

CLOTHING PRACTICES AND PROBLEMS
OF FOREIGN WOMEN AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

by

KATHRYN ORME

A THESIS

submitted to

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the
degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

1962

APPROVED:

Redacted for Privacy

Associate Professor of Clothing, Textiles and
Related Arts

Redacted for Privacy

Head of Department of Clothing, Textiles and
Related Arts

Redacted for Privacy

Chairman of School Graduate Committee

Redacted for Privacy

Dean of Graduate School

Date thesis is presented July 20, 1961

Typed by Verna Anglemier

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Miss Marie Ledbetter, Associate Professor of Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts, the author wishes to express sincere appreciation for her untiring efforts, helpful suggestions and guidance in the supervision of this thesis.

Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. Florence Petzel, Head of the Department of Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts, for her interest and cooperation.

To Dr. Clara L. Simerville, Foreign Student Counselor, and Dr. Lyle D. Calvin, Statistician, Agricultural Experiment Station, the writer wishes to express appreciation for help in the construction of the questionnaire.

The writer wishes to thank the Office of Foreign Students at the University of Oregon and seven of the foreign students on that campus for their cooperation in the pilot study of this thesis.

To the foreign women students and the wives of foreign students at Oregon State University the author owes a debt of gratitude for their cooperation, for without their assistance this thesis would not have been possible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
CHAPTER II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND PURPOSES OF THE STUDY	8
CHAPTER III. METHOD OF PROCEDURE	11
Foreign Women Included in the Study	11
Construction of Preliminary Questionnaire	13
CHAPTER IV. INTERPRETATION OF DATA	15
Background Information of Foreign Students	15
Geographical Distribution of Foreign Students	15
Age of Foreign Women Participants	17
Marital and Academic Status of Foreign Women	19
Length of Residency in United States	20
Opinions of Foreign Women Concerning Necessary Information Regarding Clothing Prior to Departure From Home Country	21
Information Received Before Coming to the United States	21
Sufficiency and Helpfulness of Information Received	21
Need Felt for Information Regard- ing Clothing	22
Opinions Regarding Clothing Information Essential Before Coming to the United States	22
Influence of Religion on Clothing Worn by Foreign Women	28
Religion of Women Included in Study	28
Bearing of Religion upon Clothing Worn	28

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

	Page
National Costumes as Worn by Foreign Women in Study	31
Classification of Costume as Worn by Foreign Women	31
National Costume Worn at All Times	32
National Costume Worn on Occasion	36
Fabrics Used by Foreign Women in Their Native Country and in the United States	40
New Fabrics Used in the United States	40
Reasons for Using New Fabrics in the United States	42
Length of Time in the United States in Relation to the Use of Different Fabrics	42
Methods of Construction of Clothing Used by Foreign Women in Their Native Country and in the United States . .	44
Method of Garment Construction in the Native Country and in the United States	44
Reasons for Differences in Methods of Construction of Clothing . . .	46
Purchases of Clothing Made by Foreign Women in Their Native Country and in the United States	48
Purchases of Clothing in Native Country	48
Purchases of Clothing in the United States	48
Reasons for Purchases of Clothing in Native Country	50
Reasons for Purchases in the United States	51
Problems of Foreign Women in Buying Clothing in the United States . . .	52

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

	Page
Number of Foreign Women Experi- encing Problems in Purchasing Clothing in the United States . . .	52
Problems Experienced in Purchas- ing Clothing in the United States	53
Opinions of Foreign Women Concerning Influences on Their Concept of American Dress	55
Sources of Influences Recognized by Foreign Women	55
Opinions of Foreign Women Concerning Dress Variations From American Students	57
Opinions of Women Who Anticipated Being Dressed Differently	57
Opinions of Women Who Did Not Anticipate Being Dressed Differently	58
Opinions of Foreign Women Concerning General Differences in Dress of Their Native Country and That of the United States	60
Opinions Concerning General Differences in Dress	60
General Differences in Dress Worn in Homeland and in the United States	61
Specific Differences Noted by Foreign Women in Clothing of Their Native Country and That of the United States	63
Differences in Outer Clothing, Undergarments and Accessories . . .	63
Frequency of Differences in Cloth- ing Worn in Homeland and in the United States	63
Specific Differences in Outer Clothing Worn in the United States as Compared With That Worn in the Homeland	64

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

	Page
Specific Differences in Undergarments Worn in the United States as Compared With Those Worn in the Homeland	66
Specific Differences in Accessories Worn in the United States as Compared With Those Worn in the Homeland	69
Reasons Given for Differences in Dress Worn in the Homeland and in the United States	70
Standard of Modesty in Dress of Foreign Women in the United States and in Their Native Country . . .	75
Articles of Clothing As Might Be Worn by Foreign Women in the United States and in Their Native Country	75
Opinions of Foreign Women Concerning the Casualness of Their Dress Since Coming to the United States . . .	78
Casualness of Dress Since Coming to the United States	78
Ways in Which Dress Has Become More Casual	79
Reasons for Dress Becoming More Casual Since Coming to the United States	80
Opinions of Foreign Women as to the Influence of the United States on Their Dress Upon Returning Home .	81
Influence of United States on Dress Upon Returning to Homeland	81
Ways in Which the United States May Influence the Manner of Dress	81
Desirability of Influence of United States on Dress	83
Approval of Family and Friends of Changes or Influences . . .	83

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(concluded)

	Page
CHAPTER V. SUMMARY	84
CHAPTER VI. CONCLUSIONS	96
BIBLIOGRAPHY	100
APPENDIX	102
Questionnaire	103

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
I	Geographical Areas Represented by National Foreign Student Population and Oregon State University Foreign Student Population	16
II	Countries Represented by Foreign Women at Oregon State University	18
III	Marital and Academic Status of Foreign Women at Oregon State University	19
IV	Number of Years of Residency in the United States of Foreign Women at Oregon State University	20
V	Responses Regarding Clothing Information that Might Have Been Helpful Prior to Departure for the United States	23
VI	Religion and its Bearing Upon Clothing Worn by Foreign Women	29
VII	National Costume of Foreign Women	33
VIII	Use of Different Fabrics in the United States	41
IX	Length of Time in the United States in Relation to the Use of Different Fabrics .	43
X	Methods of Clothing Construction Used in Homeland and in the United States	45
XI	Articles of Clothing Purchased by Foreign Women in Their Native Country and in the United States	49
XII	General Differences in Dress of the United States and That of Native Country	62
XIII	Specific Differences in Outer Clothing Worn in the United States as Compared with that Worn in Native Country	67
XIV	Specific Differences in Undergarments Worn in the United States as Compared with those Worn in Native Country	68

LIST OF TABLES
(continued)

XV	Specific Differences in Accessories Worn in the United States as Compared with Those Worn in Native Country	71
XVI	Reasons Given by Foreign Women for Differences in Dress Worn in Their Homeland and in the United States	74
XVII	Articles of Clothing as Might Be Worn by Foreign Women in the United States and in Their Native Country	76
XVIII	Opinions of Foreign Women As to Whether Their Dress Had Become More Casual Since Coming to the United States	78
XIX	Reasons for Casualness in Dress Since Coming to the United States	80
XX	Ways in Which the United States May Influence the Dress of Foreign Women Upon Returning Home	82

CLOTHING PRACTICES AND PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN WOMEN AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Cross-cultural education has its roots far back in history. In the days of the Roman Republic young men went to Athens to study under Greek scholars. As early as the fifth century A.D. Chinese students were traveling to India to study Buddhist doctrine at the noted Nalanda University. In the Middle Ages the universities of Europe attracted wandering scholars from several lands. By the eighteenth century young men of England toured the continent as a culmination of their formal education. The nineteenth century saw American students leaving the country to study abroad, bringing back ideas which changed the character and direction of our graduate instruction and research programs.

The twentieth century has seen the influx of students from other lands coming to the United States to study, although the beginning of foreign student life in this country is recorded as early as 1784. In the period between 1900 and 1910 there was a great influx of Chinese youth to the universities of this country as well as to those of other nations. One factor influencing the growth

in number of these students attending American colleges and universities was the establishment of the Tsing Hua Scholarships and Fellowships. In the first official United States Government act concerning student exchange President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 returned to the Chinese government \$12,000,000, which represented the unexpended portion of funds paid the United States in reparation for damages caused by the Boxer Rebellion eight years earlier. Taking the suggestion of an American missionary, President Roosevelt stipulated that the funds be used to send Chinese students to the United States, particularly for training in technical fields.

Students from the Philippine Islands began coming to the United States for college training in the same period. The Philippine Commission in 1903 initiated the Pensionado movements which brought hundreds of students to the United States during the next few years. Over a hundred scholars were sent in 1919 by the Philippine Legislature. The majority of Philippine students, however, came on their own, supporting themselves by working while they studied. Since the islands were predominantly Christian, with a school system modeled after that of the United States, the migration of Philippine students to America was a natural one.

Temporarily unable to go to Europe during the first World War, Japanese students were sent to the United States in large numbers for specialized training. After the war this number decreased; however many Japanese students continued to travel to American universities for training.

In the early twentieth century, many Europeans came to the United States, not so much seeking an education that was not available to them at home, but desiring to see America. Also, during the years that preceded the first World War, the concept that student exchanges with nations could contribute to international understanding began to take root. A number of foundations and other private agencies were established with the aim of increasing understanding between the United States and other nations, particularly the European countries. During the thirties, because of the economic depression in America and the unsettled political conditions in Europe, the number of European students in the United States decreased markedly.

Because of their cultural heritage, students from Latin America have been drawn more to Europe than to the United States, and only recently have they come here in large numbers. The beginning of a substantial exchange

of students between the United States and the American republics occurred about 1930. Foundations and agencies interested in promoting intercultural education began to offer organized programs of scholarships for Latin Americans to study in institutions of higher education in the United States.

In the later thirties and early forties more students from India and from the Near Eastern countries began to turn to colleges and universities in the United States rather than to those in Europe. Later the war damage to European institutions further increased this shift in their interest. The flow of students from all lands has increased markedly since World War II. This is undoubtedly due to the need felt by some nations for technical and scientific knowledge in fields in which the United States has excelled. However, in recent years the concept of cross-cultural education has broadened considerably. Formerly the traditional function of study abroad was the acquisition of knowledge, whereas one of the primary purposes now is the promotion of mutual understanding and good will between the peoples of the world.

Programs of international cooperation have a long history in many fields of endeavor--political, military, economic, scientific, cultural, and a variety of others...in which the field of education plays a significant part.

The primary objectives of these programs can be stated as follows: (1) the promotion of international understanding among nations, (2) the development of a better understanding of the United States abroad, (3) the promotion of solidarity among the free nations of the world, (4) the strengthening of the free world against Communist aggression, (5) assistance to underdeveloped areas of the world in their efforts to raise the standard of living, to recognize the dignity of man, and to eliminate conditions that serve as breeding grounds for Communist propaganda. All of these programs have become an integral part of the foreign policy of the United States. (3, p. 145)

Intercultural understanding is a two-way process demanding understanding and effort by two parties. It is much more than mere intellectual awareness of differences. It is the ability to know, understand and work with people whose values, goals, attitudes, customs, traditions and habits of daily living are different from one's own. "Intercultural understanding involves the ability to understand one's own and other cultures in the same terms of reference; to recognize and appreciate the fact that there are values in all cultures; to accept differences in values and beliefs with real respect, without feeling the need to challenge them or replace them with one's own." (21, p. 119-120)

When viewed from the standpoint of the phenomenal increase in numbers of students from other lands coming to the United States in recent years, the foreign student on the American campus takes on new significance. This

growth since 1923-1924 as reported by the Institute of International Education is shown by selected years (11, p. 16; 17, p. 21).

1923-24	6,739
1930-31	9,643
1934-35	5,701
1944-45	6,154
1946-47	14,924
1949-50	47,245
1959-60	48,486

Statistics compiled by this same organization reveal that more students from abroad studied in the United States during 1959-1960 than ever before; however the number of foreign students studying in this country in 1959-1960 shows only a 2.6 per cent increase over 1958-1959. While the total number of students has increased by 2.6 per cent, the Institute of International Education reports that the number of newly arrived students shows a marked decrease. In 1959-1960 only 37 per cent of the foreign students began their studies in contrast to the 1958-1959 academic year when 58 per cent of the total foreign student population was newly arrived (17, p. 6-7).

