

The Queen of Washington, D.C.

When heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post first arrived in Washington DC she was 14 and quite unaffected by her status as the only child of cereal baron C.W. Post. Soon thereafter her father enrolled her in the Mount Vernon Seminary finishing school for girls. There, surrounded by 60 daughters of America's most prominent political and business leaders, she blossomed into a fashion icon of her time.



Captions/credits/locations (image or photography courtesy of _____) Enith ex erusto digni praet. Ut pat for sit luptat amet et ad detestand sedis. In nulla consero pteroroni ignellie, consero et ea pudore, sed etiam. In form et robore accore. Ipe egi pulchit addum nique morum ino elabunt amisse etiaulatur, elabunt, sporum.

For her presentation to Washington society in 1903, Marjorie wore an Edwardian, two-piece evening dress created by the two Baker sisters who had a small dress shop in their home.

Throughout her life, Marjorie's fondness for extravagant and fashionable apparel never waned. When Marjorie was a child, her father commented "You have more than double the clothes, shoes and stuff that any girl no matter how rich should have at 17."

As an adult, Marjorie was described by her stepdaughter, Emlen Davies as a "...fourteen karat symbol of social supremacy" who "...was so extraordinary beautiful and had such lavish jewels



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Marjorie's sweet 16 dress is constructed in an elaborate fabric, a boned foundation of ivory silk tulle with a stiffened satin lining. Vertical bands of fabric edge with ruffles. The waist with wide panels, floral beads, and ribbons are a nod to the fashion of the time.

and clothes, and lived in such a grand style that people were awed and frightened." It was not unusual for her to change her clothes four times a day, entertain at her own home while carrying a matching clutch, or purchase two identical dresses to be conveniently stored at Mar-a-Lago, her Miami mansion designed by Florenz Ziegfeld's set designer Joseph Urbane and at Hillwood, her Washington, DC winter home which she purchased in 1955.

Marjorie's wardrobe consisted of a dizzying array of dresses and suits all expertly designed and coordinated with matching hats, shoes, gloves, handbags, handfans and furs. To enhance her statuesque beauty, she bedecked herself in gems from Cartier, Tiffany, Harry Winston, Van Cleef & Arpels, Harry Winston, and the royal courts of Europe.

Today, Howard Kurtz, the Assistant Curator of Costume & Textile for the Hillwood Estate museum, has the enviable job of preserving Marjorie's extravagant wardrobe among his other assignments. As the curator of the only 20th century collection of fashion apparel and accessories in Washington, DC, Mr. Kurtz is responsible for installing costume exhibits, selecting mannequins, preparing and freshening ensembles for display, and lecturing on Marjorie's favorite fashion designers, including the French House of Callot Soeurs, Christian Dior's mentor, and House of Lucile.

Marjorie Merriweather Post made significant contributions to the National Symphony, the Natural History Museum, the Kennedy Center, and the Merriweather Post Pavilion. Still, the greatest of all her gifts was her unflinching belief that WDC was destined to be a world-class city like Paris, London or Moscow.

In 1973, at the age of 86, Mrs. Post was still considered one of the most expensively and best-dressed women of the world. Her resplendent beauty, business acumen, propriety, grace, charm and generosity made her one of Washington, DC's most celebrated fashion leaders of the Twentieth Century.

At that time, Washington, DC was a bustling fashion metropolis. The lavish 25 acre grounds of the Hillwood Mansion located on Linnean Avenue and its contents are just one of the magnificent gifts bestowed on WDC by Mrs. Post.



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