

“Wraps” for Formal Events

Janet Gundlach

During the Model A era most furs were worn during the day time except for evening perhaps an all white or black single fox. In the 1930-1931 *Newton Annis Detroit Furs* catalog, only one coat, a slightly below knee length white Ermine coat, was displayed with a formal evening dress. So what was worn for formal afternoon or evening events?

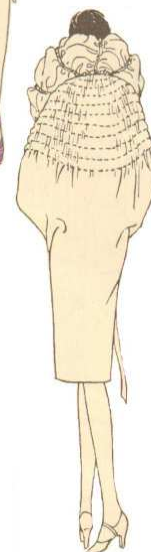


The lady would wear “wraps” of jackets, coats or capes that varied in length and style as to year. The formality of the event determined the fabric.

← The cape to the left appears in *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Spring & Early Summer 1928. “One solution of what to wear with the down-in back frock is the cape – shorter in length.” Pattern #1933



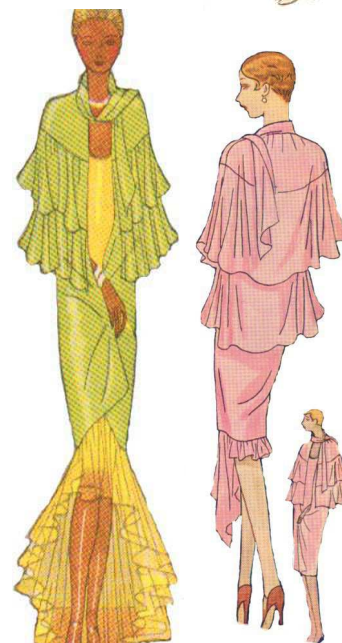
→ The cape to the right and above right appeared in the *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Spring & Early Summer 1928. The description is for an “Evening cape of light weight velvet” or “suitable for evening or afternoon wear.” Pattern #1685. The June 1928 monthly handout showed a coat with a similar collar, Pattern #2051, “the crushed collar on this straight wrap is particularly correct for evening wear.” The recommended fabric was Moiré silk.



← *Butterick Monthly*, October 1928, department store handout. The coats to the left are Pattern #2210. The one to the far left is “to wear over the irregular hem, the new shortened evening wrap with a straight collar.” The fabric recommended was metal cloth with fur banding. The second view is longer with a “mushroom collared version” of velvet and fur banding. The mail order catalogs sold imitation fur banding and the higher end catalogs sold real fur collars and cuffs.

→ *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Summer 1929

“Pale pink taffeta makes a straight line cape with little circular flares. Darts fit the wrap very snugly to the shoulder.” The pale green wrap appeared in a “Celanese” ad inspired by French designer Molyneux. Both are Pattern #2437.





← *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Winter 1929.

This was a very popular evening coat since it appeared on the cover and three locations in the magazine along with November monthly handout. “The smart velvet wrap follows the lines of the frock. Low flare and collar of velvet flowers” or a fur collar can be added to the wrap. In all three views, note the low dip of the back of the coat and the shirring on the sleeves. Pattern #2838



↓ *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Winter 1929.

“A velvet evening wrap with a cape collar. This is a smart length with long frocks.” Shown is a red velvet dress and wrap with a fur collar and cuffs, Pattern #2495.



→ *Pictorial Review Quarterly Magazine*, Autumn 1930.

“This is the silhouette Paris prefers for evening wraps over long gowns developed in heavy satin or velvet,” The back view shows a bow at the back of the neck that trails to the lower edge of the wrap. Pattern #5161



← *Pictorial Review Quarterly Magazine*, Autumn 1930.

Chanel style wrap #5063 has a “striking fan shaped shirring (that) accents its French origin and (is) chic.”

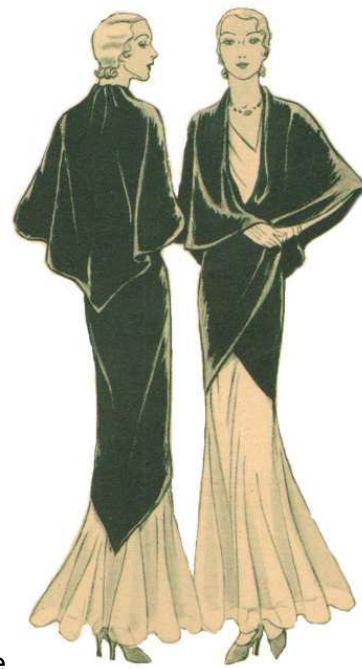


← *Pictorial Review Catalog*,
Autumn 1930.

“This little evening coatee with its flared bordering ruffle is rounded and wrapped tightly at the waist.” This same pattern is listed for the “college girl and her evening wardrobe that includes a short velvet wrap for festive wear.” Pattern #5347

→ *Pictorial Review Catalog*,
Autumn 1930.

