Hair Styles Revive Art of 200 Years Ago

By ELEANOR NANGLE

ONCE UPON A TIME, more than two hundred years ago, there dwelt in the French city of Valenciennes a humble youth in whose soul glowed the spark of marvelous artistry. So great was his love for the sheer joy of painting,

1. No one in his native city at first would buy his paintings, so the youth, penniless and almost without friends, journeyed to Paris, where he produced in a sweat-shop studio religious pictures for the unbelievable wage of three francs a week and board. Back he went to Valenciennes, and then back again to Paris—all the while becoming more skillful with his lines and colors. Eventually he became one of the foremost artists of his day.

2. To erase from his mind every thought of his early poverty and lowly origin he painted with a striking flair for grandeur. To kill any memory of the grossly unattractive women and girls associated with his life as a boy.

At left: “La Dama” is obviously Watteau-inspired. Hair is brushed high, with a tray feathered cap nestling softly in the upswept curls. Hair and ribbons are a brilliant contrast to the costume colors.

At left: “Columbine” in a simple coiffure, but whimsical, too, emphasize the brushed-up line that reveals the pretty curve of the neck.

At left: “Biba” the designer calls this. Hair is swept up in the back crown and forehead fringed with casual curls.

At right: “Fetes,” a casually chic high arrangement, features a smart ornament of height colored crystal flowers.