

# THE LONG AND SHORT ... OF HAIR

BY IRIS ROBINSON

CLASSICISM and Romanticism, the age-old swing of the literary pendulum, have their counterparts in fashions, simplicity and femininity. The tempo of the age is expressed in the dress and manners of the people.

1650—The puritanism of the Reformation, with its condemnation of luxury and frivolity. Simplicity governed the coiffure and the fashionable world eschewed brilliant ornaments and extravagant modes.

1790—The hilarious clamor of the tocsin, the feverish cries of the captured *émigrés*, and the vanished glory of the Bourbons, ill-fated Louis XVI and his Marie Antoinette. Powdered coiffures with long ringlets bowed before the voracious guillotine.

1820—France, a kingdom once more, humbly trying to restore the old government and the old morals. The licentious habits of the Directoire and the Empire, with their extravagance and immorality gave way to an age of shocked modesty and literary exaltation. In an attempt to exemplify good taste and refined manners, the women of 1820 became prudish and pessimistic. Fashions changed accordingly. Women, careless as to clothes, dressed badly; and jewels and ornaments were relegated to the dim recesses. Styles in hairdressing were plain and lacked chic or beauty.

1830—The *coup d'état* of Louis Philippe and the revival of courtly manners and feminine graces. The coiffure became immaculate and elaborate. A high chignon was composed of loops and bows of hair, brushed into flat bands, accompanied by voluminous curls, rolls, loops, shells or *boucles* on either side of the temples. The only ornaments were flowers, ribbons or a little fichu tied over the head.

1927—The ballot and the platform, the office and the shop, the epitome of woman's emancipation. Boyish figures, masculine attire and wind-blown bobs characterised the mode. Long hair and feminine extravagances were *démodé* in this age of freedom and equality. Women aped the manners and dress of the masculine world.

1930—The pendulum points to the revival of femininity in a new world of fashions. Subtle charms and feminine contours replace the casual manners and boyish figure of previous years. Soft waves, curls and small chignons are preferred to the windblown and the swirl. Skirts are long and becoming longer, styles are intriguing and intricate, and the line has assumed an astonishing importance.

Longer hair is *de rigueur* this season, and is simulated if not actually possible. Paris hairdressers have devised ingenious ways of obtaining the required done-up effect with semi-long hair. A smart coiffure that has an Empire feeling attains that feminine elegance so important in the evening mode by means of diminutive curls, carried high on the back of the head. Another coiffure for hair that is shorter at the sides than in the back keeps the top of the head smooth, while the long hair is curled in ringlets.

Paris hairdressers have created a number of interesting types of coiffures based on the new natural permanent wave. Charles, at Vincent's, features a distinctive style based on a deep side parting, with the hair vertically waved across the back. The hair at both sides and the shorter ends are flatly curled to outline the shape of the head. A soft contour is achieved by curling the sides up and the back hair under.

An excellent coiffure for blonde hair that has been allowed to grow longer all over, is parted rather high on one side and finger-waved, while the ends are loosely curled in a spiral movement. This is sponsored by Emile, who also introduces a coiffure for hair that has been allowed to grow partially long in the back. It effects flat ringlets, and is loosely waved.

In fact, the curled coiffure has replaced the straight, short bob, and the permanent wave is all important. A reliable permanent with a frequent finger wave keeps the coiffure in its original soft contour and adds the crowning touch to the new ensemble. The irregular spiral waves follow the contour of the head, outlining a slim silhouette. Neatness and simplicity are once again enthroned. The sleek contour and apparently unstudied effect of the boyish bob is still achieved, but the diminutive curls and chignons add the feminine touch.



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