

# *OMG, is she wearing a bird on her head?*



- I like Big Hats and I do not lie!
- Hat Pin Controversy!
- But, I can't see the movie!
- Wildlife in Jeopardy
- National Protections for Birds
- Why did we stop wearing huge hats?



*Setting the scene:*

*Late 1800s*

Having a fashionable hat was often more important to a woman than having a fashionable outfit.

- Hats were the pride and joy of the wearer.
- Clothes were a daily uniform and for most women they were utilitarian and practical.
- Hat styles would change often and were shown in newspapers and magazines.
- Retrimming a hat was more within the means of a woman of modest income.

*1880s-1900*

Combinations of trimmings bring height to updos.

Worn when outside the home, a lady's hat would generally feature a combination of multiple materials.

On a base of straw, fabric, felt or wire, these hats generally featured a combination of ribbon, flowers, feathers, bands, buckles, jewels and netting.



*Taxidermy!*

In the Victorian Era through till the 1920s, there was a trend to use taxidermy on ladies hats.

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Lovebirds!

*Pairs of birds were a popular visual trend in decorative art and also in taxidermy.*

*Science!*

*Note: cost levels for the same look*





## Trimmed Hats and Bonnets.

We must positively decline to exchange any Hat or Bonnet trimmed in accordance with order.



No. 631. Ladies' Felt Turban, velvet facing and trimmings of velvet and three birds, in black and all colors, \$7.45 to 9.95.



No. 633. Ladies' Large Hat made of two shades of velvet, and trimmed with two feather pom-poms, in all colors, \$9.95 to 14.95.



No. 629. Ladies' Large Velvet Hat, trimmings of velvet, wing and fancy pins, in black and all colors, \$9.95 to 14.50.



No. 635. Ladies' Felt Bonnet, folds of velvet on brim and trimmings of ribbon and two birds, in black and all colors, \$5.45 to 8.95.



No. 639. Ladies' Velvet Toque, soft front and back trimmings of velvet and fancy wing, in black and all colors, \$5.95 to 12.45.



No. 645. Ladies' Large Moiré Silk Hat, trimmed with folds of silk, six tips and algerettes, \$8.95 to 12.00.



No. 647. Ladies' Felt Toque, soft folds of velvet on edge and trimmings of velvet and two quills, in black and all colors, \$4.95 to 6.95.



No. 649. Ladies' Large Velvet Hat, edged with jet; four folds of velvet and wings, in black and all colors, \$8.95, 12.00.



No. 637. Ladies' Pointed Velvet Turban, trimmed with velvet and fancy leather, in black and all colors, \$5.45 to 10.95.



No. 643. Ladies' Felt Walking Hat, plain velvet facing and stylish trimmings of velvet and wings, in black and all colors, \$4.95 to 7.45.

When ordering Colored Hats, name first and second choice.

## Lovebirds



Newman



NEW YORK.

