Man's Frock Coat

Man's Frock Coat
France, c. 1815
Silk and wool twill
Purchased with funds provided by Michael and Ellen Michelson
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This rare frock coat, characterized by a fitted torso buttoned to the waist, straight-cut front edges, and a full skirt attached by a waist seam, is hand-constructed with silk and wool twill plaid. The long length of the skirt suggests that this coat is from the early 19th century and probably inspired by the great coats worn by soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars. The silk and wool textile also illustrates a gradual shift in menswear from the use of ornate silks favored in the 18th century, to tailored wools in the 19th century. Wool frock coats continued to be fashionable in menswear through the end of the 1800s, albeit shorter, plainer, and more formal in contrast to this patterned version.

NOTES:

1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of the graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. Eight 1⅛-inch-diameter self-covered buttons with eight 1¼-inch-long buttonholes create a double-breasted front.
4. Each sleeve cuff is secured with two ⅜-inch-diameter self-covered buttons and two ⅝-inch-long buttonholes.
5. One 4¾-inch-long single-welt pocket is at the proper left breast and one 5¾-inch-long double-welt pocket is at the inside proper right breast lining. Two 6¼-inch-long single welt pockets are at each side of the skirt.
6. Skirt front hems are bound with ¾-inch-wide bias tape of the silk and wool twill plaid.
7. The box-pleated vent at the center back skirt is reinforced at the top with stitches in the form of an inverted triangle.
8. The coat is lined with black silk twill; the back bodice lining has a ½-inch ease pleat in the lining fabric.

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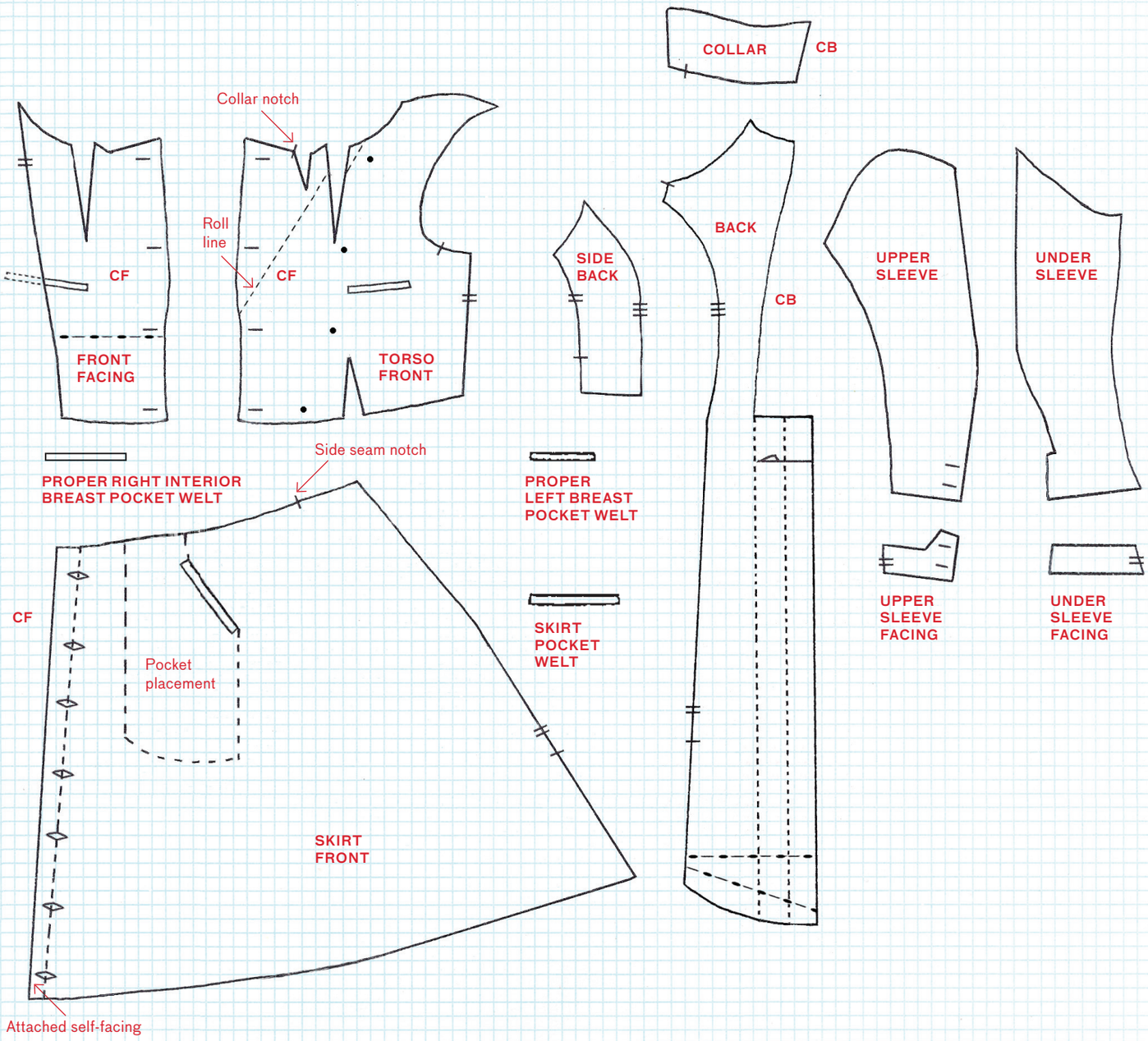

