

ROGUE

MAY
2018

101

WAYS TO BIND YOUR FEET

THE FASHIONABLE
FOOT - A MODERN
WOMAN'S BEAUTY
MUST HAVE

STRONG & SEXY WORKOUT

ACCELERATE WEIGHT LOSS
& TRANSFORM YOUR IMAGE

HANFU TRENDS FOR EVERY BUDGET

THE NEW LOW NECKLINE
& HOW TO PULL IT OFF

#hanfumaid

TIPS AND TRICKS ON HOW TO SERVE IN STYLE

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style :

THE FASHIONABLE FOOT



Foot binding, the unlikely predecessor of the Stiletto (imho), was said to be invented by a courtesan about a thousand years ago in China (but of course!). This practice has always been closely associated with the 3-inch golden lotus shoes and the outdated oppression of women, but it didn't start out that way. When the Song dynasty women first bound their feet in the 10th Century, they simply wanted it to be narrower and slightly smaller, and didn't resort to extreme body modification. It started merely as a fashion statement or a product of vanity, very much like the corsets and stilettos. Such fashion evolved into fetish amongst the literati and slowly became mainstream aesthetics overtime.



Like many fashion trends, the aesthetics of foot binding followed the spirit of the era—stylised and minimalist. It was more important to be thin and narrow than arched and small (unlike the aesthetics of later centuries which resulted in the deformed lotus shoes that we are more familiar with). Everything about the Song aesthetics that prevailed during the 10th-13th century was a rebellion against the excessive and showy aesthetics of the period before, and it was the beginning of women's war against weight gain.

Because Hanfumaide was not a courtesan, entertainer or prostitute in the early 10th Century, nor was she from an elite family in the 13th Century, she came to the modern world with her full-fledged feet—feet so big, lumpy and full of curves and lines, that Song people would regard it the Quasimodo of female feet. For that reason (mainly), she spent most of her time at home, redeeming her unattractiveness by doing household chores back when (not where) she came from. The 21st Century Hanfumaide in Nanjing remains a Song dynasty woman in a modern day woman's shoes, still confined to domestic chores - things haven't seemed to change much over the last 1,000 years!



Beizi, Wanqi Hanfu, ¥500;
Moxiang, model's own;
Songku, Wangqi Hanfu, ¥260

Dresses and blouses during Song dynasty were mainly straight cuts--sleeves and collars were all made up of parallel lines. And as we all know, straight cuts are not flattering for women with curves, so women of that time pursued a lean physique. Shoes uncovered from the later part of the 13th Century were found to be as narrow as 4.5-5.8cm, with lengths of about 14-17cm. These were not entirely appalling sizes given that women were of a smaller frame back then as well.

Then, like now, Hanfugirl would be gazing out of her window halfway through her chores, looking at women who paraded up and down the streets in the day for work and at night for leisure. Feminism hadn't found its name yet, but it didn't stop women from living the way they should. Women had full rights to marry and divorce freely, be educated and work independently, be empowered to reveal their cleavage freely... We have records to prove it!

While the Tang Dynasty was the age of power women, the Song dynasty was the age of empowered women. Women were valued for their ability to read and write, and the multi-talented entertainers (Chinese equivalent of Geishas) were respected as equals by famous male literati of their time. Education was indeed the greatest leveller across gender and social hierarchy, at least at the beginning.



HANFU

TRENDS FOR EVERY BUDGET



When the pursuit of being objectified exceeded the pursuit for education, that's when women lost their empowerment bit by bit. Overtime, the foot fetish of men caught up with their rationality, and women started making their feet smaller, and their worth were measured against the size of their feet. The matchmaker would bring a mock-up of the bride-to-be's shoe to the groom-to-be's house for inspection. Should the groom-to-be's family find it unsatisfactorily big, they would cut one round around its sole, and send it back to the matchmaker, indirectly rejecting this proposal for marriage. As a result, the feet coincidentally also became like Cinderella's ticket to the royal ball and the high life.



SERVING IN STYLE

Now in case you were wondering, Song dynasty women didn't need chaperons when they went out, or when they participated in the Chinese New Year night festival (not to be confused with the Singapore Night Festival that happens every August) which was a hot spot for dating and meeting the opposite gender. Like Cinderella, Hanfumaids is likely to dress to the nines when she goes out for some me-time. Or, as in the case of some unsuspecting owners, Hanfumaids would be trying out the branded, fancy dresses in the house while the owners spend 90% of their waking hours climbing corporate ladders to afford those very dresses Hanfumaids was indulging herself in.



A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a black robe with colorful floral embroidery and a red inner garment, leans her head on her hand against a white surface. The background is a dark wood wall with a window on the right.

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HANFUGIRL X DRESSED UP DREAMS PHOTO STUDIO

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And because Hanfumaid is the antithesis of Hanfugirl, she has zero redeeming factor for her laziness, vulgar feet and aspirational outlook in life. The only purpose of her existence in this entire article, is to look busy, and drink Xiaoming. Xiaoming, the only drink for the undeserved.

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