

Exchange

France and Britain were almost constantly separated by war from 1792-1815, but it is possible to trace patterns of exchange and influence in fashion. Plates from both sides of the Channel were clearly inspired by, and in some cases directly copied from, one another.

These three plates from early 1802 explicitly demonstrate this mutual influence, which is evident throughout the period.



Gallery of Fashion
February 1802



Journal des Dames et des Modes
March 1802



Fashions of London and Paris
May 1802



Journal des Dames et des Modes

January 1798



Gallery of Fashion
April 1798



Gallery of Fashion

April 1797



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April 1800



Shedding Layers

Regardless of simultaneous trends, French fashion was far more dramatic and radical than British fashion during this era.

Throughout *Journal des Dames* women wear garments that reveal their arms, shoulders, breasts and feet.

In British plates, not only are women's bodies almost completely covered in fabric. Even their feet are rarely visible! The exception is when the figures brave the elements, and the driving rain and howling wind sweep up their skirts.

Interpreting Antique

Commonly called "neoclassical," dress during this period was often inspired by ancient Greek and Roman statues. This is apparent throughout the JDM, affecting all parts of dress, but occurs only sparingly and subtly in British fashion plates.



Journal des Dames et des Modes
November 1797



Gallery of Fashion
March 1798

Everlasting Turban



Gallery of Fashion
1794 Frontispiece

January 1798



October 1802

January 1800



January 1803



Fashions of London and Paris
March 1803

Journal des Dames et des Modes

Some fashion trends extended well before and after the French Revolution. A remarkable example is the turban, which gained popularity in England in the 1780s and took on several different forms in both countries over the decades, becoming a hallmark of the period.