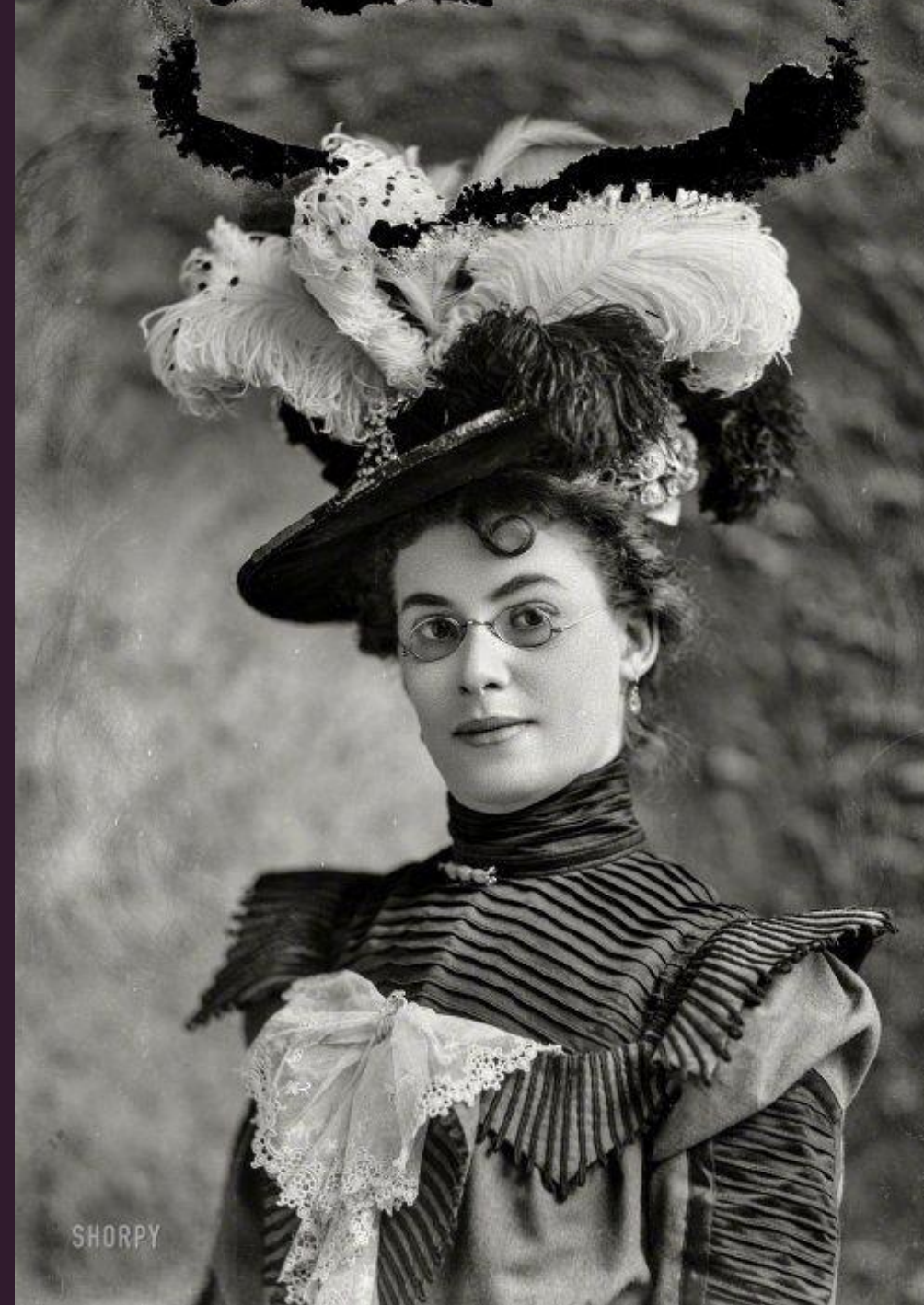














*The Edwardians – The bigger  
the hat the Closer to God*





42164





*Marie - Antoinette*





## *Pigeon Breast Silhouette*

“The pigeon-breasted silhouette favored in the first decade of the twentieth century was called the monobosom. This wide well-padded expanse of bosom was the preferred ideal that persisted until World War I. Its massive pouch-like shape was a consequence of the lowered topline of the corset. The breasts were allowed to hang freely, so that their apex, if it were possible to discern (it is not), would appear to fall near the base of the sternum. Pulchritude was the effect essentially sought, but with no disclosure of the breast's natural form. Even in very décolleté evening gowns, cleavage was not desirable.”

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/80356>

*Ok, no.*





















A scene from *The Merry Widow*. Photo source: Lily Elsie.com

As with some previous fashions of size, there were a lot of men who were not terribly thrilled about the so-called Merry Widow Hat.

The press soon took to mercilessly mocking females for their hat of choice, with one exasperated journalist taking to his typewriter to lament about *the disease of the hat* that so many women had been stricken with.



## *Hats and the Cinema*

- The film industry wanted to expand its audience and become regarded as respectable entertainment during a time when the most obvious outward sign of a woman's respectability was her enormous hat. Ergo, theatres were extremely reluctant to enforce any sort of anti-hat policy, no matter how many patrons (see here: men) complained about their view being obstructed.

## *Would you kindly remove your hat?*



→ “In addition to asserting the importance of the hat-wearer (...), the resistance to removing one’s hat was performed in lieu of political rights. While suffragettes were campaigning for civic reforms and the right to vote, myriad women were exhibiting their right to wear hats: a bizarre but not entirely unfitting byproduct of women’s paradoxical relationship to the law under representative democracy.”

MAGGIE HENNEFELD | WOMEN’S HATS  
AND SILENT FILM SPECTATORSHIP

MADAM HOW WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO SIT BEHIND THE  
HAT YOU ARE WEARING.