The marked decrease in newly arriving foreign students may be significantly related to the United States' "prestige" in the eyes of the world. If so, perhaps our attempts at international understanding and good will are not yielding the expected or desired returns. One foreign student returning to his native country undoubtedly cannot

produce international understanding between nations, but the role he plays in creating good will between nations is of significance. The value of the foreign student's contribution to the American student by exchanging ideas and by creating an awareness of foreign affairs and problems of other nations, as well as by disseminating knowledge of our democratic ways of life, is beyond estimation.

The Institute of International Education sees the value of foreign-student study in the United States as four-fold:

- (1) value to foreign student
- (2) value to university
- (3) value to American community
- (4) value to home continent (12, p. 7)

The student from another land is a vital part of the American university campus today.

CHAPTER II

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

Throughout recorded history clothing has served as a means of adornment, aesthetic satisfaction and creative expression. By means of clothing, people express tradition, feelings, self-concepts and needs.

The clothes people wear give information to those who wish to understand them. The costume of a group indicates many facts about the country itself--the geographical and climatic conditions, the government and the general standard of living of the population. Clothes tell us what is important to people. In these days when international understanding is vital to the world, it is our duty to use every resource to gain a sympathetic knowledge of people, why they think and act as they do, and an acceptable means of helping them attain both the material and spiritual necessities of life. (7, p. 401)

When a student from another country, especially from a non-English-speaking land, comes to study in the United States, he faces many problems of adjustment. Undoubtedly the typical foreign student has a visual image of the problems he is to face and has many convictions and impressions of America already established in his thoughts. Fellow countrymen, Americans abroad, literature and motion pictures, as well as other sources, have all contributed to this pre-conceived concept of what life in the United States will be like.

Regardless of the preconception with which the student comes to the United States, every foreign student faces problems of adjustment. Ralph Beals and Norman D. Humphrey, in a study undertaken at the University of Minnesota, report: "Practically no student arrives with any real sense of the nature of cultural differences and it would appear to be useful to make them conscious of these differences. Such preparation could increase their understanding and acceptance of cultural differences and might help to reduce value conflicts that occur when students come upon such differences unprepared." (1, p. 117)

The adjustment problems which one foreign student faces may not differ from the problems of another foreign student in kind as much as in degree. The degree to which a student can or cannot adjust to a new culture is dependent upon his own life experiences, familial, social and national conditionings.

The preconceptions with which the student comes, the way he adjusts to new experiences and his acceptance or rejection of America and her ways of life will be conditioned and influenced by both his cultural orientations and his individual characteristics.

The author's purpose in undertaking this study is three-fold:

- (1) to determine influences that affect the clothing worn by foreign women students while in the United States, thus providing a better understanding of these students through the knowledge of the values they hold as expressed in the clothing that they wear;
- (2) to determine the problems of adjustment that might have been avoided or lessened had the student been informed or prepared more fully before coming to the United States, thus causing the student's initial adjustment and her visit in this country to create feelings of acceptance of the United States and its ways of life;
- (3) to help future foreign students fulfill the need to become a part of their host country while still fulfilling the need to retain ties with the homeland.

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

Foreign Women Included in the Study

This study concerns foreign women students and wives of foreign students who attended Oregon State University during the winter and spring quarters of 1959-1960. For this study a "foreign student" has been defined as a citizen of a country other than the United States who is studying in a higher educational institution. By this definition persons from Canada are included. While the problems facing Canadian students will not differ in degree as acutely as those from non-English-speaking countries, problems and differences in dress are real in kind. By this definition students from Alaska and Hawaii are not included, although the problems and differences in dress of these students would be as real as those of, perhaps, Canada and the Philippine Islands.

The compilation of a list of foreign women at Oregon State University was obtained by securing a directory of foreign students at this institution during the winter quarter of 1959-1960 from the Office of Foreign Students. Letters stating the purpose of the study and asking cooperation in the project were then mailed to all potential participants. Post cards were enclosed for the women

to indicate the most suitable time for an appointment for an interview. A total of 64 letters and cards were mailed. Of these, 36 were sent to foreign ~~women~~ students, and 28 were sent to wives of foreign students. The total number of cards returned was 35 or 54.7 per cent of the total number mailed. Thirty indicated cooperation and possible appointment time, one stated that she and her husband were returning to their country before the study was to be undertaken and four said that they were American citizens, although their husbands were foreign students.

Personal contacts and telephone calls were made to the 29 women who had not returned the post cards. Six were also found to be American citizens, four had returned to their country before the study was initiated and 19 were interviewed after this follow-up.

After the spring quarter directory of foreign students was published, additional letters were sent to four new students, to four wives of new students and to the wife of a student listed as single in the previous directory. Two of these post cards were returned indicating a possible appointment time. A follow-up revealed that one wife was an American citizen and one student was incorrectly listed as married. The remaining five were interviewed.

One new student who arrived after the directory was compiled was referred by another foreign student and was

interviewed also; thus a total of 57 foreign women students and wives of foreign students at Oregon State University were included in the study.

Construction of Preliminary Questionnaire

After a preliminary study the following areas of information seemed pertinent:

- (1) information received before coming to the United States regarding clothing needed
- (2) religion and its bearing on clothing worn
- (3) national costume of country
- (4) fabrics used in native country and in the United States
- (5) method of construction of clothing in native country and in the United States
- (6) purchases of clothing in native country and in the United States
- (7) problems experienced in buying clothing in the United States
- (8) direct influences on concept of American dress
- (9) differences in dress in native country and that in the United States
- (10) reasons for difference in dress in native country and that in the United States
- (11) attitude toward clothing worn in the United States

The preliminary questionnaire was constructed and presented to the coordinator of foreign student affairs and to a statistician of the Agricultural Experiment

Station. On the basis of their suggestions the questionnaire was revised and presented to seven foreign women students at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The women included in the preliminary study were from the following countries: Japan, Philippine Islands, Iraq, Colombia, Thailand, Austria and India. A final revision was made, and the questionnaire (Appendix) was prepared and presented to the 57 foreign women students and wives of foreign students attending Oregon State University.

CHAPTER IV

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

Geographical Distribution of Foreign Students

Statistics compiled by the Office of Foreign Students during the spring quarter of 1959-1960 show that 48 countries were represented at Oregon State University by 262 students. Table I shows the geographical distribution of the foreign women included in this study. Comparison of percentages represented by each geographical area is shown between the national foreign student population and that of Oregon State University (17, p. 21-23). The representative number of foreign women on this campus includes both foreign women students and wives of foreign students.

Comparison of the national foreign student population and that of Oregon State University shows relatively similar representation from African, Central American, Near and Middle Eastern, North American and Oceanic countries. Students from the Far Eastern countries at Oregon State University number 17.3 per cent higher than the national percentage, while students from Caribbean, European and South American countries number 3.8, 6.6 and 5.3 per cent, respectively, lower than the national percentage.

TABLE I
Geographical Areas Represented by National Foreign Student Population
and Oregon State University Foreign Student Population

Areas	Total Foreign Student Population			Foreign Women Population		
	Oregon State University		National	Oregon State University		National
	Number	Per cent	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Per cent
African	14	5.3	4.4	4	7.0	3.1
Caribbean	5	1.9	5.7	0	0.0	6.8
Central American	9	3.4	3.6	0	0.0	4.0
European	18	6.8	13.4	2	3.5	15.5
Far Eastern	139	53.1	35.8	33	57.9	42.3
Near and Middle Eastern	35	13.4	14.8	6	10.5	8.8
North American	30	11.5	12.4	10	17.6	10.8
Oceanic	4	1.5	1.5	2	3.5	.9
South American	8	3.1	8.4	0	0.0	7.8
Total	262	100.0	100.0	57	100.0	100.0

Somewhat similar information is seen in a comparison of the population of foreign women. Noticeably higher percentages of foreign women are represented at Oregon State University by countries of the Far East, North America and Africa, with differences of 15.6, 6.8 and 3.9 per cent, respectively, shown. Lower percentages are represented by foreign women from the European, Caribbean, Central American and South American countries at Oregon State University than reported in national percentages.

A difference of 12.0 per cent in the population of European women is shown, while no women are represented at Oregon State University from the Caribbean, Central America and South America as compared to 6.8, 4.0 and 7.8 per cent, respectively, nationally.

Table II gives additional information regarding countries represented by foreign women included in this study.

Age of Foreign Women Participants

The ages of the women included in the study ranged from 15 to 41 years--the median age and the average age both being 28 years. Sixteen women 25 years of age and under were included in the group; nineteen were between the ages of 25 and 30; and twenty-two were 30 years of age or older.

TABLE II
Countries Represented by Foreign Women
at Oregon State University

Country	Foreign Women Number
African	
Egypt	2
Ghana	1
Union of South Africa	1
European	
Norway	2
Far Eastern	
Burma	1
China	4
Hong Kong	1
India	4
Japan	2
Korea	7
Macao	1
Philippine Islands	3
Thailand	10
Near and Middle Eastern	
Iran	2
Iraq	2
Pakistan	1
Turkey	1
North American	
Canada	10
Oceanic	
Australia	2
Total	57

Marital and Academic Status of Foreign Women

Thirty, or 52.6 per cent, of the women included in this study were married, although 17, or 56.6 per cent, of this number were students or otherwise affiliated with the university. Table III shows both marital and academic status of the participants.

TABLE III
Marital and Academic Status of Foreign Women
at Oregon State University

Status	Foreign Women Number	
Single students		27
Married women		30
Wife of student	13	
Student and wife of student	13*	
Faculty member and wife of student	2	
Student and wife of faculty member	1	
Married student**	1	
Sub total	30	
Grand total		57

* Two of the participants were high school students

** Husband is not residing in the United States

Sixteen of the 30 married women had children, ranging from one child to eight children. The total number of children was 37; of these, 16 were not residing in the United States with their parent or parents.

Length of Residency in United States

The length of actual residency in the United States of the foreign women ranged from less than one year to four years. The length of probable remaining residency ranged also from less than one year to four years. The probable total length of residency ranged from one year to six years; the average length of time spent in the United States was 3.3 years.

Table IV shows further information on length of residency in this country.

TABLE IV
Number of Years of Residency in the United States
of Foreign Women at Oregon State University

Length of Time	Number of Women		
	Past Residency	Planned Future Residency	Probable Total Length of Residency
Less than one year	18	15	
One year	10	17	2
Two years	12	13	12
Three years	13	5	16
Four years	4	2	13
Five years			6
Six years			3
Don't know		5	5
Total	57	57	57

Forty-five of the 57 women planned to return to their home country upon completion of studies; five planned to remain in the United States and seven did not know what their plans might be.

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN CONCERNING NECESSARY INFORMATION
REGARDING CLOTHING PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM HOME COUNTRY

Information Received Before Coming to the United States

As one of the purposes of this study is to determine the problems of adjustment that might have been avoided, or lessened, had the student been informed or prepared more fully before coming to the United States, it was necessary to determine how many had received information prior to departure for this country and whether this information was helpful and/or sufficient.

Sixteen of the 57 women, or 28.1 per cent, indicated that they had received information concerning clothing needs in the United States prior to leaving their homeland. Of this number, 11, or 19.3 per cent of the total number, received information from schools or governmental and educational agencies, and five, or 8.8 per cent, received information from relatives and friends residing in the United States, or from relatives and friends who had previously resided here.

Sufficiency and Helpfulness of Information Received

Fifty per cent, or eight of the 16, who had thus received information felt that it had been both helpful and sufficient, while five believed that the information

had been helpful but not sufficient, and three indicated that it had been neither helpful nor sufficient.

Need Felt for Information Regarding Clothing

Comments made by the women indicated that there is a great need felt by most foreign students for some type of information to be given prior to departure for the United States. Many indicated that the need for this information was not sensed so strongly before coming to the United States, as was the realization after arrival in this country that they could and should have been more adequately prepared for differences in type and mode of dress. Many of those who had indicated that the information they had received had been both helpful and sufficient had additional information and comments to make. Although many of the participants did not offer any specific suggestions as to what the needed information might be, the general consensus of those not receiving information indicated that there was a definite need for such knowledge.

