

The London Chronicle

The HISTORY of the FASHIONS (1762)

The London Chronicle or, Universal Evening Post

Vol. XI No. 84, February. 1762, 16-18, p. 167

The London Chronicle: or, Universal Evening post erschien von 1757 bis Juny, 1765, dann unter dem Titel *The London Chronicle* von July 2, 1765 bis April 23, 1823 in 113 Ausgaben und ging anschließend in *London Packet* über.

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The HISTORY of the FASHIONS.

THE FRENCH NIGHT CAP.

OUR fine women have, by covering their cheeks with this fashion, put their faces into eclipse. Each lady, when dressed in this mode can only peep under the lace border. Perhaps they are intended, like blinds to a horse's head harness, to teach Ladies to look forward. — A good hint, however.

It has been whispered, indeed, that this mode is an introduction to Popery; it is to bring in the veil by and by, a sort of trial, to see how our English Toasts will take it.

Some ill-natured persons, indeed, go so far as to say, that every woman who wears these visage-covers, has done something she should be a little ashamed of, and therefore don't care to shew much of her face.

The RANELACH MOB; or the HOOD from Low Life.

This is a piece of Gauze, Minionett, Catgutt, or Leicester Webb, &c. &c. which is clouted about the head, then crossed under the chin, and brought back to fasten behind, the two ends hanging down like a pair of pigeons tails.

This fashion was copied from the silk handkerchiefs, which market women tie over their ears, roll about their throats, and then pin up to the nape of their necks.

They were first wore in the Inner-Square of Covent-garden market, among the green stalls; it was, from thence introduced into the Outward Square or Piazzas, among the stalls there.

Mrs. Jane Douglass' (of procuring memory) who was a very great market woman, in her way, was the first who made a Scotch lawn, double neck handkerchief, into the Mob above-mentioned.

Her female boarders would do as the mistress did to be sure, and after a little cut and contrivance, away they whisked in them to Ranelagh.

The ladies of fashion there, who sometimes dress almost like ladies of the town, immediately took the hint. The fashion flew abroad upon the wings of whim; and as Schioppius observes, instantly spread itself over the face of the land.

The MARY QUEEN of SCOTS CAP.

Edged down the face with French heads, was very becoming to some complexions; but as the cap was made of black gauze, and saved washing, it has too much good housewifry in it, ever to be immense taste.

The FLY CAP.

This is fixed upon the forehead, forming the figure of an over-grown butterfly, resting upon its head, with outstretched wings; 'tis much wore at present, not that it either adds to the colour or outlines of the face; but as these caps are edged with garnets, topazes, or brilliants, they are very sparkling, and a sidebox-appearance is not now altogether the consultation of elegance, but ornament.

Therefore, those ladies who make the most show, are looked upon to be the finest women.

It is become a very interesting dispute, among the Connoisseurs in general, whether the present Turband Roll, which is now wore round the Mecklenburgh caps, was taken from the Ægyptian Fillet, the Persian Tiara, or Wreath round the eldest Faustina's temples?

By way of postscript we may add, that the ladies, as to their shoe-heels, go just as they did, no fixed measure, some as broad as a tea cup's brim, some as narrow as the china circle the cup stands upon.

Bell Hoops; Blon Lares, Pom??? Necklaces as usual. Modestly ????????

