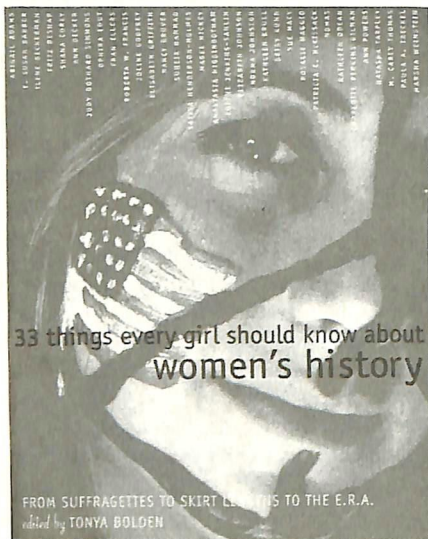


books



33 Things Every Girl Should Know about Women's History: From Suffragettes to Skirt Lengths to the E.R.A.

Edited by Tonya Bolden

The impressive, chronologically organised 33 *Things Every Girl Should Know About Women's History: From Suffragettes to Skirt Lengths to the E.R.A.* begins with Abigail Adams's 1776 letter to her husband, "Remember the Ladies," proceeds to Charlotte Perkins Gilman's groundbreaking "The Yellow Wallpaper" (excerpted) and then to thoughtful reflections on other leading women, such as Patricia McKissack's fictional essay, narrated by Charlotte Woodward.

the reader's sending for a pamphlet published by the US Government on how one can suggest a National Monument. Other chapters in this book include subjects such as magazine publishing, fashion, health issues, sports, short stories, politics and even a helpful book review.

The book uses historic diaries, essays, poetry, photographs, and fiction to bring some of the most famous names, faces, and efforts to life. The great-great-granddaughter of women's rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton provides a thought-provoking essay on the courageous efforts of her ancestor, with a plea to today's women to carry on the cause. Social activist

The book contains 33 chapters each on a different aspect of woman's history. For example, there is a chapter devoted to National Monuments and how few are dedicated to women. It gives the locations of a few and then recommends

Marcia Weinstein provides a pictorial guide to national landmarks that figure prominently in women's history. Writer Anastasia Higginbotham explores historic and modern-day issues surrounding reproductive rights, and Nomas (the oldest profeminist men's organisation in the United States) highlights a few good men who have significantly aided the progression of women's rights.

In addition, the book includes a poetic remembrance of the fiery tragedy that took place in a New York City shirtwaist factory in 1911, a historic timeline covering women's history from the 18th century onwards, and a trio of fictionalised tales depicting the lives of three very different young women during the 19th century. Voices from the past speak out via quotes from Eleanor Roosevelt, letter excerpts from Abigail Adams, and tributes to women's rights advocates ranging from Susan B. Anthony and Amelia Earhart to the WWII "Rosie the Riveter" working women. It's not all politics, seriousness, and sacrifice, however. The book also takes a look at the evolution of women's fashion, the in-

fluence of various women's singing groups on modern-day music, and the gradual infiltration of women into sports.

This book is ideal for anyone interested in learning more about girls and women in the United States from the 18th century to the present. Featuring contributions from a wide variety of women, including well-known nonfiction writers, a children's librarian, historians, and many more, this latest addition to the 33 Things series provides an engaging, inspiring, informative look at the role women have played in shaping American history.

Published by Crown Publishers, a division of Random House, Inc., 1540 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036, USA. 2002. 160 pp. ISBN: 0375811222

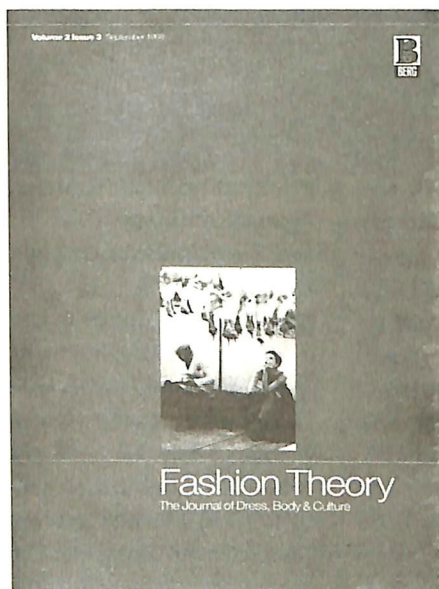
Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body and Culture, Vol. 3, No. 2

Edited by Valerie Steele

The journal seeks to further inform readers on fashion as the cultural construction of the embodied identity, and aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the rigorous analyses of

cultural phenomena ranging from footbinding to fashion advertising.

The issue includes Paul Jobling's case study of abjection in contemporary fashion photography and an essay by renowned fashion scholar Elizabeth Wilson. Linda Boynton Arthur addresses Hawaiian dress and ethnicity, while Gayle Veronica Fishcher looks at 19th



century cross-dressing. In the review columns, Patricia Mears of The Brooklyn Museum reviews Valerie Steele's "Fifty Years of Fashion," and Richard Martin focuses on an exhibition devoted to designer Yeohlee.