Opinions Regarding Clothing Information Essential Before Coming to the United States

Opinions and frequency of response relevant to information that might help future students coming to the United States may be found in Table V.

TABLE V
Responses Regarding Clothing Information that Might Have
Been Helpful Prior to Departure
for the United States

Response	Number of Responses*
Differences in climate	11
Appropriate dress for specific occasions	6
Need for a raincoat	4
Appropriate winter wear	3
Price comparison between countries	3
Style or fashion of clothing	2
Casualness of dress	2
Fabrics worn	2
Frequent use of cotton	2
Inferior quality of American merchandise	1
Postponement of purchases until arrival in the United States	1

* The number of responses does not correspond with the number of participants as some gave no response and others gave more than one reply.

From the information thus obtained it would seem that a need is felt for knowledge regarding climatic differences. The responses offered by the participants reflected a general lack of knowledge concerning the climatic conditions that they were to expect in the United States, particularly those in Oregon. Reports of students from similar geographical areas indicated that their impression of Oregon weather was not entirely anticipated as being either colder or warmer than the home country.

Many students from lands with climates of a warmer nature anticipated a much colder climate than they faced in reality, and, consequently, left most of their "summer" clothing at home. Students from areas having a colder climate than they found in Oregon faced a reverse situation.

The following statements are typical of the statements made by these foreign women. A student from the Philippines states: "At home we use many cottons, but I thought Oregon would be much colder, so I left most of them home. I didn't know I could use so many cottons, I would have brought more." A student from Canada reports: "I thought I would use as many woollens as I did in Canada. I didn't realize I would need so many winter cottons." A student from Iraq comments: "I would like to know wool is more

expensive so I would bring more from home, especially since the climate is colder here."

It seems that information given in comparison to the home country climatic conditions would be helpful. It is not enough to tell all foreign students that Oregon has a rainy season, moderate winters and pleasant summers; the information must be relative to what they know and have experienced.

A similar comparison is needed regarding economic values of clothing purchased in the homeland and that in the United States. Again, it is not enough to tell all foreign students the average cost of clothing here. The information given should be in relation to what they know. Blegen reports in his pamphlet Counseling Foreign Students:

Financial counseling should begin before the student leaves his homeland. Adequate advance information would probably lower the incidence of foreign students' economic problems. Precampus counseling on this subject should (1) present, in advance, an adequate budget rather than an average or minimum estimate of expenses such as is normally found published in a school's bulletin for prospective students... (2, p. 19)

The author of this study believes this should be extended particularly to include clothing needs in the United States. An adequate, rather than a minimum, estimate of clothing expenses and/or requirements should be a "must" for information extended to prospective foreign

students. A relative comparison of prices of garments in the United States of similar quality with those purchased in the home country is also needed.

A student from Pakistan reports that information given to her and her family by friends who previously had been to the United States was very helpful. The family was advised against purchasing any clothing before coming to the United States, but was told to bring old clothing which could be discarded after reasonable wear, and then to purchase new clothing to take home. This method eliminated the payment for extra poundage for new clothing brought to the United States, as well as for old clothing returned to Pakistan. The family had followed the advice of their friends, found it very satisfactory and felt that it was important enough to pass on to other foreign students.

Similar information could be compiled for each geographical area with consideration of mode of travel, weight allowances and customs and tariffs.

Orientation sessions attended by three of the participants were found to be very helpful and were sources of satisfaction to these foreign students. These three sessions were held under different auspices, but served the same general purpose. A student from Thailand reported

that the session which she attended was sponsored by the American Language Center and was very helpful. A student from Ghana reported that an orientation course sponsored by the American embassy in Washington, D.C., was most enlightening. A meeting sponsored by a government agency was helpful to a Burmese student before she left her homeland. This meeting drew together former and prospective students of the United States. She stated that much important information was given, but felt that the group was too large; many had questions, but feared to ask them before such a large audience. She indicated that meetings such as these on a smaller scale would be very beneficial for all new students.

The Institute of International Education and the Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students report that such orientation services are available for foreign students (2, p. 14), but these services are obviously not being utilized to the fullest degree. The author is of the opinion that further investigation of and utilization of orientation sessions available to foreign students both before and after arrival in the United States should be undertaken.

INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON CLOTHING WORN BY FOREIGN WOMEN

Religion of Women Included in Study

As one of the purposes of this study is to determine what influences have effect upon clothing worn by foreign women while in the United States, the author believes that the effect of religion should be considered. To determine this, it was necessary to know the religion of the women involved in this study. Table VI shows the religious affiliation of these individuals listed according to the geographical areas they represent. Those marked by asterisks indicate that religion does have a bearing on the clothing which they wear. Although other religions listed are Christian and/or Protestant, "Christian" and "Protestant" are listed separately under religions of the Far Eastern and North American countries because some of the participants regarded their religion as Christian or Protestant, even though they were not affiliated with a specific denomination.

Bearing of Religion Upon Clothing Worn

Only ten of the 57 women, or 17.5 per cent, indicated that religion had any bearing on the manner in which they dressed. In response to the question, "Does your religion have any bearing on how you dress?" the ten affirmative responses were supported by reasons of "modesty" (7

TABLE VI
Religion and Its Bearing
Upon Clothing Worn by Foreign Women

Area	Religion	Number of Foreign Women
African		
	Dutch Reformed	1
	Greek Orthodox	1
	Moslem	1
	Presbyterian	1
European		
	Lutheran	2
Far Eastern		
	Buddhist	12*
	Catholic	7****
	Christian	5
	Hindu	3*
	Methodist	2
	Presbyterian	2
	Taoist	1
	None	1
Near and Middle Eastern		
	Catholic	1
	Moslem	5**
North American		
	Atheist	1
	Catholic	2
	Church of England	1
	Episcopalian	1
	Jewish	1
	Protestant	2
	Seventh Day Adventist	1*
	United Church of Canada	1
Oceanic		
	Catholic	1*
	Methodist	1
Total		57

* Each asterisk indicates one woman whose religion affected clothing.

responses), "not to dress indecently" (1), "mustn't expose body" (1) and "to cover the head and body" (1).

From the information thus obtained it would seem that there is little or no correlation between religion and its bearing on the dress of the women studied, but the author feels that the validity of these findings might be questioned. Three reasons might be suggested for the possible invalidity of this question: (1) misunderstanding of the question by the participants, (2) insufficient number of participants to allow extensive generalizations and (3) inability of participants to separate religion from their cultural background. As the religion of these sects is so deeply embedded in their culture, it might have been expected that the religion of the Moslems, Buddhists and Hindus would have a more direct correlation with the manner in which the women of these sects dressed than is indicated.

NATIONAL COSTUME AS WORN BY FOREIGN WOMEN IN STUDY

One purpose of this study was to determine influences that have effect upon clothing worn by foreign women students while in the United States. In this way, a greater understanding of these students might be gained through the knowledge of the values they hold as shown in the clothing they wear. The view of the author is expressed by Katharine Holtzclaw:

Because our country is the melting pot for many people who have sought democracy, we all use what is known as Western dress. This dress varies only in detail with rich or poor. This uniformity in general design is perhaps the outstanding characteristic of the Western dress. It shows our strongest belief--that all men are created equal.

As the world gets closer together more and more people are adopting Western clothing. This is especially true in cities where international contacts are frequent. Many other people of these countries, however, continue to cling to their national costume. It is with these groups, where the mores are so strong, that we have this most excellent resource for understanding people through the clothes they wear. (7, p. 404)

Classification of Costume as Worn by Foreign Women

The foreign women included in this study might be categorized into three major classifications as to the national or traditional costume worn: (1) those from countries having no national costume, (2) those from countries having a national or traditional costume that is worn at all times and (3) those from countries having

a traditional costume that is worn only for evening, festive and special occasions. The respondents in the third category might further be classified: (a) those owning a costume that is worn on occasion in the United States and in the homeland, (b) those owning a costume that is worn on occasion in the homeland but not in the United States, (c) those owning a costume that is worn on occasion in the United States but not in the homeland and (d) those not owning a traditional costume of their native country.

Table VII shows the responses pertaining to the national costume of the countries represented.

National Costume Worn at All Times

The group having no national costume represents 26.4 per cent of the total number of foreign women at Oregon State University. The group having a national or traditional costume that is worn at all times represents only 10.5 per cent of the total number. Although these are representative of a small proportion of the total foreign student population on this campus, the number and the importance of these national garments should not be minimized. For these people they represent a way of life which is uniquely their own. The author shares the opinion of Marjory A. Wybourn, who so aptly said:

TABLE VII
National Costume of Foreign Women

Classification	Country	Number of women	Total Number	Per cent
No national costume			15	26.4
	Australia	2		
	Canada	10		
	Iran	2		
	South Africa	1		
National costume worn at all times			6	10.5
	Burma	1		
	India	4		
	Pakistan	1		
National costume worn only for evening, festive or special occasions			36	63.1
a. worn on occasion	China	3		
in United States	Ghana	1		
and homeland	Hong Kong	1		
	Japan	2		
	Korea	6		
	Macao	1		
	Norway	1		
	Philippine			
	Islands	3		
	Thailand	4		
b. worn on occasion	China	1		
in homeland but	Korea	1		
not in United	Norway	1		
States	Thailand	3		
c. worn on occasion	Iraq	1		
in United States	Thailand	1		
but not in homeland				
d. national costume	Egypt	2		
not owned	Iraq	1		
	Thailand	2		
	Turkey	1		
Total			57	100.0

Western 'good taste' need not be imposed on a person from another culture.....To be able to choose becoming and appropriate dress according to the standards of the group helps a person feel more secure and have happy relationships within her group. But it is also important for the student from abroad to be able to appreciate herself as an individual and as a member of another culture and to be able to choose clothing suitable to her own way of living. (21, p. 35)

The women who maintain their country ties by wearing the traditional costume of their native land offer no apologies for the differences they demonstrate in their dress. It is with pride that they tell of their costume. The pride of the Pakistani in upholding tradition is expressed by Pakistan Publications of Karachi in Women of Pakistan:

Pakistani women...have a rich and varied tradition in costume and jewellery behind them. Each region has its own distinctive costume, and every important or festive occasion has its special dress. Unfortunately many of the traditional dresses, ornate and beautiful in design, are impractical and unsuitable in these days of active and outdoor life. But Pakistani women, have a strong sense of tradition and national pride, have not, like many of their Eastern sisters, abandoned their proper dress for Western wear. They have modified and simplified it to suit the exigencies which the machine-age has created. It is the same with their jewellery. Except on special ceremonial occasions, it is no longer practical or possible for women to wear heavily be-jewelled armlets, anklets, head ornaments or waist bands. But it is possible to keep the old designs, and to adapt them to a taste for lighter and less expensive decoration. (20, p. 65-67)

In India:

The use of khadi or khadar--a hand spun, hand woven fabric for clothing has come to denote a philosophy and a way of life for which Gandhi lived and died. In the 1920's as a part of India's campaign toward independence, Gandhi suggested that Congress members purchase and put into operation two million hand spinning wheels. He asked that each member spin daily and dress only in khadi as a test of his readiness for non-violence. This plan was ridiculed by many Indians and Westerners, but as Gandhi hoped, the impact on the lives of the people was far-reaching. This action had profound, unifying value as Brahmins, untouchable Hindus, Muslims and Christians worked together on a common task. It has helped the intellectual or westernized Indian cross the gap which tends to isolate him from his people. It has encouraged habits of self-discipline and has given more dignity to human labor. (21, p. 49)

The women from Burma, India and Pakistan rarely adopt Western clothing, although fabrics and accessories purchased in the United States are adapted to their mode of dress. The wife of a foreign student from India took pride in showing her "creation" of a sari constructed of a "drip-dry" fabric ornamented with rickrack and braid purchased in a dime store in this country. The wife of a student from Pakistan likewise took pride in showing dresses that she had constructed for her small daughter. She related that the young girls in Pakistan wear Western-type garments until they begin wearing the traditional Pakistani costume in their teens. She commented that the dresses she had made for her daughter would be unsuitable for wear in Pakistan because of the sheer fabric and the

sleeveless style.

