

Fall Trends for Women

By Patti Jones

The following examples are taken from the September 1931 issue of *Women's World*. The article showed women what to expect with new fall fashions. For daytime wear, skirts are about twelve inches from the ground, for afternoons the smart length is about nine inches from the floor, and for evening, down to ankle length. A waistline is still shown in all styles. Ensembles consisting of a skirt and a coat or a frock and jacket are considered to be in style. A black woolen dress is a wardrobe staple. Serge and Cheviot wools are for dressing in high style. Crepe satin is for both afternoon and evening wear. Canton crepe, flat silk crepe, serge-like silk, silk and wool novelties in small patterns are fashionable. The satin crepes, semi-sheer crepes and transparent velvets are for the afternoon mode. The dominant colors this fall are garnet-red for town wear and yellow-red for evening. Brown is the second choice to black for daytime and dinner wear.

Noted in an article from the November 1931 issue of *Women's World*, there is an increased width above the waistline. The high waist, accentuated bust, and width across the shoulders, are features of the Empire style, "so important for this season." The bottom left dress shows the same dress fabric used to add a cap on the sleeves, creating a broadening effect to the shoulders. The style shown fourth from the left, accomplishes the same thing with the well used bertha collar, also broadening the shoulder area. Skirts are close fitting about the hips, pleated, gored or only slightly flared at the hemline. All bias-cut garments needed length to give them a graceful appearance and thus the hemlines were longer in 1931. Dresses favored diagonal lines, and there were often angles where the bodice was attached to the skirt, in order to accomplish the 'bias' look.

