

Fancies in Furs

Trophies of the Wild as They Appear in the Latest Novelties of Fashion.

A Regal Coat of Unspotted Ermine and Sable Is This Evening Wrap.



By
Mme. Frances
The Famous Creator
of Fashions

SINCE man first wrapped the skin of a wild beast around his body and then slew another such beast to make a garment for "the female of the species," there never has been such luxury and loveliness in peltry as the winter of 1919-20 has produced.

Paris has designed luxurious wraps of sable, moleskin, chinchilla and seal, but the land in which the Hudson Bay Company planted their traps still supplies the world with thousands of pelts and the American manufacturers have demonstrated their ability to create garments of fur that even Paris cannot duplicate.

A sable coat priced at \$40,000 made up on this side is a rare work of the furrier's art, and a chinchilla coat valued at \$15,000 shows the soft texture of this gray fur in the graceful dolman lines that are observed in so many of the season's models.

The furriers will tell you that the most popular pelts are seal, moleskin, squirrel, mink, caracul, baby lamb and fisher.

Coats of Muskrat

The natural muskrat coats are popular for young girls and for motor wear, and the Hudson seal and the Alaska seal garments are most in demand for general use. A coat of real sealskin that shows brown in the depths when the fur is blown and runs to brown in its tones throughout, is rare enough these days.

The Alaska seal industry is now under the protection of the United States government. Each skin is dyed under a guarantee and the Alaska pelts are said to be taking precedence over the Hudson sealskin. The qualities of skins vary of course and the price has jumped 30 per cent. in six months. A coat of Alaska seal 48



A Short Jacket of Squirrel Tied Jauntily About the Waist with Lemon and Vermilion Ribbon.

inches long sells for \$750. A coat of real seal of similar length would be worth almost anything a furrier would choose to ask for it.

There is a fur called sealine or dyed pony that produces a moderately priced fur coat within reach of less opulent pocketbooks than those that seek the more expensive pelts.

The dolman takes precedence over all other fur coats both for day and evening wear, but the jaunty, short, youthful coat is sought by the girl who enjoys a brisk walk on a clear, cold day and does not wish to be hampered by the weight of a longer coat.

The full length fur coat, belted and sleeved, is a luxuriously warm garment and will be found ideal for the coldest winter days. For evening wear unspotted ermine is extremely popular because of the charm of its soft whiteness in artificial light. This fur is usually trimmed with sable or black fox for evening wear.

Fur made up in combination with velvet or brocade contributes the most gorgeous evening wraps. Lame cloth, as the French call the wonderful metallic fabrics sent over by Lyons to give color and splendor to the opera and the theatre, is resplendently trimmed with fur. There is a deep coppery tone of henna velvet that, combined with either brown or black fur, is exceedingly lovely for evening wear. Jade green velvet is another popular even-

ing coat fabric that lends itself to fur trimming.

Fur-lined coats are observed, but the peltry is more often shown on the outside. Wool fabrics, such as duvetyne or velour, are combined with fur for street wear, and the most luxurious cloth coats show effective touches of hand embroidery.

Beaver is a fur often seen this winter because it tones so well with the popular brown costumes and with those of reindeer tan. Brown caracul is sought for the same reason. The dark color of skunk makes it effective both in the form of deep collars and cuffs and also as narrow bands of trimming on evening and afternoon dresses. Kolinsky is charming with either brown or black, and like most brown furs is very becoming to the complexion.

Pillow-Shaped Muffs

Muffs run to the generous pillow shape and the barrel outline. The demand for muffs has been greatly enlivened by the fashion of wearing short sleeves. Muffs and neckpieces manage to achieve novelty in the form of box pleats.

Coat collars are high, most of them being shirred to give fullness at the back of the neck. Cuffs are very, very deep and the bell-shaped sleeve is extremely popular. Three-quarter sleeves are observed, but common sense prevails in peltry and unless a fur garment is a dolman with slashed armholes and sleevelets the sleeves are apt to reach to the wrist.

A whole chapter might be written on the beauty of the linings of this season's fur coats. Brocade in self tones and contrasting figures are much observed. Charmeuse satin overlaid with softly shirred chiffon cloth or Georgette crepe produces an interesting lining and the monotone and brocade linings of cerise, robin's egg blue and old gold are exquisite. Chiffon velvet makes a luxurious fur coat lining. Velvet with a tiny cording of a contrasting velvet in the seams and around the edges is also seen. A chinchilla coat is effectively lined with gray velvet. Or a coat of jade green velvet cuffed and collared with chinchilla or squirrel may be lined with gray velvet in sympathetic color. An ermine coat is lined with ivory white velvet that carries a cording of coral velvet. On the lining of many evening wraps are frequently introduced hand-made flowers wrought from colored taffeta and metallic cloth.

The fur coats illustrated display the charm of infinite variety, ranging as they do from the short walking coat to the full length day and evening wraps.

Coat of Gray Squirrel

The short coat of gray squirrel wears a lemon and vermilion ribbon tied jauntily about the waist. It fastens with gray buttons and silk braid loops. The contrast of the soft gray fur with the vivid coloring of the two-tone sash ribbon is extremely effective.

The other short coat is brown caracul whose bell sleeves show a ruffle of fawn colored chiffon, knife pleated. A contrasting pleating that matches the lining or tones with the costume with which it is worn may be substituted. This coat swings from the shoulders in the slightly



Brown Caracul Makes This Smart Short Coat.

flared lines and ripples a trifle in the back and the front.

The coat of sealskin is designed for imperviousness to winter's coldest blast. An interesting cuff is featured on this coat. The bell sleeves are slashed and turned back to show a cuff of silver cloth in striking contrast to the vivid cerise lining of charmeuse satin. The silver cuff is faced with sealskin, which is, of course, a continuation of the sleeve.

The bouffant hip line has invaded even furdom, and on this model bouffant pleats are accented by the snugly tied girdle of pleated silver ending in silver tassels of the same tarnished hue. Two narrow folds of royal purple charmeuse show inside the cuffs. The interesting turban worn with this coat is silver cloth strapped with black velvet.

To the evening belongs the graceful dolman of ermine draped in lines that lift in front as the hands are snugly wrapped beneath its generous folds. The deep collar displays the superb markings of sable in the soft gray-brown tones that characterize this fur.

The Fashion Forecast

Reindeer tan will continue to be a favorite street color for early spring wear. It will be closely followed by dove gray.

Frances

One-Fifty-Six West Forty-Sixth St., New York.