It was of interest to note that one student from Goa, a Portuguese protectorate in India, was brought up wearing Western dress, but upon entering college in her homeland changed to Indian dress even though all members of her family wear Western clothing. Her attitude toward this is expressed by her statement: "I guess I am somewhat nationalistic-minded. Until four years ago I wore Western costume, but I felt since I am Indian I should dress as one and learn to speak their language." She further stated that she felt it was a "hindrance" to wear the long clothes of her country in Oregon's rainy weather, but "I would rather be at a discomfort."

These women who maintain their native dress while in the United States show individual pride in their country, their people and their way of life.

National Costume Worn on Occasion

The group of women from countries having a traditional costume that is worn only for evening, festive and special occasions represented 63.1 per cent of the women in the study. The occasions upon which the national costume was donned in the homeland were listed by these women as: holidays, birthdays, weddings, dinners, evening dress, religious events, parties and relaxation in the home. The

occasions upon which the national costume was worn in the United States by the foreign women in this group were: foreign student parties, convocations, conferences, clubs, church meetings, Sunday dinners, "speech-making", invitations to American homes and formal wear.

Generally, the students from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Macao and the Philippine Islands indicated that they wore Western dress for daytime in the United States and in their homeland, but that their traditional costumes were still important for evening and festive occasions. The trend of adopting and adapting Western dress by this group of people is well summarized by the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO:

Japan began to absorb Western manners and customs just after the Meiji Reformation (1868) and became Westernized at a rapid pace after the end of World War II.

Japanese mores, however, are still deeply rooted among the people, and today it may be said that Western and native manners and customs exist side by side and with practically equal force in Japan...

Western and traditionally Japanese clothing are worn just about evenly in Japan. In public life, Western clothing predominates, especially in the case of men who have worn Western suits in public for the past half a century.

For the past 25 years, suits and dresses have also been worn by the women for street wear in preference to the beautiful but uncomfortable kimono, and the trend has become even more conspicuous after the end of World War II.

But for weddings, funerals and other formal occasions, kimono is still the predominant choice of the Japanese women. This is partly because the elegant silhouette and pattern of Japanese kimono best brings out the charm of Japanese women and partly because few Japanese women have the figure and poise to show off the off-the-shoulder Western formals to advantage.

While the kimono has given way to suits and dresses on the streets and public places, it is still worn much in the homes. Most Japanese men doff their suits when they get home from office and change to loosely fit kimono for the remainder of the day.

The dual use of Japanese and Western clothing causes needlessly heavy drain on the budget of Japanese households. It can be assumed, however, that with the exception of formal attire for women, Western clothing will progressively banish Japanese clothing as Western style rooms and furniture are adopted into the Japanese households.....

A conspicuous trend in the postwar era has been the Americanization of the Western type clothing worn by the Japanese. Following the example set by the tremendous number of Americans who came to Japan, the Japanese started to give more thought to comfort than appearance. (8, p. 866-867)

Most of the students from Egypt, Ghana, Norway, Iraq, Thailand and Turkey indicated that they wore Western dress almost exclusively, but that a national costume was used for certain celebrations, although it was not an important item in the wardrobe. In some of the countries there has been a revival of interest in the use of the national costume during the past few decades and now for special occasions women proudly wear costumes whose origin dates back hundreds of years.

Eight of the foreign women reported that they had purchased one or more national costumes immediately prior to coming to the United States. It was of interest to note the attitude of an Iraqi student toward the national costume of her country. She had not previously worn or owned the traditional costume of her country, but because of American interest in her homeland and native dress, she had asked her family to send her a costume of her country. She wears it and shows it with pride in the United States, but says "I would not be caught dead in it in Iraq, only the country or poor people wear it over there. I believe I will give this costume to the Clothing and Textiles Department before I go home. I will never wear it again after I leave here."

To these women, as to the women who wear the traditional costume of their country at all times, the wearing of their national garment is an expression of individual pride in their country and people.

FABRICS USED BY FOREIGN WOMEN
IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY AND IN THE UNITED STATES

One of the purposes of this study is to determine influences that affect clothing worn by foreign women while in the United States; consequently, differences in fabrics used by these women in their native country and in the United States, and the probable reason for any differences shown in the use of these textiles, were studied.

New Fabrics Used in the United States

Twenty-seven, or 47.4 per cent, of the women in the study reported using new fabrics since coming to the United States, while 30 women, or 52.6 per cent, stated that they had used no different ones.

Table VIII shows the use of new fabrics listed according to the geographical areas the participants represent.

TABLE VIII
Use of Different Fabrics in the United States

Area	Women Using A Different Fabric		Women Using No Different Fabric	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total
African	0	0.0	4	7.0
European	0	0.0	2	3.5
Far Eastern	16	28.1	17	29.8
Near and Middle Eastern	5	8.8	1	1.8
North American	4	7.0	6	10.5
Oceanic	2	3.5	0	0.0
Total	27	47.4	30	52.6

The fabrics listed as having been used for the first time in the United States can be classified into two groups: wool (12 responses) and synthetics (19 responses). Several of the women stated that they felt they had actually used more new names than new fabrics. One student from Iran stated that all synthetics used in her country were termed "nylon" even though this classification included rayon and other newer synthetic fibers.

All of the women who had used wool for the first time since coming to the United States were from Far Eastern countries--ten from Thailand, one from China and one from the Philippine Islands. These women who had used a new

or different synthetic cloth since coming to the United States were from the following countries: Canada (4), Thailand (4), Iran (2), Australia (2), India (1), China (1), Korea (1), Pakistan (1), Iraq (1), Burma (1) and Turkey (1).

Reasons for Using New Fabrics in the United States

Thirty-seven and one-tenth per cent of the women using new fabrics indicated that they had adopted these materials because of differences in climate. Personal appeal of the fabric or a desire to own a new or different textile accounted for 22.2 per cent of the replies given. Eighteen and five-tenths per cent indicated that these were chosen because of the availability in the United States, rather than in their homeland. Eleven and one-tenth per cent chose new fabrics because of ease of care, while one reply (3.7 per cent) indicated "comfort". One respondent said they were "economical", and another replied, "I don't really know."

Length of Time in the United States in Relation to the Use of Different Fabrics

The length of time which each participant had been in the United States undoubtedly had some bearing on the use of different fabrics. It appears logical that those having been in the United States a longer time probably

would have purchased more than those recently arrived. Fifty per cent of those having used no new fabric had been in the United States one year or less, while nearly half, or 48.2 per cent, of those having used a different fabric had been in the United States three years or more.

Further details regarding the length of time in the United States in relation to the use of different fabrics may be found in Table IX.

TABLE IX
Length of Time in the United States
in Relation to the Use of Different Fabrics

Length of Time	Women Using A Different Fabric		Women Using No Different Fabric	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than one year	7	25.9	12	40.0
One year	3	11.1	3	10.0
Two years	4	14.8	9	30.0
Three years	10	37.1	3	10.0
Four years	2	7.4	3	10.0
Five years	1	3.7		
Total	27	100.0	30	100.0

METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION OF CLOTHING USED BY FOREIGN WOMEN
IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY AND IN THE UNITED STATES

To determine the problems of adjustment that might have been avoided or lessened had the student been better informed of differences she might encounter in the United States, the methods of construction of garments both in the homeland and in the United States were studied. The methods of construction of clothing investigated for this purpose were: clothing made by a dressmaker, clothing constructed at home and clothing purchased ready-made.

Method of Garment Construction in the Native Country and in the United States

To determine any differences in the methods of construction of outer clothing worn in their country and those obtained in the United States the participants were asked to indicate whether these were made by a dressmaker, were made at home or were purchased ready-made. Four stated that they had obtained no clothing since coming to the United States, and, consequently, had noted no difference. Twelve indicated that there was no difference, while 41 pointed out that different methods of construction were used.

The method or combination of methods of construction of clothing used in the homeland and in the United States is shown in Table X.

TABLE X
Methods of Clothing Construction Used in Homeland and in the United States

Responses		Homeland			United States		
Number	Per cent	Dress-maker	Home	Ready-made	Dress-maker	Home	Ready-made
2*	3.5	x	x	x			
1*	1.8	x					
1*	1.8			x			
6	10.6		x			x	
3	5.2			x			x
3	5.2		x	x		x	x
15	26.3	x					x
7	12.3	x				x	
4	7.0	x	x			x	
3	5.2	x				x	x
3	5.2		x	x			x
4	7.0	x		x			x
2	3.5		x				x
1	1.8			x		x	
1	1.8	x	x	x		x	
1	1.8		x			x	x
Total							
57	100.0	47	22	18	0	26	34
		(82.5 per cent)	(38.6 per cent)	(31.6 per cent)	(0.00 per cent)	(49.1 per cent)	(64.1 per cent)

* These women have obtained no new clothing in the United States.

Forty-seven, or 82.5 per cent, of the women obtained the services of a dressmaker in their homeland, while this method was not employed in the United States. Twenty-two, or 38.6 per cent, constructed some outer clothing at home in their native country, while 26, or 49.1 per cent, of those who had obtained clothing in the United States, had constructed some of their clothing at home. Eighteen, or 31.6 per cent, purchased clothing ready-made in their home country, while 34, or 64.1 per cent, of those who had obtained clothing in the United States, purchased clothing ready-made. From this information, it is evident that these women have done more home sewing in the United States than they had done previously and that their ready-to-wear purchases in this country have more than doubled those in their homeland.

Reasons for Differences in Methods of Construction of Clothing

Twenty-one, or slightly more than half, of the 41 women indicating differences, stated that economy was the reason for the way in which they purchased their clothing. In some instances the explanation was given that garments made by a dressmaker in their homeland were more economical than were ready-made garments; in other cases the explanation was given that ready-made garments were less expensive than those made by a dressmaker in the United States.

Others stated that more home sewing was done to economize. Six believed that the difficulty encountered in finding clothing to fit made a difference in their method of purchase. Seven stated that a lack of time accounted for the difference. Non-availability of ready-made garments in their homeland was given as a reason by four, while three mentioned non-availability of national garments in the United States. "Convenience," "better choice of material," "appearance," "quality," "so won't look differently," were each given as a reason by others (5), while six gave no reason.

PURCHASES OF CLOTHING MADE BY FOREIGN WOMEN
IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY AND IN THE UNITED STATES

To determine any influences on purchases made by foreign women in their native country and in the United States, the participants were asked to indicate: (1) what articles of clothing they had purchased just prior to their departure, (2) what articles they had first purchased in the United States and (3) why they had made such purchases.

Purchases of Clothing in Native Country

Twenty-nine, or 50.9 per cent, of the foreign women included in this study indicated that they had purchased clothing in their native country especially to wear in the United States, while 28, or 49.1 per cent, stated that they had made no such purchases.

Purchases of Clothing in the United States

Fifty-four, or 94.7 per cent, stated that they had purchased clothing in the United States, while only three, or 5.3 per cent, of the women indicated that they had made no purchases since coming here.

Table XI shows the articles of clothing that were first purchased in the United States by the foreign women as well as those purchased in their native country prior to coming here.

TABLE XI
Articles of Clothing Purchased by Foreign Women
in Their Native Country and in the United States

Article	Purchases in Native Country		Purchases in United States	
	Number*	Per cent	Number*	Per cent
Underclothing	1	3.4	8	14.8
Skirts	4	13.8	19	35.2
Sweaters	7	24.1	19	35.2
Dresses	4	13.8	11	20.4
Hosiery			4	7.4
Shoes	2	6.9	16	29.6
Coats	3	10.3	14	24.6
Suits	5	17.2		
Blouses	1	3.4	11	20.4
Boots	1	3.4	1	1.9
National costume	8	27.6		
Fabric for dresses	1	3.4	6	11.1
Complete wardrobe	2	6.9		
Slacks			5	9.3
Pajamas			3	5.6
Shorts			1	1.9

* Many women listed more than one purchase; consequently, the number of replies exceeds 29 and 54, the number of women making purchases in their native country, and in the United States, respectively.

Reasons for Purchases of Clothing in Native Country

The availability of clothing in their native country, or the anticipated non-availability of these garments in the United States, was given by nearly one-third of the women as the reason for buying certain articles of clothing in their native country to wear here. A typical statement expressing this fact was given by one of the women: "I knew I couldn't buy them here, so I bought them before coming." Eight purchased their national garment to wear in the United States because of their pride in it. A student from China expressed this pride: "I bought it to show others because it is representative of Chinese gowns."

