

HARTNELL

The Hartnell Collection consisting of nearly One Hundred models is bigger on this occasion as Mr. Hartnell has had more time than usual to evolve this lengthy Collection, ranging from a simple suit to the expected full-length, carpet sweeping dress for the grand occasion.

The increasingly popular ballet length dress is shown here.

The short skirted evening dress is, of course, a perfected medium dress for a perfectly medium occasion.

However, with the anticipated return of Her Majesty to England in May - the height of the social season - the formal full-length dress must become a necessity in the wardrobe of those ladies who hope for privileged reception at grand occasions.

All the suits, both woollen and silk, have moulded shoulders with pencil slim skirt. The bust is high and pronounced, the waist is nipped in and high, giving the long legged look. And from suits and afternoon dresses the belts have been discarded and thrown in the corner.

A large selection of afternoon dresses, avoiding the extremities of narrowness or abundance, are usually draped at the left hip, appearing in neutral coloured taffetas, plain and burgeoning with floral patterns. These are worn with small hats with much movement in their tiny brims and worn at a forward perch.

The range of printed fabrics seems to have been inspired by Mr. Hartnell's private collection of rare china. FINE CHINA mingling the colour of Willow pattern and Delft... CLUSTER - a dressy cotton Ascot frock, soft mauve roses on navy blue, as one finds in Worcester and Coalport.

The flower-like quality of Dresden and Meissen is left to the Hartnell evening dresses.

Wedgewood plaque has produced the dress OLYMPIA, with a raised white porcelain embroidery on matt blue background.

Three little black afternoon dresses are beltless, with moulded hipline as ARMADILLO of black morocain... TOM TUCKER - famous Hartnell tucking in black wool... and MRS. BLACK of black crepe.

Vivid reds are CARMINE - a lipstick and black print. FLAMENCO an azelia orange taffeta, and BAMBOO an orange and black Ascot dress. A white satin evening dress has a robin's bosom of cherry red, worn beneath the only evening coat in the Collection BELIE DE NUIT - black Spanish lace encrusted with jet.

Another white satin evening dress has the fantail of the white peacock, bejewelled with sapphire stones, like the eyes of a peacock.

APHRODITE, rising from the sea, is dripping with mother-of-pearl on sea green lace.

Clusters of blue-mauve hydrangea glimmer in fabulous embroidery on the orchid satin background of HORTENSIA...

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PINK FOR IT

Check: Capt. Mitchell

DALMATIA

This dress is called Dalmatia, as you can guess, because of the plum pudding spots of the Dalmatian dog. The material is a thick white ribbed ottoman, printed with black and grey spots.

Black taffeta swathing round the waist starts from high up under the right arm and finishes in a large bow on the left hip.

This dress would certainly cheer up a dull day at the Races. The hat of black and white straw is shaped rather like an artist's palette - with two openings on the crown - and is bordered with black velvet.

INFANTA

A full skirted evening dress of white satin. The skirt is bordered with two broad bands of black Spanish lace. The bodice is also veiled with black lace and trimmed with an enormous poppy of lemon and yellow velvet, each petal bordered with black lace.

APERITIF

A perfect black frock for cocktail hour which is in very light black paper taffeta.

The shawl or portrait collar is embroidered with bands of jet embroidery that continue down the back of the bodice. The line of the décolletage is interesting and the skirt is a mixture of pleating - sunray pleating and large box pleating - down each of the box pleats cascades a panel of glittering jet embroidery.

The little theatre hat is of black velvet with diamond bow on left side.

KIKI

A crisp Summer suit, the very breath of Springtime which we hope for soon. The material is of a small design of black and white printed crepe de chine.

It has tiny jet buttons and tiny black belt, tight fitting on top of the stiffened basque of the jacket.

The sunray pleated skirt sticks out with surprising fullness.

We don't quite know how it is done, but Mr. Hartnell says it is a special process of starching.

For Summertime a surprising touch is the small collar of black velvet enlivened with an enormous bright crimson velvet rose.

This suit is set off by another close fitting hat of white silk, plaited and stitched on by hand to give the appearance of straw.

BELLE DE NUIT

The beauty of the night is here superbly expressed in this beautiful evening dress and evening coat, for a glamorous night.

5. Hartnell is renowned for his glittering dresses and here is both a dress and full length evening coat with glitter under the crystal chandeliers in Mr. Hartnell's salon. The long coat is of thick black lace encrusted with spangles and black jet. Underneath is a shimmering dress, glittering, of silver lace, the same as the coat embellished with sequins and diamonds.

OISEAU DE FEU

6. Here is another glamorous evening dress, but this time ballet length.

The foundation is of silver grey taffeta, veiled with lace, run with gold and copper metal threads.

Hartnell, ever anxious to beautify the already beautiful, has further embellished it with embroideries of orange, flame, scarlet and gold.

The mannequin wears orange satin slippers and the dress is called Firebird.

FIRST AFFAIR

7. Here is Lana, famous beautiful blonde mannequin of Hartnell's showing us her "First Affair" - the name of this beautiful dress.

It is a picture frock, typical of a romantic moment, composed of white grosgrain - a thick white taffeta. On the skirt are enormous lover's knots, embroidered in blue taffeta ribbons. It sparkles with blue stars and forget-me-nots, expressed in beautiful embroidery of turquoise and aquamarines. The strapless bodice is just one band of blue tied in a lover's knot across the heart.

CHERIE

8. This slim fitting evening gown is called "Cherie". It is of white guipure lace over taffeta and has embroidery of cherry red sequins and paillettes. With this gown is worn a stole of white lace and cherry red satin.