What takes four hands to lift it?  
What's larger than your flat?  
What's detested by all men?  
Why—that MERRY WIDOW HAT.



I've all the cash that I can use,  
This will of Hubby's fixes that,  
There's none to growl next time I choose  
To get a MERRY WIDOW HAT.

Copyright 1908  
by I. Grollman



# Hat Pins, and Controversy

**MISS LEOTI BLAKER, OF KANSAS, STABBING ELDERLY  
MASHER WITH A HATPIN IN FIFTH AVENUE COACH.**



**BUTLER ROBS  
MILLIONAIRE.**

After One Day in the Home  
of George H. Morgan, Perry

# Mashers

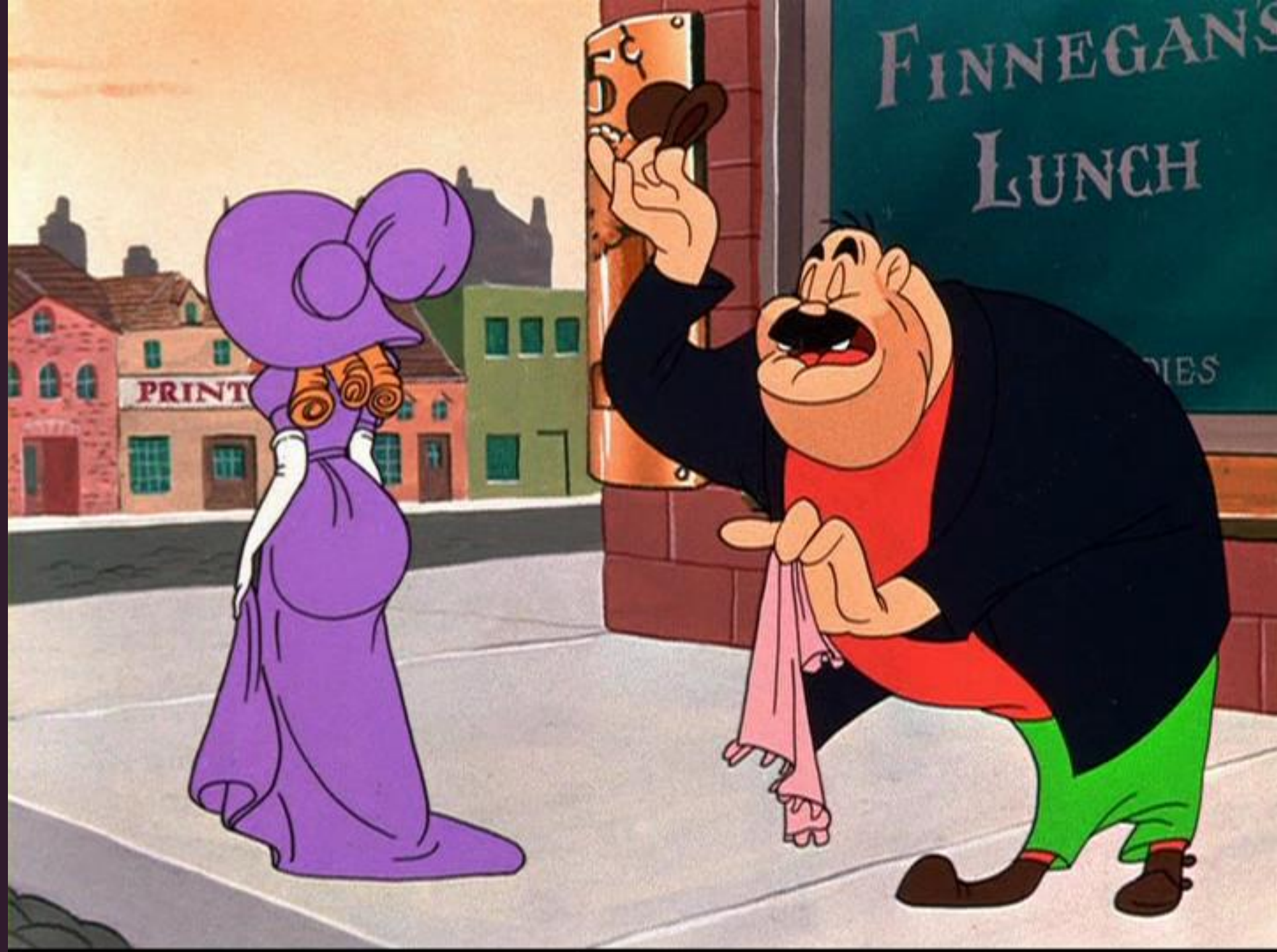
*Men who would “press themselves up” against women on public transportation.*

