1924

Something Old for Which to Be Thankful

Marian Bigelow
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker
Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Bigelow, Marian (1924) "Something Old for Which to Be Thankful," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 4 : No. 8 , Article 6.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss8/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Something Old for Which to Be Thankful

By MARIAN BIGELOW

"The Fashion wears out more apparel than the man."—Shakespeare.

It is true today, as it was in Shakespeare's time, but the art of making over old clothes was not known then, while today she who has old clothes which have been worn out only by Fashion has much for which to be thankful. Perhaps you think old clothes are a strange thing for which to be thankful. Well, what about that last year's suit with the full box jacket? The material is as "good as new," but the style is hopelessly out of date. Rip the skirt and jacket, clean and press them. There are any number of ways you can make it into a dress which your friends will think came straight from Fifth Ave. And if you want a tailored dress for street wear, cut the jacket into a tight fitting waist, with a high choker collar and long, tight sleeves. Join it to the plain straight skirt of the suit and use a wide suede belt of a contrasting or harmonizing color to hide the seam. A smart finishing touch is a row of tiny buttons of the same color as the belt straight down the front from the tip of the high collar to the bottom of the hem. If you want a more elaborate frock make a plain, straight dress by cutting the jacket into a waist and joining it to the skirt. Then trim it. There are myriads of beautiful, bright colored bandings and braids on the market at reasonable prices and can be used on dresses in all kinds of ways. The skirt may be slit up the front and a piece of wide banding inserted, leaving narrower banding at the neck and on the sleeves. A four inch banding may be inserted on each side front, letting the banding slip three strips of the material at the waistline, giving the effect of a belt. You can put wide banding around the bottom of the skirt and narrow banding up the front and around the neck to form a little Chinese collar. You may use narrow braids in any number of odd ways to hide seams, thereby achieving some original effects, which, if cleverly worked out, are quite distinctive.

There is then, you. You must have at least one fur-trimmed gown in your wardrobe this season. Perhaps you have an old fur coat which is too worn in some spots to be good looking any longer. Cut out the good pieces and use them to trim. Or if you do not possess any fur, you can get clever imitations, which are used in the big shops more than the real fur. And by putting in a little fur trimmings, which is looking a great deal and is surely something different.

But suits are not the only thing to be made over. Black satin is as good as ever this season, and who hasn't a black satin dress which never will wear out? After all, Dame Fashion is extremely kind this year to the woman with a limited income, for she designed last year's afternoon dresses, with their long, full skirts, their pleated panels and full draperies, just to be made over into the clever little tunics so popular this year. And then last year's crepesatin, which was made with the crepe side out, can be rinsed and made up with the satin side out for this year's wear. The style this year for a variety of materials combined in one costume is the heavy, soft, embroderyed, bright colored bandings, and the fur trimmings, which cover seams and pleatings so nicely, all unite to make it a joy to fashion new clothes from old ones.

A straight tunic gown can be made from the skirt of a long, full satin or crepe dress. Use the length of the skirt for the length of the tunic, cutting it as long as the skirt will allow, which will probably make it come about to the knees. Since Fashion says to put all the trimming at the bottom of the costume, it is easy to finish the tunic into a dress. If there are wide enough pieces of the material left, you may make either one or two circular pieces and attach them directly to the bottom of the tunic, using a narrow braid or banding to cover the seam or you may attach them to a slip and allow the tunic to remain loose. If you have plenty of material left, but it is in narrow pieces, use rows of little ruffles to use narrow braids in any number of odd ways to hide seams, thereby achieving some original effects, which, if cleverly worked out, are quite distinctive.

A Course for Homemakers

By PEARL HARRAS

A class in Handicraft, under the supervision of Miss Nora F. Brown, is making quite a special notice not only here in the college, but throughout the state. This class is for anyone in the state, no prerequisites being necessary. The only entrance requirement is that the enrollee be seventeen years of age.

In this class the people get the fundamental principles of design and a theory of color as a working basis. After they have acquired this basic knowledge, studio problems are taken up. The class may make anything they wish. Some of the things from which they may choose are: Designing and painting wooden boxes in tempera; serving trays in oil; enamelling on metal, wood and glass; tufted, embroidered, cut or illuminated leather; basketry from spool bassets to large floor baskets; creating with batik; parchment shades and shields; polychrome work, including renaissance plackets, seccoes; candles; book ends, etc.

This class is a part of the Homemakers' Unit Courses, a new department of the college in which Iowa State College extends its services to people of the state to reach women in their homes. Each unit, a group of from 20 to 40 women, may be taken, just as they desire. Work is offered in costume design, garment construction, millinery, house design, food preservation and marketing, and meal planning and serving.

