

Midwinter Gowns for the Debutante



Debutante
Gown
of
White
Tulle.

Dress for the
"Coming Out"
Function,
and the Season's
Brilliant
Possibilities in
Materials
for Associated
Gayeties.



Black Velvet
Skunk Fur and
Chinese Brocade
in Combination.



By Mme. Frances
The Famous Creator of Fashions

THE debutante of this season finds herself in a whirl of mid-winter gayeties. A frock that frankly says, "I came to dance," is her idea of joyous loveliness. Whether at a dansant or evening theatre party, the opera or a college play, she wears the loveliest gowns. Airy draperies and the softest fabrics envelop her twinkling feet.

The debutante claims many materials that also belong to the older women, but they are differently devised for the young girl. White is, of course, the color for the debutante. It is the purity, the "innocence" of white that makes its association with youth traditional, and yet the vivid colors are exquisite on vibrant youth.

For daylight wear there are jaunty suits of tricotine, gabardine, duvetyne and velour—at least these fabrics have names as lovely as their textures. These materials are not new, but they are better than new. Their style is sustained because they have been tried and not found wanting in any of the qualities that make for utility and enduring charm. It is the enduring charm that tells the story.

Velvet is an ideal winter material for the young girl. The dark shades of blue and brown are lifted with guimpes or sleeves of lace, net or mousseline de soie, that exquisitely sheer fabric, so expressive of the freshness of youth.

Charmeuse and crepe metoo also make attractive afternoon gowns. Pearl gray is lovely in charmeuse and so is seal brown. There is a gown of mustard yellow duvetyne designed for a vivid young brunette. The hat for this costume also carries a suggestion of this shade in taffeta ribbon brilliantly embroidered. "Tres chic" you will admit, from the toe of her short vamped French slippers to the tip of her tawny hat, and

For the Opera She Is Quite a Dignified Person in Jade Green Velvet.



Wearing a Wrap of
Ermine and Rose
Velvet.

yet there is a sophistication about this color that is not so pleasing as those I have designed especially for this page.

Tulle is the fabric of youth. Diaphanous as a fairy's dress, it seems to float and billow and "fluff" into the ideal evening gown for a young girl. A debutante who is of the tall, slender, statuesque type should be clad in classic lines. Velvet is her metier—velvet in all the lovely shades. Ivory with a touch of green silver cloth and a band of skunk, pink draped in lines of love-liness that demand little or no trimming, or jade green, that exquisite shade that seems to embody all the beauty of the fresh green of spring, the pale green that comes fearfully over the earth, lest frost still lingers.

The bright, youthful face is beautifully framed in furs. Brown furs are especially good for daylight wear. Beane marten, beaver, Kolinsky and sable are lovely on blondes or brunettes. The blue-eyed girl looks well in squirrel because its gray tones contrast so beautifully with blue. This fur is never better than when mounted on dark blue suits or gowns.

Seal coats are given a youthful "swing" by the addition of the colored fur collars. For evening wear ermine is the fur de luxe. Wonderfully lovely evening coats are supplied with deep ermine collars and cuffs. Velvet is an ideal fabric for the youthful evening wrap. Brocades are more suited to the older woman.

The evening coat illustrated is charming for a debutante. The gracefully becoming collar that "snuggles" fold on fold of pink velvet against peach-like cheeks, is mounted on a deep cape of unspotted ermine draped in the lines of grace that this fur takes so beautifully. To this cape of ermine is attached a gathered skirt of pink chiffon velvet that follows the ermine drapery to the neck. The lining, always such an important feature of a wrap, is turquoise blue chiffon, garlanded with an applique of pink velvet flowers. Could anything be more fitting to envelop the loveliness of youth?

The airy tulle frock, that might be a coming-out dress, is a mortalization of Terpsichore herself. First there is a camisole lining and a tightly draped drop skirt of white charmeuse. Over this falls a full gathered skirt of white tulle, edged with narrow folds of pale, oh, so pale, blue charmeuse. Then there is the exceedingly full bouffant overskirt, embroidered in paillettes that glimmer and glisten with every floating movement of the tulle.

The distension of the skirt is accented by a wreath of white roses on which paillettes glisten like drops of morning dew. The bodice is V-shaped, one side being tulle, spangled with paillette embroidery and the other side is plain white tulle, softly drawn over the body.

The girdle of this gown is particularly attractive. Pale blue charmeuse is drawn around the figure. Over this is tied a sash of white tulle bound with pale blue satin. There are really two sashes of tulle that cross and tie in huge bows at either side, to give the bouffant line in an unusual way. A garland of the roses outlines one side of the bodice.

The evening gown of jade green velvet is designed for the tall statuesque debutante. The decollete is filled in with flesh tulle and the kimono bodice is draped in lines somewhat surplice. A narrow fold of lemon yellow outlines the green bodice and finishes the short sleeves.

The skirt of this gown is draped to give a pannier on one side and a flat line on the other. The fold of lemon yellow is repeated on the skirt drapery that extends into a slender graceful train. The flowers on the corsage are made of silver cloth. Velvet needs little embellishment and the perfect lines of this fabric are charmingly expressed in this model.

For afternoon wear I have designed the frock of black velvet. "Time cannot wither nor custom stale its infinite variety." It is becoming to every age. This frock of black velvet is relieved with an interesting trimming of Chinese brocade that shows a glint of vivid colors running from coppery yellow to turquoise blue, with gold and silver wrought in the warp and woof.

The bodice is kimono in its inspiration, but the sleeves are scarcely sleeves at all and so need a guimpe sleeve of mousseline de soie and cream lace to give the lingerie touch so charming on youthful dresses. The large armhole of the velvet is outlined with skunk and the surplice fastening of the blouse is bound with Chinese brocade. This brocade is repeated on the girdle. The skirt is a charming variation of the flounce model. The flounces are attached to a drop skirt edged with skunk. The three flounces are run in slightly biased lines across the front and back. The back of the bodice of this gown is plain and the skirt is the same back and front.

The Fashion
Forecast

Reindeer tan and dove gray will be featured in the early spring suits that are beginning to appear on fashion's horizon.

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