*Helpfully, the newspaper articles at the time addressed the problem of women using their hatpins to fend them off.*



- Newspapers across the country began reporting similar encounters with “mashers,” period slang for lecherous or predatory men (defined more delicately in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* as “one whose dress or manners are calculated to elicit the admiration of susceptible young women”).
- A New York City housewife fended off a man who brushed up against her on a crowded Columbus Avenue streetcar and asked if he might “see her home.”

# In the Media



*Masher!!!*

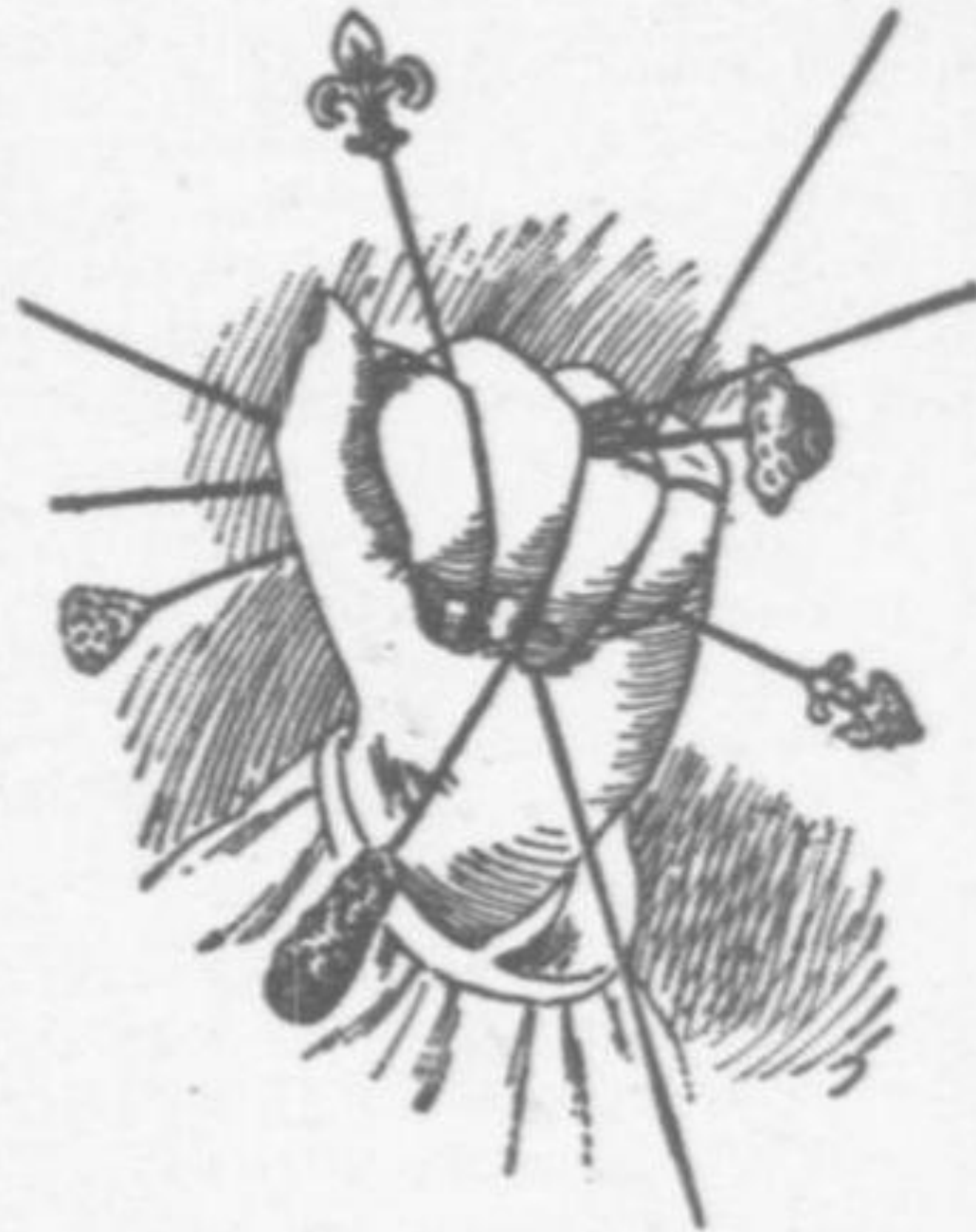


Bugs starred in more than 160 short films produced between 1940 and 1964.



