

Operational Definitions

The operational definitions that follow are intended to aid the reader in understanding the review of literature, particularly those sections pertaining to dress. The definitions were gathered through review of literature, as well as analysis of the poetry. Definitions that are marked with an asterisk indicate that they were mentioned in the poetry that was analyzed.

Arisaid – a long garment reaching from neck to ankles, pleated and fastened at the breast with a large brooch or buckle, and belted at the waist; worn by Scottish Highland women (Bain, 1954; Stewart, 1974).

Balloon hat – a hat style that women wore after 1740; also known as a *lunardi* (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

***Belted plaid** – a Scottish Highland male garment created from a piece of *tartan* two yards in width and six yards in length. A man would center the *plaid* over a belt laid on the ground; he would then pleat the lower section of the plaid, while leaving the side and upper sections unpleated. The belt was fastened at the waist and the unpleated upper section of the plaid was thrown over one shoulder and held in place with a brooch. Also called a *breacan-feile* (Bain, 1954; Wilson, 1990).

Bicorné hat – man's hat of the Napoleonic era in shape of a crescent, with front and back brims pressed against each other making points on either side. Frequently trimmed with a *cockade* (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Bonnet** – headcovering for women, children, and infants usually fitting over back and top of head and tying with strings under chin. Bonnets were first worn in the Middle Ages. Worn primarily outdoors from 1800 to 1830. More popular than hats until about 1870. A flat bonnet was also worn by males in Scotland from medieval times until the 19th century; the bonnet was a small sized tam, usually made from blue wool with a narrow tartan band fitting around the head and long black streamers hanging in back; a pompom or cockade often accompanied the bonnet (Calasibetta, 1998).

Box coat – a square topcoat with a shawl collar that appeared in the late 1830s for males (Russel, 1983; Tortora & Eubank, 1998).

***Breeches** - early medieval term for *trousers*. From late 14th to early 16th centuries used to indicate upper part of hose fitting trunk of body. In 16th century upper part of breech was of contrasting color of fabric. From 16th century on referred to as breeches,

trunk hose, or *hose*. Words were synonymous until 1660 when hose indicated *stockings*. Worn for English court functions until about mid 1800s (Calasibetta, 1998).

Broad cloth - a fine, soft, closely woven woolen fabric with a napped face, made in a plain or twill weave. The face is napped in one direction; it is smooth and rich looking, and better qualities have a glossy, velvety feel. Highlanders, Lowlanders, and the English used broad cloth for women's dresses, suits, coats, pajamas, and men's shirts. Used as a shirting fabric originated in Great Britain (Totoro & Merkel, 1996).

Buff coat – Man's leather jacket made of ox or buffalo hides. Sometimes with shoulder wings and sleeves of fabric, sometimes sleeveless. Worn in 16th and 17th centuries. Originally a military garment worn during civil wars in England (Calasibetta, 1998).

Bustle –pad, cushion, or arrangement of steel springs creating a bulbous projection below the waist in back of a woman's dress. Called by this name about 1830, and popular in various forms to the end of the century. Bustles worn prior to this date were not called by this name; synonyms: bum, roll, fisk, nelson, cushion pad, cushioned, or quissionet were used (Calasibetta, 1998).

Cape – sleeveless outerwear of various lengths usually opening in center front; cut in a full circle, in a segment of a circle, or on the straight – usually with slits for arms (Calasibetta, 1998).

Canezou – woman's waist-length *spencer* jacket of 1820s without sleeves (Calasibetta, 1998).

Cassock – long loose overcoat with a cape collar. Worn from late 16th century through 17th century by men and women for hunting, riding, and by foot soldiers (Calasibetta, 1998).

Chemise – linen garment worn by men and women in the Middle Ages next to the skin. Made with long sleeves, it was straight hanging and as long as the garment worn over it. In the 17th century called a *shift* (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Cloak** – loose outer garment used from Anglo-Saxon times (Calasibetta, 1998).

Clock – ornamental design, frequently embroidered, running vertical up a sock or stocking on inside or outside of ankle. Triangular gore inserted into a *stocking*, cape, or collar to make it wider with embroidery over the joined seams. Worn from 16th century through the 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Cockade** – ornamental rosette or bow of ribbon, usually made flat around a center button. Sometimes worn as a part of a uniform or badge of office. Worn by men and women (to a lesser extent) during the 17th – 19th centuries (Calasibetta, 1998).

