

## Fit and Fashionable - A Gentleman's Ensemble

### By Lynette Marcione, Placerville, California

When MAFCA fashion judging is offered at a regional or national meet, a limited number of the male gender tends to participate. Some men say they are busy with conflicting events, others indicate they don't want to dress up and be looked over by a panel of judges. However, if you are thinking about participating in judging, or just want to look the part, here are some highlighted examples of the well dressed man to use as a guide.

The fit of a man's daytime suit was different than you see today. The cut of the jacket was generally snug and nipped in at the waist creating a defined silhouette. Slight shoulder padding was starting to appear in 1929. Jacket lapels were either notched or peaked with very specific dimensions. Pants were generally straight and came with or without cuffs. Trousers with pleats were popular. Vests came in a variety of styles to complete the suit but were not always required. A wide selection of shirts were available in silks, cotton broadcloth, and chambray just to name a few. Short and long sleeves were featured in plain cloth, stripes, and tasteful patterns. Collars were detached or attached. Cuffs came with buttons or suitable for cuff links. Ties could be a bowtie or a regular standard neck tie usually made of silk, wool or rayon in a variety of colors and patterns. Handkerchiefs were placed in the breast pocket but not required. Hats were an essential part of the gentleman's outfit. The hat styles were widely varied, the homburg, fedora, straw, and derby were all appropriate for a daytime suit. Overcoats were worn but are very difficult to find today as an original garment. The classic double breasted or single breasted coat were typical of the era. Men wore high top shoes, low top shoes, capped and plain toed shoes that were generally made of leather. Toes could be rounded or squared. Wing tip shoes gave a classic look.

There are many details and styling elements to a gentleman's ensemble not mentioned in this article. However, MAFCA's fashion publications, *Fashion Guidelines*, *The Book of Fashion Facts*, and *The Fashion Files* provide a comprehensive guide to all fashion related items to outfit a gentleman. In the *Fashion Guidelines* a detailed description and illustrations are provided for major garments, headgear, coordinated apparel, accessories, and footgear for almost all walks of life. There is also a dress chart suggesting different modes of attire for all kinds of occasions. Publications are available at MAFCA Headquarters or on the MAFCA website and can be purchased for a reasonable cost. All books have been thoroughly researched by dedicated members of the MAFCA community.

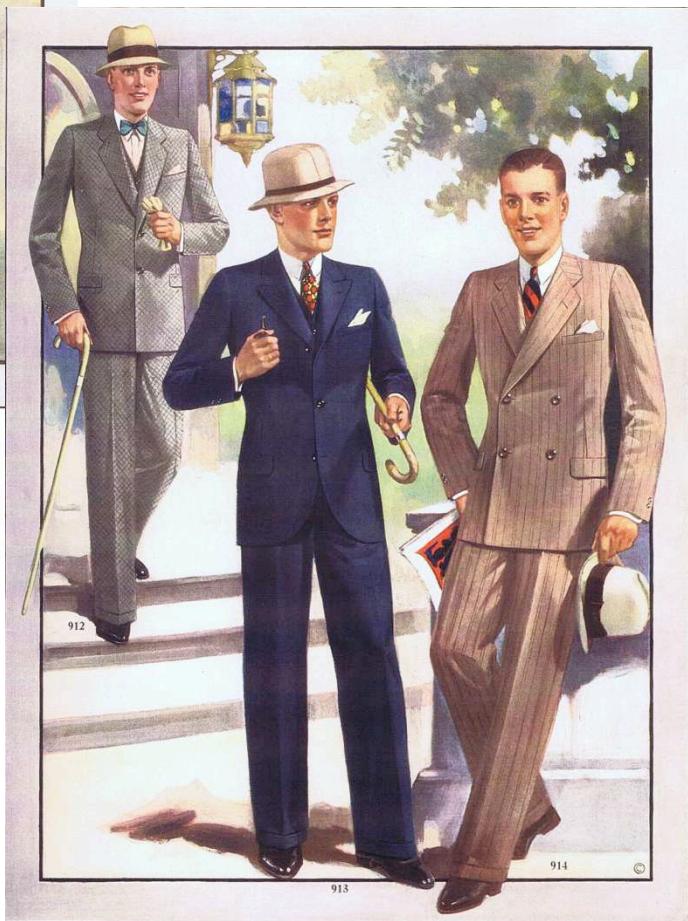
Resources: Styles Correctly Designed for Men and Young Men- Fall and Winter 1930-1931 Bond Street Styles – 1930.



