

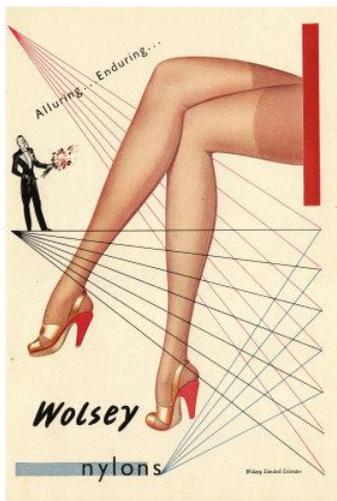


Janet Reuter

October 2019

This year marks the 80th year since the production of nylon came into the lives of almost everybody on the planet - and what a sensation it was!

Last month we read about Mary Quant and her unforgettable fashions showing off legs for the first time under the micro mini or hot pants. Tights were the greatest fashion invention ever but it was only possible because of the new developments in synthetic fibers with stretch. However the fashion emphasis on legs started in the 1920's when skirts went up for the first time. Stockings for the female sex were made from silk at this time and very expensive until the discovery of rayon to replace silk. While thigh highs are a fairly modern invention, the history of hosiery is one that goes way back. The first known articles of leg coverings were achieved by prehistoric men wrapping animal furs around their calves for warmth but it was in medieval times, in the 1500s that the form of hosiery that is most similar to today was created. This however was only for the male sex. Nylon stockings of the 20th century were something very different and a complete sensation. They did not wrinkle around the ankle and added a beautiful sheen to the legs.



Nylon was invented by the American company DuPont and was first used for fishing line, surgical sutures, and toothbrush bristles. DuPont marketed its new fiber "as strong as steel, as fine as a spider's web," and first announced and demonstrated nylon and nylon stockings to the American public at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

The company decided not to register nylon as a trademark, according to DuPont they, "choose to allow the word to enter the American vocabulary as a synonym for stockings, and from the time it went on sale to the general public in May 1940, nylon hosiery was a huge success, women lined up at stores across the country to buy the precious goods.,, From then on ladies went out to buy a pair of nylons and not stocking!

The first year on the market, DuPont sold 64 million pairs of nylon stockings. These sales of nylons were perhaps the biggest world wide sale of any one product ever. Just think of how many women were desperate to get hold of them. The leg was in the fore front of fashion! The nylons fitted perfectly, gave the legs a good shape and felt very sexy! There were other uses for this revolutionary fiber. That same year, nylon appeared in the movie, The Wizard of Oz, where it was used to create the tornado that carried Dorothy to the Emerald City.

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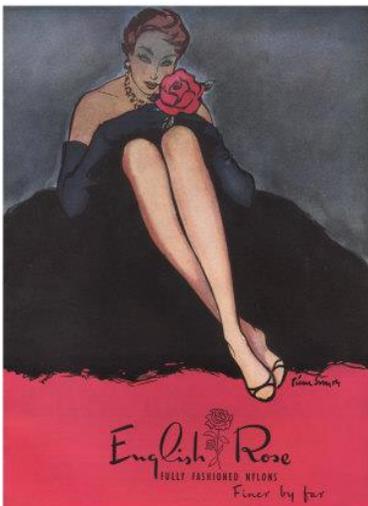
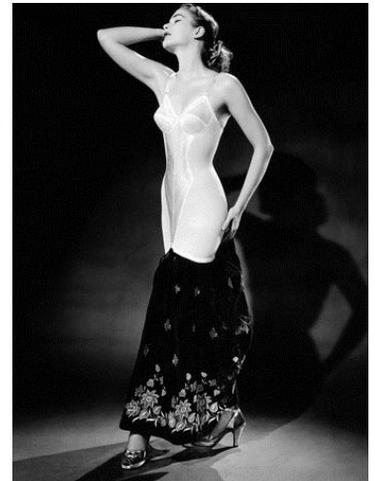
Nylon continued

Some of the other uses for nylon became important sooner than DuPont expected. World War II loomed on the horizon.

At their start on May 5th 1940, DuPont already sold more than 5 million tights in the US. During World War II, however, DuPont had to stop their production of nylon stockings for creating parachutes, airplane cords and ropes which led to a shortage of stockings and a creation of a huge black market. This black market flourished also in Europe as there were many American GI's stationed here for years after the war when until 1954 clothing rationing was still in force.

When DuPont finally returned to the production of nylon stockings at the end of the war, they could not meet the demand – Macy's in New York sold all 50.000 pairs in just six hours, and the American press documented serious disturbances by women also known as the nylon riots!

Twenty-one years later a brisk tour of the stands of the National Nylon Trade Fair at the Albert Hall revealed in addition to ladies' fully fashioned hose, furs, carpets, foundation garments, coloured sheets, curtains, upholstery cloth, men's and women's sweaters of every conceivable weight and texture, coloured raincoats for men and heavy sober ones, and any number of the new stretch nylon tights to be worn under a skirt. These, once limited to ballet dancers and later to skiers, had more recently entered the fantasy leisure wear wardrobes of fashion-conscious girls and vastly contributed to the sexual revolution!



Nylon started looking like almost anything, like cashmere for instance or even ocelot. But perhaps the most noticeable development was that it now felt like all these things, thanks to the new bulked or textured yarns, processed in a way that allows pockets of air to circulate around the fibres. This process added increased warmth, softness to the touch, and in some cases elasticity. The lives of many animals were saved!

