Foul Bodies

5. “…turn away from bathing the body to changing its linen as a means of achieving cleanliness which iccurred during the 16th century (water returns through 19th century American?)

33: Perfume did not simply mask smells, early modern people believed, but actually purged the corruption emanating from chamber pots, close stools, menstrual rags, diapers and bodies themselves. In contrast to these noxious smells, perfumed air was believed to be healthy air.

100: 200 years of wool as a source of national pride “England clothes the world”

101: 1700 linen imports single largest item (15%) of total imports

1696: linen laws, no duty on linen from Ireland. Also sets up commercial networks that later support cotton networks.

p. 131: Surrounded by filthy city streets if they were urban dwellers, by the pungent smells and dust of farms if they were country folk, and by potentially smelly chamber pots, diapers and vermin no matter where they lived, eighteenth-century people engaged in an unending struggle to keep their persons and their households clean. Efforts to minimize the smells of the body and its products as was as to eliminate the sources of stench in the urban environment reveal a growing sensitivity to smell that, in turn, motivated new efforts.

132: recipe books have lots of recipes for face, hands, stains, freckle removers—for keeping things white (not necessarily clean)

243: individual body odour instead of general female-centric disease odour: 1830s

Me: The familiar idea when discussing the drapery-like whites and pastels that characterize the turn of the 18th-19th century clothing is that it is based on classicism. But white has more significance: if white signifies cleanliness, moral rectitude, and the ability to employ servants, and women are held to a higher standard (due to inate uncleanness/moral turpitude?) then it is obvious who will be wearing it.

Clothing Through American History

p. 112: dress makers esp. for bodices, using other people’s gowns for design/cutting ideas,

p. 117 How many gowns, etc. did one own? P. 161 for men