Glossary

A

accession number	Number given to an object in a museum's collection so the museum can identify each object and keep accurate records
aigrette	Ladies' headdress of feathers or jewels popular in the late 1700s
alderman	High ranking member of an English council
ampulla	Eagle-shaped vessel which holds the holy coronation oil
aniline	Chemical used in the production of synthetic dyes since 1856

B

Balmoral	Scottish castle used by the royal family since 1852
Banqueting House	Built in the 1620s and the only surviving part of the lost royal Palace of Whitehall
banyan	Type of dressing gown popular from the mid-1600s and influenced by Asian clothing
beauty patches	Small pieces of black fabric, leather or paper that were cut into various shapes and stuck on the face to disguise imperfections in the late 1600s and 1700s
Beefeater	The poplar name for a Yeoman Warder
belladonna	Toxic plant otherwise known as deadly nightshade, thought to dilate pupils and add sparkle to the eyes
bespoke	Tailored garment or outfit made especially for an individual rather than ready to wear or off the peg
bicorn	Two-pointed hat popular in the late 1700s and early 1800s, often associated with Napoleon Bonaparte
blackwork	Style of embroidery using black silk thread on white linen shirt cuffs or collars, popular in the 1500s
bodice	Upper section of a woman's dress, often structured with boning or padding
bodies (pair of)	Supporting undergarment worn by women to shape the body. *See also* stays and corset
bombazine	Black fabric of worsted silk or cotton with little sheen and usually used for mourning
braies	Early form of male underpants

breeches	Knee-length garment worn by men
bright check pearl	Type of hollow gold thread
broadcloth	Dense and plain woollen cloth, woven wider than many other fabrics
brocade	Richly decorative fabric often made from coloured silks and may include gold or silver threads
Brussels lace	Handmade lace made in or around Brussels, produced from 1500s onwards
Buckingham Palace	The current London home and administrative headquarters of the British royal family since Queen Victoria, formerly Buckingham House
bum-roll	Padded accessory worn under skirts to give a pronounced silhouette at the back
busk	Stiffening material placed at the front of a corset or bodice to give it shape, made from wood, bone or, later, metal
bustle	Framework worn under skirts in the 1800s to create a full rear silhouette. *See also* bum-rolls

C

cage crinoline	Hooped cage worn under skirts to give a wide and full skirt shape. Popular in the 1850s and 1860s
calico	Plain cotton or cotton and linen fabric
caraco	Style of women's day jacket popular in the mid-1700s to early 1800s
Caroline	Associated with the reign of Charles I
cassock	Long and loose overcoat worn by some members of Christian clergy
Cavaliers	Another name for the Royalists. *See also* Civil Wars
chamblet (or camlet)	Valuable woven cloth produced in the Low Countries or England
chemise	Loose undershirt made from linen or cotton and worn under the outer garments. *See also* shift
Civil Wars	Series of wars fought in England, Scotland and Wales between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in the 1640s and 1650s
cloth of gold (silver)	Silk or wool fabric woven with thread wrapped in a thin strip of fine gold (or silver)
coatee	Type of tight-fitting uniform coat or jacket
cockade	Rosette or knot of ribbons, used as a badge of office or as part of a uniform or livery

codpiece	Unsubtle penis-shaped accessory men wore in the groin area in the 1500s to suggest virility and masculinity
coif	Close-fitting linen cap worn to cover hair by most medieval men and women and into the 1500s
coronation	Ceremony in which the monarch is crowned
coronation gold	Embroidery technique used on royal coronation robes using lots of gold thread and metallic embellishment
corset	Supporting undergarment worn by women to hold the bust and shape the body with the use of whalebone or metal stays. Popular in the 1800s to early 1900s
courtiers	People who attended the monarch's court
coutille (or coutil)	Very strong yet smooth cotton fabric used in making corsets
couture (haute couture)	High-end fashion involving the highest level of craftsmanship and made to order by a couturier
couchée	Public ceremony where the monarch is undressed and put into the state bed. It was popularised in France and brought to the English Court in the 1600s
cravat	Neckcloth of fine linen, cotton or silk. Popular from the late 1600s
crepe	Crisp silk cloth popular for mourning fashions as it did not shine (North American: crape)
crinolette	Form of crinoline that did not shape the whole of the skirt but enhanced the rear. Popular in the late 1860s
Crown Jewels	Crowns, robes and other items of ceremonial regalia used at coronations or for other major royal events
curator	A keeper of museum collections. At Historic Royal Palaces the curators also work on exhibitions and engage in academic research on the palace collections and histories
curtsey	Formal greeting by women that involves bending the knees with one foot in front
cypher	Image which represents the monarch or other individual

D

daguerreotype	First publicly available photographic process
damask	Reversible patterned silk
day book	A daily accounts book
debutante	Aristocratic young lady who is formally presented to the monarch to show society (and the court) that she is of marriageable age

doublet	Man's short padded jacket, popular in the 1500s and 1600s

E

equestrian	In portraiture – when the portrait subject is shown with or on a horse
ermine	Fur of a stoat when in its white winter coat with black tail tip. This expensive fur is used to line royal clothing, such as coronation robes, and trim crowns

