



THE HISTORY OF BRIDAL GOWNS

Fall 2019 TELOS honors
project



By Tamar Adler



Mesopotamia – 3500 BC

- Wasted dress, longer skirts, often with fringe at the bottom.
- A lot of limitations.
- Mostly the artifacts show royalty.



Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. "Early Dynastic Sculpture, 2900–2350 B.C." In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–. http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/edys/hd_edys.htm (October 2004)



Egypt – 3200 BC

- Sheath gown - linen
- Wigs
- Beaded collar
- Bead net dress over sheath gown.



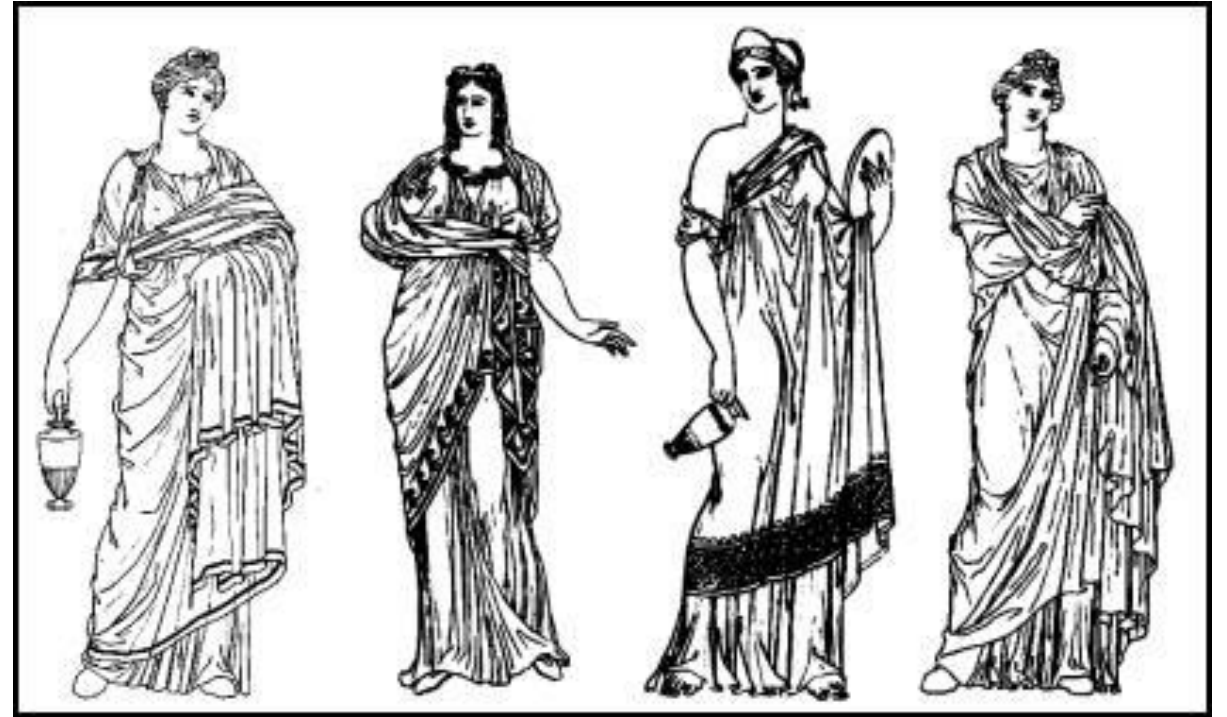
Tour Egypt. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/bride.htm>





Greece – 1200 BC

- Light weight
- Draped to the floor to show respect for the Greek Gods



Thomas, P. (2018, September 5). Ancient Greek Costume History: Pictures showing how to recreate a typical female dress. Retrieved from https://www.fashion-era.com/ancient_costume/ancient-greek-fashion-hair.htm



Rome – 3rd Century BC

Bridal gown was called
"Tunica Recta" = straight
tunic.

