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Edith Head, Paramount designer, combines
business with pleasure on a Paris tour

FASHION LETTER

BY GWENN WALTERS

Paris says:—long waistlines, short flared skirts, fitted bodices, tweeds combined with velvet, warm colors

JUST received a cable from Edith Head, Paramount's renowned femme designer now combining work with pleasure on a Paris tour.

On the eve of her departure from Hollywood Edith and I had a long chat and she promised to cable answers to my several fashion queries—to let me know whether Paris has accepted the high hairdress for general wear; if the trends there differ from those of Hollywood; if "doll" hats are here to stay, or just a passing fancy, if she found any exciting hints for Christmas gifts, and most surely to confirm rumors that Paris styles have been influenced by the 1900-1904 costumes she created for Claudette Colbert to wear in "Zaza."

I never really expected her to find time for more than a card bearing the famous inscription, "Having wonderful time—wish you were here," so you can imagine how thrilled I was when her cable arrived—now I can hardly wait to share it with you.

DEAR GWENN: Haven't forgotten my promise to cable high lights of Paris fashion collections but don't forget what I told you about the Zaza influence before leaving Hollywood Stop

Paris is all agog about Zaza clothes giving full credit to Hollywood and Claudette Colbert Stop

Shoulder yokes bishop sleeves long waistline with fitted flattering beltless detail bloused bodices grand for most figures fitted hips with skirts flaring below stress grace and how Stop

Also in this Zaza trend lots of ornamentation or flounces at knee line on floor-length skirts Stop

Charming shirtwaist and skirts for dinner dresses can wear with hats Stop

Braid and embroidery galore lace and ribbon trimmings loads of jewelry mostly massive Stop

Hair up in pompadours piles of curls and fringe bangs Stop

I like the high hairdress if worn appropriately for instance in town cars and for dining dancing etc at the opera but not at the movies or over a typewriter it just doesn't seem right Stop

If your readers want to wear it tell them many French women wearing turned under long bob which pins up easily at night Stop

Skirts here short and not too many pleats more slim skirts with slight flare Stop

Suits popular especially for dinner and theater fur trend extravagant with decided absence of fur coat which does for all occasions suggest women used to such coats substitute fabric coat with fur cuffs or thin fur lining Stop

Tweeds combined with velvet similar suit Joan Bennett wearing in "Artists and Models Abroad" with velvet touches on pocket bindings covered buttons and brief collar green velvet on tweed Stop

Paris likes leather as much as Hollywood which makes me glad I did several leather daytime costumes for Gail Patrick in her new film "Disbarred" Stop

Hats fascinating but doll hats decidedly modified in size and angle on head Stop

Warm exciting colors of fruits stones and good quantity of black highlighted by flashing colored stones Stop

Metal belts bracelets necklaces for black or colored dresses make ideal Christmas gift suggestions as do gloves of chartreuse cyclamen or deep red purple blue orange either short or long Stop

Such gifts suitable for anyone this year as can use to complement plain dresses Stop

Shoes less intricate but carefully designed and chosen as to costume as well as to purpose for instance walking shoes have lower heels and platform soles more or less relegated to resort but completely out for evening as you and I anticipated Stop

Important return of capes for all times of day and night some for evening with hoods bordered in fur Stop

Velvets and metallic materials popular but not for daytime Stop

Thin wools heavy crepes lots of tucking and flat bows of matching fabric on both dresses and coats also on felt hats Stop

All in all Paris styles more dramatic but remind readers to consider the difference in the lives women lead over there Stop

Am off to do more scouting and arrange some exclusive materials for forthcoming Colbert film to follow Zaza Stop

Will see you soon and bring you beautiful new belt from Paris and several other gadgets give my love to Hollywood

Edith Head

HOPE you enjoyed reading Edith's news.

I was especially interested to note what Edith said about the high hairdress. To us "career girls," who realize that we can't smartly and practically be fantastic by day, her sentiments are consolation in that they assure us that in our coiffure decision we have not been completely outdistanced in fashion's "rat" and "curl" race. Guess this is female gossip aplenty for this time, so, until next month, Adios!

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