

Sleeves That Are “Sleeves”

Submitted by Perry Jones, Piney Wood Ford Model A Club

In the Model A Era Fashion hobby, a lot of time is spent antiquing, which I find to be the best part of the hobby. While on the hunt, I am looking for fashion items, such as major garments, headgear, accessories, etc. I am also on the lookout for printed material consisting of magazines, catalogues and newspapers. On one such outing I found an obscure, 39 page weekly magazine called *The Pathfinder*. It is printed on what appears to be newsprint paper but is bound like a magazine. The contents are varied and ranges from US Politics, World News to how best to poach an egg.

The following article appeared in the April 5, 1930 edition of *The Pathfinder*. The article, by an anonymous author and excerpted below, discussed the sleeve transition from the Winter of 1929 into the Spring of 1930.



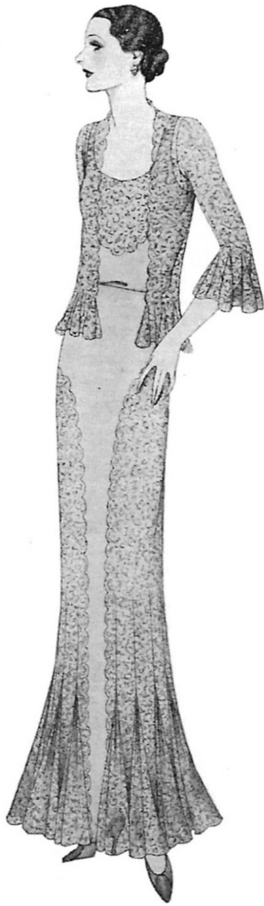
All sleeve examples shown below are from the 2015 Edition of The MAFCA Fashion Guidelines.



Until this past winter sleeves were merely that and a little less. That is, you either had long sleeves or none.

They [sleeves] were usually straight and fitted snug to the wrist and were made of the same material as the dress with little or no embellishment. Not so the sleeves of spring. There is greater variety in shape and length than we've had in any recent time.

The short sleeve above the elbow will no doubt be the most popular for cotton and crepe dresses for summer, but it is being used now in jersey and other woolen dresses, for satin and crepe and sheer cotton blouses. Then the three-quarter sleeve ending in a bell shaped "flounce" is shown on afternoon dresses and suits of silk that have little boleros or straight jackets. They are also used as lace dinner dresses with removable jackets.



Bell Shaped

Some sleeves are just made of a circular piece of material set in the armhole forming a cape effect while others are formed by a scarf sewed around the neck and tied on one shoulder, leaving one arm bare.



Scarf



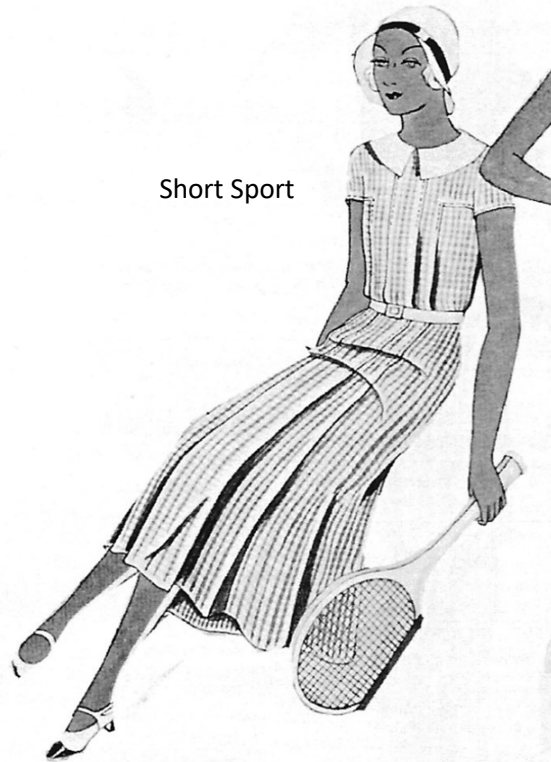
Cape

There seems to be no set rule for sleeves except that good sense tells us it isn't wise to have street dresses sleeveless (except for summer resorts and country life) and that for evening the very short sleeve, puffed or straight or no sleeve at all, is best; that for boleros of silk or lace the three-quarter sleeve is smart; that the long straight sleeve is worn on blouses and many print dresses and is more flattering to those who are not slim.

And that for sport clothes, either cotton or wool, the very short straight sleeve is decidedly smart, having a slight “edge” on the sleeveless frocks of last season.



Puffed



Short Sport

References:

1. The Pathfinder April 5, 1930; Pathfinder Publishing Co., 2414-16-18 Douglas St., Washington, D.C.
2. All images are from the MAFCA Fashion Guidelines 2015 Edition.

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