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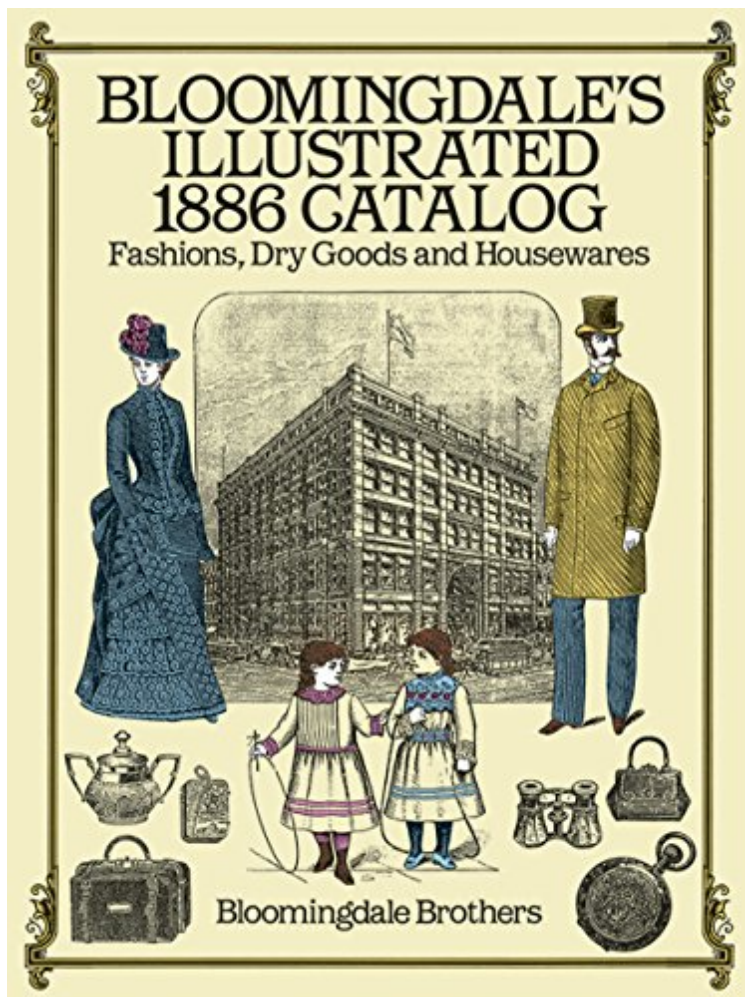
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Bloomingdale's Illustrated 1886 Catalog

Bloomingdale Brothers : Bloomingdale's Illustrated 1886 Catalog before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bloomingdale's Illustrated 1886 Catalog:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as other reprints, but useful just the sameBy ChrieffIf you want a broad-spectrum look at the goods of this period, you should first buy 1897 Sears Roebuck Co. Catalogue or Montgomery Ward Catalogue of 1895 (Dover Pictorial Archive), but if your primary interest is clothes--particularly the kind worn by stylish city-dwellers--this one will be an important source of information. Lavishly illustrated with detailed engravings, it lists ladies', children's, and men's clothing--everything from corsets to bathing suits to bridal gowns, plus accessories of all kinds--as well as ruching, lace, embroideries, sewing notions, carpet, dress goods, baby buggies, and even a selection of books. Every item includes a description and price.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I do enjoy owning this piece of historyBy MarkI do enjoy owning this piece of

history. But it's very heavy on "lady" things; dresses, yards of cloth, women's shoes. There's two pages of men's suits compared to 40 pages of frilly curtains. Some people love that stuff, but I wanted a few pages of tools, of guns, of books. Actually, there were some old time books people of the 1880s were offered, and one short list of firearms. I guess the good and bad news is this: It's not Sear's or Ward's catalog. It's much different. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What it says on the tin. By The Professor This is more or less what it says on the tin. It is a nice visual reference, and gives a sense of what products were on sale in 1886. It is not nearly as detailed a catalogue as the Sears or Wards catalogues from the late Victorian era, but Bloomingdales was a major name, and for those interested in fashion or household affairs of the period (a passion of mine) this is a staple to have in the library.

In the spring and summer of 1886, a popular New York department store advertised its wares in a finely illustrated catalog featuring everything from clothing, accessories, and housewares, to jewelry, leather goods, school supplies, and dry goods. This excellent reproduction of that now-rare Bloomingdale Brothers catalog provides fascinating views of approximately 1,700 mid-Victorian consumer items (all finely drawn and easy to reproduce) together with the original descriptive captions. An informative introduction by Nancy Villa Bryk, Curator of Domestic Life at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, precedes an entertaining panorama of fashions and other articles that include a stylish boucle jacket trimmed in velvet, a woman's tight-waisted riding costume, a variety of little girls' checkered pinafores (averaging about 35 cents apiece), infants' bibs, nurses' caps and aprons, men's nightshirts, suspenders, and smoking jackets; hosiery, hair goods, notions, parasols, silverware, toys, upholstery goods, fine millinery, delicate white laces, exquisite gold jewelry (remarkably inexpensive by today's standards), as well as "willow ware, walking sticks, zephyr worsteds, and fancy articles." Artists and designers will find this catalog a splendid sourcebook of copyright-free period graphics; antique collectors, historians, costume enthusiasts, and nostalgia lovers will find it indispensable for dating and identifying antiques, clothing, and other vintage items.