

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Edwardian Era - Circa: 1900-1910



'Jean Conan Doyle' Dress

History

Who was Jean Conan Doyle?

Jean Conan Doyle was the second wife of Arthur Conan Doyle, the inventor of Sherlock Holmes. Jean was known as an intelligent and refined woman, and met her future husband in 1897. He was still married, though unhappily, to invalid Louise Hawkins. They fell in love, but for the sake of his ailing wife, they kept their relationship platonic until her death in 1906. Jean and Arthur were married in 1907 and had three children. They had a happy and loving marriage until his death in 1930.

Fashion

This dress is inspired by a 1903 pattern from the American Delineator, a popular and successful women's magazine until the 1930's. With the popularity of the home sewing machine, many women were either making their own clothing or that of others. Magazines such as the American Delineator gave inspiration to these women who made clothing, and a patented measuring system made fitting simple.

This design was called a 'Lady's Toilet', and is a dress that a lady would have worn in a more casual setting, probably at home while entertaining guests in the afternoon. The Edwardian fashions took elaborate patterns to a whole new level – never before or since have women worn so much lace, ruffles, and ribbons. A fashionable lady would even have many rows of delicate lace on her undergarments!