F

farthingale	Hooped petticoat popular in 1500s
fashion plate	Small, detailed engravings of fashionable dress that were printed in journals and used to disseminate the latest fashions across Europe
flapper	A daringly dressed female in the 1920s, often associated with short skirts, bobbed hair and jazz music
flounce	Ornamental gathered strip or frill of fabric on a garment
fontage	High headdress with lace ribbons popular in the late 1600s and early 1700s
fop	Man excessively concerned with his appearance and clothing, especially in the late 1700s and early 1800s
forepart	Skirt panel worn by Tudor women that gave the impression of a whole richly decorated underskirt
fosshape	Conservation-grade thermoplastic which is used to shape and contour mannequins to display clothing
four-in-hand	Basic and relaxed tie knot – if you wore a tie as part of your school uniform, it was probably tied in this knot
frock coat	Men's coat which evolves from an informal garment in the 1700s to a formal dress in the 1800s. It could be single or double breasted

G

garter	Strip of material tied above or below the knee to keep sock or stockings from falling down the leg – not to be confused with the Order of the Garter
Garter star	Badge worn by members of the Order of the Garter, often with the blue riband
gimp	Type of gold thread
girdle	Decorated belt worn over the gown in the 1500s
goldwork	Style of embroidery in gold thread popular in the 1500s, which only the monarch was allowed to wear
gore	Triangular piece of material used to shape the wider areas of tightly tailored clothing such as corsets, e.g. bust gores or hip gores

gown	Loose garment worn over doublet and hose (men) or petticoats and/or kirtle (women)
grand habit	Also known as a 'stiff-bodied gown', it comprised a heavily boned, pointed bodice with off-the-shoulder neckline and short sleeves, a hooped skirt and a train. Formal type of court wear for most of the 1700s
Groom of the Bedchamber	One of the monarch's highest ranking servants who had access to the king or queen at their most vulnerable moments, including when dressing
guinea	Gold coin worth one pound and one shilling
H	
Hampton Court Palace	Royal palace built in the 1500s and a favourite of Henry VIII, modified extensively in the late 1600s by William and Mary
Hanoverians	The Georgian dynasty
hose	Stockings or socks
J	
Jacobean	Relating to King James I of England (James VI of Scotland)
jerkin	Jacket worn over the doublet in the 1500s, and a men's long waistcoat popular from the mid 1600s
justacorps	Long coat worn from the late 1600s and 1700s
K	
Kensington Palace	Royal palace from the 1690s and the current home of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their children, and HRH Prince Harry
Kew Palace	Private palace retreat of George III and his family, now situated within Kew Gardens
kilt	Male skirt-like garment, part of traditional Scottish dress dating from the 1700s. Made from a tartan fabric and pleated at the front
kirtle	Woman's gown or outer petticoat worn in medieval times and up to the 1500s
L	
lady-in-waiting	Lady of high status who attends a royal woman at court
laudanum	Medicine containing opium
lappet	Decorative flap of a headdress
levée	Public ceremony where the monarch is dressed. It was popularised in France and brought to the English Court in the 1600s
Llnen	Fabric made from flax. Also refers generally to an item of underwear worn next to the skin, such as a shift or chemise as well as drawers, pantaloons or bloomers

livery	Ceremonial uniform or the provision of an outfit or item of clothing to servants in a household

M

mantle	Loose sleeveless coat or gown
mantua	Loose women's gown popular from the late 1600s to early 1700s, becoming the formal court wear until the early 1800s. Later examples are characterised by extremely wide hips supported by pocket hoops under the skirt
masque	Theatrical performance with dance, acting and costumes, popular with the Stuart royals in the 1600s
millinery	Today this is the craft of hat making, the person who makes hats is a milliner. In the 1600s to 1700s milliners also sold fashionable accessories such as gloves and fans
morning coat	Single-breasted coat longer at the back (not to be confused with mourning clothes)
muslin	Fine, plain weave cotton fabric

N

New Look	Silhouette with fitted waist and full skirt introduced by designer Christian Dior in 1947

O

orb	Globe-shaped item of the Crown Jewels
off gassing	Process where a material decays and releases gasses into the environment, some of which can be harmful to other objects or materials stored nearby
Order of the Garter	Order of chivalry (knights) founded by King Edward III (1312–77) in 1348. The monarch is the head of the order and chooses up to 24 members. The garter star and blue riband were introduced by Charles I (1625–49) and can be seen in many royal portraits since that time

