4.1 Trimmings/decorations

You may need to re-enter information already outlined in the description. Explain the details in the notes field, for example, the specific type of lace and where it is on the garment.

**Piping**

Piping is cord encased in a strip of bias cut fabric and sewn into the seam of a garment. Piping creates a decorative effect, strengthens the seam and helps seams to sit properly. This is particularly useful along curved seams which receive a lot of wear and tear.

Piping is often seen around the neck, armholes and waistline. It was used on seams from the early 1820s. Piping is rarely found on silk or muslin dresses before 1822.

An example of fine piping on silk.

**Tucking**

A tuck is a fold or pleat in the fabric of a garment, held in place by stitches. Tucks are made on the right side of the garment. Very narrow tucks are called pintucks.

Tucks were very popular as decoration throughout the 19th century. Tucking can be used as decoration or to conceal extra fabric. Tucks enabled a garment to be made wider or longer, for example, to adjust a garment for a growing child. By removing the tucks, a garment could be ‘let down’.