## The handkerchief

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objekttyp: Article

Zeitschrift: **Textiles suisses [Édition multilingue]** 

Band (Jahr): - (1980)

Heft 41

PDF erstellt am: **11.09.2024** 

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-795271

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## THE HANDKERCHEF



Handkerchiefs and fans, those two requisites of feminine coquetry, were an indispensable part of the lady of fashion's wardrobe not so long ago. And manufacturers always devoted special care and attention to the creation of these dainty accessories. Nowadays, very few women still flutter a fan, whereas the handkerchief — in spite of

the onslaught of its utilitarian paper counterpart — has lost none of its charm although it is no longer carried flirtatiously in the hand. This charming and useful little square of fabric has a long and interesting history behind it. Even several centuries ago, these precious fashion accessories, embroidered, crocheted or adorned with



needle or bobbin lace made by hand in Eastern Switzerland, with a tiny piece of linen in the centre, were much sought after. For every day use however there were colour-woven handkerchiefs, and today these come in a very wide range. The latest novelty is the printed handkerchief, and here the imagination of designers is given free rein.

Today more than ever the Swiss handkerchief manufacturer makes a point of including in his collection specific woven specialities from the Swiss textile industry. Fine cotton fabrics with hand-rolled hems, colour-wovens with dobby loom patterns, satin stripes, gauze effects,



hemstitching or clipcords are the most popular articles in the classical sector, which also includes monogrammed handkerchiefs with woven but more frequently embroidered initials. The printed handkerchief has a youthful, fresh, modern look. Hobby motifs like hunting, sailing, golf, riding, etc. are popular in the men's collections, while flowers and horticultural subjects, scenery, animals and exotic ornaments adorn the daintier feminine version. Advanced printing techniques guarantee extremely harmonious, perfectly true to nature colour effects. The greatest care is also taken with the production of the typical gift handkerchief. Astrological signs



and horoscope designs are particularly popular at present. And all manufacturers pay great attention to the packaging of these lovely presents, making it not only attractive but often luxurious.

As always, the embroidered handkerchief is the height of luxury and refinement. Guipure edges and applications,

insertions and rich hems, colourful hand-machine embroidered flowers, Gobelin embroideries, Schiffli embroideries and monograms of every conceivable kind are represented here. The most popular embroidery grounds are very fine batiste and gossamer-like voile, while embroideries on tulle give a new and very dainty effect.

