

# White Mull Round Gown



Unknown creator and place of origin

Mull (i.e. cotton plain weave) with specks of metal silver strips

Date of garment: ca. 1808-1812

Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection, Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta

Accession # 1974.9.4

1974 purchase from Cora Ginsburg LLC (Sharon, USA)

University of Alberta School of Household Economics

Artifact adopted by Peggy Isley, March 2013

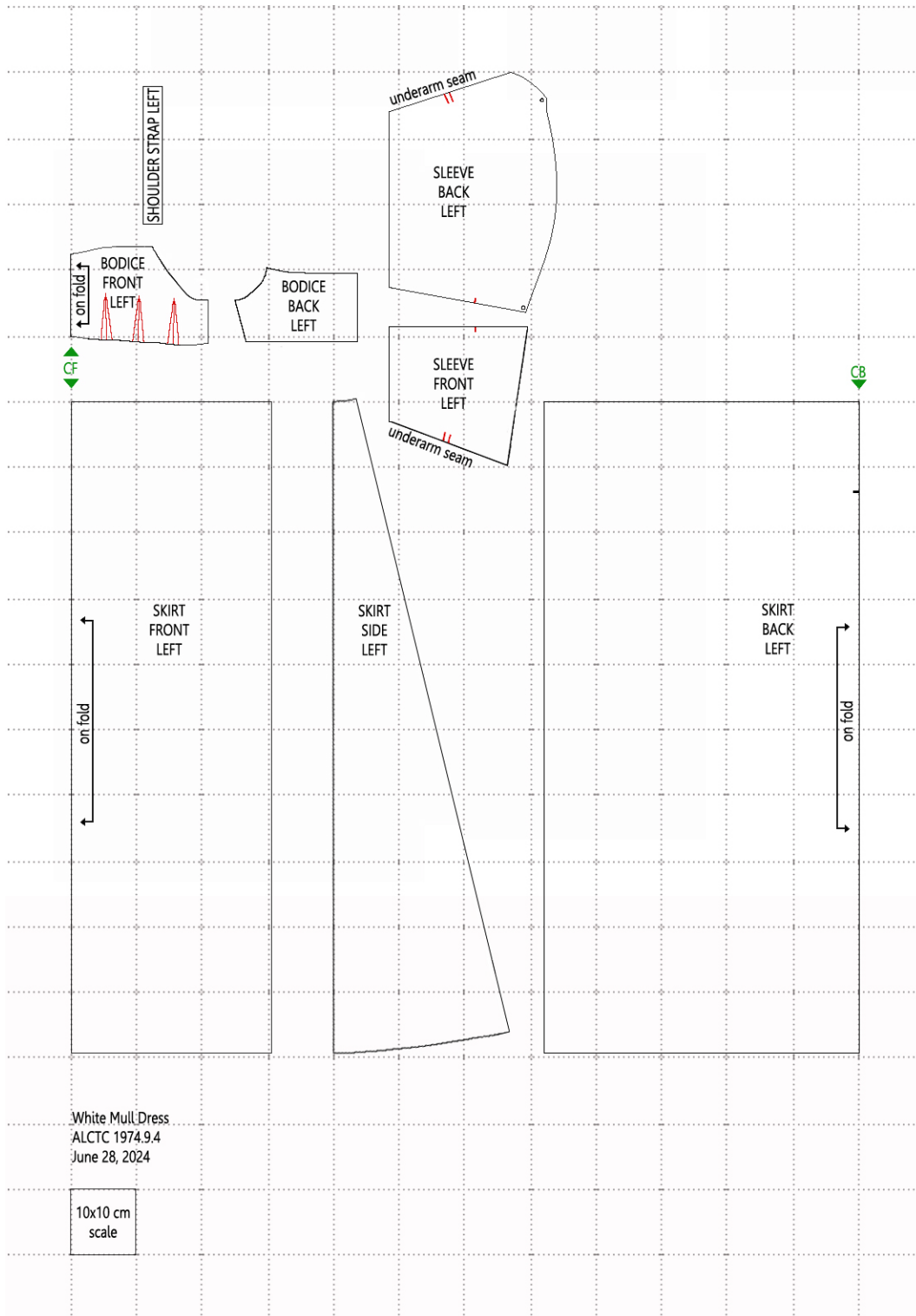


Figure 1  
Pattern Diagram 1974.9.4



Figure 2  
1974.9.4: Front View  
Paper hair by Sarah Nash, graduate student.  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.