Four of the women expressed the change in climate as a reason for purchasing new clothing before coming to the United States. "I knew it is cold here" was a typical statement made by many of them. Four purchased clothing for traveling. A need for new clothes was given as the reason for purchases made by four. One student expressed this: "I needed the clothes, and this was a good chance to get them." Economic reasons were listed by four also. One student from Japan reported: "Because of currency limitations to bring here, I had to buy most of my clothing for my stay in the United States before coming." Three purchased clothing in their native country because

they believed it would be of better quality. One student purchased clothing in her native country upon the recommendation of a former foreign student. One student stated that she purchased clothing in her native country "to look nicely," while another said that she wished "to conform."

Reasons for Purchases in the United States

Of the 54 women who had purchased clothing in the United States, 19 made their first purchase because of climatic differences. "Because of cold" was the most typical statement given supporting this. Eleven specified "need" as the reason for purchasing the item. A student from Canada said, "I jolly well needed them." Ten recognized the practicality of the article as the reason for purchasing. Nine made statements indicating that a social need influenced their purchase. Phrases such as "because more prevalent," "because in United States" and "liked the new and different styles" were typical of these reasons. Replacement of wardrobe items was given by five of the women. Five made purchases because they were less expensive, while three bought their first items because they were of a better quality than those in their homeland.

PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN WOMEN
IN BUYING CLOTHING IN THE UNITED STATES

The foreign student faces many problems of adjustment upon arrival in the United States. Many of these problems could be alleviated or eliminated had the student been better informed or prepared before coming to the United States. The purchasing of clothing in the United States represents one of these problems. The purpose of the question, "Do you have any problems buying the kind of clothing you like in our stores?" was to determine problems similar to those that foreign students are now facing that might be solved for future foreign students.

Number of Foreign Women Experiencing Problems in Purchasing Clothing in the United States

Thirty-three, or 57.9 per cent, of the women indicated that they had experienced problems in purchasing clothing in the United States, while 24, or 42.1 per cent, stated that they had experienced none.

Two-thirds of the women from the Far Eastern countries indicated that they faced problems in purchasing clothing in the United States. The women from the Near and Middle Eastern, African, Oceanic and European countries indicated that 50 per cent, respectively from each area, also encountered problems in purchasing clothing in this country,

while only 40 per cent of those from North American countries felt that they had.

Problems Experienced in Purchasing Clothing in the United States

Of the numerous problems that were experienced by these foreign women as they purchased clothing in this country, that of "clothing that fits" was mentioned most often, with slightly more than half indicating this fact. Eight from Thailand, three from Korea, two each from China and the Philippine Islands and one from both Canada and Australia mentioned this problem.

The author believes that it is significant that 50 per cent of the women from China (2 of 4 women), 42.9 per cent of the Korean women (3 of 7 women), 66.7 per cent of the Philippine women (2 of 3 women) and 80 per cent of the women from Thailand (8 of 10 women) found problems in purchasing sizes that fit. Typical statements of this group of women were: "I must buy a size five to fit me," or "To get size to fit, I must buy children's size and then don't like style." These women from the Far Eastern countries are of smaller stature than the average American woman, and, consequently, do encounter problems in obtaining smaller sizes. One student stated that had she realized the difficulty in fitting herself in ready-made clothing in the United States, she would have purchased

more clothing in her size in her native country. The author feels that this is one condition that could be alleviated or lessened had the women been better informed prior to coming to this country.

A problem of a similar nature that might be lessened by more adequate information is that of differences in measurement systems. Problems arising from a lack of knowledge of American standard sizes in comparison to the sizes known in their home country were mentioned by women from Japan, Korea, Ghana, Iran and Norway.

The non-availability of national garments is a situation that might be expected and is undoubtedly known by most foreign women before coming to the United States; however it was mentioned by two students. Other problems --such as selection, quality, economy, style, color, fabrics and the lack of assistance of sales clerks--are ones that might be faced by any student shopping here; however it seems, in respect to the last-mentioned problem, that a public relations program extended to local merchants informing them of problems of foreign students might be of help to these women in purchasing clothing here.

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN CONCERNING INFLUENCES
ON THEIR CONCEPT OF AMERICAN DRESS

The typical foreign student arrives in the United States with many convictions and impressions of America already established in his thoughts. Many sources have contributed to this concept of America; some of these sources are readily recognizable to the foreign student; others, of course, are not as easily distinguishable. The purpose of the question, "Before coming to the United States, what influenced your concept of American dress?" was to obtain the opinions of these foreign women regarding recognizable or direct influences on their understanding of apparel in this country.

Sources of Influences Recognized by Foreign Women

Magazines and newspapers as an influence on their concept of American dress was recognized by 75.4 per cent of the women. Sixty-one and four-tenths per cent of them noted motion pictures as an important influence on how they believed Americans dressed, while only 12.3 per cent mentioned books as a factor. Persons who had come in contact with these foreign women accounted for a large number of replies. Former foreign students, Americans residing in their country and tourists were listed by 29.8, 29.1 and 24.6 per cent, respectively. Previous visits to

the United States of 8.8 per cent of the women affected their idea of American dress. Five (8.8 per cent) of the women replied, "I've just always known," indicating an inability to recognize the source of influence, although undoubtedly the influences listed by the other women contributed somewhat to their concept or image of American dress.

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN CONCERNING
DRESS VARIATIONS FROM AMERICAN STUDENTS

To determine the problems of adjustment that might have been avoided or lessened had the student been better informed before coming to the United States, the opinions of foreign women regarding dress variations were sought. In answer to the question: "Did you think you would be dressed differently from the American students when you came to the United States?" 23, or 40.4 per cent of the women questioned, replied "yes." When asked the question: "Were you dressed differently when you arrived?" 17 of these 23 replied "yes," while six replied "no." Thirty-three, or 57.9 per cent, answered "no" to both questions, while one woman replied "no" to the first question, but "yes" to the second question.

Opinions of Women Who Anticipated Being Dressed Differently

The women who both anticipated being dressed differently from others and felt upon arrival here that they actually were represented the following countries:

Burma	1	Iran	1
Canada	4	Korea	3
China	3	Pakistan	1
India	4		

The author believes that this representation indicates that the feelings of these women must differ somewhat in

degree. One might expect that those women who retain their native costume (i.e., Burma, India, Pakistan) would have such impressions, whereas one might not expect such feelings from those living on the same continent (i.e., Canada). A statement typical of the Canadian women was: "I expected the styles to be a little different, and they were to an extent. Canadian clothes are less stylish--not as fashionable." To a woman from India this difference might seem trivial, but to the one from Canada, the difference was real and concerned her.

The six women who anticipated that they would be dressed differently but found that they were not, represented the following countries:

Canada	1	Philippine Islands	2
Iraq	1	Thailand	1
Japan	1		

A student from Iraq expressed the feeling of these women in saying: "I thought that they would be dressed more 'elegant' here--but not basically any different."

Opinions of Women Who Did Not Anticipate Being Dressed Differently

Only one of the women questioned had not foreseen a variation in dress, but upon arrival here felt that her appearance differed. This woman from Australia expressed her feelings thus: "I felt people stare at me; I felt others thought possibly the style and material of my

clothing were different."

The women from all of the remaining countries had not anticipated being dressed differently and did not feel that they were.

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN CONCERNING GENERAL DIFFERENCES
IN DRESS OF THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY AND THAT OF
THE UNITED STATES

Opinions Concerning General Differences in Dress

When asked the question, "Do you think the clothing worn in your country, generally, differs from that of the United States?" 27, or 47.4 per cent of the women, answered "yes," while 30, or 52.6 per cent, answered "no."

Seventy-five per cent (three of four women) of those from African countries indicated that they felt the dress of their native country was generally different from that of the United States, as did 51.5 per cent of those from Far Eastern countries (17 of 33 women), 50 per cent from Oceanic countries (one of two women), 40 per cent from North American countries (four of ten women) and 33.3 per cent from the Near and Middle Eastern countries (two of six women). However, the two women from the European countries did not feel there were any general variations.

Although the number of women represented by some areas is too few to allow extensive generalizations, it would seem that more women from those countries the greatest distance from the United States (African, Far Eastern and Oceanic countries) felt that their native dress was different from that of this country than did the

women from areas located at a lesser distance (North American, Near and Middle Eastern and European countries).

General Differences in Dress Worn in Homeland and in the United States

The women who answered "yes" to the question, "Do you think the clothing worn in your country, generally, differs from that of the United States?" were then asked to list the most outstanding differences.

"Fabric" and "general style" were given most frequently. That the manner of dress in this country was "more casual," "less conservative" and "less fashionable" than the attire of their own country was mentioned often. Additional information is shown in Table XII.

TABLE XII
General Differences in Dress
of the United States and That of Native Country

Difference	Responses	
	Number*	Per cent
Fabric	18	31.6
General style	13	22.8
National garment	7	12.3
More casual clothing	6	10.5
Less conservative clothing	5	8.8
Less fashionable clothing	5	8.8
Wearing of slacks	3	5.3
Wearing of sweaters	2	3.5
More fashionable clothing	2	3.5
Better quality clothing	2	3.5
Poorer quality clothing	1	1.8
Color	1	1.8
No response	4	7.0

* Several women stated more than one difference; consequently, the number of replies exceeds 57, the number of participants.

SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES NOTED BY FOREIGN WOMEN IN CLOTHING
OF THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY AND THAT OF THE UNITED STATES

Differences in Outer Clothing, Undergarments and Accessories

To determine any specific differences in outer clothing worn in their native land and in the United States, the foreign women included in this study were asked to indicate any variations in the kind or amount of coats, suits, sweaters, blouses, skirts, trousers or slacks and formal or party dresses that they had worn in their country and those that they wear here. It was suggested to them that such differences might include fabrics, colors, frequency of wearing, lengths of skirts and observations of their own.

The women were likewise asked to indicate differences in undergarments--brassieres, panties, slips and girdles--and accessories--hosiery, shoes, boots, hats and head coverings and gloves.

Frequency of Differences in Clothing Worn in Homeland and in the United States

The articles of clothing worn in the United States that were mentioned by more than one-half of the foreign women as being different in amounts or kinds from those worn in their homeland were: coats, sweaters, boots, trousers or slacks, high-heeled shoes, low-heeled shoes,

gloves and long stockings. Items mentioned by one-third or more of the women were: suits, skirts, short stockings and hats and head coverings. Blouses, slips, formal or party dresses, girdles, brassieres and panties were listed by less than one-third.

Specific Differences in Outer Clothing Worn in the United States as Compared With That Worn in the Homeland

The author believes that several differences in outer clothing designated by the participants were somewhat significant. The differences given the most frequently were generally related to the need for warmer or heavier clothing. One-third of the women pointed out that they wore coats more often in the United States and twenty of the women indicated that they wore heavier coats in this country. (Several of the women noted both; consequently, there is an overlapping of replies.) Twenty-three women also mentioned that they now wore sweaters more often than previously. These differences seem to be most common among the women of the Far Eastern countries. This is evidenced by the fact that 18 of the 19 wearing coats more often, 17 of the 20 wearing heavier coats and 20 of the 23 wearing sweaters more often were from countries of the Far East. Twelve women from this area further mentioned that coats were not worn at all in their homeland.

Another differentiation mentioned frequently was in regard to the wearing of trousers or slacks. Twenty-one of the women stated that they wore slacks or trousers more often in the United States than in their homeland, while eleven indicated that they wore them less often here. Ten of the eleven women who indicated the latter were from Far Eastern countries.

Five of the women who stated that they wore slacks more often in this country further indicated that slacks were not worn at all in their homeland. These five women were from African, Far Eastern (2) and Near and Middle Eastern (2) countries.

Of the twenty-one women wearing slacks more often it seemed relevant that five of the six from the Near and Middle Eastern countries mentioned this difference, as did three of the four from African countries. Five of ten North American women and one of two from both European and Oceanic countries also noted this difference.

A difference in fabrics was given by 21 women as a specific variance in outer clothing worn in the United States and that worn in their homeland. (Table VIII, p. 41 shows 27 of the women had used new fabrics since coming to the United States.)

