

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Regency Era: Circa 1795-1825



'Malmaison' Dress

History

What is 'Malmaison'?

The *Château de Malmaison* was once the residence of Josephine Bonaparte and her family. Josephine bought the estate while Napoleon was on his Egyptian campaign in 1797. Josephine spared no expense in turning the run-down manor house into what was called 'the most beautiful and curious garden in Europe'. Josephine was an avid botanist, growing about 250 varieties of roses at Malmaison. Josephine is still famous today for her roses.

After Josephine and Napoleon divorced, she lived at Malmaison until her death in 1814. After being sold a number of times, the *Château de Malmaison* came back into the hands of the Bonaparte family. Napoleon III had the property restored in the mid- 19th century. The estate is now a national French museum.

Fashion

This dress was inspired by 'The Rose of Malmaison', a painting by Jean Louis Victor Viger Du Vigneau, a French artist. His depiction of Josephine sitting in a group of ladies with Napoleon shows the Empress in a dress similar to this one.