P

pantaloons	For women they are an undergarment from early 1800s, *see also* drawers and bloomers. For men they are an outer garment worn in the late 1700s and early 1800s and consist of close-fitting tights with straps under the foot
Parliamentarian	Follower of the Parliament in the Civil Wars of the 1600s
parsing	Type of gold thread with a cotton core
patten	Type of wooden platform sole that was tied to shoes to raise them from muddy/dirty ground
pearl pearl	Type of solid gold thread with grooves to hide stitches when applied to embroidery
periwig	Long curly wig with high crown, popular in the late 1600s and early 1700s

petticoat	Underskirt or underdress
pig iron	Blocks of iron cast after the initial smelting process
placket	Panel of fabric that lies between the lacing on a corset and the chemise
plaid	A garment which is draped over the shoulder. Plaid is also North American for tartan. To make it even more confusing, in the British context 'plaid' as cloth is likely to be plain white or grey
plate	*See* fashion plate
pleat	Fold in material held in place by stitching
plus fours	Type of golfing or hunting trousers where the legs end 4 inches below the knees
pocket hoops	Hooped structure worn under dresses (especially the mantua) to give a wide-hipped silhouette. Popular in the 1700s
pointing	System of fastening clothes which involved threating laces through holes to secure the garment. Predates the widespread use of buttons
pomander	Perforated container for sweet smelling herbs or flowers used to perfume the air
pouncing	Process of marking a pattern onto fabric or other material with a perforated paper patted with powdered charcoal or chalk

R

regalia	Items of the Crown Jewels used during the coronation ceremony
regency	Commonly used to refer to the period in which Prince George (later King George IV) ruled as regent when his father George III was considered unfit to rule, and more generally can refer to the period of 1795 to 1837
regent	Someone who runs the country instead of the monarch because the monarch is too young (eg Edward VI) or too ill (eg George III) to rule. The rule of a regent is called a regency
Restoration	Charles II's return to England from his exile in 1660 after a period of rule without a king known as the Commonwealth. Charles was restored to the throne
riband	Ribbon
Robe à la Française	Opened gown with double pleats falling from the shoulders at the back and a wide petticoat exposed at the front
Robe à l'Anglaise	Gown with fitted closed bodice with open skirt to show the petticoat underneath
Royalist	Follower of King during the reign of Charles I and the Civil Wars in the 1600s. Also known as the Cavaliers

S

sackback	Another name for the Robe à la Française

sarcenet	Fine silk fabric often used as a lining material
scaffold	Platform erected for executions
sceptre	Symbolic ornamental rod and part of the Crown Jewels
shift	Loose undershirt worn by men and women, made from cotton or linen and worn under the outer garments. *Also see* chemise
slashing	Technique of cutting the outer fabric so the fabric underneath (usually an expensive one) shows through the gaps
smooth pearl	Type of hollow gold thread
spangle	Flat decorative disc of shiny material with a hole so it can be sewn onto clothing
sporran	Traditional item of Scottish dress that is a pouch worn over the front of the kilt to function as a pocket
St Edward's chair	Throne on which the monarch sits during their coronation
St James'	Palace of the British Royal family in central London, and in use from the 1500s
state dress	The formal red dress of the Yeoman Warders on state occasions
stays	Older name for female underwear we now think of as a corset. Made from linen or later cotton, reinforced with whalebone, reeds or metal.
stockings	Long socks for men and women that are worn above the knee
stomacher	V-shaped decorated panel worn to cover the gap between the opened bodice and the undergarments

T

tartan	Checked fabric associated with Scotland
tiara	Woman's jewelled headdress worn at formal occasions
tights	North American: pantyhose. This is not an historic item of clothing but worn by costumed live interpreters to keep warm
tissue	Fine and gauzy fabric
tricorn	Hat with three corners, popular in the 1700s
toile	Fabric copy or trial piece of a garment. Used by conservators to help fit the original garment to a mannequin for display
Tower of London	Medieval castle in the centre of London which was used as a fortress, palace and prison by British monarchs

train	Long back portion of a skirt or gown which trails behind the wearer
trousseau	Clothes and linen collected by a bride for her marriage
tulle	Lightweight and fine net
twist threat	Twisted 3-ply gold thread

U

undress	Blue daily uniform of the Yeoman Warders

V

veil	Transparent lace or net covering for the face, usually worn by women
vest	Waistcoat

W

Westminster Abbey	A large church near to the Houses of Parliament and site of major royal events such as coronations and weddings
Westminster Hall	The oldest part of the Houses of Parliament and Palace of Westminster, erected in 1097. Not to be confused with Westminster Abbey, the nearby church
whalebone	Cartilage from the jaw of a whale, used in corsets and bodies/bodices as the material was both strong and flexible
Windsor Beauties	Series of 10 paintings by artist Peter Lely depicting some of the more prominent women of Charles II's court in the 1660s
Windsor knot	Wide and symmetrical tie knot popularised in the 1900s
Windsor Uniform	Formal uniform introduced by George III (1760–1820) in 1777 for men at court

Y

Yeoman Warder	Commonly called a 'Beefeater', a member of the Queen's personal Bodyguard who works at the Tower to protect the site and the Crown Jewels. To become a Yeoman, Warders must be former warrant officers with at least 22 years in the armed forces and hold the Long Service and Good Conduct medals