Contributors

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Hair styles through history

A series of illustrations by Ronald Glendening which depict the changing mode of hair dressing since the days of early Egyptian culture . . .

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19th Century

FRENCH LADY 1832

While in England, in the late eighteen-twenties, the hair was growing higher and higher, in France it was becoming exotic in a different way. The tall hairstyle consisted of bows of hair raised upon triangular pins which were fastened to the hair. Above them all was raised the "giraffe" bow, so named in compliment to the appearance, for the first time in England, of two giraffes.

In France, a particularly engaging style of hair dressing consisted, as depicted, of decorating the hair with ears of wheat. Later in the century this decoration was to become less bizarre with the introduction of the parure—combinations of flowers arranged in the hair to correspond with the bouquet held in the hand.

The wildly extravagant styles of the early part of the century declined by the end of the eighteen-thirties, and in general, the trend towards more conservative hair dressing continued throughout the century. In the confusion of wigs, flowers, powders and plants that enveloped the head in the nineteenth century, simple dandruff could well be obscured! But, in treatment . . .

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