

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Wedding gown

House of Worth, France

ca. 1878

Silk faille; silk embroidery; glass pearls; lace

#67.446

Charles Frederick Worth (1825-1895) is considered the founder of *haute couture*. This early Worth creation illustrates his patronage by wealthy Americans, who had to travel to Paris to purchase their custom made dresses. Sarah Noyes Tibbets wore this dress when she married John Wool Griswold on January 15, 1878.



Petticoat

ca. 1878

Cotton

#67.446c

This petticoat was probably coordinated to go with the elaborate wedding gown by Charles Frederick Worth, made for Sarah Noyes Tibbett. The fineness of the cotton petticoat matches that of the gown.



Pantaloons or drawers

United States

1870s

Plain weave light brown mixed fiber (silk, cotton, and/or wool)

#57.920

Hoop skirt

United States

Ca. 1870

Steel springs; cotton twill tape

No acc. #

Hoop skirts could on occasion flip up, due to tripping or high wind. Pantaloons, or drawers, proved helpful in covering the legs if such a faux pas occurred.



Corset

R & G Corset Co.

1875-1900

White twill-weave cotton, lace, steel

#67.591

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Dress

1925-1930

Floral print silk chiffon with pink silk faille underdress.

#59.379

Simpler, sheerer dresses in fashion in the 1920s often borrowed elements from undergarments. This example has a pink slip that is integral to the sheer overdress, including a matching printed hem that extends below the outer hemline. The edge of the wide collar is finished in a manner similar to fine lingerie.



Teddy

ca. 1920

silk and lace

#67.531

Sometimes called a "teddy bear" or "onesie," this garment fit under lightweight dresses.



Stockings

United States or France

ca. 1900

Light green knitted silk

#59.591b

Garters

United States

ca. 1920

Black velvet and silk with tear-drop shaped rhinestone clips.

#27.921 a+ b



Cami-knickers

1920s

cotton; lace; silk embroidery; pink silk ribbon.

#59.288

Undergarments were greatly simplified by the 1920s. While a modified corset was required to achieve the fashionable 1920s shape, one-piece cami-knickers served as both a camisole or corset cover, as well as a petticoat.

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Corset

United States

1810-1830

White plain weave cotton; cording; bone eyelets

#67.592

Corsets like this example contained a center front channel to accommodate a busk (83.2).



Busk

Probably United States

Early 19th century

Carved baleen

#83.2

Busks, which could be made from either wood or baleen (sometimes called whalebone) were designed to insert into a channel located on the center front of a woman's corset, such as the one nearby (67.592). Removable, they provided a reminder to women about proper posture, prohibiting slouching. Carving a busk, perhaps as a token by a loved one, added a personal touch to this intimate accessory.



Petticoat

United States

1830s

Quilted brown cotton; roller-printed cotton lining

#67.542

Quilted petticoats provided extra warmth while their added bulk also served to support fashionably wide mid 19th-century dress skirts.

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Nursing corset

R & G Corset Company

1915-1920

Cotton sateen and steel boning

#27.654

Although not as restrictive as earlier corsets, this example gave the wearer a straighter, columnar shape. The flap openings at the breasts recognize practical needs of new mothers.



La Patricia Custom Corsets Box

“La Patricia” corsets were boned throughout with genuine whalebone. Offices were located in Boston and New York.

R&G Corset Box

The R & G Corset Company had offices in both New York City and Chicago.



Corset cover shown with corset

“L.L. Bowman”

United States

1870s

White plain weave cotton; red cotton embroidery; mother-of-pearl buttons.

#59.386

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Corset cover

United States

ca. 1915

White plain weave cotton; lace; white cotton embroidery; mother-of-pearl buttons

#59.485

Petticoat

United States

ca. 1910

White plain weave cotton (muslin); white cotton embroidery with faggoting; mother-of-pearl buttons

No acc. #?



Stockings

Burson Knitting Company ((1892-1959)

Rockford, Illinois, United States

ca. 1900

Black and white knitted cotton

#27.965

Petticoat

“Heloise E. Hull”

United States

ca. 1905

White plain weave cotton; lace

#27.640



Corset cover with bust improver

Harriman

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, United States

ca. 1905

Cotton; whalebone; metal hook & eye, elastic.

#27.643

Bust improvers helped where nature lacked. They were especially important at the turn of the 20th century, when fuller bosoms, sometimes known as a pouter pigeon front, were in fashion.

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Dressing gown

ca. 1870

Printed twill weave wool; green piping

#67.616

One of the earliest garments on view in this exhibition, it is decorated with the familiar paisley motif seen on Kashmir shawls. Despite its informal nature, this wrapper was constructed with fashionable dress shapes in mind.



Wrapper or dressing gown

United States

ca. 1900

Pink, plain weave silk (taffeta); lace

#67.913



Wrapper or dressing gown

China for the export market

1875-1900

Black satin weave silk with pink/ red silk embroidery

#67.333

By the late 19th century, trade with China brought exquisitely embroidered silk garments such as this wrapper or dressing gown. A loose garment worn by women in an informal, at-home setting. The vibrant pink flowers, perhaps achieved through synthetic dyes, are set off to great advantage by the shiny black ground.



