Fashion trends can often provide insights into past cultures. In this issue, historians explore topics ranging from the influence ballooning had on eighteenth-century fashions to the struggle over whether Muslim women in the USSR should, or should not, wear the veil.

We also take you behind the scenes to discover how curators put together exhibits on historical clothing and we explore endangered traditions such as Tuvan embroidery. We'll even take you into the laundry room to show you how people cleaned their dirty clothes in the past.

Along with fifteen original articles on unique aspects of fashion history, you'll find pages of fashion illustrations and primary source documents, all of which give you an understanding of how and why fashionistas from the past embraced fashions which seem odd to us today.

So, loosen your corsets and kick off your high heels as we take you on a tour of the world of high fashion.
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Getting Dressed
We take you behind the scenes at a historical museum as curators and conservators dress mannequins and prepare for an exhibit on Downton Abbey style clothes.

Doing Your Hair
Get out your brushes and combs! We'll show you the bouffants, chignons and pompadours of the era.

Fashioning the New Woman
We take you in through the front door for a peak at A new exhibit that explores how and why women's fashions changed during the Downton Abbey era.

Putting on More Clothes
“The finest achievement of the new woman has been personal liberty.” Discover the clothes that defined an era.
Deutsch and Company Catalogue: 1891

Go shopping on Fifth Avenue in New York City where you’ll find everything you need to become a New Woman.

Simpson’s Catalogue: Fall and Winter 1918-1919

The motto of this Canadian department store was “You’ll enjoy shopping at Simpson’s.” Check out their catalogue from 1918-1919 to discover the fashions you need to be a New Woman.

Arsenic Eaters

“Every one sees and admires the reality of her growing beauty.” John Parascandola explores how arsenic was used in many ways, including as a cosmetic.

A Crafty Woman

Central Asia is home to the ancient, but endangered, language and culture of Tuva. Join UHP as we interview Raisa Tas-Ool, an expert who helps preserve the traditional skills of Tuvan textile work.
Tracing the Thread
Watch a Tuvan embroidery take shape.

How Much is that Dress Worth?
Get our your wallet as we join American dollar princesses shopping for their trousseau in Paris.

A Shopping List and More
Explore primary documents and illustrations about Worth dresses.

Famous American Belles of the Nineteenth Century
"She is completely uncultivated... But she is wonderfully pretty." Henry James knew it best: American women from the Caton sisters on to Jennie Jerome have always fascinated European aristocrats as well as American businessmen and politicians.
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#### Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill

She was Winston Churchill’s mother but before that she was one of the many dollar princesses who married into the European aristocracy. Regarded as one of the great beauties of her age, she brought an American sense of style to Britain.

#### High-Flying Fashion

Michael Lynn throws open the closet doors to explore how a growing fascination with ballooning influenced American and European fashions during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

#### Take Flight

Explore balloon imagery from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

#### The Balloon Travels of Robert Merry and His Young Friends

Climb into your wicker basket and discover how children learned about ballooning.
Lords of Fashion
Click your heels and we’ll take you to a place where even the colors of your heels reflected your social status.

Clothes At Court
Discover a range of court dresses and styles.

Dress and Insignia Worn at His Majesty’s Court
Wondering what you should wear the next time the Queen invites you to dinner? This book from 1921 lays it all out, explaining what you, your spouse, and your children should wear.

What’s all the Hoopla?
What lengths did nineteenth-century fashionistas go to when trying to keep up with the latest fashions? Discover the ins and outs of the crinoline with UHP staff.
Wide-Angle Lens

We take out our wide-angle lens to show you the evolution of the crinoline using illustrations from American, British, and French fashion magazines.

Before the Whiteout

Vera Wang and other modern designers shock fashionistas when they promote wedding dresses in colors other than white. But there is nothing new in the idea of a red, blue, or even green wedding gown.

Bridal Party

We take you on a tour of bridal fashions spanning the centuries and different cultures to illustrate how the white wedding gown came to dominate both western and non-western weddings.

Down with the Veil!

During the 1920s and 1930s, the USSR embarked on a campaign to liberate Uzbek and other Central Asian Muslim women from wearing the veil but women responded to the campaign in ways that surprised and confounded government officials. Douglas Northrop sheds light on this often overlooked history.
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Teachers Protest
Read the petition Uzbek teachers wrote regarding the wearing of the veil.

Dawn Over Samarkand
“Uzbek and Tadjik women were never heard.” Follow up on Douglas Northrop's article by exploring Central Asia and the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution in this travelogue from the 1930s.

The Clothes Make The Man
When Pope Celestine I rebuked some of his priests for wearing "modern" clothing, most clergy responded by confining themselves to wearing the secular costume of late antiquity. Discover the reasons behind the emergence of papal vestments.

Infallible Taste
Step into the pope’s closet. Explore his vestments as well as the ways in which his contemporaries viewed his clothes.
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Not for Old Fogies
Susan Ferentinos explores the emergence of a new magazine which highlighted a new fashion icon: the flapper.

Wild Woman:
The Romance of a Flapper
Described as a “sprightly romance of a budding flapper,” this short romance explores the wild ways of a young flapper.

That’s the Way They Liked It
Put your dance shoes on and discover the freedom and fantasy of disco fashion with Diana Mankowski.

Dance Fever
Listen to the music that will set your platform shoes tapping.
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Dirty Laundry
Over time, loads of it have accumulated. Join historian of technology Orville Butler as he explores how people did their laundry between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.

Another Load of Laundry
Rebecca Pulju comes clean about its history. Discover how French women were finally liberated from this unpleasant chore during the twentieth century.

Second Suds Sayings
Say, where did those lost shirts go? In 1919, the National Laundry Association published a collection of stories, poems, and sayings exploring the joys of doing laundry and the contretemps that ensued when clothes went missing.

Behind the Scenes of the Ultimate History Project
Learn about how the Ultimate History Project works and meet the Board of Directors and Staff of the Ultimate History Project!