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# The Mercure Galant, an accessory reading

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## Résumé

Addressed to a worldly female reader eager to know about all the news of the day, the *Mercure galant* brings into her domestic sphere a diverse array of information gleaned from a far-flung network of correspondents. My paper will examine the ways in which the popular periodical not only shared *descriptions* of new and popular accessory styles; but rather, published as a portable pocket book and privileging a rhetoric of the networked, the detail, and the incidental, the *Mercure galant* also functioned as a sort of accessory itself. I will examine case studies of accessories, particularly wigs, in the *Modes* rubric, in stories and social accounts, and in the November 1701 *Enigme* to elaborate a provisional theory of the accessory that can enrich our understanding of the sartorial practices of the *Ancien regime* and our understanding and appreciation of the special modes, dynamics, and esthetics of the 17th century periodical.

**Mots-Clés:** mercure galant, mode, périodiques

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