## Our New Old Clothes

Recent Acquisitions of the S.U. Fashion Archives & Museum



February 1 - 22, 2013

SHAPE Gallery Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

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## *Note from the Director*

Since 1980, the Fashion Archives and Museum (FA&M) at Shippensburg University and its exhibits have brought history, scholarship and material culture to the campus, town and surrounding areas. A rack of items that supported lectures in the office of its founder, Sociology professor Dr. Elizabeth Thompson, has now grown into a valuable collection of well over 20,000 items dating from the late eighteenth to the twentieth century. In this simple beginning, the FA&M was an educational resource available to students, faculty and the public alike. That mission has not changed, and today the FA&M is a dynamic learning museum and public history environment. The FA&M's renown is increasing along with the size of its holdings, and the fact that the collection consists of donations makes it even more impressive.

I began my tenure as director of the FA&M during the summer of 2007, and it has been my pleasure to continue to develop the collection with a historian's and costume scholar's eye. The items featured in this exhibit were all accepted since my arrival, and I chose them for their representation of significant moments in ever-evolving social and costume history. Many of the items are local.

An off-site exhibit such as this one represents the work of several months and cannot be realized without the help of many hands. I proffer my sincere thanks to my faithful volunteers from the university and the community who conserve fragile garments and carefully dress the mannequins, which are customized to fit each garment. I could not fulfill my responsibilities in terms of exhibit preparations and day-to-day operations without the dedication, enthusiasm and energy of my Shippensburg University interns and students. All those associated with the SHAPE Gallery have been gracious hosts, and I am very glad that they extended the invitation and made it possible to bring historic fashion and style to King Street. But my biggest debt of gratitude goes to those generous donors who parted with their family history and made it possible to share their legacy and "Our New Old Clothes" with the public.

Dr. Karin J. Bohleke Director Fashion Archives and Museum Shippensburg University



Child's printed cotton robe with gigot sleeves, 1825-1835. The lining is a completely different fabric in shades of tan and green.



Pale green silk dress, late 1830s-early 1840s, worn by Amanda Grove Grim (b. 1816), who died aged 26 from a ruptured appendix on August 27, 1841. It is possible that it survived because it was her wedding dress, which would date it to November 12, 1839, and the styling is right for that year, but there is no family oral history associated it with the dress beyond the wearer's name. The dress had been altered for later costume wear and partially disassembled. Under the supervision of the director of the FA&M, the dress has been conserved and carefully restored to its original appearance. The donors also generously paid for archival cleaning to remove the stains that naturally accumulate over long storage.



Green and pink silk satin day dress with acorn tassel trim on bodice and skirt, late 1840s. Family oral history associates the dress with the of trousseau of Louisa Lawrence DeFord, the maternal grandmother of Helen Besore Hoover whose 1907 velvet trousseau ensemble is also on exhibit. Louisa married in 1854 in Charleston, SC. Her granddaughter had made severe alterations to the dress in order to be able to wear it in a parade in Waynesboro sometime in the 1940s. Under the supervision of the director of the FA&M, the dress has been restored to its original appearance.



Woman's gold and rose warp-printed floral silk dress, 1848-1852. Bodice has been pieced together in multiple locations. The skirt has a deep facing and an additional lining of brown cotton attached at the waist, which has been gauged (now known as cartridge pleating) with the fashion fabric.



Woman's green silk plaid dress with trimmed pagoda sleeves, 1855-1860. The bodice back lacks the curving seams that are typical of construction in this time period.

S2011-25-008 Newville Historical Society



Brown two-piece silk bodice and skirt with self-fabric pointed trim and constrasting biascut plaid trim, 1865-1870. Dress possibly made over from an earlier wrapper, a more casual at-home garment that frequently buttoned down the center front (note the button very nearly at the hem) and featured trims in cheerful contrasting plaids and borders. The lining consists of four different remnants of polished cotton in four different shades of brown. The skirt waistband is a different scrap of plaid fabric.



Girl's black and white abstract print dress, 1875-1880. The contrasting fabric trim is printed to look like Chantilly lace.



Burgundy wool wrapper trimmed with dyed-to-match burgundy silk-satin and heavy cotton corded lace, 1894-1895. Worn by Sarah Eyre Blair Glover (1861-1929) of Richmond, VA.



