

# **Changes of Western Men's Underclothes in the Second Half of the 20C**

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## **I . Introduction**

In recent years, men's wear has been varied as much as women's and it's concern has increased. The existing studies have been mainly focused on underclothes of women and outer garments. This study, however, will examine how the historical backgrounds influenced on the changes of the functions of men's underclothes and additionally how the changes of outer garments were reflected on underclothes.

## **II . The Main Subject**

1. In the Second Half of the 20C, the short-sleeved T-shirt was used for both underwear and sportswear. In 1960's, as jackets became tightened to body, body shirts were loved. But straightened shirts were more popular then. A turtle-necked shirt was used as a turtle-necked sweater like an outer garment. And also shirt-jackets which copied an underwear were used. Combination of ruffles and pleating appeared on evening shirts and 18th-century of style ruffles was presented at the wrist. In 1970's, the sizes of shirt collar were varied in proportion to the lapel of suit, and a tightened shirt consisted of tight sleeves, large cuffs. In the 1980's, the shirt changed into one which had full bodice and full sleeves with small cuffs. In 1990's, the shirt became a little bit tighter and was semi-fitted, fly fastening. In the second half of the 20C except for 1970's, a small collar and small neck tie were popular. From 1980's, a trend which pursued a sporty fashion got rid of neckties was applied in underwear as well. Separate collars were occasionally worn until the late 1960's, after which all shirts had attached collars from 1970's, and a detachable collar disappeared. The shape of a collar were of wide points in the early 1950's but it was round or pointed in 1960'. In 1970's it changed into a narrow and long point.
2. In the late 1950's, very short briefs were used. In the late 1960's, printed boxer shorts were popular. Young people preferred the sexier appearance of the style but

the older people wore, whereas older man clung to shapeless underpants or shorts and vests in plain white. In 1970's, jockey briefs of cotton-net and bikini shorts were popular. In 1980's, classic briefs and underwears for warmth were introduced. In 1990, a string bikini and zipper shorts for men came into being.

3. Waistcoat was worn only as three-piece suit, was collarless and single-breasted.
4. For nightwear, the trousers of pajamas, which were either short or long, and nightshirts were used. In 1970's, Pajamas were high-neck or V-neck pullovers, or shirt-collar types.
5. Singlet and All-in-one worn in the first half of the 20C continued to be used but corsets were seldom used. We can infer that people pursued comfort than appearance in clothing with this fact.

In the second half of the 20C, Colours and patterns of underwear varied, and especially brighter and striped ones were popular. The materials of underwear were cotton, lawn, silk and leather.

### **III. Conclusion**

In the second half of the 20C, the collars of shirt were usually smaller. But in 1970's the size of collar varied according to outer garments. Drawers changed a lot in colors and cutting. The waistcoats matched jackets and were tightly fit, color and single-breasted. In the late 1960's, the turtleneck type of shirts were copied by outer garments. Or underwear changed like outer garments through shirts and jackets. From these facts, we understand that underwear can influence on outer garments. And also the ruffles of the 18th century reappeared in the 1960's. This reactionism of the late 20C tells us about the relation between social environments and underwear.