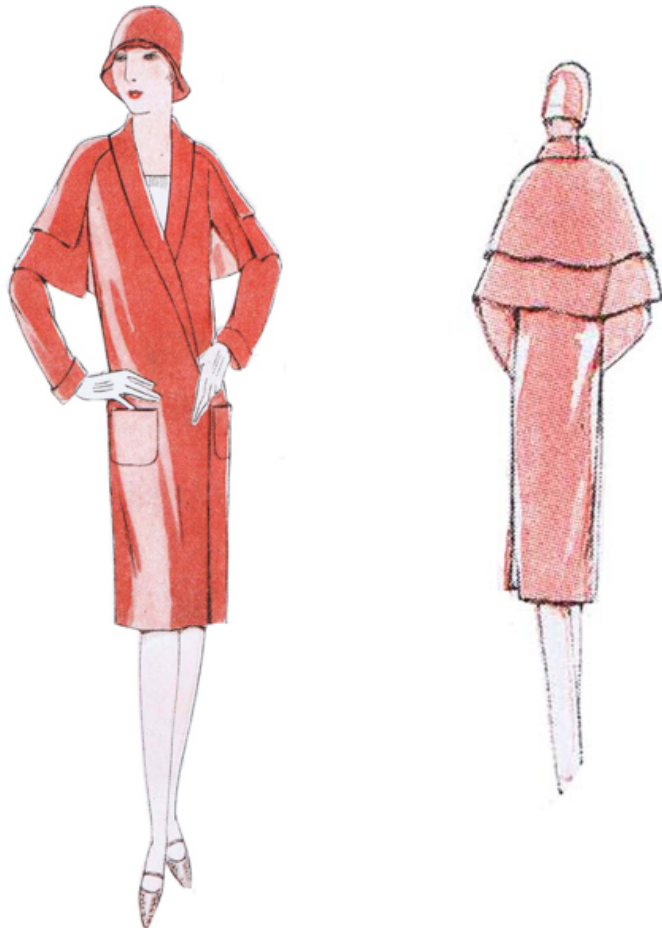


## THOSE SENSATIONAL CAPES

By Lois Przywitowski

The predecessor of the cape, the cloak, appeared well before the twentieth century. The cloak was a functional garment, meant to keep the wearer safe from virtually any kind of weather. At night it doubled as a blanket for protection from the elements. By the Model A era, the cloak was elegantly transformed into the cape. No longer was it simply functional. It adorned both dresses and coats, or was a garment on its own. Here we are showcasing capes in their role as an outer garment.

A double-tiered cape graces this lovely satin coat, reminiscent of what “romantic highway men once wore.” *McCall's*, April 1928, Pattern Number 5193





This coat features a cape attached at the shoulder line, allowing the elegant simplicity of the front of the coat to shine. *McCall's*, May 1928, Pattern Number 5263



The cape shown on the right takes “the place of a coat where a picturesque effect is desired.” The outward swing of the cape “reveals the entire frock beneath” the cape. *McCall's*, May 1928, Pattern Number 5054



This Cashmere day coat on the left features an unusual cape, again secured at the shoulder line. The irregular hemline adds dramatic interest and draws attention to the cape. *McCall's*, July 1928, Pattern Number 5305



The full cape of this evening wrap of transparent velvet shown on the left lends striking elegance to the ensemble, no matter what gown is worn beneath.

A New York dressmaker was questioned about velvet for summer wear. Her response was “velvet in its new cobweb weave is fashionable for summer.” *McCall's*, July 1928, Pattern Number 5306

A little cape adds interest and flair to this smart day coat on the right, in part by giving the appearance of a wide shoulder-line. The cape is accentuated by matching the curved lines of the coat front. *McCall's* May 1930, Pattern Number 6082



This coat features a collarless neckline and diagonal wrap closure. The look is softened by the shoulder capelet which swings free in the front. It is unusual in that it is not a full cape, rather it is split and attached at the shoulder and back seams. *McCall's*, April 1930, Pattern Number 6479