“This elbow length cape dips in a point to well below the hips in back. The point of the hem, which follows same dipping line, may reach the ankles or be shortened to the knees.”
Pattern #5014



← *Vogue Pattern Book*, June & July 1930.

“Evening capes are so important that every wardrobe should include one.” This model is of velvet with a scarf collar.”
Pattern # 5227



← *Vogue Pattern Book*. June & July 1930.

“For summer evenings, short wraps and diaphanous frocks are loveliest.” Chiffon wrap has a scarf tie in the back. Pattern #5256

From a “Celanese”
Fabric ad in *Vogue*



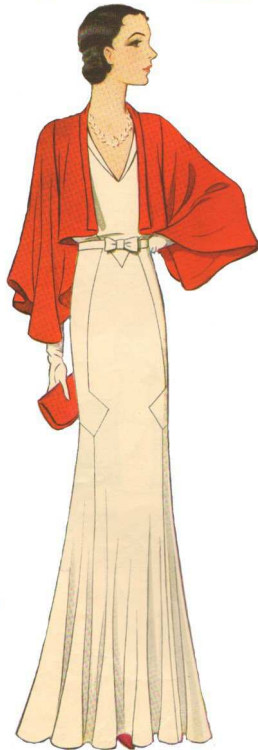
← *Altman Magazine*,
Spring 1931.

A “youthful evening wrap of transparent velvet, waist length with flowing sleeves” offered in bright red, jade green or black.
\$16.50

→ *Pictorial Review Fashion Book*, Fall 1931.

“Paris adores this jacket. Imagine it in rich velvet or vivid colored crepe worn over your formal gowns.”
Pattern # 5757





← *Pictorial Review Fashion Book*, Fall 1931.

Brief jacket, inspired by Paris designer Patou. Pattern #5745



← *Pictorial Review Fashion Book*, Fall 1931.

Another brief jacket by Patou. Pattern #5632.



← *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Winter 1931.

This coat is “bulky above, slender and curved in at the waist.” The fabric recommended was metallic cloth and fur band-ing. Pattern # 4131

→ *Vogue Pattern Book*, Autumn 1931.

“The long, formal evening coat does not require much fur trimming, for its beauty lies in line & fabric. This wrap of dull velvet is combined with tinted Ermine. The shoulder cape is beautifully shaped.”

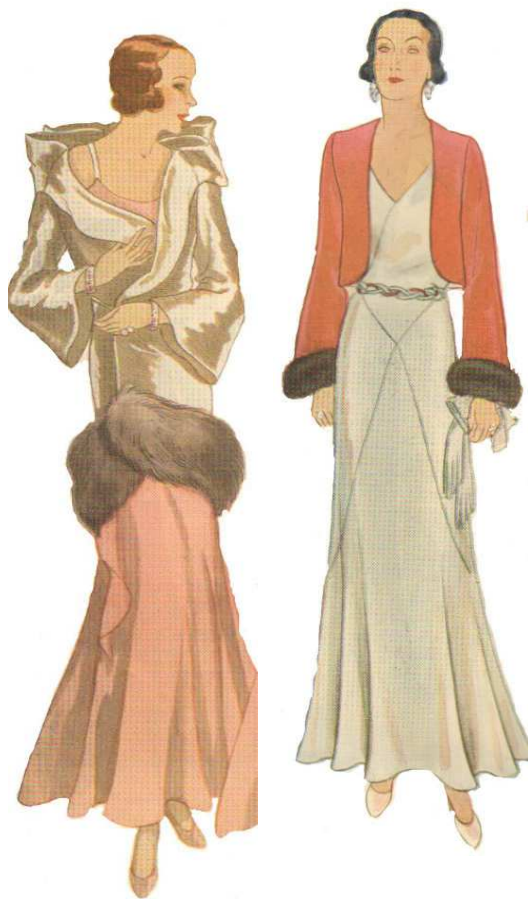
Vogue Couturier Pattern #122, Price \$2.00.

This was a very expensive pattern for the time.



← *Butterick Monthly* department store handout, December 1931.

“This short velvet wrap is very important fashion this season. Notice the new corded collar and the new sleeve.” Pattern # 4156



← *Butterick Quarterly Magazine*, Winter 1931. Both of these patterns are based on Paris designs.

Pattern #4076 red with black fur.

Pattern #3748 for beige hip length coat with fur.



↕ Capes found for sale at Internet vintage clothing stores.

Very few of these “wraps” have survived. Consider visiting TheFrock.com. They often display these wraps for sale at exorbitant prices. Other times they can be found on eBay. If you are just looking for a wrap for your sleeveless dress for club events or banquets, consider checking Kohl's or Fred Meyer (Kroger stores). They both had short velvet and metallic little jackets this past holiday season. Since this is past, visit donation or consignment stores. For a summer dress consider making a shear cape to complement your dress. MAFCA Pattern McCall 5990 could be made as an evening coat.

Four years of Wraps have been shown in this article to give you a brief education to know what to look for to complete your “coordinated apparel” category for judging or just to enjoy wearing.

