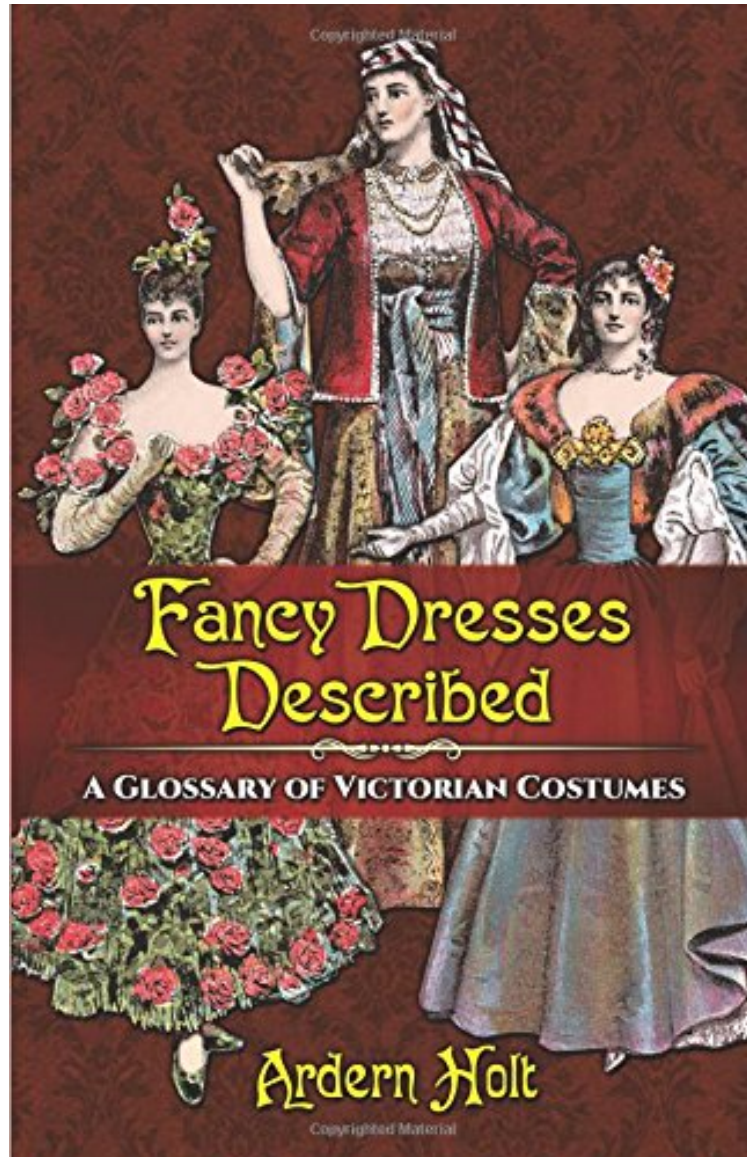


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Fancy Dresses Described: A Glossary of Victorian Costumes

Ardern Holt

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Ardern Holt : Fancy Dresses Described: A Glossary of Victorian Costumes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fancy Dresses Described: A Glossary of Victorian Costumes:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1890s Costume Book Reprint By me This is a reprint of an 1890's book on theme costumes for women, listed in alphabetical order. There are hundreds of costumes described, but few

illustrations. All of the costumes shown have the fashionable 1890's silhouette of huge puffed sleeves and tiny waist.

The Victorians adored fancy-dress parties: what better way to escape the rigidity of social conventions than to spend a festive evening disguised as Cleopatra, a Swiss milkmaid, or Alice in Wonderland? Well-to-do party-goers of the era consulted *Fancy Dresses Described*, an elaborate guide to hundreds of glorious costumes. The book was so popular that it was updated several times; this is the sixth and final edition, originally published in 1896. Time has transformed it into an important historical document as well as an abundant cosplay resource. Twenty color and 40 black-and-white illustrations enhance the alphabetical entries, which are mostly for women's costumes but include a section on children's dress. Costumes range from the peasant garb of Austria, Italy, and Ireland to the finery of the six wives of Henry VIII, Marie Antoinette, and other members of French and English royalty. Additional entries spotlight characters from Shakespeare and Dickens; traditional apparel of Egypt and ancient Greece and Rome; Cinderella, Maid Marian, and other folkloric figures; as well as outfits suggested by astronomy, the seasons, the animal kingdom, and other thematic subjects. Costume designers, reenactors, lovers of Victorian fashion, and Halloween enthusiasts will find this historic volume a tremendous source of inspiration.

About the Author A British writer of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Arden Holt wrote columns on society and fashion, primarily for *Queen* magazine.