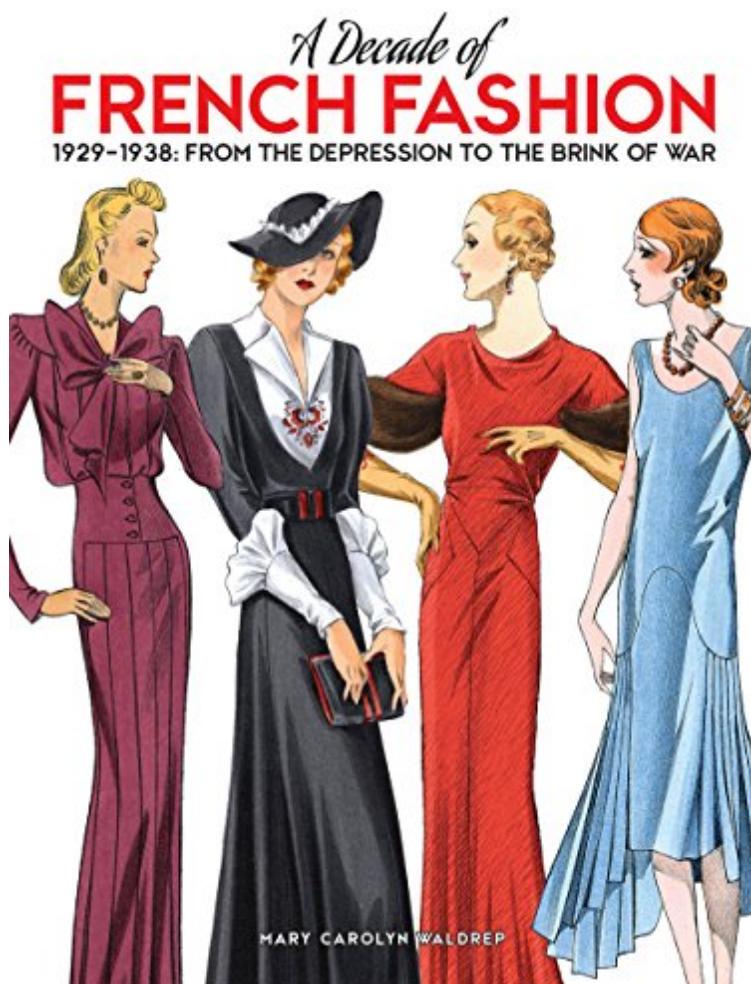


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A Decade of French Fashion, 1929-1938: From the Depression to the Brink of War

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From Dover Publications : A Decade of French Fashion, 1929-1938: From the Depression to the Brink of War
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Decade of French Fashion, 1929-1938: From the Depression to the Brink of War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerLovely book... captures the glamour of the decade.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!By TalviThe 1930s are still a very unexplored decade for fashion; while movies, pop culture, and TV shows brought attention to their era's styles (e.g. Titanic gave us pre WW1/Edwardian, Downton Abbey and Great Gatsby the 1920s, Rockabilly the 1940s/1950s, Mad Men the 1960s, etc.), the 1930s has never had a tentpole to bring a resurgence of interest. As such, this very definitive book provides much needed perspective. It beautifully presents the looks that women wore during the US's Great Depression: long, lean, tailored but easy, wider shoulders and emphasized waistlines. It's the glamour of Hollywood

