

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Era: Circa 1750-1795



'Queen Charlotte' Dress

History

Who is Queen Charlotte?

Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz was the wife of King George III and the Queen consort of Great Britain and Hanover. Charlotte was a patroness of the arts, including musicians such as Mozart and Bach. Charlotte and George's marriage was arranged and for the first few years Charlotte was made miserable by her mother-in-law. However, they had a good marriage until George III became ill with his infamous madness.

Charlotte is known for having introduced the German idea of a Christmas tree to the English. The tradition of having a Christmas tree indoors began in Medieval Germany and was made popular by Martin Luther. Charlotte brought a Christmas tree to the Royal Family in 1800, and the tradition has been popular throughout Europe ever since. Early Christmas trees were decorated with apples, nuts, gingerbread, ribbons and candles.

Fashion

This dress was inspired by a dress made in the 1780's. It is in the '*robe à la polonaise*' style. This style was inspired by the clothing of the Polish, and features a skirt that is cut and swagged over an underskirt. This style was popular from the 1770's through the later 1780's.

During the Colonial, or Georgian period, women's fashion was mostly in three different styles. The '*robe à la francaise*' 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. The '*robe à la polonaise*' style is the Polish style described above.