

CLOCHE HATS

By Harriet McNeill, Era Fashion Committee Member

Have you heard this term? Just what is a Cloche hat that we hear so much about during the Model A era? And do we know what we are looking for when we go to a swap meet or antique store? We are always trying to find the perfect headgear to coordinate with our newest fashion find. Maybe we want to be judged and we need a “Cloche Hat?”

‘*Cloche*’ is a French word – meaning “bell.” It is a bell-shaped close fitting hat and was designed by a milliner named Caroline Reboux in 1908. It was popular during the 1920’s and was worn throughout the Model A era, although there were changes as to how it was worn on the head.



⇐ In 1928, the hat was worn low on the forehead and was to give the appearance of a small head.

In 1929 you might see a small wisp of hair. The eyebrows and forehead were beginning to show.⇒



⇐ 1930 was a time for a new look but not everyone was ready to jump at the newest. They were best described as ‘off the face.’



By 1931 women were wearing their hair longer. The cloche hat was worn either brimless or the brim flared away from the face. ⇒



A variety of fabrics such as felt (worn year round), straw, fur, satin and velvet were used and a hat was a necessary addition to complete an ensemble.

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