In previous courses young women have been enrolled who are soon to be married and interested in homes, graduate students, faculty members, faculty wives, public school teachers and grandmothers. The distinguishing feature of several of the classes has been the number of gray-haired women included.

The course is starting in its third year of work and is proving to be very beneficial. There has been a considerable increase in the number taking these courses, as shown by the following data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1924</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is now an expansion of the work being contemplated. Since so many homemakers are busy during the day and unable to get away from their homes to attend classes the question of starting evening classes is now being considered. There are twenty-six schools in the state receiving the following list for these classes at present and if they are offered, these people will be given work in clothing and foods. If you have plenty of material left, but it is in narrow pieces, use rows of little ruffles to use narrow braids in any number of odd ways to hide seams, thereby achieving some original effects, which, if cleverly worked out, are quite distinctive.

The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, under the chairmanship of Mrs. H. C. Taylor of Bloomfield, is sponsoring the building of a practice house in which the members of the Homemakers' Unit Courses may work out their ownomes. They will then be able to say as the senior college girls in the Home Management House established here. This house will, in all probability, be located here on the Ames campus.
The Iowa Homemaker

over a waxed card, to prevent streaking by the absorption of dye by the cord.

as the dyes usually color the hands, rubber gloves are a convenience. Even then the hands are sometimes stained. Ammonia or washing soda will help remove the new temporary color.

After the dying is completed, the wax must be removed. With thin pieces of silk this can easily be done by ironing between newspaper pages, but with heavier material this method is not so satisfactory. Gasoline is the best method of removing the wax in such a case, though benzine or carbona may be used. It is best to wash out as much as possible in the first gasoline bath, then rinse in cold gasoline. This helps remove the wax enough for repeated dyeing if desired.

The Evolution of Home Economics

(Continued from page 8.)

had fair success in the adventure until coming back whom should we meet face to face, but ‘Prexy’ Welch. He spoke to us and passed on, which wasn’t much in itself, but it led to great complications. We had to get chapel excuses from Prexy himself.

“The pleasure jaunt must have been my idea, anyway I was the one who went next day to Prexy’s office for an excuse. I wasn’t in the most joyful state of mind as I went in to ask for the excuse.”

“Where had you been when I met you yesterday?” asked Prexy. I told him I’d been after botany specimens, which was the truth.”

“How is it that you weren’t back on time? was his next question.”

“My watch was on the bum,” I told him.

“I believe that was true too,” Mr. Frazier’s eyes twinkled.

“Prexy looked severe, then he leaned forward and said with an engaging smile, ‘Mr. Frazier, the next time you go flower-picking just stop at the office and I’ll lend you my watch!’”

“Yes, I can hear that old chapel bell now. That’s your Victory Bell, I believe. It was bought to hang in the north tower of Old Main but was too heavy for the tower so they hung it in a frame coop where it stands now and used it to call us to chapel, meals and the like. At 6 o’clock A. M. was the rising bell and at 10 P. M. the bell for lights out and ‘Old Harlow’ checked up on us, too.”

“Who was ‘Old Harlow?’” I interposed.

“Well, I don’t remember clearly; he might have been a janitor. All I recall distinctly was that he was six feet, four inches tall, and an active foot racer.”

“Yes was ‘Harlow’?” I asked.

“We thought so. He was about forty I suppose, but he looked old to me. I remember Jerry Sexton better. He was a sort of gardener-watchman combined.” (“The Wakes” will be followed.)

“He used to be stationed in the grape patch which covered the site of Margaret Hall, I remember but he wasn’t always active. I can see him asleep under the vines one moonlight night when some of us were snooping about to be stealing those old ‘jerry.’”

“Jerry” was a sound sleeper when he once got a start, and Mr. Frazier laughed over the remembrance, especially as the story was suggested and Mr. Frazier seemed to agree with me.

“We had more of it after the new gymnasium was built,” he said. That was in ‘82. We each subscribed five dollars apiece and with a little allowance from the state built a frame gymnasium north of the Victoria Hotel stands. Equipment wasn’t very elaborate. I don’t remember all of it, but I know we had a horizontal bar and a trapeze, but I never ‘parlook’ of these as I wasn’t expert enough.”

“We were there any secret societies in those days, Mr. Frazier,” I asked.

“Not officially,” he responded with dry humor, “but I did belong to the first fraternity,” and he launched with enjoyment into reminiscences of those secret meetings and hair-breath escapes from the ‘anti’s.’”

“I was so green,” he said, “that I didn’t really understand that my ‘bid’ was to come supposedly so many days from grace for a long time, not because the idea of a secret society didn’t appeal, but because they said I’d have to give five dollars to belong.”

“Five dollars!” I shrieked and did a little rapid mental arithmetic of my own.

