

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Era: Circa 1750-1795



'Antonia' Dress

History

Who was Antonia?

Antonia was the German pet name for Marie Antoinette. She was born Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna in Austria. She was married to Louis XVI of France at the age of 15, whom she had never seen. Her personality and beauty charmed the people of France, but they eventually came to hate her, primarily because relations between France and Austria were strained. Many of the stories about her are based on French political cartoons of the time, and are completely unfounded. Marie Antoinette was instrumental in getting rid of many fashions that we would call ridiculous, including the wide square panniers and heavy makeup made of white lead. She encouraged simpler styles of dress and living, however, to cope with a loveless marriage and political struggles, she became a heavy gambler and spender. After the French Revolution, she was beheaded after a long imprisonment in 1793.

Fashion

This dress is very similar to a dress that a lady might have worn during the Colonial period. During the Colonial, or Georgian period, women's fashion was mostly in three different styles. The 'robe à la française' was the French style, also known as a sacque-back. The 'robe à la anglaise' style is the English style, which is a simpler fitted bodice. This dress is in the 'robe à la anglaise' style.