

Reminiscences of a Royal Holloway College student from the 1920s

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Transcript:

I remember one occasion particularly because it happened at the time when bobbed hair first came into fashion. About ten or twelve students who had recently had their hair cut off to this new length, decided on a joke demonstration in reply to the criticism they had received. They all went shopping to Egham where they bought some very wide ribbon in pale or startling colours. That evening, as the dinner procession behind Chief and myself drew near the dining hall entrance a student who had stolen in ahead of us motioned to a group of students immediately behind to follow us quickly and guided them into the table that ran parallel to the High just below the platform. They marched solemnly in, each of them wearing a huge coloured ribbon bow safely secured to the top of her short hair.

Chief watched it at first without a smile and then, as we all sat down a general titter ran through all the tables and she gave her short amused laugh and said to us near her 'Really? the [sic] silly girls! And some of them had such pretty hair!' I believe Chief was interested in people's hair – maybe because her own was mousy and a little scanty. But the bob fashion spread as fashions do, though I was one of the many who kept their tiresome buns until they finally left college.