Somewhat commonly mentioned by women of the Far Eastern countries was the fact that the skirts and dresses

which they wear in our country are tighter fitting than those that they had worn before coming here. Eleven of the thirteen who indicated this were from Far Eastern countries; however two from this same area noted that their clothes had been more tightly fitted in their homeland.

A difference in the general styles of outer clothing that they have worn in the United States from those that they had worn in their native country was mentioned by 25 of the women.

Other specific differences are shown in Table XIII.

Specific Differences in Undergarments Worn in the United States as Compared With Those Worn in the Homeland

Several differences in undergarments mentioned by the participants were thought to be significant by the author. A difference in the fabrics of the undergarments that they wear in the United States and those that they had worn in their homeland was pointed out by 15 women. Nine mentioned the style of slips worn in the United States as being different from those worn previously. Fifteen women revealed that they had worn girdles more often in the United States than they had in their homeland and six women disclosed that they had not worn girdles at all in their native country. The women from the European, North American and Oceanic countries noted no differences in undergarments. Other differences are shown in Table XIV.

TABLE XIII
Specific Differences in Outer Clothing Worn in the United States as Compared
With That Worn in Native Country

Differences	Responses					
	Afri- can	Euro- pean	Far Eastern	Near and Middle Eastern	North Amer- ican	Oceanic
Coats worn more often	1		17	1		
Trousers worn more often	3	1	6	5	5	1
Skirts worn more often	1	1				
Blouses worn more often		1	1		1	1
Sweaters worn more often	1	1	20		1	
Suits worn more often			7			
Coats worn less often			1	1	3	
Sweaters worn less often	2				2	
Trousers worn less often		1	10			
Suits worn less often		1	2		4	
Party dresses worn less often	1		4		2	
Coats not worn at all in homeland	1		12			
Trousers not worn at all in homeland	1		2	2		
Suits not worn at all in homeland			2			
Heavier coats worn in United States	1	1	17	1		
Heavier coats worn in homeland					7	
Different fabrics			17	2	2	
Different colors			4	2	2	
Tighter fitting in United States			11	1	1	
Tighter fitting in homeland			2			
Quality	1		1	1	5	1
General style		1	17	1	6	
Shorter length			1	1	1	

TABLE XIV
Specific Differences in Undergarments Worn in the United States
as Compared With Those Worn in Native Country

Difference	Responses					
	Afri- can	Euro- pean	Far Eastern	Near and Middle Eastern	North Ameri- can	Oceanic
Quality of construction			1	1		
Types of fabric	1		11	3		
Style of brassiere	1		4			
Style of panties			2			
Style of slips			9			
Less elaborate	1					
Girdles worn more often	2		11	2		
Girdles not worn at all in homeland	1		6	1		

Specific Differences in Accessories Worn in the United States as Compared with Those Worn in the Homeland

Several differences in accessories worn by foreign women in the United States as compared with those worn in their native country seemed to be of significance. Two interrelated differences were mentioned more frequently than any other item. Twenty-six women pointed out that they had worn high-heeled shoes less often in this country, and twenty-five indicated that they had worn low-heeled shoes more often. That high-heeled shoes were worn less often in this country was mentioned by women from all areas; however the greatest proportion of women indicating this were from Near and Middle Eastern countries.

Boots for inclement weather were worn more often in this country than previously as reported by 22 women. Nearly half of the women from the Far Eastern countries and the Near and Middle Eastern countries mentioned this. It was interesting to note that eight of ten women from Canada pointed out that they had worn hats less often in the United States than they had previously done in Canada. Twenty-one of the 33 women from the Far Eastern countries indicated that they had worn gloves more often in the United States than they had previously, while eleven women (six from Canada) stated that they had worn gloves less frequently here.

A variance in the wearing of hosiery, both long hosiery and short stockings, was indicated primarily by the women of the Far Eastern countries. Nineteen of the 22 responses indicating that long hosiery was worn more often in this country were given by Far Eastern participants; nine of the twelve women that mentioned that they wore short stockings more often here were likewise from this group.

Other differences noted are shown in Table XV.

Although the sampling of women is considerably greater from the Far Eastern countries than that of any other area, the information gained seems to indicate that the women from Far Eastern countries note more differences in clothing than do the women from any other area.

Reasons Given for Differences in Dress Worn in the Homeland and in the United States

A variety of reasons was given for differences in dress worn in the United States and that worn in the homeland. The most outstanding reason was "because of the climate" which was expressed 158 times. The frequency of this response far exceeds that of any other, as the reason given the second most often was designated only 30 times. The participants were asked to express a reason for each difference that they had noted; a wide range was evident as one woman noted only one difference while another cited

TABLE XV
Specific Differences in Accessories Worn in the United States
as Compared With Those Worn in Native Country

Difference	Responses					
	Afri- can	Euro- pean	Far Eastern	Near and Middle Eastern	North Ameri- can	Oceanic
Long stockings worn more often	2		19		1	
Long stockings worn less often		1		3	4	
Short stockings worn more often		1	9	1	1	
Short stockings worn less often	1		3	1	3	
High-heeled shoes worn more often		1	3		1	
High-heeled shoes worn less often	2	1	13	5	4	1
Low-heeled shoes worn more often	2	1	14	5	2	1
Style of shoe	2	2	2	1	3	
Boots worn more often			16	3	2	1
Boots worn less often		2	7		6	
Hats or head coverings worn more often			8			
Hats or head coverings worn less often	1	1	2		8	1
Gloves worn more often			21			
Gloves worn less often		1	2	2	6	

15. The frequency of reasons given is not proportionate to the number of women in this study, nor to any one difference; however a general pattern or trend may be seen.

The other reasons given are listed in order of frequency: desire to conform, changed pattern of life, casualness of the United States, non-acceptance in homeland, ease of dress, economy, availability in the United States and availability in the homeland.

The women from the Far Eastern countries listed "climate" decidedly more often than any other reason, although the desire to conform and their changed role or pattern of life was mentioned frequently.

"Climate" was also listed most often by the Canadian women, although the casualness of the United States, a changed pattern of life, and the desire to conform contributed often to their list of reasons.

The women from the Near and Middle Eastern countries listed "climate" as the initial reason, but almost as frequently designated a desire to conform and the non-acceptance of the article in their homeland.

The African women disclosed a desire to conform as the basic reason for any differences they had noted, although climate, ease of dress and a changed pattern of life also were specified frequently.

Climate, economy and a desire to conform were listed above other reasons by the two European women; while the two Australian women contributed any differences they had observed primarily to the fact that their pattern of life had changed.

Table XVI shows further information concerning the reasons given for differences in dress.

TABLE XVI
Reasons Given by Foreign Women for Differences in Dress
Worn in Their Homeland and in the United States

Reason	Responses					
	Afri- can	Euro- pean	Far Eastern	Near and Middle Eastern	North Ameri- can	Oceanic
Climate	3	2	120	7	25	1
Economy	1	2	6	2		
Ease of dress	3	1	7	1		
Availability in United States	1		4	3	2	1
Availability in homeland			3	1	3	
Desire to conform	5	2	15	6	7	
Changed pattern of life	3	1	10	4	9	3
Non-acceptance in homeland	1	1	3	6	2	1
Casualness of United States	1	1	1	2	16	1

STANDARDS OF MODESTY IN DRESS OF FOREIGN WOMEN
IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY

Articles of Clothing as Might Be Worn by Foreign Women in
the United States and in Their Native Country

To determine if foreign women displayed different standards of dress in the United States from those in their native country the participants in this study were asked to indicate whether they would wear certain articles of clothing in the United States, and, also, whether they would wear these same articles of clothing in their homeland. The articles of clothing included in this question were: a sleeveless dress, a strapless dress, a low V-neckline blouse, bermudas, shorts, a bathing suit and a bikini.

Table XVII shows the total number of responses of the foreign women concerning these articles of clothing as they might wear them in the United States and in their native country.

Of a possible 399 replies (seven articles of clothing for each of 57 women) 54.5 per cent of them (217) indicated that the women would wear the article of clothing in neither country. Thirty-six and eight-tenths per cent of the replies (147) indicated that they would wear the article in both countries. That the article of clothing

TABLE XVII
Articles of Clothing As Might Be Worn by Foreign Women
in the United States and in Their Native Country

Article of Clothing	Responses							
	United States and homeland		United States but not homeland		Neither United States nor homeland		Homeland but not United States	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Sleeveless blouse	36	63.1	2	3.5	16	28.1	3	5.3
Strapless dress	16	28.1	3	5.3	33	57.9	5	8.8
Low V-neckline blouse	32	56.1	2	3.5	22	38.6	1	1.8
Bermudas	11	19.3	1	1.8	45	78.9	0	0.0
Shorts	17	29.8	3	5.3	35	61.4	2	3.5
Bathing suit	34	59.6	3	5.3	13	22.8	7	12.3
Bikini	1	1.8	2	3.5	53	93.0	1	1.8
Total	147		16		217		19	

would be worn in their homeland but not in the United States was specified in 4.7 per cent (19) of the replies, while 4.0 per cent (16) of the replies showed that the article would be worn in the United States but not in their homeland.

From this information it would seem that there is little difference in standards of modesty in dress of the foreign women while in the United States, as compared to the homeland.

Articles of clothing that would be worn in both countries by more than half of the women were: a sleeveless blouse (63.1 per cent), a low V-neckline blouse (56.1) and a bathing suit (59.6), while articles of clothing that would be worn in neither country by more than half of the women were: a bikini (93.0 per cent), bermudas (78.9), shorts (61.4) and a strapless dress (57.9).

Although the sampling of women from these countries is small, the author thinks it significant that none of the women from the Near and Middle Eastern countries and from the Oceanic countries would wear bermudas, shorts or a bikini at any time.

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN CONCERNING THE CASUALNESS
OF THEIR DRESS SINCE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES

Casualness of Dress Since Coming to the United States

To determine if the dress of the participants had become more casual since coming to the United States the women were asked, "Has your dress become more casual, or less formal, since coming to the United States?" Thirty-four (59.8 per cent) of the women stated that their dress had become more casual since coming to this country. Fifty per cent or more of the women from each geographical area indicated this.

Further information may be found in Table XVIII.

TABLE XVIII
Opinions of Foreign Women As to Whether Their Dress
Had Become More Casual Since Coming to the United States

Area	Responses			
	Yes		No	
	Number	Per cent of Area	Number	Per cent of Area
African	2	50.0	2	50.0
European	1	50.0	1	50.0
Far Eastern	19	57.6	14	42.4
Near and Middle Eastern	4	66.7	2	33.3
North American	7	70.0	3	30.0
Oceanic	1	50.0	1	50.0
Total	34		23	

Ways in Which Dress Has Become More Casual

To determine ways that the dress of these foreign women had become more casual since coming to the United States they were asked in which ways it had become so. Ten of the women stated that their manner of dress was "not as dressy" as it had been previously, while four felt that their appearance was "not as neat." Six believed that the wearing of slacks and shorts made their dress more casual, and two indicated the same concerning the more frequent wearing of cottons. One felt that the simplicity of her garments contributed to the casualness of her appearance, while one believed this of the lower necklines that she wore.

The husband of a woman from Pakistan answered for his wife when she was asked how her dress had become more casual: "My wife has become more casual because she does not wear veil over face. In my country it is worn for modesty, here it like making fun of self to wear--here not to be picked for eye's amusement. I do not want her to be embarrassed." Nine women who felt that their dress had become more casual could not explain in which ways it had become so; hence no reasons are indicated.

Reasons for Dress Becoming More Casual Since Coming to the United States

To determine the reasons for more casualness in dress since coming to the United States the women were asked why their dress had become less formal. Ten of them felt that their role as student or wife affected the casualness of their dress, while six felt that the lack of time caused this. Eight believed that the American "way of life" had influenced their casualness. Statements typical of this feeling were: "People are less conventional in the United States," "Everybody is more casual," "Americans are informal in dress," "Because everyone does," "It's the custom here" and "It's acceptable."

Additional reasons and information may be found in Table XIX.

