

Andre Laug

By RUSTLE SHAND

"Puss in boots time is over. It is no longer enough to wear a pair of large boots with a shapeless oversized dress without any construction."

So said designer Andre Laug, a Frenchman turned Italian couturier, who is fast becoming the darling of the international set. He already dresses such notables as Audrey Hepburn, Corusela Crespi, Estee Lauder, Paul Lette Goddard, Maria Bulgari and much of the Italian aristocracy.

Laug has been an established couturier in Rome, Italy for 10 years. But, for the first time, he has decided to take his winter '78 collection on the road. He showed in Milan earlier this spring and is now on a personal tour, presenting his couture line at Elizabeth Arden in Washington, Holt Renfrew in Toronto, Nan Duskin in Philadelphia, Neiman Marcus in Houston and Saks Fifth Avenue in "Troy and Chicago."

When Andre Laug showed his collection in the Regency Room at Saks' Troy store last week, the women were ecstatic over the beautifully constructed, simply elegant clothes. They agreed with Laug when he said "Fashion should emphasize the woman's body. I believe in a softly structured dress, a kind of smooth which never looks stiff."

"I am not the kind of designer who changes fashion every season," he told his audience. "I do clothes for the woman who travels a lot all over the world; the woman who has an individualistic point of view on life. She is a woman who does things."

Laug believes "women dress to please men" and added "at least I hope so."

Laug's winter clothes reflect subtle changes—slimmer shapes and "little bit" shorter length for day that ends around mid-calf. For evening, he said, everything is ankle length.

"I don't think you can say pants are returning," he said. "They never left."



But pants have changed their shape—"from the hip to the ankle they become slimmer-slimmer-slimmer. They are not tight," he explained, "but they are not big and shapeless." As is true of most of the great couturiers, Laug's genius is reflected in exquisite workmanship and detailing on beautiful fabrics. His collection, he said, is based on "the beauty of fabrics, colors and the luxury of materials."

HIS SENSATIONAL use of marabou brought gasps of delight from the Saks Fifth Avenue audience. He completely lined muted silk taffeta in such shades as khaki, beige, red wines and olive drabs, with matching marabou and turns them into trench coats.

Other daytime looks include double faced wool cape costumes and wool jackets over finely pleated skirts. Many of the ensembles include dyed-to-match marabou coats.

The evening clothes reflect lots of black lace and ruching. Some are reminiscent of the lamp shade silhouette.

His piece de resistance—or the ultimate femme fatale—for late night intimacy was so decolette that the model took on all the ambience of a gliding robot lest the smidgen of breast cover slip to reveal all. As if to make up for the lack of bosom drapery, or perhaps as a distraction, the design covered the arms with full length black lace opera gloves.

AS WITH MOST EUROPEAN couturiers, accessories are an important part of a collection. Laug designed muffs in marabou or fur for each piece in his collection. Hung on braided cords or gold chains, the muffs were either worn diagonally across the body or low from the shoulder.

Fashion Calendar

Tuesday, May 30

Claire Pearson — Artist, weaver, knitter and now women's apparel designer Nancy Pollack will present her collection of jackets, coats and sweaters during informal modeling through May 31 at the Somerset Mall store.

Thursday, June 1

Jacobson's — Take a long look at fall with John Anthony who is notable for his treatment of shoulder emphasis and superb textures. Combinations of mohair and wool and wool meltons in rich, warm earth tones will set the mood for fall. Informal modeling between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Birmingham Apparel store.

Lord & Taylor — Former Mattel executive Ruth Handler, a victim of breast cancer, has turned her considerable

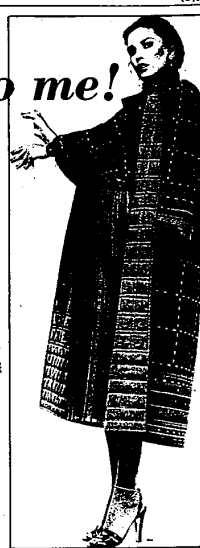
talents to design to assist other women seeking a comfortable prosthesis. Mrs. Handler will be at the Fairlane store, Dearborn, to share her experiences, discuss a video tape and assist with fittings throughout the day in the Intimate Apparel shop on the lower level. For appointments call 336-3100.

Saturday, June 3

Alpha Delta Pi — The North Suburban Alumnae Association will meet at noon at the Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church, Birmingham, for fashion and recipes. Program will feature fashions from Lilly Pulitzer of Bloomfield Hills modeled by the members, and recipes selected for inclusion in a cookbook the women have compiled for sale at the luncheon. For further information call Arden Kolb at 646-4522.



Andre Laug's sensational use of marabou brought gasps of delight when customers at Saks were treated to first showing of Italian couturier's collection, which included stunning marabou red wine feathered jacket and muff teamed with wine silk jacquard blouse, tied belt and wine wool pants.



And "instead of boots," he said, "let us wear fabulous leather lace up shoes for sporting and later, sexy naked sandals, with a golden chain around the ankles—for a wink at a very sophisticated lady."

Andre Laug's clothes are priced from \$150 to \$500. The \$2400 marabou lined silk taffeta trench coat drew an expletive from one tall, lovely blonde customer who could not bear to part with it once she had tried it on. Andre Laug's genius does not come cheap.

Andre Laug's couture career began in Paris in 1958 when at the age of 27, he designed for Raphael who later sold out to Givenchy. From there he went to Nina Ricci and later to Philippe Venet and Courreges.

An opportunity to design for Antonelli took him to Rome and he ultimately opened his own couture house in Piazza de Spagna, Rome in 1968.

Crepe de Chine printed silk and cashmere coat in shades of magenta and blue, matching shirt, skirt and sashed belt. Shoes come with rhinestone studded ankle straps.