“Yee, five dollars. I finally raked it up somewhere and joined. We used to attend meetings in the different rooms by candle light with quills hanging over windows and transoms and stationed in the halls. That makes me think of the first fraternity picture we had taken. We met at Old Main and were to sit on the steps for our picture. This was after the ban was off, but feeling was still pretty strong among some of the ‘anti’s.’ I remember how they threw old sheets at us out of upstairs windows while we sat. The wind was blowing a stiff gale so the camera wouldn’t stand alone and I was supposed to hold a single ‘anti’ to hold it while we sat for the photographer. We finally dug holes and set the tripod in the ground, I’d have to sit that position until I finished, ‘It would be a contribution to any comic section, I assure you.’”

Something Old for Which to Be Thankful

(Continued from page 6.)

trusting material, gathered into a tight band at the wrist. Even though scarfs have been worn for several seasons, they are still being shown in the cities on all types of costumes and if a plain neck line is used on the tunic, a scarf to match will be a contribution to any comic section, I assure you.”
Pearl buttons which sew thru. They are used in solid masses to form a belt, or make a pocket. They are put on in rows across a collar and on the cuffs. And they are not sewed on in the ordinary way but with colored threads and fancy stitches.

Perhaps you always wear out your suits and your afternoon dresses, but you still have that velvet evening dress you wore several years ago, and do not know what to do with it. Why not make it over? If it has a full or circular skirt, you may combine it with chiffon, using the chiffon as a sleeveless surplice bodice, setting the velvet skirt onto it. Attach to the back of the neck two panels of net and chiffon, which fall to the hem of the garment. A decoration such as a large velvet rose or a beaded ornament might be added to complete the effect.

If you have an old evening dress which is cut straight from the shoulder, then move any trimming which happens to be on it, take in the side seams if it is not snug fitting, and concentrate your attention on the lower part of the garment. You can make fringe from tulle cut in narrow strips and weighted with beads or a drop of sealing wax. This may be put on in uneven rows around the bottom or in groups set on at uneven intervals. You can cut tulle or chiffon in oblong strips about twelve inches wide, tacking one corner onto the skirt near the hip line and allowing the lower point to reach below the hem of the dress.

Perhaps these few hints will give you some idea as to how to rejuvenate your old clothes so that they may oftentimes be cleverer by virtue of necessity, than new ones would be, and certainly much less expensive. Then, too, when you have disposed of an old garment and gained a new one in its place by your own ingenuity, the satisfying feeling of actually having practised true economy makes the effort well worth while.

Put the Home Into Homemaking

(Continued from page 3.) They must have the best training which it is possible to secure. Haphazard information makes for haphazard children. Surely the very greatest privilege of men and women is not to be left to chance.

It might be assumed that successful homemakers would come into being if all men and women had an appreciation of their responsibilities and were trained to carry them. There is, however, a third requisite, which must always be supplied if the highest type of success is attained. Aeroplane ideals are frequently fleeting and an objective, tho common to all, becomes blurred or lost to sight in the continual round of routine duties. Keeping one's eyes on the stars is not easy if there are clouds between. Seeing the distant horizon is possible only when there is open space. Having a true perspective of homemaking at all times and under all conditions is difficult even with appreciation and knowledge of the enterprise. It remains for the homemakers, men and women alike, to make their goal a reality in their every-day life. Maximum development of each family member can come only when each person in the group works toward the objective, which they all hold in common. The husband must remember that he has obligations to his business, but also to his home and family, and that he can carry family obligations and privileges only when he gives to them a just proportion of his time. Home must be something more than a place to read a newspaper to oneself at the close of a busy day or to drop one's business suit and accessories before dressing for an evening engagement. If a man lives up to his part of the marriage contract, he must be something more than a passive factor in the home. The wife is no less a poor homemaker if she lets the mechanics of housekeeping crowd out her real contact of homemaking. Dishwashing—and the manifold duties of each day—must be recognized as a means to an end and rated accordingly.

Free time should be a first requisite for the wife if family life is to be cultivated. To the two major partners will fall the responsibility of simulating and encouraging the younger members. The music which they are to enjoy, the books which they wish to read, the associations which they will care to cultivate, the religious life in which they may take part, the social life of the home, the time which they in turn will sponsor are all determined in large measure by the standards which their father and mother have established in the home. To those two have been given the privilege of shaping other lives not only by precept, but rather by example.

Understanding, sympathy, pliability, interest, and co-operation are the qualities which will be most essential in order to attain the goal which they have set.

Altho there is laid upon both parents the responsibility, the degree to which they succeed is dependent in part upon the younger members of the family. It takes the active interest and support of every member to attain a worthwhile goal. Each must give of his time and each must make a contribution. For all will be the opportunity to share in the every-day duties of the home, that the mother may find more free time.

Sometimes the greatest help is caring for one's personal belongings. Again, it may be the care of a smaller sister or brother. For others it will mean bringing...