TABLE XIX
Reasons for Casualness in Dress Since Coming to the United States

Reason	Response	
	Number	Per cent
Role as student or wife	10	29.5
Influence of American "way of life"	8	23.6
Lack of time	6	17.6
Comfort	2	5.9
Climate	1	2.9
Avoidance of embarrassment	1	2.9
No reply	6	17.6
Total	34	100.0

OPINIONS OF FOREIGN WOMEN AS TO THE INFLUENCE OF
THE UNITED STATES ON THEIR DRESS UPON RETURNING HOME

Influence of United States on Dress Upon Returning to
Homeland

To determine if the foreign women participating in this study felt that they would be influenced in the way they would dress in the future, they were asked, "Do you think the United States has had any influence on the way you will dress when you return to your country?"

Thirty of the women felt that the United States would have an influence on the way that they would dress. Fifty per cent or more of the women from the Near and Middle Eastern (66.7), Far Eastern (57.6), North American (50.0) and Oceanic (50.0) countries expressed this belief, while neither of the European women and only one of the four African women thought any effect would be evidenced.

Ways in Which the United States May Influence the Manner
of Dress

Table XX lists the opinions given by the foreign women concerning any influences the United States has had upon the way that they will dress upon returning to their homeland. It was interesting to note the comments of the women concerning this. One woman stated: "I will think for myself. I will not accept everything as I would have previously in my own country."

The husband of a woman from Pakistan stated: "I can't really say. I can't decide whether she will wear burga (veil) when we return. I would rather not have her wear it, but it is hard to alienate one against society, religion and custom."

A student from Japan who had previously studied in the United States reported: "I will show no changes now. My first trip home I wore bright colors and a sleeveless dress. People whispered about an educated woman and of my age wearing such clothes. From my experience I will change back now when I return."

TABLE XX
Ways in Which the United States May Influence the Dress
of Foreign Women Upon Returning Home

Ways in which dress may be influenced	Responses	
	Number	Per cent
More stylish	11	36.6
More Western clothing	2	6.7
More trousers and slacks	2	6.7
More practical	2	6.7
More casual	2	6.7
Color	2	6.7
Lower necklines	1	3.3
More loosely fit skirts	1	3.3
"Think for self"	1	3.3
"Hard to tell"	2	6.7
No reason given	4	13.3
Total	30	100.0

Desirability of Influence of United States on Dress

The women who believed that the United States had had an influence on the manner in which they would dress upon returning home were asked, "Do you think the influence has been desirable?" Twenty-eight of the thirty women (93.4 per cent) felt that the influence had been desirable, while only one (3.3 per cent) felt that it had not been, and one stated that she had "mixed feelings."

Approval of Family and Friends of Changes or Influences

"Do you think your family and friends will approve of the changes or influences?" was next asked of the women who had indicated that they thought the United States would influence the manner in which they would dress. Of the thirty, 26 (86.6 per cent) stated that they felt that their families and friends would approve, while only one indicated that her family would not, and three specified that they did not know. The last three answered: "I'm wondering that myself," "I really don't know" and "In some ways, maybe."

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

This study concerns foreign women students and wives of foreign students who attended Oregon State University during the winter and spring quarters of 1959-1960. For this study a "foreign student" was defined as a citizen of a country other than the United States who is studying in a higher educational institution.

The specific purposes of the study were to determine influences that affect the clothing worn by foreign women while in the United States and to determine the problems of adjustment that might have been avoided or lessened had the student been informed or prepared more fully before coming here. From this information it was hoped that a better understanding of foreign students currently studying here might be gained through a knowledge of the values that they hold as expressed by the clothing they wear; that the initial adjustment and visit in this country of future foreign students might create feelings of acceptance of the United States and its way of life; and also that future foreign students might feel a part of their host country while still fulfilling a need to retain ties with the homeland.

The study is based on data obtained by personal interviews with the 57 foreign women students and wives of foreign students at Oregon State University at the time the study was undertaken. Nineteen foreign countries are represented in the study with the greatest number of students being from Thailand and Canada. The large numbers from these countries might be explained because of the proximity of Canada and because of the educational exchange program between Oregon State University and Kasetsart University in Thailand. The 19 countries represent six geographical areas: African, European, Far Eastern, Near and Middle Eastern, North American and Oceanic.

A comparison of the national foreign women population and that of Oregon State University shows relatively similar representation; however a noticeably higher percentage of Far Eastern women at Oregon State University is shown and a noticeably lower percentage of European women is in evidence. Women from the Caribbean, Central American and South American countries are not represented on this campus.

To determine any influences that affect the clothing worn while in the United States and to determine any problems experienced by these foreign women while here, the women were questioned concerning the following areas:

- (1) information received before coming to the United States

regarding clothing needed, (2) religion and its bearing on clothing worn, (3) national costume of country, (4) fabrics used in native country and in the United States, (5) method of construction of clothing in homeland and in this country, (6) purchases of clothing in own land and in this country, (7) problems experienced in buying clothing here, (8) direct influences on concept of American dress, (9) differences in dress in native country and that in the United States, (10) reasons for differences in dress in homeland and that in this country and (11) attitude toward clothing worn here.

Only 16, or 28.1 per cent, indicated that they had received information concerning clothing needed in the United States prior to leaving their homeland. Of these only half felt that it had been both helpful and sufficient. From the comments made by the women who had received such information, as well as by those who had not, it was indicated that there is a great need felt by most foreign students for some type of information to be given prior to departure for the United States. The greatest number of women indicated a need for information regarding differences in climate. Appropriate dress for specific occasions, price comparison between countries, styles or fashion of clothing and casualness of dress in this country were other factors which appeared to be significant also.

Only ten of the 57 women, or 17.5 per cent, indicated that religion had any bearing on the manner in which they dressed. From this information it would seem that there is little or no correlation between religion and its bearing on the dress of the women studied, but the author feels that the validity of these findings might be questioned. Three reasons might be suggested for the possible invalidity of this question: (1) misunderstanding of the question by the participants, (2) insufficient number of participants to allow extensive generalizations and (3) inability of participants to separate religion from their cultural background. As the religion of these sects is so deeply embedded in their culture, it might have been expected that the religion of the Moslems, Buddhists and Hindus would have a more direct correlation with the manner in which the women of these sects dressed than is indicated.

The foreign women included in this study might be categorized into three major classifications as to the national or traditional costume worn: (1) those from countries having no national costume (26.4 per cent), (2) those from countries having a national or traditional costume that is worn at all times (10.5 per cent) and (3) those from countries having a traditional costume that

is worn only for evening, festive and special occasions (63.1 per cent).

The women who maintain their country ties by wearing the traditional costume of their native land offer no apologies for the differences they demonstrate in their dress. It is with pride that they tell of their costume. The women having a national costume that is worn at all times in both countries rarely adopt Western clothing, although fabrics and accessories purchased in the United States are adapted to their mode of dress. These women who maintain their native dress while in the United States show individual pride in their country, their people and their way of life.

The group of women from countries having a traditional costume that is worn primarily for evening and festive occasions in their homeland reported wearing their national costumes in the United States for foreign student parties, convocations, conferences, clubs, church meetings, Sunday dinners, "speech-making," invitations to American homes and formal wear. To these women, as to the women who wear the traditional costume of their country at all times, the wearing of their national garment is an expression of individual pride in their country and people.

Almost one-half of the women in the study reported using new fabrics since coming to the United States.

Slightly more than one-third of these indicated that they had adopted these materials because of differences in climate. Other reasons given were: personal appeal of the fabric or a desire to own a new or different textile, the availability in the United States rather than in their homeland, ease of care, comfort and economy.

Forty-one (71.9 per cent) of the women pointed out that they had used different methods of clothing construction in the United States from those they had used in their homeland. Different methods of construction were defined as: clothing made by a dressmaker, clothing constructed at home and clothing purchased ready-made. Eighty-five and five-tenths per cent of the total number of women had obtained the services of a dressmaker in their homeland, while this method was not employed in the United States. It was also evident that these women have done more home sewing in the United States than they had done previously, and that their ready-to-wear purchases in this country have more than doubled those in their homeland.

Slightly more than half of the women indicated that economy was the reason for the way in which they purchased their clothing. Other reasons given were: difficulty encountered in finding clothing to fit, lack of time, non-availability of ready-made garments in their homeland, non-availability of national garments in the United States,

convenience, better choice of material, appearance, quality and a desire to conform.

Slightly more than fifty per cent of the women indicated that they had purchased clothing in their native country especially to wear in the United States. The articles purchased by the greatest number of women were: national costumes, sweaters, suits, skirts, dresses and coats. The reasons given most frequently for these purchases were: availability of clothing in their native country or the anticipated non-availability of these garments here, pride in national garment, change in climate and need for new clothing.

All but three of the women stated that they had purchased clothing in the United States. The articles first purchased in this country by the greatest number of women were: skirts, sweaters, shoes, coats, dresses and blouses. The reasons given most frequently for these purchases were: climatic differences, need, practicality of the garment and a desire to conform.

Fifty-seven and nine-tenths per cent of the women indicated that they had experienced problems in purchasing clothing in the United States. Of the 33 women from the Far Eastern countries two-thirds of them indicated this fact. Also encountering such problems were fifty per cent of the women from each of the following areas: Near and

Middle Eastern, African, Oceanic and European. Only 40.0 per cent of those from North American countries stated that they had experienced problems in purchasing here.

Of the numerous problems that were experienced by these foreign women as they purchased clothing in this country, that of "clothing that fits" was mentioned most often, with slightly more than half indicating this fact. The author believes that it is significant that 80.0 per cent of the women from Thailand, 66.7 per cent of the Philippine women, 50.0 per cent of the women from China and 42.9 per cent of the Korean women found problems in purchasing sizes that fit. This is understandable as it is recognized that the women from the Far Eastern countries are of smaller stature than the average American woman. Problems arising from a lack of knowledge of American standard sizes in comparison with the sizes known in their home country were mentioned by women from Japan, Korea, Iran, Ghana and Norway.

The following were mentioned as recognizable influences on the concept of American dress: magazines and newspapers, motion pictures, former foreign students, Americans residing in their country, tourists, books and previous visits to the United States.

Twenty-three of the women had thought that they would be dressed differently from the other students on this

campus, but only 17 of these felt this way after their arrival. Thirty-three had not anticipated dress variances and did not encounter any, while one woman had not thought she would be dressed differently, but felt that she was after arrival in this country.

Forty-seven and four-tenths per cent of the women thought that the clothing worn in their native country generally differed from that of the United States. More women from those countries the greatest distance from the United States (African, Far Eastern and Oceanic countries) felt that their native dress was different than did the women from areas located at a lesser distance (North American, Near and Middle Eastern and European countries). The general differences in dress given most frequently were "fabric" and "general style." That the manner of dress in this country was "more casual," "less conservative" and "less fashionable" than the attire of their own country was mentioned also.

The articles of clothing worn in the United States that were mentioned by more than one-half of the foreign women as being different in amounts or kinds from those worn in their homeland were: coats, sweaters, boots, trousers or slacks, high-heeled shoes, low-heeled shoes, gloves and long stockings. Also mentioned by one-third or

more of the women were: suits, skirts, short stockings and hats and head coverings. Blouses, slips, formal or party dresses, girdles, brassieres and panties were listed by less than one-third.

The differences in outer clothing were generally related to the need for warmer or heavier clothing. These differences seemed to be most common among women of the Far Eastern countries. Another differentiation mentioned frequently was in regard to the wearing of trousers or slacks. Others also mentioned often were: differences in fabric, differences in fit of skirts and differences in general styles.

Differences in undergarments mentioned frequently were: fabrics, styles of slips and the wearing of girdles.

Two interrelated differences in accessories were mentioned more frequently than any others--the less frequent wearing of high-heeled shoes in this country and the more frequent wearing of low-heeled shoes. Other variances were: more frequent wearing of boots for inclement weather, less frequent wearing of hats, more frequent wearing of gloves and more frequent wearing of long hosiery.

A variety of reasons was given for differences in dress worn in the United States and that worn in the

homeland, the most outstanding one being "because of the climate." The other reasons given, listed in order of frequency, were: desire to conform, changed pattern of life, casualness of the United States, non-acceptance in homeland, ease of dress, economy, availability in the United States and availability in the homeland.

When asked if certain articles of clothing related to modesty in dress would be worn in the United States and/or in their native country, the information obtained seemed to indicate that there is little difference in standards of dress of the foreign women while in the United States or in their homeland.

