

FASHION ROYAL ASCOT

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HM Queen Elizabeth II arrives in the Parade Ring at Royal Ascot in 2010.

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The Queen's colours are always scrutinized and copied by the ladies of the Royal Enclosure; 2010 was the year to think pink.

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Two gentlemen (possibly lords?) leaping on the trackside Royal Enclosure lawn.

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In 1932, a lady simply wasn't dressed if she wasn't swathed in furs. Here, an elegant Royal Ascot racegoer sports an arctic fox-fur 'chubby' stole, as popularized by glamour goddess Joan Crawford in the definitive fashion film of the year, Letty Lynton.

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An aerial view of the second day of racing at Royal Ascot 2007 with a lady holding on to her audacious scarlet 'flying saucer' hat. Her peep-toe polka-dot platform shoes with cork wedge soles are a classic style patented by 'shoemaker of dreams' Salvatore Ferragamo in 1937. Despite sometimes hazardous conditions during the Royal Procession, the Queen has never lost a hat at Ascot.

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A view from the Grandstand of the dividing fence between the elegant Royal Enclosure lawn, where formal day dress and morning coats are mandatory, and the densely populated Grandstand Admissions Lawn, where lounge suits, shirts and ties are encouraged.

For Suzi Perry and Katy Thomas My leading ladies at Royal Ascot

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In addition to all the marvellous ladies and gentlemen named and photographed in this book, the author would particularly like to thank HG the Duke of Devonshire, Her Majesty's Representative at Royal Ascot, and Amanda Wakeley for writing two superb forewords for Fashion at Royal Ascot. Thank you to Deborah, Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, for permitting me to reprint a photograph from her private collection, to Jasper Conran for the costume sketches for his production of My Fair Lady, Don Rouse and the Hardy Amies Archive for sketches of the Queen, and Stephen Jones and Philip Treacy for allowing me access to their photographic archives. Thank you also to Kerry Taylor Auctions for the exquisite fashion still life shots that enhance this book immeasurably.

At Ascot, my sincerest thanks to the Trustees, fashion maestro Gary England and marketing manager Emily Pearce. At Thames & Hudson, my gratitude as always to publisher Lucas Dietrich for trusting that Fashion at Royal Ascot would be a winner and to art director Peter Dawson, editor Jennie Condell, production controller Jane Cutter and Adélia Sabatini for working like Trojans to produce this book at full gallop. My readers are Keith Levett, Helen Ball, Jane Hurring, James Shepherd, Patricia Carruthers, Rosy Runciman, Stephen Pulvirent and Mrs T (Mrs Dominic Thomas). My Saint Martins mentor, Bobby Hillson, cast her discerning gimlet eye over the layouts and made her usual rapier-sharp, accurate critiques. Finally, thanks to the art and book dealers of Cecil Court: Tracie Brett, David Drummond, Natalie Galustian and Storeys.

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THREE CENTURIES OF THOROUGHBRED STYLE

JAMES SHERWOOD

Forewords by The Duke of Devonshire and Amanda Wakeley

WITH 439 ILLUSTRATIONS, 368 IN COLOUR



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