# “The Hatpin Peril” Terrorized Men Who Couldn’t Handle the 20th-Century Woman

To protect themselves from unwanted advances, city women protected themselves with some sharp accessories



**INNOCENT LOOKING HATPINS.**

# N ARMED WITH FAVORITE WEAP



- Working women and suffragists seized control of the conversation, speaking out against mashers and extolling women's right to move freely—and alone—in public.

# The Hat Pin Peril



A Growing Danger in City Crowds That Places a Startling List of Accidents Beside the Long Record of Violent Assaults Committed With Woman's Deadly Weapon.

of the woman sitting behind him, declaring that she had stabbed him in the shoulder. The

# HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF



Illustrations by  
THE TRAILER  
PUBLISHED BY  
THE TRAILER

*Early 1900s*



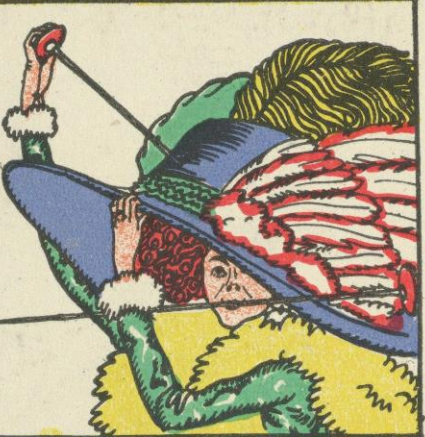
Newspapers across the country began reporting similar encounters with “mashers,” period slang for lecherous or predatory men.

## *Around 1903*

- A Chicago showgirl, bothered by a masher's "insulting questions," beat him in the face with her umbrella until he staggered away.
- A St. Louis schoolteacher drove her would-be attacker away by slashing his face with her hatpin.
- Such stories were notable not only for their frequency but also for their laudatory tone; for the first time, women who fought back against harassers were regarded as heroes rather than comic characters, as subjects rather than objects. Society was transitioning, slowly but surely, from expecting and advocating female dependence on men to recognizing their desire and ability to defend themselves.



# Lütkedebellere.



Domtaffa Yvonne - maaltad Cidat  
 Wieg sinne fawoligun Gegenwart  
 Noch größter wild, sin Megeawad  
 Es mußt sie so Holz - so fang !!

Und die sie Gut und ifram  
 Ross zu fultan,  
 Der rüft sie 2 Madal, sinne  
 mater Lung,  
 Der Komte ifra Befingit tief  
 miffeltan  
 Entzickta, erun, mit, waid und  
 Ring und Lung



Wof sinne fang - der Komte  
 sin Poliziffu  
 Und zoy die Luzum waid  
 und ifram Lerau  
 Das waid fult waid Komte  
 Dornlita  
 Und jadas Befingit waid  
 Lerau

Der Komte Yvonne, dan Gut  
 miff Lerau  
 Und mußt sinne fawoligun  
 Dornlita,  
 Die mußt waid sinne fawoligun  
 Lerau miff Lerau,  
 So mußt die Domtaffa waid Komte

→ By 1909, the hatpin was considered an international threat, with the police chiefs in Hamburg and Paris considering measures to regulate their length.



## *Legislation*

- In March 1910, Chicago's city council ran with that idea, debating an ordinance that would ban hatpins longer than nine inches; any woman caught in violation would be arrested and fined \$50. It Passed.
- Similar laws subsequently passed in several other cities, including Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and New Orleans.
- Ten thousand miles away, in Sydney, Australia, sixty women went to jail rather than pay fines for wearing "murderous weapons" in their hats.
- Even conservative London ladies steadfastly refused to buy hatpin point protectors.



THE WOMAN BEHIND THE GUN.

