

CONTENTS

List of illustrations ix
Acknowledgments xiii
Introduction xv

1 Repurposed and recycled clothing and textiles 1

Secondhand clothing: A brief history 2
Repurposed clothing 2
Recycled textiles 20
Conclusion 24
At a glance: Vintage clothing 26
At a glance: Make do and mend 27

2 Quality of craftsmanship 31

The eighteenth century 32
The nineteenth century 36
The twentieth century 42
Contemporary fashion 48
Conclusion 57
At a glance: Fast fashion 57

3 Material origins 61

Natural fibers 62
Manmade fibers 70
Synthetic fibers 75
Conclusion 81
At a glance: “Futuristic” materials of the past 82

4 Textile dyeing 87

Introduction 87
Synthetic dyes 88

Poisoning people	89
Poisoning the environment	91
Past meets present in the search for solutions	93
Conclusion	96
At a glance: Lowering the impact of dyeing processes	98
At a glance: Indigo	99
At a glance: Greenpeace	100

5 Labor practices 103

Introduction	103
Textile mills	103
Garment factories	108
Unionization	111
History repeating: The resurgence of sweatshops, subcontracting, and the “runaway shop”	113
Awareness and action: Combating poor labor practices	116
Conclusion	122
At a glance: Madeleine Vionnet, Elizabeth Hawes, and Max Meyer: Historical perspectives on labor practices	123
At a glance: Labels: Advocacy and awareness	126

6 Treatment of animals 131

Introduction	131
Nineteenth-century feather debate	131
Fur in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries	140
Fur trapping	145
Fur farming	148
Rise of the anti-fur movement	150
Sustainable alternatives	155
Conclusion	158
At a glance: Tortoiseshell, ivory and reptile skins	160
At a glance: Faux furs	162

Conclusion 167

Notes 191

Bibliography 223

Glossary 229

Index 231