

## Federal/Empire/Regency Resources

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### **Images:**

Searching museums for Austen-era clothing is often a painstaking endeavor. You'll find both the terms dress and gown used, and since it is rare to be able to date garments precisely you can't search for a specific year. Certain articles are easier to find using terms like pelisse, spencer, reticule, turban, morning cap, etc. but even that will not get everything: one of my favorite spencers is actually titled "Ensemble" because it includes the gown. Pinterest, for all its irritating limitations, often provides a good starting place for finding things in museums (but watch out - Pinterest collections are wildly inaccurate about dates and sloppy about linking to original sources!). Search Google for "regency clothing" or "regency fashion" and you'll often find that people have created Pinterest boards with items that link to images from museums. That being said, here are my favorites. Good luck!

- Both the old and the new version of Demodé (The old site linked directly to extant garments but many links are broken. The new site links to museums around the world and provides tips on how to search). <http://demodecouture.com/extant-costumes/>
- Metropolitan Museum of Art - <http://www.metmuseum.org/collection>
- Victoria and Albert Museum - <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/>
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston - <http://www.mfa.org/collections/textiles-and-fashion-arts>

### **Books:**

- Arnold, Janet. *Patterns of Fashion; Englishwomen's Dresses c.1660-1860*. London, 1964/1972. [Includes information and scaled patterns. Invaluable for seeing how to shape and cut gowns from this period.]
- Bradfield, Nancy. *Costume in Detail, 1730-1930*. Kent: Eric Dobby Publishing, 2003. [Includes hand drawn sketches, with measurements, from a number of gowns, arranged chronologically. Fantastic detail.]
- Ginsburg, Madeleine, Avril Hart, Valerie Mendes and Natalie Rothstein. *Four Hundred Years of Fashion*. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 1993. [Mens and womens clothing, a great overview.]
- Kyoto Costume Inst., *Revolution in Fashion: European Clothing 1715-1815*. New York, 1990. [Any books from the Kyoto Costume Institute are well worth it. Glorious pictures.]
- Johnstone, Lucy. *Nineteenth Century Fashion in Detail*. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 2009. [Mostly from later in the century, but this series has unbelievably gorgeous close-up details.]
- le Bourhis, K. *The Age of Napoleon: Costume From Revolution to Empire, 1789-1815*. New York: Metropolitan Museum, 1989.
- Shep, R.L., *Corsets: A Visual History*. Mendocino CA, 1993. [Pictures, pictures, pictures...and details.]
- Steele, Valerie. *The Corset: A Cultural History*. New York: Yale University Press, 2001. [An overall look at the role of corsetry in women's fashion through time. Steele has fascinating ideas about how and why women have been determined to reshape their bodies.]
- Waugh, Nora. *Corsets and Crinolines*. London, 1954/1995. [A bit dated but still a useful reference.]
- The Internet Archive has published Ackermann's "Repository of Arts" (<https://archive.org/details/texts> search on ackermann repository) a monthly fashion and news magazine from 1809-1828. Each issue contains 2 fashion plates with descriptions. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that Austen read it – great for period culture and politics.