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Los Angeles letter

News of the collections, Winter 1960



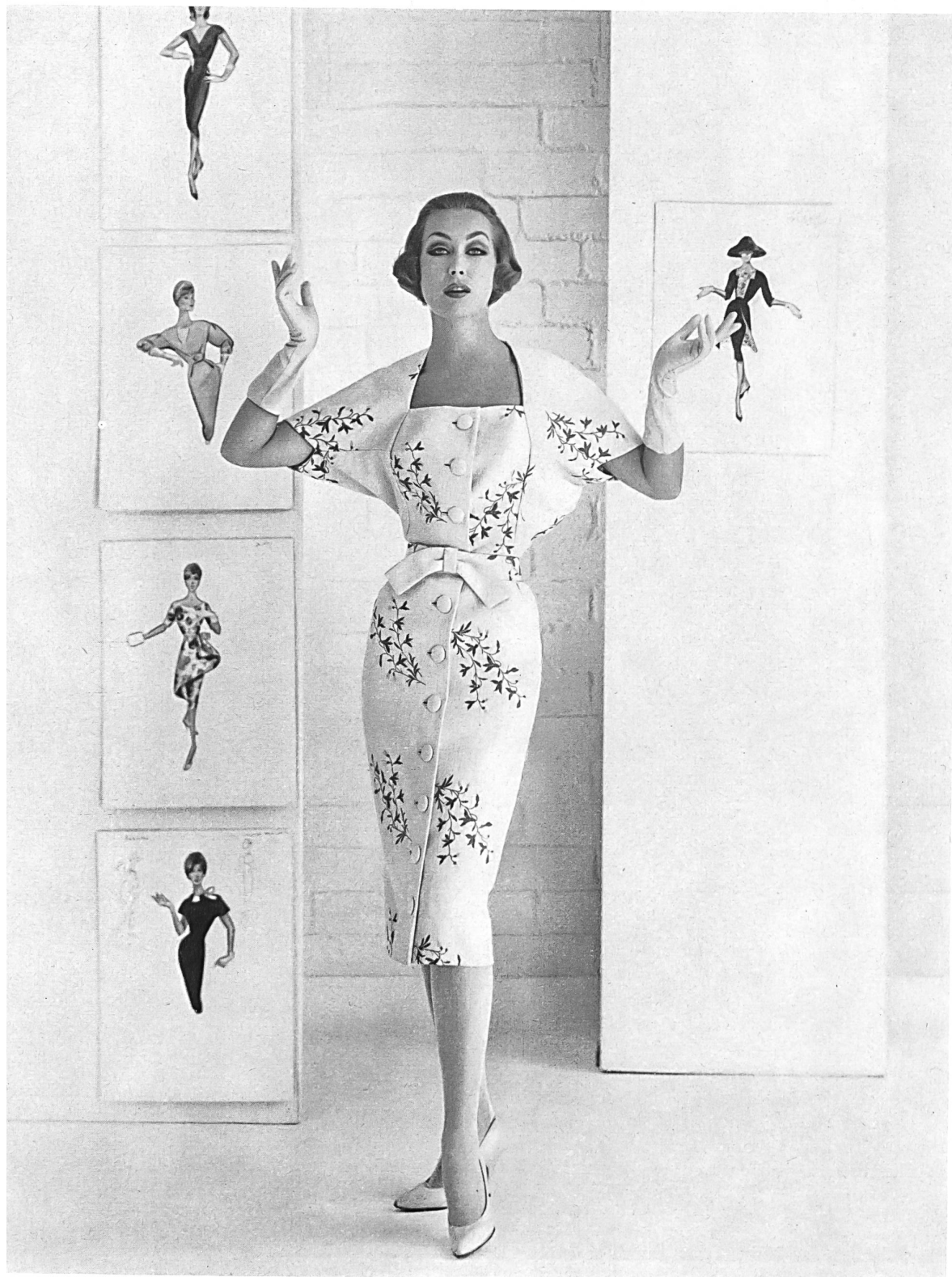
FORSTER WILLI &
CO., SAINT-GALL
Broderie de laine noire
Black wool embroidery
Model Charles
Le Maire, Los Angeles

One of the pleasantest events of this fashion year has been the return of Charles Le Maire from the wilds of Hollywood (meaning the cinema) to the avenues of Beverly Hills' haute couture. The distance is measured

sometimes in blocks or at most in a mile or two; the difference in the approach to fashion is, of necessity, vast. However, Le Maire, who had firmly established himself as a dressmaker of the first rank before coming

to Hollywood from the East, made the transition with the greatest of ease. The result is a collection of super-femininity developed in fragile, ethereal fabrics. His shapes are predominantly slim with soft lines, small blousons, the tiniest of pleats placed here and there and sometimes an overskirt of pleats over a pure silk dress. There is never the hint of restraint in these slim silhouettes and always, somewhere, a subtle surprise like the unexpected perfect corsage of tiny dresden roses on a finely tailored black wool dress. The chef-d'œuvre of this collection is «Infanta», a dress of fascination in Forster Willi's black wool lace over nude silk organza.

At his always exciting invitational premiere, Don Loper unveils again his prolific talent for clothes that are timeless, wearable and unfailingly dashing though concentrating on subtle line and simplicity of tailoring. His colors this season are for the most part low-key as in the range of gray, soft sherry laced with black, nutmeg, coffee bean brown and softened greens in a variety of tones. A surprise of the collection are his «stole dresses», costumes without the bulk of a coat. Dresses in this group have large self-stoles that may cover the whole top of the dress, standing high from the shoulder, or tiny capes over the shoulder that cascade down the back only



RUDOLF BRAUCHBAR
& CIE LTD., ZURICH
Crêpe imprimé / Printed
crêpe
Model by Travilla,
Los Angeles



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« Turandot », pure laine, impression
main

« Turandot », pure wool hand
printed fabric

Model Travilla, Los Angeles



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Satin duchesse chiné, pure soie
Pure silk warp printed duchesse
satin

Model Travilla, Los Angeles

to hem-length fullness. In Don Loper's After Five collection, the sky is the limit in a fantasy of fabrics, beading, intricately draped chiffons in great clouds of color, silk broadcloth in bands of fur — in fact « the works ».

Travilla, another famed name of the movie world, has followed the trend into haute couture, carrying with him, of course, his unerring taste, his authoritative sense of design and a sure eye for figure making. His shapes are mainly slim ones with an endless number of variations on a group of themes.

It is interesting to note that both Travilla and Irene

(another dazzling designer of the same starlit era with much success in the wholesale design field) consider the tunic a staple of this season's custom collection. In the Irene collection tunics are seen as town costumes in tweeds over wool dresses. Another costume has a tunic sleeve in broadtail. Another tunic is lavishly beaded to the knees.

Among all these designer collections, gowns of magnificent Swiss fabrics flicker in and out like rare jewels: not seen too much to be monotonous, not seen as much as one could desire.

Helene F. Miller