The Woman behind the Gun (by Gordon Ross), 1911. "Illustration shows a woman, possibly Coco Chanel, wearing a large hat with feathers, shooting at large white birds with a rifle; two dogs labeled 'French Milliner' place the dead birds on a pile at her feet."  
(Prints and Photographs Online Catalog, Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2011648990/>)



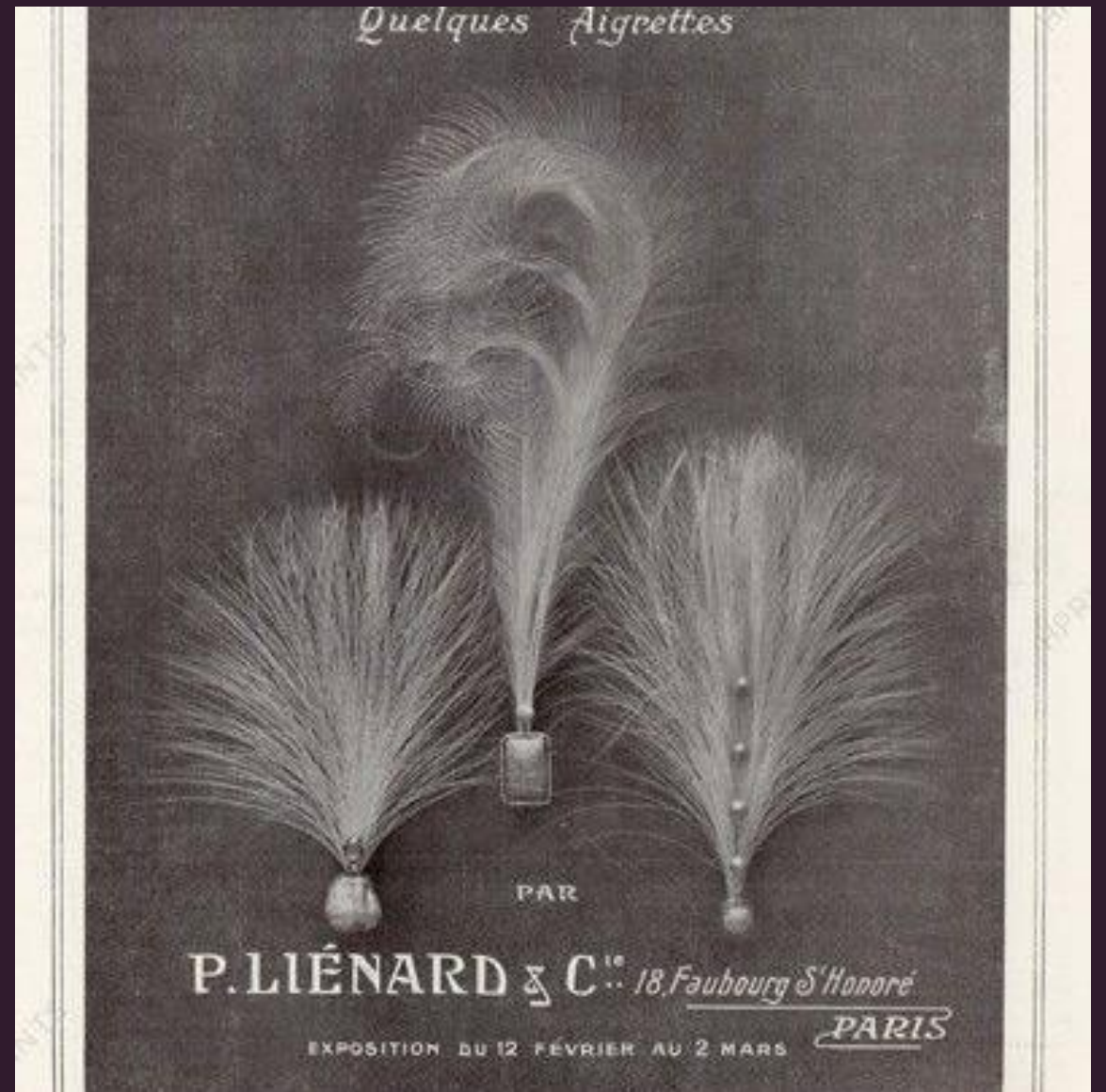
## Snowy Egret

The beautiful, ethereal feathers of the Egret only grow during mating season. Killing the birds during mating risked the entire species.



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→ An *aigrette* tiara took the feathers of four egrets to make – and those feathers weren't being cast-offs collected from the ground. It's been claimed that in the early 1900s, five million birds a year were being killed in Florida alone.







