

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

CHILD PHANTASY OUTFIT

Velvet, silk satin, lace, ribbon and metal

Late 19th cent. early 20th cent.

MAH.R.1989.1729

This piece, that belongs to the Textiles Management Unit, is classified as a phantasy child outfit, from a technical point of view and was made, most probably, at late 19th century or early 20th century, trying to copy a 18th century model (Baroque Period), when fashion was influenced by both, Queen Elizabeth and king Luís XIV.

Luís XIV was a reference for men's fashion and the prestige of his court, installed at Versailles influenced the other European courts, Portugal included. By the end of 17th century, during his reign, the “French outfit” was imposed, made of three pieces: jacket, corset and shorts. The jacket, one of the most important pieces in the costume history, had a $\frac{3}{4}$ length, cufflink, round collar, adjusted sleeves and long cuffs, leaving exposed the shirt frills. The corset, under the jacket, with sleeves and cufflink from top to bottom, was used over a shirt. The shorts were used until the knees and matched with silk socks, usually white. Complementing the outfit, it was used a *jobot*, a sort of lace frill or scarf attached to the chest or used around the neck.

Luís XIV, due to his short stature, adopted shoes, whose red heels could add as much as 10 cm to his height and became a status symbol, for the reason that the King would authorize its use just for close persons; the heels would be as much red and high as powerful would be its user.

Later, the Sun King, would use wigs, with the intention of disguising the baldness, the mycosis, lice and dirt. They could be so high that the use of tricorns would become inconvenient, the reason why they were then used under the arm, as a sign of respect.

The shinning of the Versailles court, centuries later, remained an inspiration for outfits as the present one, that have brightened balls and parades of the Carnival period at Terceira Island, allowing a scape of the boring real world to an idyllic and magic space.