

Everyday Fashions of the Forties As Pictured in Sears Catalogs (Dover Fashion and Costumes)

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Few publications illustrate so comprehensively what American men, women, and children wore in the 1940s than the Sears catalogs of those years, when the company's fashions typified the tastes of the American mainstream. This book is a compilation of 122 fully illustrated and captioned pages selected and reproduced from rare copies of Sears catalogs of the World War II era.

Over 120 large-format pages have been carefully reprinted on high-quality glossy stock. They reveal in sharp detail the broad range of clothing fashions available during a period when wartime gasoline rationing made mail-order shopping reach new heights of popularity.

Hundreds of accurately detailed drawings depict articles of clothing and personal accessories, including hats, overcoats, shoes, dresses, sportswear, undergarments, neckties, and more. Styles for children range from play clothes to "Sunday best." Men's clothing reflects the conservatism in male fashions during the period. Women's wear ranges from slacks, newly popular with women in the workforce, to dresses with plenty of "Oomph."

Here is a richly revealing document that historians of costume and readers interested in fashion, social history, and Americana will find endlessly fascinating. JoAnne Olian, curator of the Costume Collection at the Museum of the City of New York, has written an introduction that appraises the fashions of the 1940s and the many ways in which they reflected the times.

JoAnne Olian is a former curator of the costume collection at the Museum of the City of New York and the author of numerous books on the history of fashion.

Other Books

Warman's Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide. From native-American artifacts, Depression glass, and toys to lamps and lighting and paper ephemera, this authoritative "bible" is an essential field guide to more than 500 categories of collectibles. The 2001 edition features a new category of American paintings along with special emphasis on English and Continental furniture. 600 photos. (Antiques/Collectibles)

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