Illustrations

Figure 1

Purse, ca. 1880, American or French.
Silk, metal; Length: 31.8 cm.
Author’s collection.

Figure 2

Purse, ca. 1620, Italian.
Knit silk, metallic thread; Length: 40.6 cm.
M.88.52
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles.

Figure 3
Purse, eighteenth century, Italian or Spanish.
No medium available; Length: 50.5 cm.
1931-40-54
Figure 4

Purse, late eighteenth century, European.
Silk; Length: 16.8 cm.
43.2417
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Figure 5

Purse, 1800 – 1820, British.
Crocheted silk with carved wooden tassels and sliders; Length: 27 cm.
T.1325-1913
Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
Figure 6

Purse, probably early nineteenth century, European. No medium or dimensions available.
C.I.38.23.130
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 7

Dress, ca. 1804, French.
Cotton; Length: 236.2 cm.
C.I.19.181.1
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 8

(Right) Dress, 1804 – 1810, American.
No medium or dimensions available.
C.I.59.35.1
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 9


Courtesy of Gimbel Library, Parsons, the New School for Design, New York.
String purse, early twentieth century, American
Silk, metal; Length: 45.7 cm.
1975.225.1
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 11

String purse, ca. 1875, American.
No medium available; Length: 19.1 cm.
79.223.8.
Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York.

Figure 12

Purse, early nineteenth century, French.
Silk, gilt metal beads and rings; Length: 22.7 cm.
41.871
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
Figure 13

Purse, possibly ca. 1860, American.
Silk; Length: 25.4 cm.
C.I.50.10.4
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 14

Purse, attributed first quarter of nineteenth century; probably second half of the nineteenth century, American.
Cashmere, satin embroidery, celluloid tassels and rings; No dimensions available.
BM65.184.43
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 15

Purse, attributed early nineteenth century, American or European.
Silk, gilt metal; Length: 29 cm.
1953-106-91-a/b
Figure 16

Purse, attributed second quarter of the nineteenth century; probably third quarter of the nineteenth century, American. Velvet, cut steel embroidery; No dimensions available. BM65.184.44 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 17

Purse, third quarter of the nineteenth century, American. Silver metal; No dimensions available. BM57.146.20 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 18


Figure 19

Purse, attributed 1810 – 1830; probably ca. 1840, American or European. Netted silk; Length: 21 cm.
1953-106-70
Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Figure 20

Courtesy of Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Reprinted from “Articles for Presents or Fancy Fairs,” *Godey's Lady's Book*, January 1860, 70.

Reprinted from Work Department, *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, October 1863, 304.

Figure 23

Purse, possibly ca. 1863, probably American. Silk; No dimensions available.
C.I.46.50
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 24


Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.

Figure 25

Reprinted from Work Department, *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, August 1877, 162.

Figure 26

Purse, attributed 1840 – 1860; possibly ca. 1877, American. Silk, metal; No dimensions available.
BM32.480.17
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 27

Reprinted from Work Department, *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, November 1879, 461.

Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.
Figure 28

Purse, ca. 1850, attributed American or French; probably American.
No medium available; Length: 32.4 cm.
U.166
Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York.

Figure 29

Purse, 1840 – 1860, American.
Silk, metal; No dimensions available.
BM65.184.41
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 30

Purse, attributed 1840 – 1860; probably ca. 1856 – 1870, American. Silk, metal; No dimensions available.
BM59.155.8
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 31


Figure 32


Figure 33

Purse, probably 1870 – 1880, American. No medium or no dimensions available. C.I.38.49.7
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 34

Purse, attributed early nineteenth century, American or European. Silk, metal beads; Length: 21.5 cm.
1953-106-102

Figure 35

Purse, early nineteenth century, French. Silk, gilt metal beads, enameled and gilt metal rings and tassels; Length: 18.3 cm.
41.865
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
Purse, nineteenth century, American.
Silk, beads; Length: 44 cm.
1931-17-1

Figure 37

Purse, attributed 1810 – 1830; probably ca. 1840, American or European.
Silk, metal beads; Length: 24.5 cm.
1953-106-36

Figure 39

Purse, 1830 – 1880, French or Italian. Silk, gilt metal beads; Length: 30.5 cm. 41.878 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
Figure 40