The Guest and Gift Shop.

Saks understands. We know you've been searching the highways and the bi-ways to scout for just the right...the perfect gift—either for yourself, or your friends. But, with so many necessary luxuries to be had...what to get? Where to go? We'll answer the second question first. Where to go? Saks, naturally. What to get? That's up to you. Our great Guest and Gift shop has truly a stupendous and sundry selection to satisfy all your home entertaining needs. A few marvelous cases in point: our exquisite Baccarat Collection, fine and casual dinnerware, gifts for the gourmet (including the amazing Cuisinart™ food processor), barware, uniquely decorative table accessories, crystal, and all sorts of ingeniously practical imports from around the world. Do stop by soon—to browse. We're sure you'll find something just...perfect. Summer comfort and gracious living are synonymous. And they both begin at Saks Fifth Avenue's Guest and Gift Shop.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays until 9 P.M.

Bored walking?

Stick with it, it's now fashionable

By RUSTLE SHAND

The walkingstick has returned to fashion via Franklin Village. It seems right at home in the "Village Barn," a shop that occupies a big old barn that originally housed the village blacksmith.

Like the historic village itself, the walking stick brings back memories of another era, when walking was a favored mode of transportation. Today, however, walking is touted as a means of achieving physical fitness which we all supposedly lack because we tool all over town in our automobiles.

One of the problems with walking is that it can be boring. Children make a game of it—avoiding cracks lest they break their mother's back; hop a little here—skip a little there; or sing songs or army marching chants. But we can't do that. Everyone would think us quite mad to walk when there is a perfectly good automobile in the garage.

Hence the walking stick. Suddenly it's fashionable to walk. Everyone who sees you will know that.

For \$29.95, you can also play games as you walk. You can pretend you're back in biblical times and that your walking stick is a staff. Or that you are the king in the Middle Ages who wouldn't be caught dead without his stick.

THE WALKING STICK appeared as the "toy of fashion" in the 15th century when it was introduced by Henry VIII. He concealed perfume, gold, a knife and a rule in his gold-garnished stick.

Napoleon's stick had a music box attached. By the reign of Louis XIV the walking stick was the mark of a gentleman. Since men need support to keep their balance on high heels they rarely appeared in public without sticks for support.

During the 18th century, the walking stick had so established itself that it was "as indispensable to the man of the world as his sword. It was also as necessary to the lady of fashion as her fan."

The proficiency with which one manipulated his walking stick soon became the trademark of a gentleman. Rules of deportment were estab-

lished and published in 1787. "You must never hold the walking stick under the arm, or lean on it in the dirt, and finally, never drag your walking stick."

By the late 19th century, the walking stick had achieved mass popularity. At one point, a French newspaper reproduced 22 designs indicating ways a walking stick could be adapted. Among them, a camera tripod, a painter's easel, a footstool, a chair, a

candlestick, a toilet table, and even as a shot gun.

Even those who traditionally shunned the dictates of fashion were taken with the walking stick. Such notables as Voltaire owned 80 walking sticks and Rousseau, though a poor man, had 40.

The walking stick also became associated with 19th century intelligentsia and the artist. Soon it became "swagger" for the Englishwomen in the

country to carry walking sticks. By the early 20th century, men walked proudly displaying their sticks wherever they went.

WHEN THE WALKING STICK was finally introduced in America, it took a much simpler form. In the fledgling nation walking sticks were usually quite sturdy with simple mountings of ivory, gold or silver.

Albeit simpler at first, the American walking sticks soon rivaled their exotic European counterparts. J. P. Morgan, the famous financier, had a walking stick with a built-in battery-powered flashlight. Another marvel of American ingenuity was a walking stick that featured a coin dispenser, a useful accessory in the days of the five-cent cigar.

While you're having all this fun being a fashionable, fantasizing walker, you'll also be earning a couple of bonuses.

According to experts, a brisk 30 minute walk will burn up 300 calories (these go for lunch); improve muscle tone (you'll look better in your bathing suit); and—get this—"also contributes to an improved sex life."

An added bonus—in the words of Theodore Roosevelt—who said "speak softly and carry a big stick"—is the belt of the brass head, which is guaranteed to ward-off unfriendly dogs or other predators you may encounter along your fashionable walks.

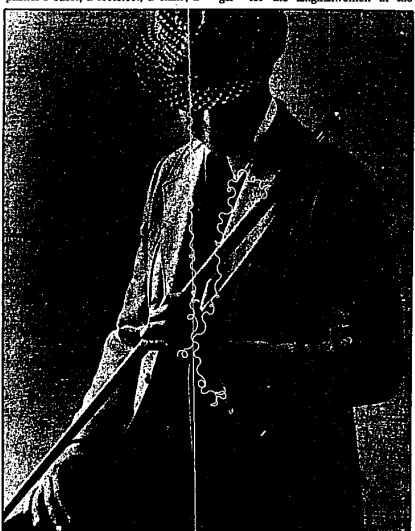
Fashion news

The Eccentric would like your help in reporting fashion events. Please submit items for the Fashion Calendar at least 15 days in advance to Suburban Life Editor Jeanne Whittaker, The Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, 48012.

Items of interest are fashion shows, informal modeling, special showings and fashion benefits.

All items must include the date of the event, where it is to take place, and a contact telephone number where information may be clarified; when necessary.

Mrs. Whittaker is available during normal office hours by calling 644-1100.



Henry VIII concealed perfume, gold, a knife and a rule in his gold-garnished walking stick. Today's devotees can fantasize that they are walking with Napoleon, Voltaire and Rousseau, who were also collectors. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

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