Almost sixty per cent of the women stated that their dress had become more casual since coming to this country. Fifty per cent or more of those from each geographical area indicated this. That their manner of dress was "not as dressy" as it had been previously and that their appearance was "not as neat" were given most frequently as ways in which their dress had become more casual. Other ways given were: the wearing of slacks and shorts, more frequent wearing of cottons, simplicity of garments, wearing of lower necklines and removal of veil previously worn over face.

The role as student or wife, the influence of the American "way of life" and a lack of time were the reasons given most frequently for the casualness of their dress.

More than half of the women believed that the United States had had an influence on the way that they might dress upon returning home. Nearly all of these felt that the influence had been desirable and that their families and friends would approve.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

As the representation of foreign women from some geographical areas was small and some areas had no representation on the Oregon State University campus, extensive generalizations concerning all foreign students cannot be made; however some general conclusions regarding the foreign women on the Oregon State University campus may be drawn.

The author believes that this study has revealed the following significant facts regarding the clothing practices of these women:

- (1) Those women wearing a traditional costume of their homeland at all times rarely adopt Western clothing, but do adapt fabrics and accessories to their mode of dress. Those women wearing a traditional costume of their homeland only for special occasions often wear this costume more frequently in the United States than they had previously in their native country. The wearing of these national costumes by both groups of women reflects a pride in their country, their people and their way of life. There was little or no influence of religion on the manner of dress of these foreign women.

- (2) Direct influences on the concept of American dress of these foreign women before coming to the United States were recognized as magazines and newspapers, motion pictures, former foreign students, Americans residing in their country and tourists.
- (3) The dress of these women in general has become more casual since coming to the United States primarily because of their role as student or wife and the influence of the American "way of life." A desire to conform to American ways was displayed to some extent by several of the women in the method of construction of their clothing, in the selection of their first purchases of clothing in the United States and in the differences in kinds and amounts of outer clothing and accessories worn in this country.
- (4) The foreign women studied indicated little differences in standards of modesty in dress while in the United States, or in the homeland, but many of them felt that the United States had had an influence upon the manner in which they believed they might dress upon returning home.

- (5) A difference in climatic conditions of Oregon and the native land contributes to many differences in dress of these foreign women in the two lands. Use of new fabrics, purchases of new clothing and the wearing of warmer and different types of clothing reflect this factor.

The following problems were revealed through this study:

- (1) A definite need for information before coming to this country regarding clothing needed in the United States was expressed by these foreign women.
- (2) Foreign women shopping in this country experience many problems in purchasing clothing. Problems that could be lessened by more adequate information are those concerning the difficulty in finding sizes to fit women of small statures and those regarding the difficulty in using a different measurement system.

In light of the data revealed in this study, the author makes the following recommendations for further investigation:

- (1) The compilation of useful information regarding clothing needs in the United States of foreign women should be made. Included in this information should be a comparison of climatic

differences and also a comparison of economic values of clothing. The latter should include a relative comparison of prices of comparable garments in the United States and in the home country. An adequate, rather than a minimum, estimate of clothing expenses and/or needs should be included. Information could be compiled for each geographical area with consideration of mode of travel, weight allowances and customs and tariffs. More adequate information is also needed concerning differences in measurement systems. The women, particularly those from Far Eastern countries, should be informed of the difficulty of finding clothing to fit small statures.

- (2) Further investigation and utilization of orientation sessions available to foreign students both before and after arrival in the United States should be undertaken.
- (3) A public relations program consisting of information regarding problems of foreign students in purchasing clothing in the United States might be extended to local merchants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Beals, Ralph L. and Norman D. Humphrey. No frontier to learning. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1957. 148 p.
2. Elegen, Theodore C. et al. Counseling foreign students. Series 6. Washington, American Council on Education, Sept. 1950. 54 p.
3. Bodenman, Paul S. Educational cooperation with foreign countries. Higher Education 9:145-150. 1953.
4. Cieslak, Edward Charnwood. The foreign student in American colleges. Detroit, Wayne University Press, 1955. 175 p.
5. DuBois, Cora. Foreign students and higher education in the United States. Washington, D. C., American Council on Education, 1956. 221 p.
6. Evans, Mary. Costume throughout the ages. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1950. 360 p.
7. Holtzclaw, Katherine. Costume and culture. Journal of Home Economics 48:401-404. 1956.
8. Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (ed.) Japan its land, people and culture. Tokyo, Printing Bureau, Japanese Government, 1958. 1077 p.
9. Kiell, Norman. Attitudes of foreign students. Journal of Higher Education 22:188-194. 1951.
10. Lambert, Richard D. and Marvin Bressler. Indian students on an American campus. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1956. 122 p.
11. Institute of International Education. Education for one world. New York, 1950. 50 p.
12. _____. Education for one world. New York, 1951. 47 p.
13. _____. Education for one world. New York, 1952. 46 p.

14. Institute of International Education. Education for one world. New York, 1953. 37 p.
15. _____. Education for one world. New York, 1954. 33 p.
16. _____. Handbook on international study. New York, 1955. 350 p.
17. _____. Open doors 1960. New York, 1960. 60 p.
18. Smith, M. Brewster. Some features of foreign student adjustment. Journal of Higher Education 26: 231-241. 1955.
19. Wheeler, W. Reginald, Henry H. King and Alexander B. Davidson (eds.) The foreign student in America. New York, Association Press, 1925. 329 p.
20. Women of Pakistan. Karachi, Pakistan Publications, n.d. 88 p.
21. Wybourn, Marjory Ada. Proposals for improving the clothing and textile educational experiences of home economics students from other lands. Ph.D. thesis. New York, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1958. 145 numb. leaves.

A P P E N D I X

QUESTIONNAIRE

- I. Name _____ Native Country _____
 Age _____ Single _____ Married _____
 Student _____ Wife of Student _____ Number of Children _____
- II. Have you ever been in the United States before?
 Yes _____ No _____
 How long? -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 _____
 How long have you been in the United States (this time)? in Corvallis -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
 -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 _____
 If time differs, where was other time spent? _____
- III. How much longer will you be at Oregon State College?
 -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Don't know _____
 Where do you plan to go after leaving Oregon State College?
 _____ return to own country
 _____ stay in U.S.
 _____ don't know
 _____ Other _____
- IV. Did you receive any information from schools or any agency such as the Institute of International Education regarding the clothing you would need in the U.S.? Yes _____ No _____
 _____ schools
 _____ IIE
 _____ Other _____
 (Yes) Did you find it helpful? Yes _____ No _____
 (Yes) Was it sufficient? Yes _____ No _____
 (No) What information would have been helpful?

- V. What is your religion? _____
 Does your religion have any bearing on how you dress?
 Yes _____ No _____ How? _____

VI. Does your country have a national costume?

Yes _____ No _____ What? _____

Do you own one? Yes _____ No _____

Do you wear it in your country? Yes _____ No _____

On what occasions?

_____ at all times	_____ home	_____ religious events
_____ holidays	_____ parties	_____ Other _____

Do you wear it in this country? Yes _____ No _____

When?

_____ at all times	_____ entertaining
_____ foreign student	_____ speech making
_____ parties	_____ home
_____ school	_____ Other _____

VII. What fibers or fabrics are used in the clothing in your country?

_____ cotton	Comments _____
_____ wool	_____
_____ silk	_____
_____ linen	_____
_____ nylon	_____
_____ rayon	_____
_____ other synthetics	_____

Have you used any new or different fabrics or fibers since coming to the U.S.? Yes _____ No _____

What? _____

(Yes) Why?

_____ availability
_____ desire for new fabrics
_____ climate
_____ care
_____ social influence
_____ Other _____

VIII. Were most of your dresses or outer clothing in your country purchased ready-made, made at home, or made by dressmaker?

_____ ready-made
_____ made at home
_____ made by dressmaker

In the U.S. are most of your dresses, or outer clothing, purchased ready-made, made at home, or made by a dressmaker?

If different, why?

☐ less expensive ☐ unavailability of ready-made in own country
☐ fit
☐ individuality Other _____

- IX. Did you think you would be dressed differently from the American students when you came to Oregon State College? Yes _____ No _____
 Comments _____

Were you dressed differently when you arrived?

Yes _____ No _____

Comments _____

- X. Before coming to the U.S. what influenced your concept of American dress:

☐ tourists ☐ previous visits to the U.S.
☐ magazines & ☐ Am. in own country
☐ newspapers ☐ former foreign students
☐ movies Other _____
☐ books

- XI. Did you buy any clothing in your own country especially to wear in the United States?

Yes _____ No _____

☐ underclothing ☐ coats
☐ skirts ☐ suits
☐ sweaters ☐ blouses
☐ dresses Other _____
☐ hose
☐ shoes

(Yes) Why?

☐ availability in own country ☐ recommended by Am. in country
☐ economic reasons ☐ recommended by former foreign students
☐ familiarity
☐ recommended by lit. Other _____

XII. Have you purchased any clothing in the U.S.?

Yes _____ No _____

What were the first articles of clothing you purchased in the U.S.?

_____ underclothing	_____ can't remember
_____ skirt	_____ coat
_____ sweater	_____ suit
_____ dress	_____ blouse
_____ hose	_____ snow boots
_____ shoes	_____ rain boots
	Other _____

Why?

_____ climate	_____ expansion of wardrobe
_____ replacement	_____ social influence
_____ Other _____	

XIII. Do you have any problems buying the kind of clothing you like in our stores? Yes _____ No _____
What?

_____ economy	_____ measurement system
_____ availability	Other _____
_____ fit	

XIV. Do you think the clothing worn in your country, generally, differs from that of the U.S.? Yes _____ No _____
(Yes) What do you think the most outstanding differences are? _____

(No) Can you think of any differences at all? _____

XV. Are there any differences in the kind or the amount of the following articles that you wore in your country and those you wear here? This might include such differences as: different fabrics, different colors, whether it is worn more often, less often, or not at all, differences in length of skirts, etc.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Diff-</u> <u>erent Differences</u>	<u>Why</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Coats	_____	_____	_____
Suits	_____	_____	_____
Sweaters	_____	_____	_____
Blouses	_____	_____	_____

<u>Article</u>	<u>Diff- erent</u>	<u>Differences</u>	<u>Why</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Skirts				
Long stockings				
Short stockings				
High-heeled shoes				
Low-heeled shoes				
Boots				
Hats or head coverings				
Gloves				
Brassieres				
Panties				
Slips				
Girdles				
Trousers or slacks				
Formal or party dresses				

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 -- heavier or warmer | 1 -- climate |
| 2 -- worn more often | 2 -- economic |
| 3 -- worn less often | 3 -- ease of dress |
| 4 -- not worn at all in U.S. | 4 -- availability in U.S. |
| 5 -- not worn at all in own country | 5 -- availability in own country |
| 6 -- different fabrics | 6 -- desire not to be different |
| 7 -- different colors | 7 -- changed pattern of life |
| 8 -- more elaborate in U.S. | 8 -- non-acceptance in own country |
| 9 -- more elaborate in own country | 9 -- casualness of U.S. |
| 10 -- shorter length | |
| 11 -- longer length | |
| 12 -- tighter fitting in own country | |
| 13 -- tighter fitting in U.S. | |
| 14 -- quality | |
| 15 -- style | |

XVI. Would you wear:

	here?		in own country?	
a sleeveless dress	Yes	No	Yes	No
a strapless dress	Yes	No	Yes	No
a low-V neckline blouse	Yes	No	Yes	No
bermuda shorts	Yes	No	Yes	No
short shorts	Yes	No	Yes	No
bathing suit	Yes	No	Yes	No
bikini	Yes	No	Yes	No

XVII. Has your dress become more casual, or less formal, since coming to the U.S.? Yes _____ No _____
How?

_____ less clothing	_____ not as neat
_____ less restrictive	_____ Other _____

Why?

_____ time	_____ availability
_____ Am. indifference to dress	_____ Other _____

XVIII. Do you think the U.S. has had any influence on the way you will dress when you return to your country? Yes _____ No _____
(Yes) How? _____

Do you think the influence has been desirable?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you think your family and friends will approve of the changes or influences? Yes _____ No _____

Comments _____