Corset – From 16th to 18th century, stiffened bodice with whalebone, or stays. Woman's one-piece sleeveless, laced garment for shaping the figure. Generally, a heavily boned, rigid garment worn during the 1820s (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Cravat** – lawn, muslin, or silk neckcloth with end tied in a bow or knot in center front, worn from 1660 to the end of the 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998). Also called an *overlay* by Scottish people.

Crinoline – a stiffened *petticoat* worn to extend the skirt of a dress (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Cuaran** – Scottish Highland male footwear worn since the 17th century. Similar to a boot that nearly reaches the knee; made from cow or horse hide and held in place with thongs (Bain, 1954).

Doublet – main garment for upper part of man's body worn from late 14th century to 1670 and styled like a close-fitting short jacket of various lengths showing the trunk hose or breeches. Part of woman's riding habit from 1650-1670. Jacket of Scots Highlander's dress (Calasibetta, 1998).

Drawers – 19th century term for underpants worn by men and women. Underpants worn by men from 16th through 19th centuries, made of linen and footed, or with stirrup straps under instep (Calasibetta, 1998).

Drugget - fabric produced in 18th-century Great Britain and America that was made in plain or twill weave either of wool, half wool and half silk, or with linen warp and woolen filling. Used for dress. Sometimes spelled drouget (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

Falling band collar – large flat turned-down collar usually edged with lace and attached to the shirt, later made as a separate collar. Worn instead of the falling ruff by men and women from 1540s to 1670s (Calasibetta, 1998).

Falling ruff – Unstarched ruff falling around the neck in unregulated folds and created from lace or lace edged white fabric. Worn in England from about 1615 to 1640 by men and women (Calasibetta, 1998).

Farthingale – woman's coarse linen *petticoat* stretched over iron, wire, cane, bone, or whalebone in a cone-like shape. Introduced in Spain in late 15th century and worn in France in 16th century and in England 1545 to 1620s (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Flax** – a slender annual plant, *Linum usitatissimum*, the bast fiber of which also is called linen. Flax is the oldest textile fiber known. Sometimes called straw. Yarn and fabric made of flax are known as linen (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

Frock coat – man's close-fitting suit-coat, single- or double-breasted, buttoned to waistline with full skirt, flapped pockets, and vent in back with two buttons at waistline.

At first with a Prussian collar and no lapels. Worn with minor variations for many years and called a morning frock coat. Worn from end of 18th century through the 19th century when it extended to knees (Calasibetta, 1998).

Gabriel – a princess –styled floor-length dress that was closely fitted to the body; a 19th century female garment (Peltz, 1980).

***Gown** – term used from the 11th century until the present day for woman’s dress and for loose-fitting, wide-sleeved outer garment or robe worn by judges, scholars, clergy, and for ceremonial occasions (Calasibetta, 1998).

Greatcoat – heavy voluminous overcoat worn by men and women, originally made with fur lining and styled similar to an ulster. Term has been used since the early 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

Habit á la Française – man’s tight-fitting, knee-length coat worn over waistcoat.

Borrowed from a military coat and worn from mid-17th and 18th century in England and France. Woman’s riding coat, styled like a man’s *frock coat*, worn from mid-17th century to early 18th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Hodden gray** – a naturally dark-colored, coarse woolen fabric formerly produced in Scotland and Ireland; used for dress (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

***Hose** – knitted item of wearing apparel covering the foot and leg. Originally a type of leg covering worn in the 15th and 16th centuries which covered the foot and leg and extended to the waist. When divided into two parts, lower part was called a *stocking* in 1660 (Calasibetta, 1998).

Hoop – a framework of whalebone, wire, or cane, made as a *petticoat*, used to extend the skirt. Usually a full length petticoat consisting of a series of circular bands held in place with vertical tapes making the skirt flexible enough to permit one to sit down. Introduced in 1850s and worn at intervals since (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Kilt** – man’s knee-length, knife-pleated, wrap-around skirt with plain front, made in *tartan* design, distinctive for each Scots Highland clan (Calasibetta, 1998). Considered to be the pleated lower section of the *plaid*. Also known as a feileadh (Bain, 1954).

Lingerie gown – a popular *gown* in the 19th century; made of sheer material and worn over a *chemise* (Peltz, 1980).