Purse, early nineteenth century, French.
Silk, gilt metal; Length: 19.3 cm.
41.876
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Figure 41

Purse, 1810 – 1830, European.
Silk, metal; Length: 23 cm.
1953-106-57

Figure 42
Purse, 1840 – 1870, American or European.
Gold-wrapped silk, metal; Length: 26 cm.
1953-106-82

Figure 43

(Left) Purse, 1840 – 1880, British.
Silk, steel beads. No dimensions available.
T.1395-1913
Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
Figure 44

Purse, 1810 – 1840, French.
Silk, gilt metal beads; Length: 23 cm.
1953-106-94

Figure 45

Purse, early nineteenth century, American or European.
Silk, metal; Length: 11.5 cm.
1951-106-66
Figure 46

Purse, 1915 – 1920, American.
Silk; Length: 47 cm.
82.199.14
Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York.
Figure 47

Purse, 1890 – 1910, American.
Silk, marcasite beads; Length: 32 cm.
1957-180-19

Figure 48

Reprinted from Work Department, *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, December 1864, 537.

Figure 49
Reticule, ca. 1863, American.
Silk; Length at center: 64.8 cm.
1983.286a-c
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 50
Reticule, 1810 – 1830, probably German.
Silk, glass; Length: 26 cm.
1980.445.13
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 52


Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.

Figure 53

Reprinted from Work Department, *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, February 1885, 233.

Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.
Figure 54

Pence-jug, 1830 – 1860, American or European.
Silk, copper beads; Length: 10 cm.
1925-2-343
Figure 55


Figure 56

Reprinted from Modes de Paris, Petit Courrier des Dames: Journal des Modes, February 28, 1845, plate 2082.

Reproduced by permission of Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York.
Figure 57


Reproduced by permission of Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York.
Waistcoat, 1840 – 1859, American or European. Silk, cotton; Length at center back: 50.8 cm. 1978.477.27 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 59

Frock coat, ca. 1840, American. Wool; Length at center back: 91.4 cm. C.I.60.22.6 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 60

Figures wearing a morning coat, an overcoat, and a Tweedside jacket with matching trousers, ca. 1859.


Figure 62


Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.
Figure 63

Fashions for April.

Furnished by Mr. G. Brodie, 390 Pearl Street, New York, and drawn by Vogt from actual articles of Costume.

Reprinted from Fashions for April, Harper's New Monthly Magazine, April 1861, 719.
Illustration of a watch pocket at the waistband of a skirt.


Illustration of a horsehair padded petticoat.

Figure 66

Crinoline, ca. 1850, American or European.
Steel wire; No dimensions available.
C.I.41.110.317
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 67

Crinoline, 1862, American.
Steel, cotton; Length: 86.4 cm.
C.I.53.72.13
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 68

Dress, 1868, British.
Silk, trimmed with braid, beads, hand-made Maltese-style bobbin lace and silk fringe; No dimensions available.
Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Figure 69

Crinoline, ca. 1870 – 1875, American or European.
No medium or dimensions available.
C.I.43.126.43
Figure 70

Dress illustration developed from women’s wool Reefer jacket, ca. 1892 – 1897, in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.


Figure 71

Dress (Tea Gown), 1890, French.
Silk, cotton; No dimensions available.
C.I.44.122
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 72

Reprinted from George Augustus Sala, *The Great Exhibition: “Wot is to be”: or probable results of the Industry of all Nations in the Year ’51: showing what is to be exhibited, who is to exhibit: in short, how it’s all going to be done* (London: Committee of the Society for Keeping Things in Their Places, 1850), unpaginated.

Figure 73

Indian Head gold dollar, 1858, scaled to actual size.


Figure 74

Morgan silver dollar, 1878, scaled to actual size.


James Collinson, *At the Bazaar, or, The Empty Purse*, ca. 1857. Oil on canvas; H x W: 77 cm x 66 cm. Tate Britain, London.
Purse, attributed early nineteenth century; probably ca. 1860, French. Red silk worked in cut steel beads and cut steel fixtures; Length: 31 cm. 41.860 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Figure 79

Illustration of a gimmel ring.


Courtesy of Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.