H. Maudsl.

3376

LES REINES DE LA MODE

ÉMILIE DE BRI  
Capucines



Herzlichen  
Glückwunsch  
Namenstage





road to 10th 1. 1911











Diamond Aigrette, created for Mrs.  
James de Rothschild, for her wedding  
basket





## *Audubon Society*

→ Protecting waterbird populations has been part of Audubon's mission even before the official establishment of the National Audubon Society. Outrage over the slaughter of millions of waterbirds, particularly egrets and other waders, for the millinery trade led to the foundation, by Harriet Hemenway and Minna B. Hall, of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896.

# *Crusade to save the birds*

## **Two Women Take Action**

In 1896, Harriet Hemenway and her cousin, Minna B. Hall, became concerned about what was happening to the birds.

They decided to take action by hosting tea parties for the wealthy women of Boston where they began urging them not to wear the feathered hats that were so popular in that day.

They then asked these women to join a society for bird protection. After gaining the support of many fashionable Boston women, Hemenway and Hall organized meetings of leaders of high society and prominent New England ornithologists.

This led to the creation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. More than nine hundred women joined.



[Harriet Hemenway and The Audubon Society](#)

Mrs. Hemenway was not unfamiliar with controversy. She came from a family of abolitionists and had once invited Booker T. Washington to stay in her home when Boston hotels refused to give him a room. In 1898, Hemenway donated \$50,000 towards the construction of the gymnasium at Radcliffe College. She lived to be over 100 years old, a feat for anyone, especially someone born in the 1850's.

- Egrets and other wading birds were being killed in large numbers until these two crusaders began a protest revolt.
- By 1898, state-level Audubon Societies had been established in Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Illinois, Maine, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Minnesota, Texas, and California.
- In 1901, state-level Audubon groups joined together in a loose national organization, which helped to establish the first National Wildlife Refuge in the U.S. – Pelican Island, in Florida, in 1903 – and facilitated the hiring of wardens to protect waterbird breeding areas in several states. In 1905, the National Audubon Society was founded, with the protection of gulls, terns, egrets, herons, and other waterbirds high on its conservation priority list.
- **1902 National Association of Audubon Societies is founded**
- **1902 Bird Banding**  
Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institution begins the first modern bird banding program.
- **1903 Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge**  
On March 14, 1903, President Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing Pelican Island as the first federal bird reservation. During his presidency, Roosevelt established a network of 55 bird reservations and national game preserves for wildlife - the forerunner to the national wildlife refuge system. The establishment of Pelican Island was the first time that the federal government set aside land for the sake of wildlife.



→ **1903 First comprehensive migratory bird law**

Introduced in Congress by Rep. George Shiras (it did not come to a vote).

→ **1913 Weeks-McLean Law**

Weeks-McLean Law prohibited the spring hunting and marketing of migratory bird and the importation of wild bird feathers for women's fashion. Also gave the Secretary of Agriculture the power to set hunting seasons nationwide. Replaced by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918.

→ **1913 The Underwood Tariff Act**

Act bans all importation of feathers except for purposes of scientific research or education, excluding ostrich and some domestic birds.

→ **1916 Convention Treaty with Canada**

Treaty between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds that adopted a uniform system of protection with the goal – “assure the preservation of species either harmless or beneficial to man”; establishes species to be covered by the treaty; makes the first distinction between game birds, insectivorous birds, and non-game birds; set closed dates for hunting game birds, closed the season entirely on insectivorous & other nongame birds; established the take of birds for scientific or propagating purposes for insectivorous and other nongame birds; prohibits export of birds and eggs except for scientific and propagating purposes; and establishes permits to control birds that become agricultural pests.

→ **1917 Canada passes Migratory Bird Convention Act**

→ **1918 The Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Woodrow Wilson on July 3, 1918.

## **Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918**

- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712) implements four international conservation treaties that the U.S. entered into with Canada in 1916, Mexico in 1936, Japan in 1972, and Russia in 1976. It is intended to ensure the sustainability of populations of all protected migratory bird species.
- The law has been amended with the signing of each treaty, as well as when any of the treaties were amended, such as with Mexico in 1976 and Canada in 1995.
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The furor over hatpins subsided at the onset of World War I, and died entirely when bobbed hair and cloche hats came into fashion—at which point emerged a new “social menace”: the flapper. It wouldn’t be long, of course, before politicians grew less concerned with what women wore than with how to win their votes.

**Bonus Silliness:**