Published by Berg Publishers, Inc., 150 Cowley

Road, Oxford, OX41JJ UK. September 1998. 298 pp. ISBN: 1859732403

Re-Orienting Fashion: The Globalization of Asian Dress

by Sandra Niessen; Carla Jones; and Ann Marie Leshkovich

From 'Indo chic' collections on the catwalk to mass-market clothes in retail shops, Asian fashion is everywhere. *Re-Orienting Fashion* explores this phenomenon in a global context and, unlike other books, does not ignore the western/non-western divide. How do western economic, cultural, political, iconic and social forms influence Asian fashion

when (and often because) that fashion is an expression of resistance against western encroachment? How does dress reflect state ideals and gender roles in nations struggling to construct new identities informed by modern, western impulses? What role does gender play and

how does this tie in with commodification by the global economy?

With chapters focusing on East, South, and Southeast Asian designers, retailers, consumers and governments, this timely book moves Asian fashion centre-stage and will be of interest to dress and fashion theorists, anthropologists, sociologists and all those seeking to understand globalisation and its effects.

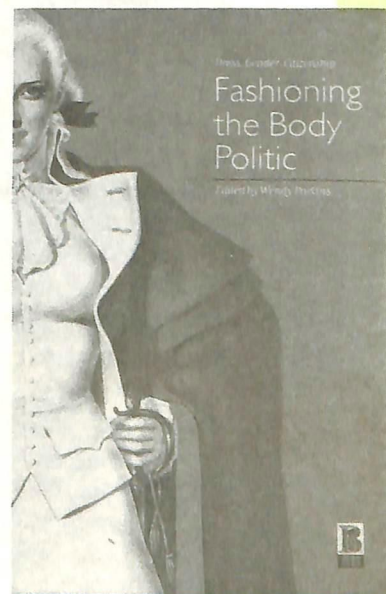
Published by Berg Publishers, Inc., 150 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX41JJ UK. 2002. 224 pp. ISBN: 1859735347

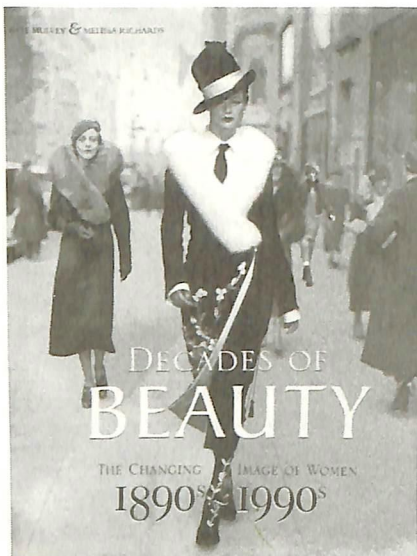
Fashioning the Body Politic: Dress, Gender, Citizenship
Edited by Wendy Parkin

Fashion is often thought of as a matter of personal taste. This book reveals that from the French Revolution to Post-Revolutionary China, fashion played a significant role in political participation and protest. How did "dressing up" in a variety of ways allow suffragette women to perform unconventional forms of political protest? In what ways did the uniforms of scouts and guides function to erect gender, racial

and religious boundaries? Following the ban on traditional clothing in Imperial Russia, how did Russians appropriate European fashions and ethnic costumes to fashion new identities for themselves? Using these and a wealth of other case studies, *Fashioning the Body Politic* offers a fresh perspective of the relationship between men, women and fashion, and shows that the political domain has always been permeated with the cultural practices of dress, display and bodily performance.

Edited by Berg Publishers, 150 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JJ, UK. 2002. 224 pp. ISBN: 1859735878





Decades of Beauty: The Changing Image of Women 1890s to 1990s

By Kate Mulvey and Melissa Richards

A unique look at the history of female beauty in the West and how it has been perceived since the end of the Victorian era, *Decades of Beauty* highlights the major changes in the female image over the years, with a decade-by-decade account of fads, fashions and icons that determined the desired “look” of the time. With reference to the major social and political events that affected the way women were perceived, and the key personalities and innovators of feminine style, *Decades of Beauty* is the ultimate his-

tory of looking good in the 20th century.

In addition, journalists Mulvey and Richards examine the western ideal of female beauty from the 1890s through the 1990s — as portrayed in magazines, films and the

society pages. Numerous photos and accompanying text highlight designers and celebrities; changing fashions in hair, clothing, cosmetics, health and fitness, and desired proportions; and important social and political events of each decade. For examples, Elizabeth Arden brought out a velvet gas mask during World War II, and someone actually saw fit to bring a bra to market that could be inflated by blowing into a straw; Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic, was one of the inspirations for the fashionable girls-in-mens-clothes androgynous look, before she mysteriously disappeared over the Pacific during an around-the-world solo attempt in 1937; Audrey Hepburn inspired

the tied-back hair and short bangs which remained in fashion through the 1950s.

