

10/24/13

Re: [NASSR-L] Flannel or French? - Elizabeth Fay

Re: [NASSR-L] Flannel or French?

North American Society for the Study of Romanticism <NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu> on behalf of Andrew Winckles <awinckles@GMAIL.COM>

Thu 10/24/2013 4:31 PM

To: NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu <NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu>;

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Stuart - fantastic! Thanks so much.

Andrew

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On Thu, Oct 24, 2013 at 9:27 AM, Stuart Curran <curran@english.upenn.edu> wrote:

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Andrew--There are important studies of the French emigrees in England that might a bearing on the extensive charitable efforts to help them. Take a look at:

Carpenter, Kirsty, *Refugees of the French Revolution: Émigrés in London, 1789-1802*. Houndsmills: Macmillan, 1999.

Carpenter, Kirsty, and Mansel, Philip, eds. *The French Émigrés in Europe and the Struggle against Revolution, 1789-1804*. Houndsmills: Macmillan, 1999.

For a succinct placement of More among other women writers in reference to the revolution and the emigrees, see the beginning of **Adriana Craciun's *British Women Writers and the French Revolution*. Houndsmills; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.**

Stuart Curran

On 10/24/13 8:32 AM, Andrew Winckles wrote:

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Interesting - I have seen those sources, but hadn't looked at it from that perspective. I think there is something in the idea that "flannel" refers to a campaign to collect cloth or clothing for the poor - I will have to look into this further. The OED also has an interesting history of the word.

The Smith connection with the French emigrants is also fascinating - I will point my student in the direction of *Romantic Interactions*.

We are still in the process of putting the website together, so things are still pretty unpolished but eventually we will have the edition up at thecheaprepositary.org.

Thanks to everyone for the assistance, this has been most engaging and what's more has helped expose my students to the scholarly process.

Andrew

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On Wed, Oct 23, 2013 at 9:30 PM, Charles Robinson <robinson@udel.edu> wrote:

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I still think books.google may hold the clue—and the beggar is accused of asking for money for clothes [flannel or French—see below] for the poor or poor children—or to help the weavers or to build a new church—or to collect money for food [the bread and rice]—whatever the latest gimmick [or real appeal].

C Robinson

U of Delaware

Robinson@udel.edu

SEE EVIDENCE BELOW

FROM GODEY'S, 1858

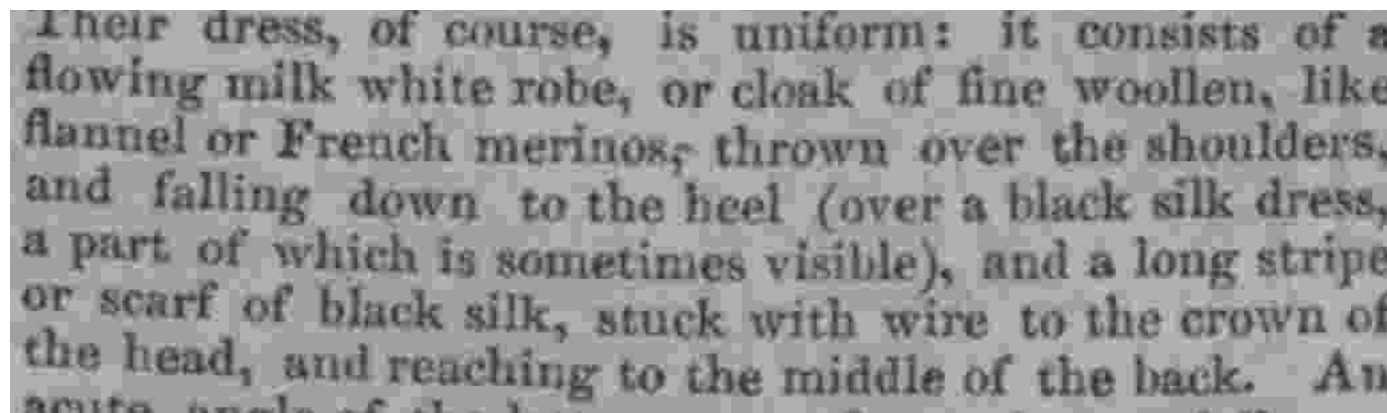
THIS unique and charming costume is exceedingly comfortable and appropriate for the purpose for which it is designed.

