

APRONS!

By Harriet McNeill

Aprons make acceptable gifts!

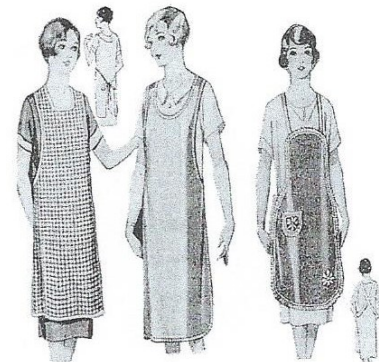
Aprons have been around a long time but there are lots of choices today.

They appeared in Medieval and Renaissance paintings and mostly looked like they were rectangles of cloth. Today they are more of a fashion statement but just as utilitarian. In the past people did not have the luxury of a large wardrobe nor did they have the laundry facilities as we have today so aprons served the purpose of covering your dress to protect it from soiling. The apron could be washed every couple of days or more often whereas the dress under the apron maybe only was washed once a week.



Aprons followed the lines of the dress during the 1920's, long and no waistline. During later years, they were sometimes cinched at the waist.

Up until the 1940's large quantities of flour and chicken feed arrived in cotton sacks and were durable enough to withstand washings and rough handling. The sacks came in bright, colorful, floral patterns. If the apron had seen its better day, the best parts were cut out and used for quilts. No wasting in those days!



Montgomery Ward, F/W 1928

I always thought an apron was an apron but they had different names:

Full apron – covers the whole front

Half apron – tied at the waist, no bib

Princess apron – full apron with bib and skirt, cut in one piece and no waist seam. This style was very popular in the 1920's and 1930's.

Pinafore – bib style that covered the chest and fastened with a pin, thus the name

Pinny – British slang for pinafore or apron

Hostess – 50's term for a half apron, dainty fabric and made for show

Bib – top portion of apron that covers the chest and made from a simple square

Smock – more like a dress. Popular for painting and gardening

Cobbler – covers front and back, generally straight with ties or buttons at the sides

Chef's – one piece with straight 'skirt' and bib. Ties in the back

So when you need a gift, think of an apron. There are lots of patterns to choose from!