Jane Austen’s Fashion

THE DRESS OF THE REGENCY PERIOD
For the Ladies...
Ladies Fashion

- Good-bye powder wigs...
- Fashion emphasized the “natural figure”
- No corsets, no gardens of lace
- Emphasis on natural beauty
- Light colors were more popular, especially white.
Fashion is a Form of Expression!

- The battle front of change and tradition!
Empire Silhouette

- Closely fitted to torso, just under bust and falling loosely below.
- Influenced by the Neoclassical age. (Greeks and Romans)
Hairstyles

- Pulled back in a bun with some tresses hanging loose in front and sides.
Shoes and Accessories

- **Shoes**: thin, flat, leather slippers
- **Accessories**:
  - Mantel (short cape or shawl)
  - Gloves were ALWAYS worn outside the house
  - Handbags
  - Parasols
  - Fans
  - Jewelry
And the Gents...
Men’s Fashion

- No more lace or embroidery (except for formalized court dress).
- Dandy:
  - Dress was far more refined and sober than the fop
  - A fashion rebellion against boredom and extravagance.
The Pants

- Longer Breeches (leather riding breaches reached the boot)
- Pantaloons and trousers for street wear.
- Light colored for the day, dark for the evening.
Shirts were made of linen, had attached collars, and were worn with stocks or wrapped in a cravat tied in various fashions.
The Coat

- Coats were cut away in front with long skirts or tails in back with tall standing collars.
- Waist coats were high-waisted and squared off at the bottom.
- Over coats were very popular—The *garrick*, sometimes called a coachman's coat, was a particularly popular style, and had between three and five short caplets attached to the collar.
Shoes and Accessories

- **Hessian Boots**
  - Boots with heart-shaped tops and tassels were standard.

- **Wellington Boots**
  - Tops were knee high and cut lower in back

- **Jockey Boot**
  - Turned down cuff of lighter colored leather. (appropriate for riding.)
Hair Styles and Headgear

- Short curls with long sideburns
- Hair wax was popular and mutton chops all the rage.
- Brutus and Bedford Crop
- Hats were tall and slightly conical (would evolve into the top hat)
Where to Find Them:

- Ebay
- Costume shops
- Make your own:
  - [http://www.uvm.edu/~hag/regency/tips/](http://www.uvm.edu/~hag/regency/tips/)
  - [http://regencyballcostume.blogspot.com/](http://regencyballcostume.blogspot.com/)
  - Simplicitly has really good patterns
  - Or just go to DI, find a dress of suitable cut, tie a ribbon around the middle and go!