

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.

Here are two examples of how the *Fashions of London and Paris* translated plates from the *Journal des Dames et des Modes*.

Journal des Dames et des Modes

March 1802



February 1803



Fashions of London and Paris

May 1802



April 1803



Journal des Dames et des Modes

April 1801



Gallery of Fashion
February 1801



Gallery of Fashion

April 1797



November 1800



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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 take a vigorous walk in the country, and their quick steps or howling winds 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



Fashions of London and Paris
March 1803

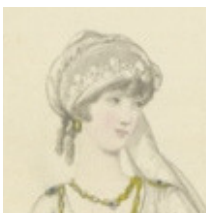
Everlasting Turban

Gallery of Fashion

January 1798



August 1800



Journal des Dames et des Modes

January 1798



January 1800



Journal des Dames et des Modes

October 1802



January 1803

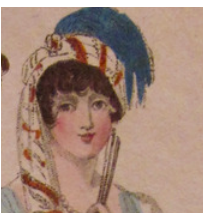


Fashions of London and Paris

May 1801



March 1803



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.