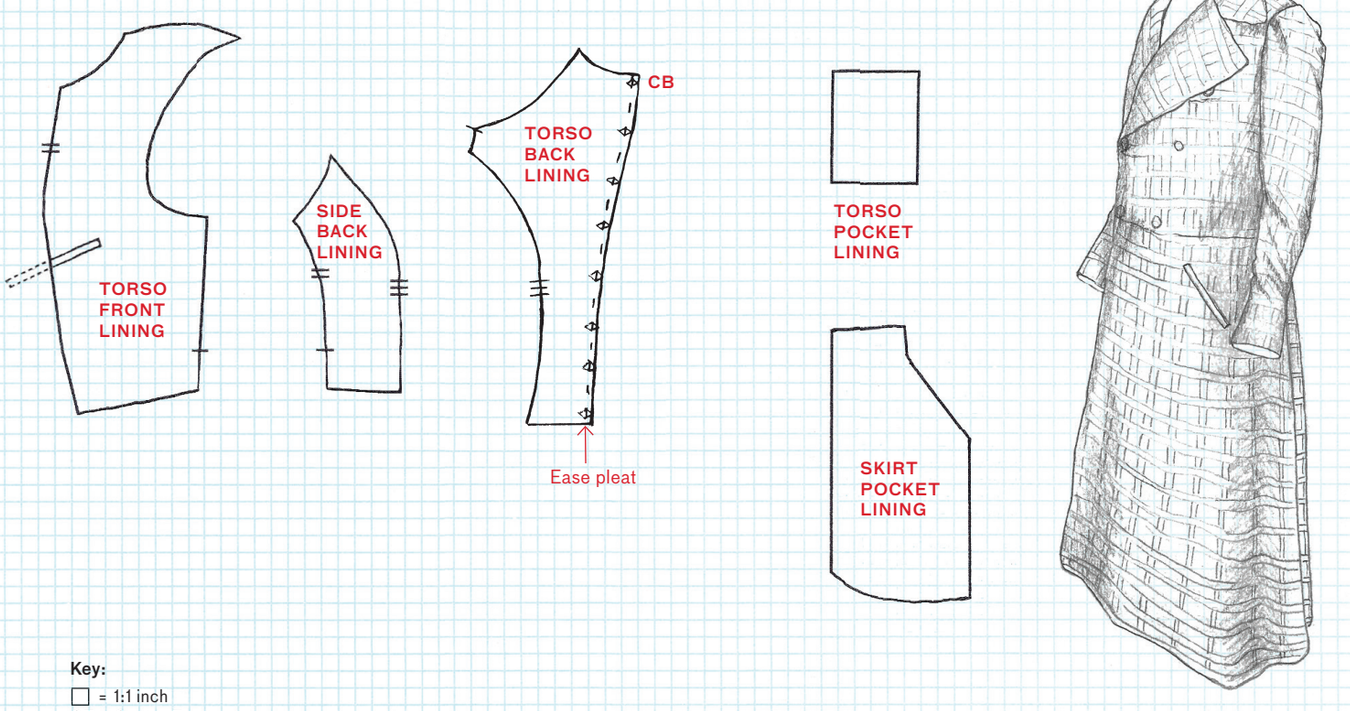

Key:

□ = 1:1 inch
CF = Center Front
CB = Center Back
— ● — ● — = Pieced fabric
◊ – ◊ – ◊ = Fold line

Patterns re-created and drawn by Thomas John Bernard.
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