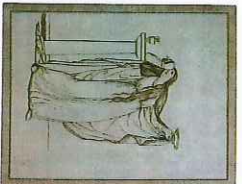


Clothes for comfort

GREEK CLOTHES WERE MADE largely of wool provided by local sheep. The wool was spun very finely so that garments were thinner than modern woollen clothing. Lighter linen clothes made out of spun flax were also worn. Very wealthy people bought expensive silks from the East, and in Hellenistic times, mulberry trees were planted on the island of Kos to provide a home-grown silk industry. Bright colours were popular especially among women. Purple was obtained from sea snails and a violet shade from a scaly insect larva called the kermes worm. Other dyes came from plants. Poorer people probably wore undyed clothes. The shapes of clothes were

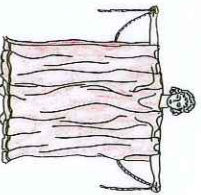
much the same for both men and women and hardly changed over hundreds of years. The basic dress was a straight tunic fastened at the shoulder with brooches or pins and with a cloak flung over the top.



LADY HAMILTON
Sir William Hamilton, British Ambassador to Naples in the late 18th century, was a collector of Greek antiquities. His wife Emma, famous for her liaison with Lord Nelson, often dressed in Greek costume.



HAIR DRESSING
Greek women (except slave women) wore their hair long. This woman's style was fashionable in the Classical period. The hair is piled up at the back of the head and held in place with a net and ribbons. Diadems, and other gold hair decorations, were worn on special occasions.



Chiton



READY TO WEAR
The chiton was said to have been invented in the Greek colony of Ionia. It was made from a single rectangle of cloth, cut into two and fastened at intervals from neck to elbows to give a graceful loose sleeve effect. It was gathered at the waist with a belt. The chiton shown here is made out of modern woollen fabric. This is perhaps slightly thicker and fuller than the original material would have been in the fifth century B.C. Another earlier kind of chiton, sometimes called a *peplos*, originated in mainland Greece. It was secured with big pins on the shoulders and did not have sleeves.

Chiton



GREEK FANTASY
Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (pp. 30-31) often chose classical subjects for his paintings. The architecture and clothing, however, frequently owed more to his imagination than to historical accuracy.



FAMILY GROUP
Children wore similar clothes to their parents, but probably had quite short tunics so that they could run about easily. Adults and children went barefoot indoors and put on leather sandals with many straps when they went out.



SUN PROTECTION
Outside, both men and women wore hats to protect themselves from the hot sun. Women thought a surtun was unattractive, and if they did not have a hat they would pull their cloaks up over their heads to shield their faces, or would wear a veil called a *kretemnon*. A wide-brimmed travelling hat, like the one worn here by this fashionable young man, was called a *praseos*. It was made of fox fur and straw were also common. This youth is wearing a short travelling cloak called a *chlamys*, fastened on the shoulder with a pin or brooch.

MENSWEAR
This man is wearing a tunic, the chiton, and a cloak, the himation. His chiton has been pulled up over his belt. Workmen nearly always wore a very short chiton to give them greater freedom of movement. Over the top this man is wearing a rectangular himation. Younger men sometimes wore only the himation which was draped over one shoulder and wrapped around the hips. Greek clothes would not have hems as they would have been woven to the correct length.



Woollen chiton

Woollen himation

4 CLOTHES AND JEWELLERY

Greek clothes were loose and flowing, as shown on this terracotta (fired clay) figure of a woman. She is wearing a tunic called a chiton, with a cloak called a himation over the top. Many terracotta figures have been found. They were made as ornaments for the home or as religious offerings in the temples. When they were new they would have been brightly painted, but these colours have nearly always disappeared.



CLOTHES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Both men and women wore the chiton. It was made by fastening or tying together a rectangular piece of woollen or linen cloth, leaving gaps for the head and arms. It was gathered in at the waist with a soft belt. Chitons were often dyed pretty colours, such as saffron yellow or red.

MYSTERY OBJECT



What do you think these are? They were found in the women's room, near make-up containers. Clue: they would have smelt pleasant. You will find the answer on page 32.

The chiton was usually long, reaching down to the ankles, but working men, slaves and children wore shorter, knee-length ones, leaving them free to work or play. Over the top of the chiton people wore a large cloak called a himation which often had decorated borders. These clothes were very light and cool, making them suitable for the hot Greek climate.



HAIRSTYLES AND HEADGEAR

Unless they were slaves, women wore their hair very long. Before they were married they wore it in long ringlets, but after that they piled it up on their heads with ribbons and metal hair decorations. When they went out they pulled their cloaks up over their heads. Men sometimes wore a wide hat of straw or fabric to protect them from the sun when travelling.

A Greek family wearing the clothes of the time. The slave (left) wears a short tunic so that he can move about quickly and easily.

Rich women wore a lot of gold and silver jewellery, especially dangly ear-rings, bracelets and rings. Men wore rings on their fingers too and fastened their cloaks with big brooches.

