

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Women's reproduction three piece 1910s style bathing costume

Date

1920 - 1950

Primary Maker

Jantzen

Medium

Cotton

Dimensions

Overall: 760 x 360 mm

Name

Swimsuit

History

The 'princess suit' of the 1900s and 1910s consisted of a short skirted dress worn over matching bloomers. It was usually accessorised with stockings, lace up boots and a matching fabric bathing cap. The bathing suit's knee length skirt allowed greater freedom in the water and its shorter sleeves and button-up back created a more modern look compared to earlier bathing costumes from Victorian times. Widely available through clothing and department stores, the princess suit became very popular in Australia, Europe and America. It was not uncommon for swimwear manufacturers to be make costumes for theatrical or promotional purposes such as fashion parades and window displays. These 'display' garments followed the cut of traditional swimwear designs, but were sometimes made from lighter fabrics such as cotton as they were not created for getting wet.