Dressing gown

United States

ca. 1910

Blue sheer cotton flannel; lace; silk ribbon

#59.289.1

Informal attire was often made to coordinate, creating an ensemble seen by household members and intimates that mimicked more public, out-of-doors versions.

Cap

United States

ca. 1910

Blue sheer cotton flannel; lace; silk ribbon

#59.289.2

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Petticoat
United States
ca. 1900
Black silk taffeta
#67.633



Petticoat
United States
1880s
White plain weave cotton; lace; twill tape ties
#59.378



Petticoat
United States
1900-1910
White plain weave cotton
#67.930



Petticoat
United States
ca. 1910
White plain weave cotton; lace crochet
#67.458

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Petticoat

United States

ca. 1860

Brown plain weave cotton

#67.534

Petticoats could sometimes be constructed like hoop skirts, with adapted built-in channels to mimic steel springs.



Petticoat

United States

ca. 1880

Black silk taffeta, pleated ruffle train

#59.442

Shown with #59.406 Undershirt



Undershirt or Corset cover

ca. 1880

White cotton lace

#59.406

This undershirt or corset cover was fitted, in order to possibly accommodate a bustle.

Shown with #59.442 Petticoat

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Stockings

Peck & Peck, New York City, NY, United States

Late 19th or early 20th Century

White knitted cotton

No acc. #



Drawers or Pantaloons

1900

White cotton and lace

#59.957

Closed pantaloons with hand-crocheted lace and tucking on legs.



Pantaloons

1873

White linen

#59.155

These pantaloons were worn during a wedding in 1873. "MBS" is cross-stitched in pink on waistband. Side openings and buttons in back allow wearer to "drop seat" without taking off pantaloons.



Stockings

United States

Early 20th Century (1910-1930)

Gray and black knitted cotton-silk blend

#27.966



Stockings

United States or France

Late 19th century (1895)

Lavender and white knitted cotton

#59.737.2

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Undershirt

United States

ca.1920

Ecru venetian silk tricot

#59.404



Step-in Panties

United States

1920-1930

Beige/ pink silk and lace

#27.694



Camisole or Corset cover

Pittsfield, MA, United States

1912

Cream silk and crochet

#59.905

Part of a trousseau set for a wedding in Pittsfield, MA in 1912.



Drawers

1900

White light cotton and lace

#59.436

Open drawers, allow wearer to “drop seat” without taking off drawers.

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Stockings case

United States or France

1920s

Off-white damask-weave silk; silk ribbon ties; brown tissue paper

No acc. #



Stockings

United States or France

Worn by Mrs. Charles Dryer

Late 19th century

White knitted cotton

#2010.02.186



Stockings

Phoenix Vitabloom

United States

ca. 1930

“Nude” knitted silk

#59.108



Slip

1910-1915

Black silk

#67.380

A sheer chiffon dress was probably worn over this floor length undergarment.



Slip

United States or France

ca. 1930

Pink rayon

#27.698

CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Robe

United States (possibly Chinese fabric)

1910-1925

Floral-printed silk on blue ground

#59.113

The handmade garment's printed design and its unfitted shape lent its wearer an air of Asian-inspired exoticism, prevalent in early 20th-century fashion.



Lounging pajamas

ca. 1935

Off-white and dark red silk or rayon crepe

#27.904

In the 1920s and 1930s, fashion-forward women wore new streamlined clothing with a minimal amount of shaped undergarments. A good example was lounging pajamas, used for at-home entertaining, not for sleeping. The fact that they were bifurcated, made with trousers rather than a skirt, made them rather avant-garde.



Nightgown

United States

1900 (Turn of Century)

White cotton with pink silk ribbon

#27.925

“HMP” stitched on front of nightgown.



Woman's Union Suit

Carter's (United States)

Late 19th Century

Off-white knitted cotton; mother-of-pearl buttons

#27.944

Drawers or underwear

Van Raalte (United States)

ca. 1930

Pink knitted nylon; dark pink knitted nylon applique

#27.994

Van Raalte, with Du Pont, pioneered the use of nylon to replace silk.



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Robe

United States or France
Early 20th century
Blue figured silk; blue silk satin
#59.530a

Displayed with nightshirt (#67.718)



Union suit leggings

Mauchauffee's French Balbriggan
France
Size 44
Early 20th century
Off-white knitted cotton; cotton sateen; mother-of-pearl buttons;
twill tape ties
#59.729



Underwear or drawers

BVD
United States
Early 20th century
White plain weave cotton
No acc. #



Men's Stockings

Black sheer
No acc.#

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Men's display case

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Underwear

United States

1906

White cotton batiste with green silk ribbons

#27.767.36

Part of trousseau set worn by Josephine Boardman Crane.

