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Echos de Paris

Cashmere in Paris

Cashmere is undoubtedly the most valued of all animal fibres. Valued not only for its softness and fineness but also for its scarcity. It comes from the high mountains of Kashmir and Mongolia. And it is not, as is commonly

believed, the actual fleece of the goats but the fine down lying under this fleece, which is removed from the living animal by combing. A top quality goat's fleece contains only about 30% of this precious material, so that one



« Cashmere by JFM »
J. F. MÜLLER & CO.,
Ltd., THERWIL
General agent
for France :
Achille Bayart & Co.,
Roubaix
Photos United Press

goat combed regularly supplies no more than 100 to 130 grams of down a year. The world's annual production does not exceed 1800 metric tons.

Cashmere is spun in both carded and worsted qualities with very precise techniques ; it is beginning to be used in hosiery, and cashmere knitting wool can now be found on the market.

A short while ago, a number of producers and spinners interested in the development of cashmere, formed the « Friends of Cashmere Club » for the purpose of

promoting this raw material whose popularity is assured in both couture and knitting.

J. F. Muller & Co. Ltd., of Therwil, big suppliers of cashmere fibres for spinning, recently organized in Paris, with the help of their general agent for France, an exhibition of cashmere, ranging from the goat's fleece to the manufactured products. This was an opportunity to admire a number of ready-to-wear articles, such as pull-overs, jackets, etc., as well as articles made of fabrics : coats, tailormades, men's suits, etc.

Changes in the Couture Committee

We were recently informed of the resignations of the President and the Vice-President of the Paris Couture Committee. The former was Mr. Robert Ricci, general manager of the couture house founded by his mother, M^{me} Nina Ricci ; the latter, Mr. Armand Léon, is manager of the house of Jacques Griffe.

To replace these two eminent figures of the fashion world, the Couture Committee elected Mr. Jean Manussardi, a well-known and popular figure in Paris couture circles, to be its Chairman.

Lucky is no more



The loss of the famous mannequin, Lucky, who died in Paris this summer at the age of 41, came as a severe shock to the whole world of fashion. A Breton farmer's daughter, Lucky had early on shown a passion for clothes, but it was only after several lean and difficult years that she succeeded in becoming a mannequin. Fired by the ambition and determination generally attributed to the Bretons, Lucky rose to fame by creating a manner of presentation all her own, which finally made her the undisputed queen of the couture salons. For many years she was the most famous star mannequin, travelling all over the world presenting the creations of the great couturiers, in particular Jacques Fath and Christian Dior. Possessing a generous heart and remembering her own early difficulties, she decided in 1957 to give up her work as a model and devote her time and energy to the protection of her fellow mannequins ; she therefore founded the « Mannequins Mutual Protection Society » of which she was naturally the president, followed shortly afterwards by a school for mannequins, which rapidly won international fame.

Lucky was buried in the magnificent red satin dress spangled with black sequins that Christian Dior had given her as a farewell gift when she retired from the fashion scene.