Published by Facts on File Inc., 11 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10001, USA. 1998. 205 pp. ISBN: 0816039208

Beads and Bead Makers: Gender, Material Culture and Meaning

Edited by Joanne B. Eicher and Lilia D. Sciama

Beads have been used since antiquity not only to dress the body but also as measures of value in economic and ritual exchanges. Their popularity never waned, and in recent years, their trade has enjoyed an international revival. Beads have deep and multiple meanings. In many cultures, together with garments, they reflect age, gender and social status, and are a vehicle through which people store, exchange and transmit wealth.

This absorbing book analyses techniques and gendered aspects of the making of beads, as well as the role of beads in trade and body adornment in a wide range of societies, from the ancient Mediterranean to Renaissance Venice and

present-day Southern Africa and West Africa, where they have become a symbol of cultural survival and identity. Anyone interested in material culture, anthropology, art history and gender studies will find that this book provides fascinating insights into attitudes toward the body and dress, as well as systems of social classification.

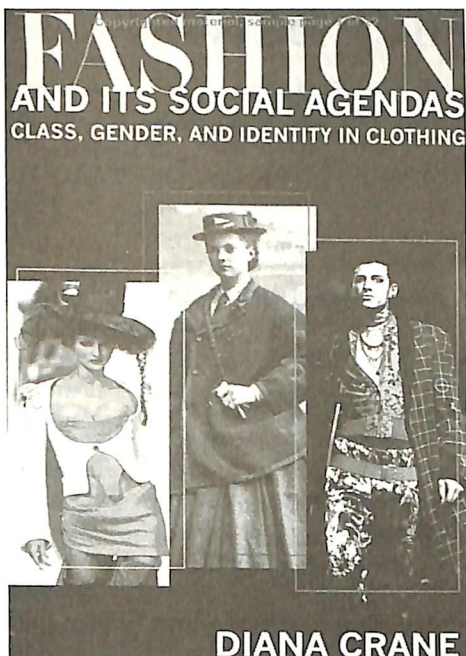
Published by Berg Publishers, Inc., 150 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JJ, UK. 1998. 317 pp. ISBN: 1859739954

Fashion and Its Social Agendas: Class, Gender, and Identity in Clothing

By Diana Crane

It has been said that clothes make the man (or woman), but is that still true today? If so, how has the information clothes convey changed over the years? Using a wide range of historical and contemporary materials, Diana Crane demonstrates how the social significance of clothing has been transformed.

Crane compares 19th century France and the United States where class was the most salient aspect of social identity—signified



in clothing, with late 20th century America, where lifestyle, gender, sexual orientation, age and ethnicity are more meaningful to individuals in constructing their wardrobes. Today, clothes worn at work signify social class, but leisure clothes convey meanings ranging from trite to political. In today's multi-code societies, clothes inhibit as well as facilitate communication between highly fragmented social groups.

Crane extends her comparison by showing how the fashions that 19th century French designers created for Paris' elite but were also

widely adopted outside France. By contrast, today's designers operate in a global marketplace, shaped by television, film and popular music. No longer a reserve of the elite, today's trends come from many social groups and most have short trajectories. To assess the impact of fashion on

women, Crane uses the voices of college- and middle-aged women who took part in focus group discussions that yielded fascinating information about women's perceptions of female identity and sexuality in the fashion industry.

This book stands out as a critical study of gender, fashion, and consumer culture.

Published by University of Chicago Press. 1427 East 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637 USA Fax: (1-773) 702 9756. July 2001. 294 pp. ISBN: 0226117995

Consuming Fashion: Adorning the Transnational Body

Edited by Anne Brydon and Sandra Niessen

Clothing the body is one of the most complicated acts of daily existence. When a nun ponders red shoes, an architect knots his bow tie, a lesbian laces her Doc Marten's, or a nude model disrobes, each is engaging in a process of identity-making that is both intensely personal and deeply social. In an increasingly material world, negotiating dress codes is a nuanced art, informed by shifting patterns of power and authority, play and performance, as well as gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity and race.

This book draws on ethnographic knowledge that connects theory and practice. The contributors reveal links between material culture, social and economic forces, and personal performance—from trade beads to Barbie, from Taiwanese producer to Nike consumer—to explain clothing choices through time and across cul-

tures. Conventional understandings of the self, subject and society appear inadequate for an examination of the interconnections of cultural and transnational economic systems of production and consumption.

This interdisciplinary book is indispensable for anyone interested in the sociology, anthropology and psychology of fashion, cultural studies or the fashion industry.

Published by Berg Publishers, 1st Floor, Angel Court 81 St Clements Street Oxford, OX4 1AW Tel: (44-1865) 245 104 Fax: (44 - 1865) 791 165. 1998. 196 pp. ISBN: 1859739695

