

Woman's Lounging Pajamas

UNDERTAKING THE MAKING
LACMA Costume and Textiles Pattern Project

Callot Sœurs

Paris, active 1895–1937

Woman's Lounging Pajamas, c. 1913

Silk net (tulle) and silk satin

(charmeuse) with metallic-thread
passementerie and silk tassels

Gift of Alexander J. and Anthony D.
Cassatt

54.97.17a–b

The spectacular productions of the Ballets Russes in Paris, inspired by the brilliant hues, motifs, and styles of Asia, significantly influenced fashion in the second decade of the 20th century. Couturiers such as Paul Poiret and the Callot sisters introduced glittering ornamentation, exotic feathers, turbans, and “harem” pants into the mode that engendered an entirely new silhouette for women.

This thoughtfully crafted hand-sewn and machine-stitched lounging pajama was made bifurcated by the attachment of the skirt length from the center front of the waist to the center back through the legs. Vertical side-front seams of the skirt were sewn with openings for the feet to create a stylized harem pant. The silk charmeuse skirt draped and outlined each leg while silk tassels at the foot openings would have drawn attention to the wearer's ankles as she walked. A bifurcated garment of any style during the early 1900s was a provocative

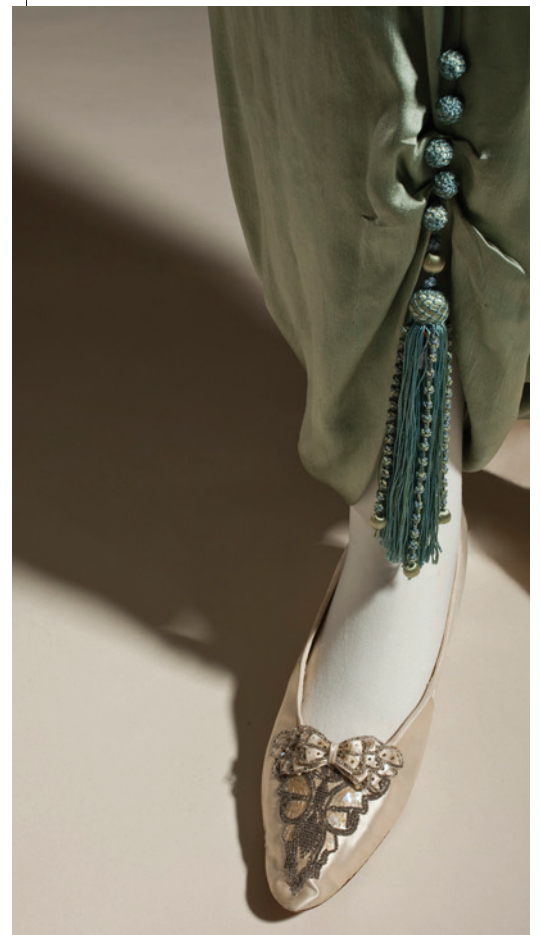
fashion that challenged ideas about established gender-appropriate dress.

NOTES:

1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of the graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. The over bodice of net tulle was cut with a decorative edge that finishes the center front, neck, and sleeve hems. Each bodice piece is slightly gathered at the top edge. The center-front pieces overlap to create a low v-neckline.
4. The under bodice of silk plain weave is trimmed with ¾-inch-wide metallic-thread passementerie at the top edge.
5. The skirt of silk charmeuse is attached to the bodice 3½ inches above the waist hem. There is evidence that the skirt was previously attached 3 inches below the current bodice seam. The bodice seams are bound with a ½-inch-wide bias tape of silk satin.
6. Six horizontal rows of gathers (smocking), ¾ inches apart, decorate the top of the skirt.
7. The skirt is made bifurcated with a continuous length of silk charmeuse that is sewn from

the center front of the waist to the center back of the waist through the legs. The side seams, oriented at each side front, are sewn 34 inches from the waist to the notch with openings for each foot.

8. Two ½-inch-deep tucks ¾ inches apart decorate the front leg openings 7¾ inches from the lower folded hemline. Five matching thread-covered spherical buttons adorn the openings ¾ inches below the top tuck; each button is spaced ¾ inches apart. A 5-inch-long matching silk tassel finishes the leg opening below the buttons, suspended from a 2-inch-long rope.
9. The center-back under bodice closes with eight hook and eyes placed 1 inch apart along a ⅝-inch-wide and 8¾-inch-long placket. A center-back skirt closure of five sets of hook and eyes is placed about 2¾ inches apart along a ½-inch-wide and 11-inch-long placket of ribbon that is set into a slash opening.
10. A 122-inch-long and 4¾-inch-wide waist sash of silk charmeuse is wrapped around the waist. The sash is seamed along the length of one edge, gathered at each end, and finished with a 5-inch-long silk tassel, suspended from a 2-inch-long silk cord.



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