

# SHOULD ARTISTS STUDY FASHION PLATES?

*Does the Well Groomed and Well Gowned Charming Young Lady Drawn by Messrs. Gibson, Wenzell and Smedley Exist in Real Life?*



GIBSON, Smedley and Wenzell are the artistic creators par excellence of the aristocratic, high-bred type of American girl. The young woman with the haughtily poised and frankly insolent eyes, with whom Mr. Gibson's pencil has made us so familiar; the dainty girl who, in Wenzell's pictures, seems just stepping from the frame of some old family portrait; the thoroughbred and correctly gowned woman to whom Smedley introduces us, are models each in her way. Are these types absolutely faithful to life? Does one behold on Fifth avenue or at the Horse Show or the opera the

prototypes of these charming and admirable creations? Or is all this delightful work a figment of artistic imagination? Many women profess to see themselves reproduced in these pictures. By the flattery of injud-



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Here is the Gibson Girl.

tists are always irreproachable. Mme. Walls, the head of an importing house, said:

"As one can tell a Sara Meyer or a Paquin gown at a glance, so one can distinguish a Smedley, a Gibson or a Wenzell girl without consulting the signature. The individuality and atmosphere are not to be concealed. The yachting and golfing girls, the Horse Show girls, the women at the opera, drawn by these artists, are always correctly gowned, their costumes characterized by a charming and distinguished severity. Yes, I have seen their prototypes, although I must say they are very rare. Not one girl in a hundred is a Gibson girl; nor one woman in a thousand is a Wenzell woman. To dress as do these lovely creatures requires regularity of outline and distinction of bearing. Oh, the ordinary woman dressed in the close-fitting Gibson garments would be a horror."

"Gibson and Wenzell have undoubtedly set fashions in hair-dressing," said the manager of a prominent coiffeur's establishment. "Ladies repeatedly come to me asking to have their hair done a la Gibson or Wenzell. They do not realize that if their tresses were to be arranged in these fashions they would be as unkempt and bedraggled as the average English woman. The fluffy fashion of dressing the

hair which Mr. Smedley shows is more effeminate and more practicable for every-day custom than is the Wenzell or Gibson style."

Jacquin, the milliner, in speaking of the millinery shown by Messrs. Gibson, Wenzell and Smedley, said: "I know the young lady who was Mr. Gibson's first model. She was a beauty and looked well in any hat she ever put on. But how is it with those who imagine they can wear these charming confections in real life? Alas! the Gibson or Smedley hat on the average woman would be a dismal failure. The hats these artists draw are always correct, good form and good taste, and suitable to the costumes with which they appear. It is wonderful how these men have caught the secret of individual style. You will occasionally see a young woman who would be a success in a dashing Gibson hat or the picture hat of Wenzell, but only occasionally."

Mrs. Pell says of the Gibson, Wenzell and Smedley millinery: "It is correct and charming in every detail. Even a hat that is thrown carelessly on a



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As Mr. Wenzell Portrays Her.

conscious friends many a young woman fancies she looks like a Gibson girl or a Wenzell or Smedley girl. Then trouble begins. For directly this hallucination seizes a girl she begins to dress up to the part. She must look the role.

The costumes delineated by this trio of admirable ar-



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This is the Smedley Type.

couch or chair is drawn with a fidelity to detail which is marvellous. Do we see this millinery in real life? We see attempts. There are very few women in real life so attractive as in these fair representations. I fear the average woman would be a fright in the Gibson or Wenzell millinery."

## New York's Beautiful Women of Long Ago and the Beauties of To-day.

BEAUTY tangible graced the Horse Show and the opera in their season, and now rides wrapped in laces and silks through the Park, dazzling beholders on every hand. And always in the train of these fair women follows an invisible throng of stately phantoms—New York's beautiful women of long ago—whose charms of face and form, though almost traditional, have not been forgotten.

The hostess of the eighteenth century costume ball was Mrs. Chauncey Goodrich, whose maiden name was Mary Anne Wolcott. The costumes of the guests were all of the reign of Louis XV. There were eight hundred invitations issued, and the dresses, exclusive of the jewelry, were said to have cost between fifty and sixty thousand dollars. The amount of jewelry worn was valued at over half a million.

Another famous beauty and social leader in the early days of New York was Sarah Van Burgh Livingston, daughter of Governor Livingston. Miss Livingston married John Jay, then a young attorney, of

New York, but who later was made Chief-Justice of the United States.

Katherine Alexander, daughter of Lord Sterling, and wife of Colonel Duer, was conspicuous in New York society near the close of the seventeenth century. Her town house was a substantially built hewn stone, on Park place, and about her gathered the most exclusive of New York's aristocracy.

During the same period and in the same exclusive circle was Mrs. Charles Carroll, daughter of Benjamin Chew, of Philadelphia, and the wife of Charles Carroll, whose father signed the Declaration of Independence.

Mrs. Ralph Izard, daughter of Peter De Lancey, of West Chester, and granddaughter to Etienne De Lancey, a Huguenot nobleman, who came to this country in 1686, belonged to New York's early fashionable society.

Elizabeth Schuyler was the daughter of General Schuyler, of Revolutionary fame, and the sister of Mrs. Van Rensselaer. She married Alexander Hamilton and soon became the rage in New York.

To-day there is Mrs. Burke Roche. She is one of the few American women whose photographs have been sold in the London shops with the English royalties and beauties. Mrs. Roche is the daughter of Mr. Frank Work and was married in 1880 to the Honorable James Burke Roche, brother to Lord Fermoy.

Mrs. Raphael De La Mar has been called the most beautiful American woman to visit the French capital. She spent the past season there and excited much admiration. Two years ago she became the wife of Captain James De La Mar, the millionaire miner.

Mrs. Reginald de Koven, tall and stately, is the wife of the American composer, descendant of Captain de Koven, who married the granddaughter of Governor Winthrop.

Mrs. Frederick Gebhard, the famous Baltimore belle, Miss Louise Morriss, wedded the New York clubman in 1894. She is very fascinating and entertains lavishly both at her town house and country place at Bar Harbor.

Mrs. Nathaniel McCready has the dark, rich beauty of the women of Spain. She was the daughter of the late Samuel Barrowe.