Knot of Hercules:
– symbolized virginity
- "Tying the knot"



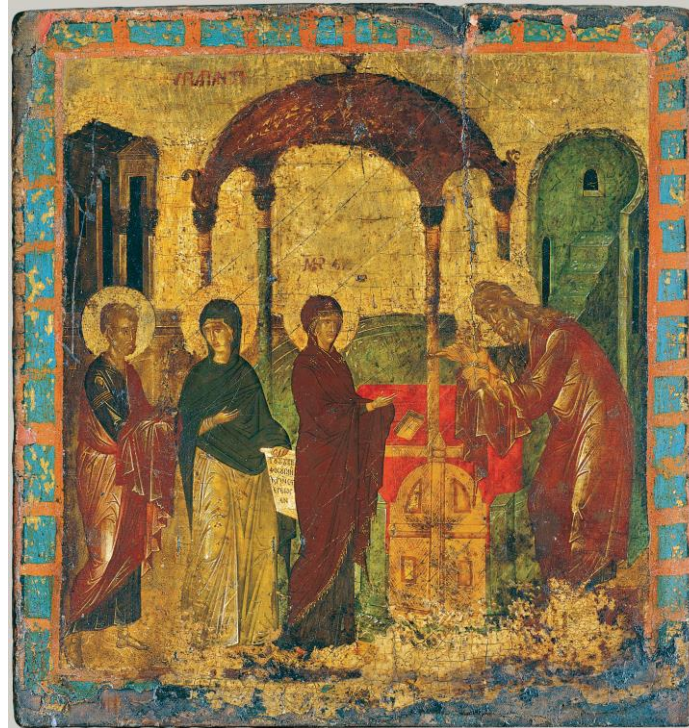
Roman in sleeved tunic and female in *tunica recta*.

Byzantine Empire

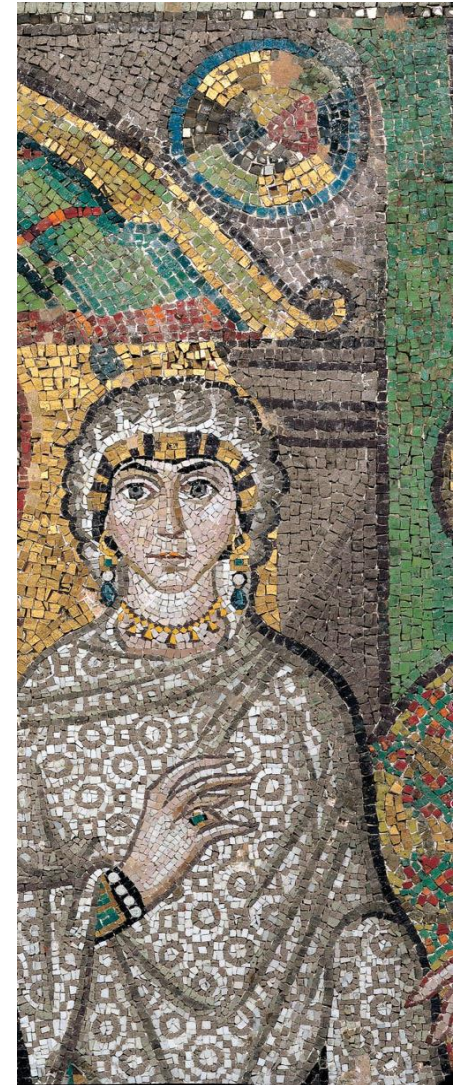
– 330 – 1453 CE



- Didn't show the shape of the body.
- Very conservative.
- Heavily jeweled and lace depending on status



Retrieved from
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/byza/hd_byza.htm.





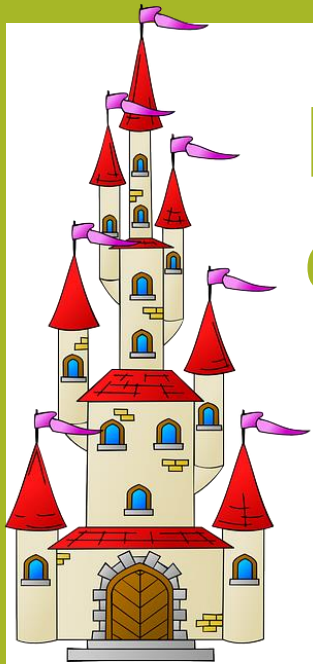
Medieval Period -5th- 15th Century

Blue!