Shown with Combing sack (#27.776) and Cap (#59.371).



Combing sack or bed jacket

United States

Early 20th century

White cotton; crochet; lace; ribbon

#27.776

Part of trousseau set worn by Josephine Boardman Crane.

Shown with Underwear (#27.767.36) and Cap (#59.371)



Combing sack or bed jacket

United States

ca. 1900

Pink silk crepe; lace; pink silk ribbon

#1959.976

Loose, unstructured morning jackets like this could be worn at a woman's toilette while preparing her hair – or having it done for her.



Cap

United States

1906

Machine-made lace, gathered onto sheer netting; has wire-shaper inside; and two silk satin rosettes.

#59.371

Worn as a morning cap by Josephine Boardman Crane.

Shown with Combing Sacks (#27.776, 1959.976) and Underwear (#27.767.36).

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Women's display case



Handkerchief Bag

No acc.#

Handkerchief

Sheer silk square with embroidered edges

#59.198.1



Handkerchief

Ecru, brown, beige silk and cotton with embroidered edges

#59.198



Handkerchief

1892

White linen and honiton lace

#59.196

Handkerchief was carried at a wedding on April 12, 1892 in Pittsfield, MA.



Handkerchief

Pink, red, black chiffon with picot edging

#59.167

Card case

Asia

1906

Tan, carved wood

#59.106

Ornately carved in an Asian motif; cards read
"Miss. Fanny G. Clarke"



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Needlework Box

Velvet, leather, gilt, paper, multicolor prints
#2001.045.01-07

Inside: Black leather folding case, ivory-handled tools, ivory-handled penknife, thimble, pin cushion.



Chatelaine

Copper gilt, possibly English
No acc.#

A chatelaine is a decorative belt hook worn at the waist with a series of chains suspended from it. Each chain is mounted with a useful household appendage.
Inside: Sewing kit and a thimble.



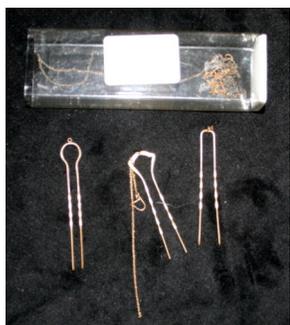
Comb

Tortoise shell
#x93.176



Hair-setting Combs

1930s
No acc.#



Hairpins and Chains

Gold-plated metal and steel
#59.940

Fine chains were attached to pins (which were anchored in hair) and then attached to spectacles or pince-nez.

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“Kids” or Hair Curlers

Tan and brown leather covered wires with black ties

No acc.#

Used for curling hair overnight while sleeping.



Glove stretcher

Wooden

#68.297

Big wooden spring loaded clip for stretching gloves.



Manicure Set

Top left: #80.331 Nail Tool

Bottom left: #80.332 Cuticle Tool

Buttonhook

On right: #80.330



Vanity Set (Hairbrushes + Jar)

Cream-colored bone or ivory, spoon-shaped brushes

#93.090.1-3

Monogramed hair brush; Monogramed cylindrical jar with screw lid; and plain brush with short bristles.

(Left to Right)

Hair Pin

Tortoise shell celluloid

Hair Pin

No acc.#

Hair Pin

Clear, black celluloid ; Horse-shaped decorative comb with red gems

#93.085

Hair Pin

No acc.#



CLOSE TO THE SKIN: A REVEALING LOOK AT LINGERIE



Cap

Late 19th Century

Black, white, and lavender; netting, ribbon, and silk

#67.414



Cap

United States

ca. 1920

Cream and light blue crocheted cotton

#67.410

Soft caps were worn indoors, either for sleeping or at-home morning wear. The shape of this cap echoes fashionable cloche hats worn outdoors.



Cap

United States

Mid-19th century

White plain weave linen embellished with drawn work

#59.401

Extensions known as lappets that covered the wearer's ears provided a modest, decorative touch to indoor day caps like this example.



Cap

E.A. Morrison + Sons, 893 Broadway, New York, United States

1880s

Ecru and lavender netting, lace, and ribbon

#67.415



Boudoir cap

1920s

Satin, crocheted cotton

#59.398

Designed to be worn in the privacy of the bedroom, such caps were used to protect bobbed hairstyles while sleeping, or first thing in the morning.



Indoor Cap

White lawn, embroidery with net and lace ruffle

#59.371

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Slippers

1912

Turquoise cotton and leather with pink bows

#59.731.1

Part of trousseau set for a wedding in Pittsfield, MA. In 1912.



“Mules” or bedroom slippers

1880-1890

Blue velvet and leather with decorations

#59.867



“Mules” or bedroom slippers

1927

Black silk satin

#59.132

Labeled “Daniel Green”.



“Mules” or bedroom slippers

Saks Fifth Avenue

New York or Chicago (United States)

#2004.006.M83



Slippers

1920s

#59.22

Knitted by Mrs. Kellogg, fastened to soles made by the Silverite Company of Boston.