(Mobile pdf) Illustrated Handbook of Western European Costume: Thirteenth to Mid-Nineteenth Century (Dover Fashion and Costumes)

Illustrated Handbook of Western European Costume: Thirteenth to Mid-Nineteenth Century (Dover Fashion and Costumes)

Iris Brooke
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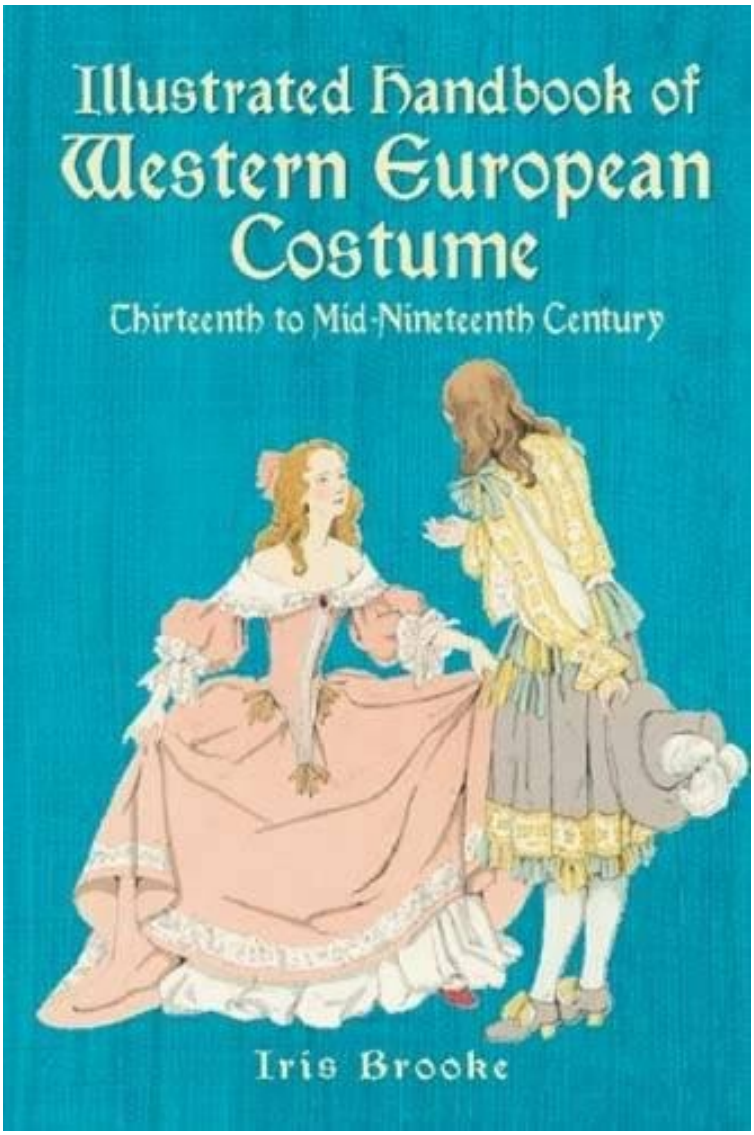

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Iris Brooke : Illustrated Handbook of Western European Costume: Thirteenth to Mid-Nineteenth Century (Dover Fashion and Costumes) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Illustrated Handbook of Western European Costume: Thirteenth to Mid-Nineteenth Century (Dover Fashion and Costumes):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Useful tool when reading historical novelsBy PippinI suppose this book was put together as a reference book for theatre and movie costume designers, but I bought it primarily because I love reading historical novels, many of them set in Western Europe. I'm always so intrigued by the costumes that the writers describe in intricate detail but I'm not always able to picture them in my mind's eye.I was expecting the book to be a simple catalogue of costumes of different countries arranged in chronological order, but I got more than I bargained for. The annotations include an explanation of where and when a particular costume first came in vogue and who originated them when there is historical evidence available. It also traces the succession of countries where the fashion later spread, citing sometimes how it travelled and how long it took.It was serendipitous that I bought this costume handbook at about the same time I began reading "Becoming Josephine" about Napoleon's Empress Josephine. In the novel, Josephine worries about how her clothes, fashionable in her Caribbean birthplace Martinique, were long outdated in Paris society. But with great aplomb, she manages to impress men in power with her "refreshing" and unencumbered "new" look. That this scholarly handbook of costumes confirms the fashion dynamics described in "Becoming Josephine" added another dimension to my enjoyment of the historical novel.I am now hoping that the authors of this handbook would release other volumes to accompany me as I read more historical novels covering other parts of the world, including ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome and the great countries of Asia and the Middle East.

This valuable survey uses theatrical costumes as contemporary clues to the wearing apparel that was in vogue in Italy, Spain, France, Germany, and Flanders from 1260 to 1840. Enhanced with the author's charming, accurately rendered illustrations, the study meticulously describes more than 200 costumes. Immensely useful to costume and cultural historians. 176 black-and-white illustrations.