



*What Clothes  
Reveal*

THE LANGUAGE OF CLOTHING  
IN COLONIAL  
AND FEDERAL AMERICA

*By Linda Baumgarten*

THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG  
COLLECTION

Linda Baumgarten

## What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America (Williamsburg Decorative Arts)



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Paintings of upper-class women and men tell an important area of the history of costumes, but surviving garments themselves reveal even more. Every crease, stitch, and stain in a bit of clothing supplies information about its wearer and its own era. Illustrated with an increase of than 300 color photographs, including many details and back sights, the book treats not merely elegant, high-style clothes in colonial America but also garments for everyday and function, the clothing of slaves, and maternity and nursing apparel. This stunning publication features eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-hundred years garments from the premiere collection of the Colonial Williamsburg Base. The book also examines the myths and meanings of clothes in British and American society, clothing for the whole lifecycle, and a brief history of clothes alteration. Drawing on contemporary written descriptions and upon actual costumes of the time, the book analyzes what Us citizens in the eighteenth century considered fashionable and attractive and how they utilized clothing to say status or to recognize occupations. Informative sidebars on a number of fascinating topics full the volume.



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A must have! Readers shouldn't ignore the sidebars, the timeline, or the footnotes. I've a whole new appreciation for those who made clothes, repurposed clothing, remodeled clothing in our country's history. The photos are outstanding and the stories behind the clothes reveal so much. It's a great book for so many things, but amazing to cuddle up with on a cold winter's night. Highly recommended. Federal America "What Clothing Reveal" is 1st and foremost a history of American and UK wearing apparel from the 18th and early 19th centuries within the Colonial Williamsburg collection. The clothes have stories to tell that in most cases the people who wore them by no means place to pen and paper.. While writer Baumgarten's "Eighteenth Century Clothes at Williamsburg" was designed to be a catalog of the collection, "What Clothing Reveal" goes several methods additional. Baumgarten explores the deeper signifying of singular items and their structure, provides an curatorial interpretation of the garments and objects, and areas them in a historic context by identifying information regarding the original owner where possible. While not intended to be when examination of garments in her "Costume Close-up: Clothing Building and Pattern, 1750-1790," it is an important companion. When I came across it here I was simply thrilled! This book is completely incredible. The intensive bibliography offers an excellent list of additional titles to assist with further study. I took note of their clothes and this title which they demonstrated me. Baumgarten unbuttons many mysteries in a thoroughly readable style, leaving the reader anxious for her following contribution to the field of costume history. What may I say . Just buy it. Baumgarten may be the best. While many costume histories concentrate on a single gender and social course, "What Clothes Reveal" includes examples for men, women, and children--not just gentry but also common folk..The book is strictly what the title says -- a glance at how surviving articles of clothing (including shoes, hose, etc. What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial & Excellent Excellent book! I'd give six stars if I could. Explains clothing very well, as you would expect. Really useful and love the visual aides within the text Utilize it for a reference material to make historical clothes. That was extremely interesting, but unpredicted in the book. thrilled to find this book at this price I attended a local Revolutionary Battle reenactment two summers back where the females used this book for inspiration. This reserve is crucial for costume historians, curators, collectors, re-enactors, and other people who seek to comprehend 18th and early 19th century garments and the lives and occasions of those who wore them. I was quite impressed, but at that time, it was very costly in hard cover. As the general photos are typical, the fine detail photos are rare in outfit histories.! Great publication, the best of its' kind.. The pictures even brought me to tears at a couple of factors -- yes, I'm a sap. Truly, though, the clothing just seems to resonate with lives long past. Five Stars Great book for costume design research. Additionally it is a social background of the time illustrated by garments and add-ons that allows the reader to delve beneath the outer surface silhouette seen in paintings, prints, and on museum mannequins to reveal garment construction, fit, underpinnings, alterations, and simple thrift. This book is amazing, fascinating in all its details, and you know it's the best research available today.) reveal the conditions and stages of someone's existence in colonial and federal government America, not forgetting the wider forces at play around them.I could definitely recommend What Clothing Reveal for history buffs and authors -- uncertain about outfit designers, but perhaps that's covered in another review. Excellent book. Speaks on the subject of clothing in . Perfect for Writers I haven't finished scanning this reserve, but it's a real treasure.. Excellent book. Speaks on the subject of clothing in a period period I have wanted to learn about. These were painstakingly made by hands and worn by guys, women and children of varying walks of lifestyle, not just the wealthy, although their clothing survived most often, of program. But also covers the way the British importation laws affected colonial clothing. Really useful and love the visible aides within the text.



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