As gymnastic exercises among the ladies have now become very popular, and as the advantages which result from them on the form, color, grace, ease, dignity, beauty, and health of the "human form divine," can only lie thus developed, and as they are beginning to be more generally appreciated, and the institutions devoted to this subject more generally patronized, we were induced by the suggestion of Prof. Sedgwick, of the Metropolitan Academy, to procure and present to the numerous readers of the Lady's Book an illustration of the most appropriate costume.

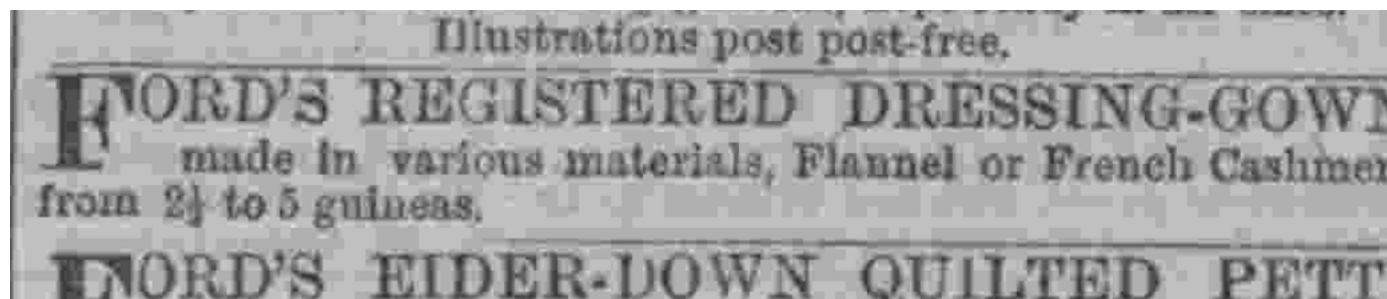
As will be readily seen, the general outlines comprise a basque waist, full skirt, and Turkish sleeves and pants. The material may be either **fine flannel, or French merino**, of any two colors that will contrast prettily.

There are many more instances of this phrase "flannel or French" after 1858. I have not had much time, but you might want to search for the phrase in the latest collection of 85 BL newspapers. Here is one from 1827

Here is one from **The Standard** (London, England), Friday, June 22, 1827;



HERE'S SOMETHING FROM THE STANDARD IN 1865 **The Standard** (London, England), Saturday, November 25, 1865; pg. 7;



Here is a 1902 Harper's arrived at thru hathitrust.org ...uting **flannel or French** flannel. Night-gowns are somewhat of an innovation, the old-fashioned method be- ing to dress the new-born infant in a little muslin slip instead of a dress, put- ting him to bed in it and letting the child wear it for twenty-four hours before making any change. It is most desi...

From: North American Society for the Study of Romanticism [mailto:NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Andrew Winckles
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:40 PM

To: NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu
Subject: Re: [NASSR-L] Flannel or French?

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Thanks to everyone for the help. I have been through all the Google Book sources without success, but I am engaged by Chuck's idea that the clauses are not necessarily related. I will have to look into this further.

Best,

Andrew

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On Wed, Oct 23, 2013 at 2:32 PM, Charles Robinson <robinson@udel.edu> wrote:

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I think your answer can be found by going to books.google and typing in, in quote marks,

"flannel or French"

Charles E. Robinson

English

U of Delaware

Robinson@udel.edu

From: North American Society for the Study of Romanticism [mailto:NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Rzepka, Charles J

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:21 PM

To: NASSR-L@listserv.wvu.edu

Subject: Re: [NASSR-L] Flannel or French?

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Hi, Michael and Andrew,

I think, in the context of the diversity of causes (weavers, bread, cheap rice, new church) all connected by "or" that "flannel" and "French," despite appearing in the same phrase, are really two causes connected only by alliteration. My guess (strictly a guess, and no more) would be that "flannel" refers to collecting donations for flannel clothing (or flannel to make warm clothes for the poor) and "French" to the French emigres fleeing their home country for England, as recorded in Charlotte Smith's "The Emigrants," of 1793. This is only a surmise—you'd have to find out whether or not donations were being solicited from prosperous British citizens for the support of the fugitives of the French Revolution. I imagine More would have sympathized with them, in any case.

best,

Chuck

Charles J. Rzepka

10/24/13

Re: [NASSR-L] Flannel or French? - Elizabeth Fay