before Austerity and World War II led to a greater severity out of necessity. There are many books on fashion eras and certainly Dover has been in the forefront of publishing the best. This particular volume collects fashion plates which were disseminated to the world by French publishers from 1929 to 1939. What makes this series of plates especially interesting is that they are in full glorious color, had front and back views, and descriptions of the changing styles were given for each look. Those details are useful for understanding how the fashion evolved over the years and what each year brought in minor changes. The presentation of the plates are a full page on white with a small border and the year printed at the bottom. It makes for a clean and lovely display - uncluttered and large. A typical description of a fashion by the French publisher is: "Two piece frock of fine jersey with rich diagonal tucked trimming. Flat collar. Sweater buttons all the way down. Slightly flared skirt." Accessories are displayed for each look (from gloves to fur), and there is a line drawing of the back of each fashion. The plates are diverse - from evening gowns to day suits, afternoon dresses, to coats. Owing to the era, the drawings are fairly elongated and figures are not to scale (legs are much longer than head/torso). Most plates have one style but some have 2-3 similar looks (or e.g., one dress and then coat/hat options). The shoes have no details and are generic/not discussed. Some plates even have a small drawing of the sewing pattern and how the pieces are laid out on the fabric. Because of the huge diversity and sheer amount of fashions beautifully presented in full color, this is definitely a 'must have' for fashion historians, costumers, seamstresses, and those interested in the era. I've owned many Dover fashion books over the past 3 decades and this is definitely one of the best. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful pictorial guide of Depression Era High Fashion By iiiireader Dover has done it again! They are fantastic at reprinting antique crafts patterns and other out of print but fascinating publications. In "A Decade of French Fashion, 1929-1938", they have brought together a select group of fashions from various fashion magazines of the time period. I am a needlework designer and I do some period piece designs. I look to Dover for inspiration and so that my designs accurately depict the styles of the proper period. I had been hoping for a set of designs that covered, essentially, the Great Depression, for a series that of cross stitch that I have in mind. This is the perfect book for me. It shows fashions just before the Crash hit through just before World War II. It is really interesting to note that the fashions for women changed dramatically when times got tough. The look of the 1920's – with shorter skirts, bare arms, and a lack of emphasis of the female form (including flat bodices without darts), to shapes that, while they covered women more, emphasized a bit of the hour-glass shape. Thank goodness, the bustle and the corset were gone, but the look was still hour-glass but with widened shoulders and belted waistlines. These are the fashions that I think of when I think of the era of glamour in Hollywood – Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Katherine Hepburn, and so many more. At the same time, there is a look among the daytime dresses of durability and a lack of "trendiness"; as one would have to make do with ones clothes for a good period of time and be able to re-work them as they started to fray. I wonder if having more length to the skirt was part of this? You could reduce the hem length and have some material for patching, if necessary. On a personal note, this is the period when my late mother was a young to teenage girl. I'm sure she would yearn for clothes like these at the movies and magazines. As a poor mountain girl in the Blue Ridge Mountains just outside of Asheville, North Carolina, she got to see the really rich (the Vanderbilts at the Biltmore Estate, etc.) but lived in a one bedroom cabin with her many other siblings. Fashion was not for her at that point – just having shoes was something that she didn't always have. Looking at the fashions made me think of her as a young girl longing for something more and I certainly shed more than a few tears. I received a digital ARC copy of this book from the publisher, Dover Publications, via Netgalley.

"A well-illustrated survey of style. Chock full of detailed, quality illustrations accompanied by brief descriptions. A worthy offering. Nostalgic types who enjoy perusing vintage catalogs and clip art books will find much to savor here. This practical resource is sure to provide inspiration for artists and fashion designers. Five stars." – biblio-filer In addition to a world-wide depression and the rise of Fascism throughout Europe, the years between 1929 and 1938 witnessed dramatic changes in women's fashion. With the turning of the decade, the free and easy fashions of the Roaring Twenties shifted to a softer, more conservative look, with an emphasis on curves rather than angles. Hemlines plummeted almost overnight and did not begin to rise until mid-decade. These selections from full-color French catalogs produced for the international market from 1929 through 1938 document the changes in fashion from the time of the stock market crash to the dawn of World War II. More than 100 images of day and evening wear illustrate the movement from flapper fashions to a more austere look. Fashion designers, costume historians, costumers, and anyone who loves fashion will treasure this richly illustrated survey. "A must for anyone interested in fashion and costume, this book offers exactly what the title suggests – a decade of French fashion, portrayed in beautiful illustrations from contemporary catalogues. A joy to read and savor." – newbooks magazine "This is a book to read and time and time again, each new viewing helping further details – from button placements to hemline shapes – to present themselves to you, the reader, as you soak up and savor the supreme elegance that was 1930s fashion for those

with the means to buy from the best that France had to offer." — Chronically Vintage