Nylon was just the start of the development of synthetic fibers. We certainly don't miss the transparent shirts and underwear or the bed sheets which were so cold to get into. There are now so many fibers that are perfect for sportswear, or light weight warm wear. **However there is nothing like wool, silk, linen and cotton!**

October 2019

This is the great film moment that so many of you dedicated fans of the TV series Downton Abbey have been waiting for! The cinema film is now showing in cinemas in Frankfurt! And in neu Anspach!



This hugely popular TV series shown from 2010 to 2015 followed the fortunes of the aristocratic Crawley family and their downstairs servants at a Yorkshire country estate. The film starts in 1927, shortly before a royal visit to Downton Abbey by King George V and Queen Mary. Many of the cast members from the original series have returned, including Dame Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery and Elizabeth McGovern.

Prodigiously standing with its head high in the sky, Highclere Castle 'the real Downton Abbey' – is the quintessentially British historic castle not to be found in Yorkshire but in Newbury in Hampshire in the south of England. Highclere Castle has over 5000 acres of land and 1000 acres of beautiful gardens. The ancestry of Highclere can be traced back to the 8th century. In the 17th century it was bought by Robert Dormer, an aristocrat and the 1st Earl of Carnarvon originally of Welsh origin. His descendants the 8th Earl and family still live at the castle today.

The story of the Carnarvons is a fascinating one and records British culture for over 300 years. For centuries, since the 1st Earl, Highclere has been the real-life home of a British aristocratic family, who have entertained Kings and Queens of England along with a host of nobility and celebrities. The Carnarvons have lived an interesting and privileged life. In Edwardian times George Herbert (1842 – 1918) the 5th Earl of Carnarvon employed more than 25 domestic servants including daily cleaners and kitchen staff. This over-expenditure on a lavish lifestyle meant that he landed himself hugely in debt and almost lost the Carnarvons' beloved castle. However, in typical Carnarvon fashion, luck brought him money which fell in his lap! Baron Alfred de Rothschild, of the famous family of Rothschild Bankers made an offer that the 5th Earl could not refuse. In 1895, Alfred de Rothschild offered his illegitimate daughter, Almina Victoria Maria Alexandra Wombwell, in an arranged marriage for £150,000. This money first saved the Carnarvons from losing their heritage castle, it cleared all Carnarvon's outstanding debts. Secondly, Almina brought an additional £500,000 of inheritance to buy herself a place in the upper classes. The 5th Earl regained his aristocratic reputation by avoiding insolvency and the Rothschilds, formerly from Frankfurt, got a foot in the door of the high upper class English society.

So what did the 5th Earl do with the 500,000 pounds? The money opened up a phenomenal idea. The Earl became fixated on Egyptology, and found an equal enthusiastic partner, Howard Carter, who needed a sponsor. Carter, a keen amateur archaeologist, sailed to Egypt with the Earl in 1907 in search of Tutankamun's tomb. It's doubtful that either of them expected the operation would last more than 16 years, which it did. Sadly, it took the Earl's life in Cairo in 1923, where he died from blood poisoning which developed into pneumonia after accidentally shaving a mosquito bite infected with erysipelas. Many people at the time believe that this was a curse for attempting to wake the dead. There was a lot of fear attached to this sort of discovery! Opening the tombs of the dead!

The 8th Earl of Carnarvon must have felt to be a very lucky man as well when he was asked if his home could be used for the TV series written by Julian Fellowes. Highclere Castle attracts Downton Abbey worshipers from all over the world. So, for the time being it's financial situation is looking good. Let's hope this continues and maybe there will be another TV six part series to follow!

Enjoy the film, it has great reviews!

October 2019

[News about and for the English ladies](#)

The Royal Opera House, London have a new Autumn/Winter series of live cinema performances at Kinopolis, Main Taunus, Bad Soden.

Tuesday, 8th October is Don Giovanni

Sexual intrigue, jealousy, wit, anger... and retribution! The new Royal Opera Season begins with Mozart's engaging masterpiece, which follows

Don Giovanni, the woman he serially seduces, and the vengeance that finally catches up with him. The opera is renowned for its ever-shifting

portrayals of complex characters, fast-moving action and mix of the comic and the heartfelt. A cast of international singers – both familiar and making Royal Opera debuts – under conductor Hartmut Haenchen perform the glorious arias and ensembles of this opera favourite.



Thursday 24th October is Don Pasquale.

Royal Opera's favourite Welsh tenor, Bryn Terfel heads the cast for this new production of Donizetti's comedy of domestic drama across two generations. The witty story of a middle-aged man whose young wife runs rings around him – with her own ulterior romantic purpose in mind – has long delighted and surprised audiences, not least as presented with the sparkle of its music and the virtuoso skill of its performers. Damiano Michieletto's exhilarating production shows how contemporary the characters still are even to an audience of today.



Wiesbaden Museum is exhibiting the private collection of **Ferdinand Wolfgang Neess** as a permanent display in the southern wing of the museum. More than 500 objects show a cross-section of all the genres of Jugendstil, art of the late nineteenth century, and its stylistic virtuosity. Jugendstil, also known as Art Nouveau was a revolutionary art movement started by the Arts and Crafts Movement of William Morris in England. It was at the time a form of modern art and drew its themes both from nature and from the visual language of the human being and their passions. Emerging from the dynamism of nature and the vitality of youth, fin de siècle art also embodied the darker side of life, most notably through symbolism, myth and mystery. The aim was to create a 'Gesamtkunstwerk' that would erase the divisions between life and art. The exhibition shows examples of the artists developing their ideas to design objects to create complete interiors, not only paintings but lamps, furniture and many objects for daily use. This is a great asset for the Wiesbaden Museum.

Birthdays in October

Ilona Fehn

Gisela Werner

Gülsün Firat

Happy Birthday Ladies !!