***Little kilt** – in the 18th century, the *kilt* was separated from the *plaid*. The kilt became a separated lower garment with permanently sewn pleats. Also known as a modern kilt, feileadh beg, or *philabeg* (Grimble, 1973; Cockburn, 1985; Wilson, 1990).

Lunardi hat – see BALLOON HAT (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

***Mantle** – long, loose cape-like *cloak* originally cut square or as a part of a circle. By 19th century term for *cape* without sleeves (Calasibetta, 1998).

Mantua – woman's *overdress* or *gown* worn over an *underskirt*. Made with a loosely fitted unboned bodice joined to overskirt with long train. The overskirt was split in front to expose petticoat. Worn on social or formal occasions from mid-17th to mid-18th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

Negligé coat – a male garment worn in the 18th century; a long sleeved, wide, straight garment much like a night gown; worn around the home when one was not expecting visitors (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

Overdress – transparent dress worn in late 17th century constructed with an attached opaque *underdress* (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Overlay** – see CRAVAT.

***Paisley** – An oriental pattern, known in Asia as a Boteh, which is shaped like a teardrop, rounded at one end with a curving point at the other. Generally, the inside of the teardrop shape contains many abstract designs, many of Indian or oriental origin, which are rich and either bright in color or dull. Traditionally used on cashmere *shawls* imported to Europe from India, it was an important decorative motif in imitation cashmere shawls made in Paisley, Scotland and it is from this usage that the name is derived (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

Panniers – structure of metal, cane, wire, or wooden *hoops* for extending a woman's dress at both sides at hip level. Popular from about 1720 to 1789 in France (Calasibetta, 1998).

Pelisse – 18th century caped, or hooded, three-quarter length woman's *cloak* with armhole slits and entire collar, hem, and front edged with fur, sometimes with silk or satin. Fitted three-quarter length lightweight silk coat having one or more capes worn between 1800-1810. Later ankle length (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Petticoat** – undergarment for a woman or girl similar to a slip, but starting at the waist. Depending on overgarment, it may be full or narrow, lace-trimmed or tailored, and long or short. Originally called an under-petticoat, from 16th to 18th century; called a petticoat since the 19th century. Term used in 17th and 18th centuries for the *skirt* of a dress, not the underskirt (Calasibetta, 1998).

Petticoat breeches – wide-legged culottes, fashionable court fashion worn by men in England and France in 1660s and 1670s, made pleated or gathered to a waistband, full

to knees and trimmed with ribbon loops at waist or near hem on sides (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Philabeg** – see LITTLE KILT.

***Pinner** – term for lappets of woman's indoor cap frequently worn pinned up. Also, a term for the cap itself in 17th to mid-18th century. A 17th century term for *tucker* (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Plaid** – common term for *tartan* pattern woven of various colored yarns in stripes of different widths running at right angles to form blocks. Fabric design printed or woven of yarns dyed in various colors (Calasibetta, 1998). The plaid was also a Scottish Highland garment that is a rectangular *shawl* worn over the left shoulder. The plaid is worn over the upper and lower (to the knees) portions of the body until the mid-1700s. The plaid was a warm, versatile outer garment that served as a *cloak*, blanket, or makeshift bedding. Also known as a breacan, plade, plaidie, or plead (Wilson, 1990).

Polonaise – boned bodice and overskirt made in one piece with low neckline and several types of sleeves. In 1770s, overskirt was looped up to form three large puffs by drawstrings at hips and back to reveal the *petticoat* or *underskirt*. Worn over a separate ankle-length or trained skirt, sometimes contrasting in color, or with one skirt plain and the other striped. Popularized by Marie Antoinette as an informal style of dress. In 1870s style was revived. In 1750s a cape or small hooded cloak drawn back like a polonaise dress (Calasibetta, 1998).

Porkpie hat – introduced in 1860s as a hat for women made of straw or velvet with a low flat crown and turned-up narrow brim (Calasibetta, 1998).

Prince Albert coat – a male garment worn after 1850; similar to a double-breasted *frock coat* (Russell, 1983; Tortora & Eubanks, 1998).

Redingote – men: a full overcoat having a large collar worn for riding in France about 1725. In 1830, a *greatcoat* of blue cloth in military style closed with frogs, sloping pockets, and a fur collar. Women: coat adapted from man's coat in 1790s in lighter-weight fabrics and worn as part of a dress rather than an outdoor coat. During Empire period, it was an outer coat. From 1820s on it was essentially a variation of the *pelisse* (Calasibetta, 1998).