Figure 3  
1974.9.4: Side View  
Paper hair by Sarah Nash, graduate student.  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.



Figure 4  
1974.9.4: Back View  
Paper hair by Sarah Nash, graduate student.  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.



Figure 5  
1974.9.4: Back Detail 1  
Paper hair by Sarah Nash, graduate student.  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.

Worn with:

**Square Turnover Shawl with Red Field and Multicolored Decorative Borders**

Unknown creator, Europe, ca. 1810-1830.

Silk field and wool borders.

Pieced borders woven au lancé on a jacquard loom to create paisley (boteh) motifs.

Human Ecology's Clothing and Textiles Collection,

Donated by Janice Hanson (1997.4.1).

Artifact adopted by Peggy Isley, March 2013.

**Black Satin Slipper Shoes**

Unknown creator, Canada, ca. 1820s-1830s.

Silk and leather.

Human Ecology's Clothing and Textiles Collection,



Donated by Jim Whittome (2001.6.8ab).

**Ivory Kid Gloves**

Unknown creator and place or origin, 20th century  
Human Ecology's Clothing and Textiles Collection,  
Donated by Louise & Mary Calder (1979.1.14ab).

Reproduction cotton under dress.



Figure 6  
1974.9.4: Back Detail 2  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.



Figure 7  
1974.9.4: Back Detail 3  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.





Figure 8  
1974.9.4: Shoulder Strap and Sleeve View  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.



Figure 9  
1974.9.4: Fabric Detail  
Photograph by ©Anne Bissonnette.

## Observations

This ca. 1808-1812 cotton mull unlined “round” gown (i.e. without the gown opening at the front skirt) has a fitted bodice with a square neckline, an elevated waistline, an A-line silhouette, and short, full sleeves. The sheer, lightweight fabric has small specks of applied metal strips that may have tarnished over time and now look black (Figure 9). While they appear to be all over, some specks are missing in areas where they were likely present and the lower half of the “skirt back” pattern piece has no specks.

The bodice caters to high and wide individual breast volumes. This involves three darts per breast on the “bodice front” pattern piece. The front and back bodice pieces are gathered across the neckline with an enclosed drawstring that ties at centre front (CF) and centre back (CB). The fit at the back bodice is created by an enclosed drawstring at the elevated waistline. This drawstring also serves to close the CB slit opening that starts at the neckline and ends at approximately the natural waist level. The voluminous, two-piece sleeves are gathered at the hem with an enclosed drawstring.

The skirt section is constructed of a narrower rectangular “skirt front” piece, a triangular “skirt side” piece, and a wider rectangular “skirt back” piece. The hem circumference is 234 cm, which accommodates an extremely wide stride.

Of importance:

- The presence of bust darts on the “bodice front” pattern piece indicates this gown was likely worn with undergarments that delineate separate breast volumes.
- This pattern was created early on in our pattern-taking project, therefore it was not done using the streamlined method referenced previously. As such, this pattern and the accompanying construction notes lack some details.

## Pattern Notes:

- All descriptions use proper left and right, unless otherwise specified.
- All patterns are placed on the grid, which corresponds to the grain line.
- Seam allowances are not included, including allowances for drawstring channels.
- The “bodice front,” “skirt front,” and “skirt back” patterns pieces are presented on a fold and are thus half their size. The remaining pattern pieces are presented for one side of the body (e.g. the sleeve pieces are for the left sleeve only) except for the “shoulder strap” piece that requires a horizontal fold (along its long axis).

Last revised June 28, 2024

This garment has also been part of the virtual exhibition [The Re-Birth of Venus: Fashion & the Venus Kallipygos](#) (2014).

---

## ALCTC Pattern Project team members

Principal Investigator

Anne Bissonnette, PhD

Curator, Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection

Professor, Material Culture and Curatorship

Co-Principal Investigator

Katelin Karbonik, MA

Associate Curator, Anne Lambert Clothing & Textiles Collection, October 2022-March 2024

CAD Design

Siming Guo, PhD

Graduate Research Assistant, May-August 2022

This research was funded by the Government of Canada's Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations – Museums Assistance Program, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada