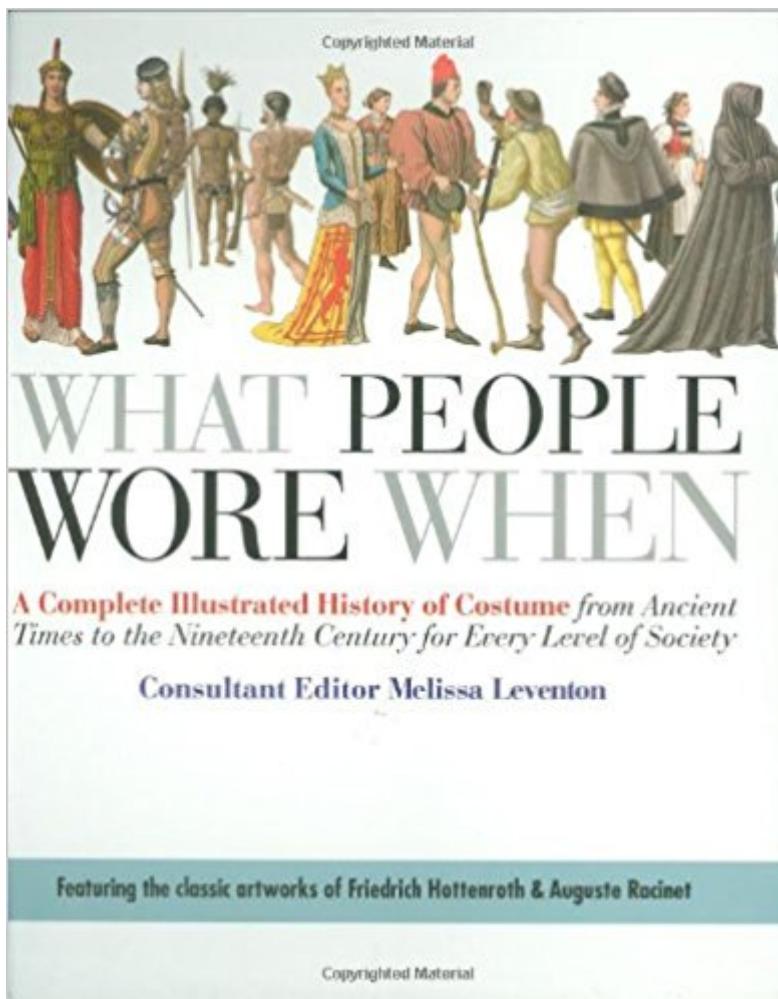


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# What People Wore When: A Complete Illustrated History Of Costume From Ancient Times To The Nineteenth Century For Every Level Of Society





## Synopsis

What People Wore When combines the studies of two classic nineteenth-century illustrators Auguste Racinet and Friedrich Hottenroth for the first time. Their works are presented first by chronology and then by subject, so that illustrators, historians, and students alike can choose to follow the path of fashion through the centuries, or study in detail the contrasting styles of individual clothing and accessories. Silhouettes reveal the shape of style through the ages, detailed cross-references draw attention to recurring motifs, and navigation bars help the researcher to travel the complex chronology of costume. With authoritative narrative from leading experts in the history of costume, extraordinary contemporary quotes that reveal the impact of style in its day, detailed annotation, and an extensive glossary, the book provides a magnificent study of the rich vocabulary of style through the ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School • This attractive book will appeal to teens looking for quick answers for a last-minute assignment, and it will also be of interest to budding fashionistas and social historians. Leventon has combined current research on costume and dress through the ages with the detailed beauty of the work of two 19th-century illustrators, Auguste Racinet and Friedrich Hottenroth, to provide a historical and thematic examination of fashion and dress that is both comprehensive and readable. The volume works first and foremost as a reference book, and it is full of informative sidebars and copious cross-references. But it is worth browsing through because it is also full of

gorgeous color pictures as well as silhouettes that show the changing shape of clothing and style through time. There is a lot of attention to detail, both visually and textually. The result is an exhaustive, entertaining tome that will be put to good use in reference departments and circulating collections alike. © Caitlin Fralick, Ottawa Public Library, ON Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

What People Wore When combines the studies of two classic nineteenth-century illustrators, Auguste Racinet and Friedrich Hottenroth. According to the book's introduction, their work is presented first by era and then by subject, so that illustrators, historians, and students can choose to follow the path of fashion through the centuries or study in detail the contrasting styles of individual clothing and accessories. However, because the various drawings and illustrations are not attributed, the volume misses the chance to compare the works of these two famous costume historians. In the first section of the book, "The Grammar of Costume," drawings portray the changing trends of fashion worldwide from ancient times to the mid-nineteenth century. The second part, "The Elements of Costume," surveys types of clothing and accessories, for example, "Women's Dress, 1300-1600" and "Regional Headwear." In both sections, cross-references and navigation bars draw attention to recurring motifs. A glossary defines most, but not all, of the terms that are italicized in the text, which was written by leading experts in the field of costume history. Detailed annotations of the drawings and illustrations, along with the glossary and index, provide an interesting study of the vocabulary of style through the ages. A couple of other books that do a good job of covering this broad span of the history of costume include Douglas W. Gorsline's *What People Wore: A Visual History from Ancient Times to Twentieth-Century America* (1952) and Bronwyn Cosgrave's *The Complete History of Costume & Fashion: From Egypt to the Present Day* (2000). This book is recommended for most libraries and will be a welcome addition to the holdings of public, school, and academic libraries. --Diana Shonrock

Although not every article of clothing is described in every picture, the descriptions provided are an excellent reference point. The detailed descriptions cover headgear, hairstyles, accessories, and footwear. Would recommend this over "Pictorial Encyclopedia of Historic Costume" and "The Historical Encyclopedia of Costumes."

I haven't finished this book yet but I have read so far it is really, anyone who is into fashion or costume design should definitely read this book. Only thing I wish that this book had is the under garments, you have to buy a completely different book if you want to learn about the under garments.

Well written - to the point - very visual - absolutely loved this book! Educational and interesting walk through histories fashion.

All of the pages have color illustrations, great descriptions and the way it is written makes it easy to read, even to those with no previous fashion background. It is organized by year and geographic areas. It does lack a bit of the cultural background behind the development in each style/fashion. Great book overall and it is even used as a text book for Fashion History classes, including in Art Institute. Mostly basics.

Its history for anything european as far as anything else very limited.

Not only does it have great renderings and references. It has historical background as to what the trends were at any given period. Hair, shoes, accessories and fabric trends are all included with each time period. A great addition for the costume designer and builder to assist with period accuracy.

Extremely useful! Very easy to find which section of time you need, and the variety of regional dress is much wider than most other historical fashion sources I have found.

Because of the way it was packed it arrived with the cover slightly damaged. But is a very good book and resource material for general research

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