Rhinegraves – see PETTICOAT BREECHES (Calasibetta, 1998).

Robe á l'Anglaise – dress worn in late 18th century without *panniers*. Bodice was shaped to long point in back and close in front over a *waistcoat*. Skirt was slashed in front to show matching *petticoat* (Calasibetta, 1998).

Robe á la Française – sack dress fashionable in 18th century made with close-fitting bodice. Front closing filled in with decorative *stomacher*, and two wide box pleats fell from shoulders to hem in back (Calasibetta, 1998).

Robin Gray hat – a hat being worn by women after 1740; however, no description is available (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

Ruff – a pleated stiff white collar of varying widths; detachable collar (a separate item of dress apart from the shirt); lace or lace edged fabric; worn by men and women between 1560 and 1640; became a detachable collar (Calasibetta, 1998; Tortora & Eubank, 1998).

Sack-backed dress – a Scottish female garment that fell freely from the back shoulders to the ground ending in a train (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

Sack coat – a male jacket from the 19th century that had no waistline and was worn with matching trousers (Russell, 1983; Tortora & Eubanks, 1998).

Sacque dress – a loose fitting gown that hung loose from the front and back shoulders to the floor; worn by women from the early to mid-18th century (Tortora & Eubank, 1998).

***Shawl** – decorative or utilitarian wrap, larger than a scarf, worn draped over the shoulders and sometimes the head. May be oblong, square, or a square folded diagonally. Did not become fashionable in Europe until second half of 18th century. Very popular throughout 19th century, particularly the *paisley* shawl, and worn intermittently since (Calasibetta, 1998).

Shift – undergarment worn in the 18th century by women. Called a *chemise* in the 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Shirt** – garment for the upper part of the body usually more tailored than a blouse. May be closed in front or back or pulled on over the head; some were worn tucked in while others were of overblouse type. Women and girls: worn with pants, skirt, jumper, or suit, buttoned right over left. Men and boys: worn with pants or suit and buttoned left over right. Worn since early Middle Ages, the shirt was originally of slip-on type worn next to the skin; neckband was added in 14th century; standing collar added in 15th century; embroidery, frills and lace added in 17th and 18th centuries. Usually white although colors, including pink, were introduced in mid-19th century, printed shirts with white collar introduced in 1860s and stripes were introduced in late 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Skirt** – lower part of dress; the section below the waistline. From medieval time to 1795 and from 1830 to late 19th century dresses usually made with separate skirts and

bodices. Separate item of dress starting above, below, or at natural waistline. Term used for lower part of coat or jacket, particularly in Great Britain (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Snood** – a woman's hairnet worn during medieval times made from chenille, mesh, or other material worn at the back of the head and nape of neck to confine the hair – sometimes attached to a hat. Headband formerly worn by unmarried women in Scotland and northern England from medieval times until the late 18th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

Spencer – man's waist-length double-breasted jacket with rolled collar and cuffed sleeves worn from 1790s to 1850. Woman's waist-length jacket with shawl collar often fur-trimmed, sleeveless, or made with long sleeves covering the hands, and sometimes, collarless. Worn from late 18th century to early 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

Sporran – purse worn by Scottish Highlander at center front over kilt on low slung belt. Originally made of leather with thong as drawstring. Later made with silver clasp top and covered with long strands of horsehair in white with two long black tassels (Calasibetta, 1998). Goat skin and baby seal skin were also used to create the purse. Also known as a spleuchan (von Furstenberg, 1996; Thorburn, 1976).

Steinkirk – long lace-edged *cravat* loosely knotted under the chin with ends pulled through a buttonhole, pinned to the side, or left hanging. Worn by men from 1692 to 1730 and unfashionably to 1770. Women wore it with their riding habits (Calasibetta, 1998).

Stock – man's made-up neckcloth, sometimes stiffened with pasteboard, which fitted high on the neck. Worn from about 1730 to end of 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Stockings** – see HOSE (Calasibetta, 1998).

Stomacher – heavily embroidered or jeweled V-shaped panel over chest, extending down to point over stomach held in place by busks. Either a part of the dress or a separate plastron, worn with low cut décolletage from late 15th century to 1770s. Same type of inserted front panel made of Shirred fabric used on dresses in first half of 19th century (Calasibetta, 1998).

