

MARCH OF TIES

The evolution of the tie as a neckpiece dates back as far as man himself. Man has constantly decorated his neck clear back to the days when he hung teeth and bones of savage beasts around his neck as symbols of his conquests.

And so on down through the ages, neckwear, in one form or another, has run the gamut from bones and metals, heavy swathings of linens and brocades, lace and pleated ruffs to trim present day fashions of silk, rayon, nylon, wool and other blends of fabrics worn in Windsor knots, four-in-hands and bows.

The Men's Tie Foundation, a trade organization representing the men's neckwear industry, has compiled many interesting facts in piecing together the march of ties from primitive to modern man.

The Persian Palm design that is used in the paisley tie designs, a favorite among men to this day, was brought from Persia to England by Drake's sailors in 1580. They used small pieces of the material to tie up their pigtails.

The Croat troops, who came to France as Mercenaries in 1600, brought the first bright colored fancy neckpieces with them. During the Thirty Years War their neckpieces were adopted and were called cravats after the Croats. The cravat was introduced into England by Charles II in 1660 after his return from exile at the French Court. Charles II loved ties so much that he was known to have paid as high as \$600 for a single tie.

The fashion of wearing cravats was brought to a sudden end by the French Revolution. Wearing of a cravat then was enough to make one suspected of being an aristocrat. Only Robespierre and his friends were allowed to wear ties.

According to Byron, the undisputed leader in London fashion in the early 17th Century was Beau Brummell, who dressed as if it were a sacred ceremony, climaxed by the knotting of his white tie. The Prince Regent, later George IV would often come to witness the ceremony.

Etienne Demarekky, a French gentleman of the early 1800's conducted a school on how to tie a tie. About the same time courses were started in London and these classes were attended both by gentlemen of the day and Valets.

Napoleon, who always wore a black tie, went strictly formal to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 for he is said to have worn a white tie.

During the Napoleonic wars in the late 18th Century, red faces were considered an indication of great health. Frequently ties were pulled tight to make the face flush. It also made the wearers eyes protrude like a frog's. This is reputed to be the origin of the name "Frog" as applied to the French.

In 1823 the French had a special type of tie for the heavy eaters which was called the "gas-



Above, combination stock collar and tie worn with ruffled shirt, frock coat and fancy weskit was all the rage in the 1850's

tronomical". It was loosely arranged and unstarched so that it would not interfere with the enjoyment of dinner. The color was pink like a boiled ham.

Collars and ties made of steel were issued to Officers of the U. S. Marines in the early 1800's as a protection in warfare. At the same time, enlisted men were issued leather collars. And that gave the nickname, "Leathernecks" which they are still called to this day.

During the late 17th Century the cravat worn with several windings around the neck was credited with saving many officers from sabre cuts. When Antoine La Salle, a French General was struck in the neck by a pistol ball, the camp physician found the pistol ball lodged in the thick fold of his cravat.

The polka dot is the earliest known design to have been used in neckwear. It is supposed to have been a tribute to the Sun God and during the reign of Louis XIV bow ties made of lace were popular, the larger the better.

The Cravat was still enormous in 1800 and covered the chin in the manner common at the time of the "Incroyables", a fashionable set of British dandies. It usually consisted of a square piece of cloth folded in triangular fashion and passed around the neck several times. About 1815 the high peaked starched shirt collar, the ends of which stuck up around the wearers cheeks, was worn with a white cravat lightly folded. Neckties were either arranged by the wearer or were made up; in the latter case they were fastened at the back. George IV introduced the first ready made cravat in 1829. It became known as the "Royal George" tie.

Long ties began to be worn about 1840. They were passed around the neck twice, and hung