- Symbolized purity
- amount of silk/velvet/jewels showed wealth



Dress [Original work found in Kerry Taylor, Bermondsey, London, SE1 4PR]. Retrieved September 17 2019, from <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/museum/kerry-taylor/dress-34646> (Original work created in 1905-1910)



Renaissance – end of the 15th century

The hoop skirt!

- Legs could receive air
- less of a tripping hazard
- brides could use their arms



Unknown, American. *Girl's Hoop Skirt* [Original work found in Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA]. Retrieved September 17 2019, from <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/museum/philadelphia-museum-of-art/girls-hoop-skirt> (Original work created in c. 1860s)



Woman's Dress (Robe à la française) with Matching Stomacher and Petticoat [Original work found in Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA]. Retrieved September 17 2019, from <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/museum/philadelphia-museum-of-art/womans-dress-robe-a-la-francaise-with-matching-stomacher-and-petticoat> (Original work created in c. 1755-60)



17th Century

- Big sleeves
- Low necks
- shown and embellished
petticoat



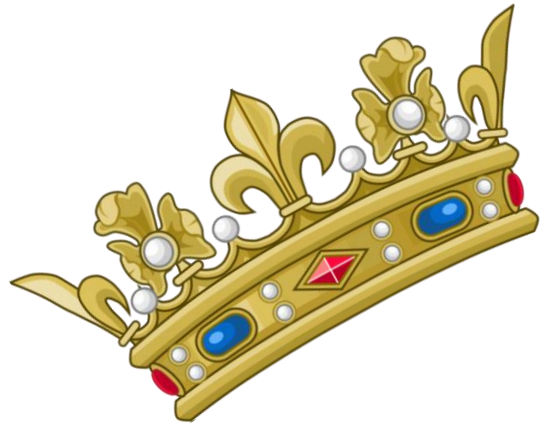


Mid 1700's

Same as the 17th century –
but color of gown changed.
Silver and white for the
wealthier brides.



Ehrmann, E. (2014). *The wedding dress 300 years of bridal fashion*. London: V & A Publishing.



1800s - Royalty



The white gown!

Established by
Queen Victoria.
Married Prince
Albert on
February 10,
1840.





1850-1900

- Jacket like bodice = 2 pieces
- Ruffles
- Train (velvet)
- Heavy beading and pearls.



THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH IN HER BRIDAL COSTUME FEB: 1853

Illustrated London News.



Early 1900s

1914 – first World War

- V neck
- short sleeves
- raised waistline

1920

- hemlines shortened
- We can see shoes!
- flat chested dresses

1939 – second World War

- shortage of fabrics
- Use of curtains
- wearing suits



Ehrmann, E. (2014). *The wedding dress 300 years of bridal fashion*. London: V & A Publishing.



Late 1900s

- Revival after the wars
- Royal inspired fashion
- High quality satin
- very long train
- big skirt with lots of detail
- showing the collar bone
- Royals still inspire fashion
- Meghan's dress
- Kate's dress

Princess Elizabeth 1947



Princess Diana 1981



Ehrmann, E. (2014). *The wedding dress 300 years of bridal fashion*. London: V & A Publishing.

1990s contemporary bride

- Woman are leading a different life.
- Woman have jobs and earning money.
- Woman get married later.
- Vera Wang- first designer to realize this.



FOUR32C.COM. (n.d.). bridal/Spring 2020. Retrieved from [https://www.verawang.com/bridal-collection/fall-2016/?country=United States&id=23601](https://www.verawang.com/bridal-collection/fall-2016/?country=United%20States&id=23601)



1990s – environmentally friendly bride

- Sustainable fabrics made
- Worn more than one evening

This dress, designed by Veronica Schwandt:

- Undyed and pesticide free hemp and silk.
- Made to fit woman of many different shapes and sizes.



Ehrmann, E. (2014). *The wedding dress 300 years of bridal fashion*. London: V & A Publishing.

2000 – present



Big shift.

- Woman have jobs and earnings.
- brides today spend lots of money on their gowns.
- sense of competitiveness.

- Pinina Tornai
- Oscar de la Renta
- Monique Lhuillier
- Lazaro
- Carolina Herrera



Pinina Tornai. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.pninatornai.com/>

Sources:

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