**Model No. 902**  
Two-Button Sack  
Young Men's Model  
Peaked lapels  
*Back as shown unless otherwise ordered*



Back of 902  
No Vent



**Model No. 912**  
Two-Button  
Straight Front Sack  
Young Men's Model  
*Back as shown unless otherwise ordered*



**Model No. 913**  
Three-Button Sack  
Young Men's Model  
Semi-peaked lapels  
*Back as shown unless otherwise ordered*



**Model No. 914**  
Two-Button  
Double-Breasted Sack  
Young Men's Model  
Open notch lapels  
*Back as shown unless otherwise ordered*



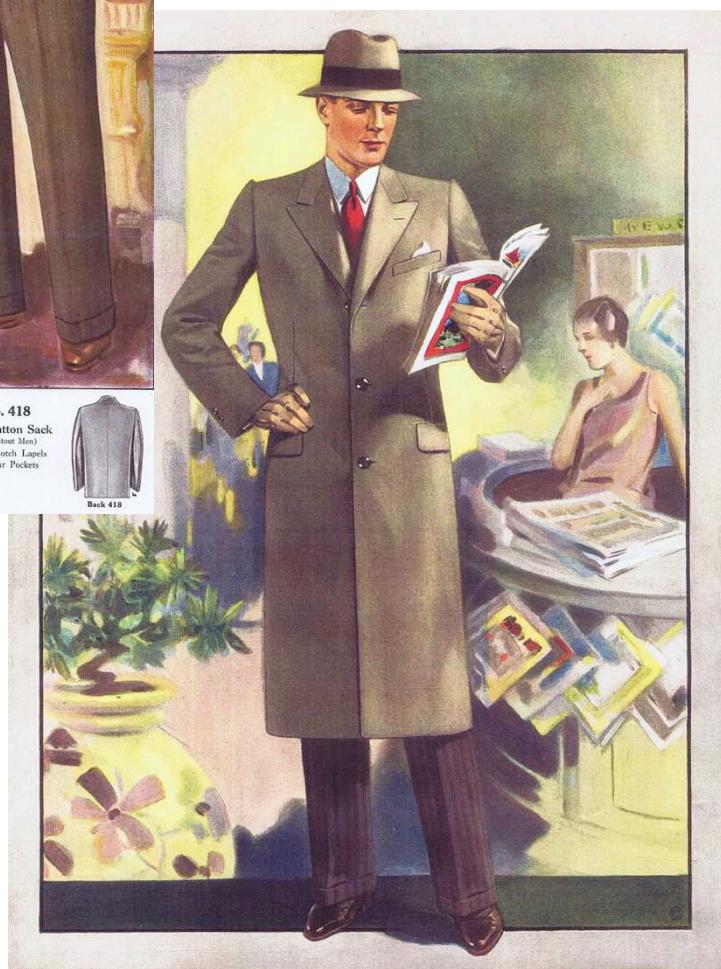
**No. 416**  
Two-Button Sack  
(For Smart Men)  
Semi-Peaked Lapels  
Regular Pockets



**No. 417**  
Three-Button Sack  
(For Smart Men)  
Open Notch Lapels  
Regular Pockets



**No. 418**  
Two-Button Sack  
(For Smart Men)  
Open Notch Lapels  
Regular Pockets



**Model No. 937**  
Three-Button-Thru Topcoat  
Semi-peaked lapels  
Welt breast pocket

Made with rope shoulders as shown unless otherwise ordered  
Form fitting back as shown unless otherwise ordered