Surcoat – woman's long, loose outer garment with full tubular or bell-shaped sleeves (Calasibetta, 1998).

Tailcoat – man's formal evening coat which does not button in front and is cut with peaked lapels trimmed in satin or grosgrain. Made waist-length in front with two long tails in back (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Tartan** – originally a twilled woolen or worsted *plaid* worn by Scottish Highlanders as *shawls* and/or *kilts*; each clan having its own distinctive designs and colors. Many clans

use more than one tartan, which are worn for different occasions, e.g., chief tartan, dress tartan, clan tartan, hunting tartan, mourning tartan. The term also applies loosely to the pattern or design of the cloth or any fabric with a similar pattern. The word is derived from the Gaelic “tarstin” or “tarsuin” meaning “across,” which describes the cross-stripe pattern (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

Tonnag – a Scottish Highland female garment; a small tartan *shawl* worn around the shoulders (Bain, 1954; Stewart, 1974).

Top hat – man’s tall hat made of shiny silk or beaver cloth with narrow brim (Calasibetta, 1998).

***Trews** – narrow tartan *trousers* worn in Scotland. Originally *breeches* and *hose* in one piece worn by Highlanders (Calasibetta, 1998). Trews are usually made of *tartan*. Also known as triubhas, truis, or trues (Grimble, 1973; Bennett, 1980).

Tricorn – 19th century term for variation of the cocked hat, turned up to form three equidistant peaks with one peak in center front (Calasibetta, 1998).

Trousers – term used in 18th and 19th centuries, for loose-fitting pants worn particularly by sailors, soldiers, and town workers. At beginning of 19th century, worn by men for day and evening, although not general for evening until after 1850 (Calasibetta, 1998).

Trunkhose – short *breeches* covering the thighs and often made in one piece with the *stockings* (Wilcox, 1958).

Tucker – narrow strip or frill of plain or lace-trimmed fabric, used by women from 17th century to 1830s, to fill in low décolletage. Also called *pinner* or falling tucker in 19th century when it hung down over bodice (Calasibetta, 1998).

Tweed – a class of rough wool fabrics, with a wiry, somewhat hairy surface but soft, flexible texture. Also made of wool and manufactured fiber blends. Made in a variety of effects, including plain colors, checks, plaids, mixtures, nubbed, and slubbed effects. The weave may be plain, twill, herringbone, or novelty. Originally handwoven in the homes of country people near the Tweed River, which separates England from Scotland. Oddly, the term is derived through error from the word tweel, which is the Scottish word for twill, but is associated with the Tweed River (Tortora & Merkel, 1996).

Underdress – worn in Scotland during the 18th century; *skirt* worn under a dress; the dress was pulled to the back in order to reveal the underdress which could be of similar or contrasting fabric to the dress (Maxell & Hutchison, 1958).

Underskirt – see PETTICOAT (Calasibetta, 1998).

Vest – worn from the 16th through the 19th centuries; an item of wearing apparel extending to the waist or longer, similar to a sleeveless jacket. Usually worn over a blouse or shirt and sometimes under a suit jacket. Also called a *waistcoat* or *weskit* (Calasibetta, 1998).

Waistcoat – term synonymous with vest in contemporary styles. Other synonyms include *jerkin* and *weskit*. Men: from 16th century to 1668 an under-doublet which was waist-length, quilted, and worn for warmth. Also worn to complete an ensemble and often made from decorative fabric. From 1668 on, an undercoat cut similar to the *habit a la francaise* made with sleeves until 1750, unfashionable until 1800. Gradually became shorter until it just reached the waist in 1790. Single-breasted until 1730s. Double-breasted in 1780s and 1790s with both styles common in 19th century. Women: 17th century bodice buttoned in front worn with a dress. Latter half of 18th century, dress similar in style to a man's waistcoat of the same date worn with a riding habit. First half of 19th century, a woman's flannel undergarment worn for warmth (Calasibetta, 1998).

Werther bonnet –type of hat worn by women after 1740; no description is available (Maxwell & Hutchison, 1958).

***Wigs** – historically, false hair worn from early Egyptian times and becoming a status symbol of royalty and upper classes through 18th century. Considered a secret device to conceal baldness in 19th and early 20th centuries (Calasibetta, 1998).