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# *Silk stockings*



Stockings from Straehl & Co. Ltd., Zofingen.  
Photo Dietrich & Co., Vienna.

CATHERINE the Great was the first woman who wore silk stockings. Ever since the 18th century the manufacture of these articles has played a very important part in the textile trade. But it is chiefly since the evolution of social life and of fashions which has freed woman from old-world proprieties, that stockings have become an article of clothing that is meant to be looked at. Not more than fifty years ago the code of decency forbade women to show anything above the ankle, — but to-day stockings are a thing of the very first importance. Harmonising with the whole costume, and forming the transition between the dress itself and the shoes that are worn, the stocking gives the final smart touch to a woman's appearance, especially when it adds glamour to a well-shaped leg.

Advanced technique enables manufacturers to produce stockings of the filmiest kind imaginable. Strong and yet almost transparent, they clothe a woman's leg with a membrane that is hardly more substantial than gossamer. The clinging softness and the iridescence of these lovely stockings idealises all that its diaphanous texture shows. Reticent audacity, illusion and reality, frankness veiled in mystery... this is the atmosphere created by modern silk stockings. Its elastic texture gives a firm line, accentuates and emphasises beauty of shape.

The silk stocking trade was introduced into Switzerland in 1914 and has since then developed rapidly. The goods manufactured here are unequalled for daintiness and fit, and are made of first-class materials. They are thus well able to compete on the world market. The intuitive feeling for finish and quality that is the soul of Swiss trade, together with the rapid growth of textile manufactures in this country, guarantees perfection and therefore success in the manufacture of silk stockings.

Stockings with reversed stitches are much worn at present, gold and sunburn-brown being favourite shades. These fine real-silk stockings, with their soft, distinguished look show up the curve of a pretty leg in an inimitable manner and are an essential part of the get-up of a well-dressed woman.