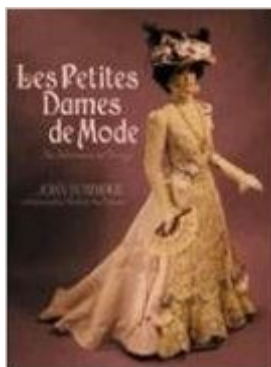


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# Les Petites Dames De Mode: An Adventure In Design



## Synopsis

For years, doll and costume enthusiasts alike have seized every opportunity to view the authentic period ensembles created by John Burbidge, former bridal designer for the prestigious Priscilla of Boston. Titled *Les Petites Dames de Mode* ("the little ladies of fashion"), this collection of Victorian and Edwardian gowns worn by 29-inch mannequins has been displayed in prominent museums throughout the country and was the subject of a video produced in the 1990s. Not until now has the entire collection been presented in print. Featuring full-page photos of each gown, with close-up views of important details, accompanied by the designer's extensive notes on the creation of each piece, this book will be appreciated and treasured by doll collectors, costume historians, clothing designers and fashion aficionados.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book by Mr. Burbidge is a feast for the eyes. The book features dozens of 29-inch fashion dolls wearing costumes from the 1850s to around 1914. Being oversized dolls, each costume can have incredible detail. Mr. Burbidge has labored to create accurate period detail in each dress. Each doll is shown in a full-page picture with period hairstyles and accessories. Each accompanying page includes a description of the outfit, small inset pictures of close details, an interesting quote from historical sources about the time period and usually some tidbit about where the author found the material for the gown. Frequently the author will explain things about high society of the era and how certain items would be viewed - for instance, whether a gown would be considered racy

because of its color or how young ladies didn't wear expensive jewelry with a gown until after they were married. There are only 2 things that I found lacking about this book and they are really trivial items in my mind. The first is that the color of the full-page images is sometimes a bit "off". The dolls often feature very soft colors and the images have a warm tone that can wash them out. The inset detail shots usually have a better color representation. The second is that the reader should not expect accurate period undergarments on the dolls. The crinolines and petticoats are fairly accurate, but there are no corsets shown. All in all, the book is beautiful and informative. If you didn't know better, you would almost think the images were of full-size mannequins dressed in real period costumes. And the accompanying text is suitable for anyone, even if they have no knowledge of the eras shown.

"Les Petites Dames de Mode" literally made my mouth water! The beautiful, detailed photos of these exquisite costumes were truly awe-inspiring. Anyone who appreciates vintage costume will absolutely love this book. For those of us who design and sew costumes, it will definitely serve to fire up those creative urges!

This book is a total delight for fans of couture, especially La Belle Epoch. Nothing will compare to seeing the exquisite Les Petites Dames in person, but this book comes close! I was fortunate enough to acquire some of these pictures when they were marketed in small groups, so I was thrilled to find that Mr. Burbidge had since expanded the collection and subsequently published it in its entirety (also the book goes into more detail). Just loved it!!

Anyone who loves fashions of the Victorian/Edwardian era will be amazed at the details of these 29" dolls. Every accessory is perfect, richly illustrated.

THE most amazing book. I have long wanted to design miniatures like this - I am so inspired by the collection and the descriptions and background for the gowns. This copy was even a signed one. Yea!

If you're into miniatures, or just fabulous seamestry, you will love this book and this man's work with textiles, and fashion of a romantic era like none you've seen. These are fashions we will never see again in our society, (thank goodness - can't imagine wearing this stuff). But at the same time, I love to see how elegant and fabulous ladies looked in these garments. This man was responsible for

making some of the most fabulous wedding gowns in our country for over a decade and now has preserved for us a fashion era that won't be brought back in its entirety ever again. A must see for those that are into preserving a culture and miniatures.

This is a wonderful book. The photography shows every detail of the exquisite designs, which are breath-taking. The commentary is very interesting and gives an insight into life in the 1800's according to the way women dressed. I would love to be able to wear any of the fabulous dresses shown.

I found this book very useful as a source for inspiration. Good quality pictures of very Victorian looking dresses. It is not a "how to" book, but if you have some experience in sewing, there you can find good ideas how it all must look then finished.

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