Two-piece pale aqua wool challis bodice and skirt with white and print blue floral pattern and silk-satin trim on waistband and neckline. This note was pinned to the bodice: "Dress & Extra Waist worn by E. A. C. Crossman 1894-1898." At the time of the donation, there did not appear to be an extra waist associated with this particular skirt. She was related through marriage to Sarah Eyre Blair Glover whose clothing is also on exhibit.



Wool walking suit of heavy tweed in shades of blue, brown, red, green and gold, 1895-1896. The large sleeves and wide shoulder line characterize middle years of the 1890s. The suit was made by the National Cloak Co. located on 152 & 154 W. 23rd Street in New York. This company had an extensive mail order made-to-measure business, in which the customer included her measurements on the order form and indicated which suit in the catalog she had chosen, at which point the company sewed the suit to these measurements with no further fitting or personalization. Suit was worn by Sarah Eyre Blair Glover (1861-1929) of Richmond, VA.



Two piece bright pink second-day dress, 1901-1902. A bride wore her second-day dress the day after her wedding. The elaborate combinations of netting, tucks, pleats, lace and layers characterize the fashions of the Edwardian era. Provenance associates this dress with a young bride named Lydia Craig.



Woman's three-piece brown velvet suit with brown satin trim consisting of bodice, skirt and coat, 1907. The bodice is trimmed with heart-shaped center front insertion embroidered with bullion and spangles and a contrasting cotton net inset and standing collar with colored embroidery. The ensemble is part of the wedding trousseau of Helen Besore Hoover of Waynesboro, PA, who married the town doctor, Percy D. Hoover on October 8, 1907.



Trained cocktail dress of blue and black sequins and black celluloid ornaments, 1920s. Worn by Mildred Adelaide Scherer Haas (1900-1985), the mother of the wearer of the silver lamé dress of 1972 also on exhibit.



Dress of silk chiffon and voided silk velvet with gray silk lining, 1920s. Worn by Mary Martha Bitner Danzer (1881-1958), of Hagerstown, MD, mother of Alice Virginia Danzer Fletcher, two of whose dresses are also on exhibit.



Evening dress of silk chiffon with voided velvet pattern and fur and bead trim, ca. 1925. The dress has a matching slip of maroon silk with chiffon straps made of the same plain chiffon as the dress. The combination of a complex lightweight fabric and mixed trims, such as fur and beads, is typical of the first half of the 1920s. Worn by Margaret Harmon Graves (1892-1979) of New Haven, CT. She was an accomplished artist who attended graduate school at Yale.



Full-length evening dress of sheer black cotton net trimmed with applied beads and sequins, late 1930s-early 1940s. There is a double skirt of black cotton net; the overskirt is open and edged with trim.



Girl's bright yellow rayon printed dress, 1936. Worn by Dr. Jacqueline Barlup of Waynesboro, PA.

S2010-12-002 Barlup



Woman's three-piece brown wool suit consisting of jacket, skirt and belt, 1940s. Jacket is lined with silk crepe and features removable mink collar. There are two manufacturers' labels: one reads "Modernage, Winchester, VA" and the other reads "Blin & Blin Fabulous French Woolen Fashioned by dan millstein, New York, Paris." Worn by Emma Lee Evans Chambers (1921-2010).



Woman's turquoise silk sleeveless dress with contrasting shaped white silk appliqué, 1950s. Manufacturer's label reads "Designed by Tu Zel, 1008 Lincoln Mall, Miami Beach." Worn by Alice Virginia Danzer Fletcher (1915-2007) of Hagerstown, MD.



Fuchsia and black striped silk dress with sheer black netting overlay, 1950s. The striped fabric is woven on the straight grain, but the dress has been cut on the bias, straight and cross grains to create a dynamic design. Note that on one side, the bias-cut fabric matches perfectly to create a chevron pattern. Worn by Alice Virginia Danzer Fletcher (1915-2007) of Hagerstown, MD.



Silk checked taffeta cocktail dress with built-in bright red net crinoline, 1954. Label identifies dress as a "Jonny Herber original" and was purchased in Chambersburg, PA. The donor required that her husband buy her the dress after she presented him with his third son when she really wanted a daughter.



Trousseau dress and coat for the wedding of Eunice and Marion Milliron (1910-2005) on April 20, 1968, in Lancaster, PA. Note that the coat fabric is the reverse of the dress fabric.



Woman's bold black and white wool Pierre Cardin designer coat, ca. 1970.



Woman's floral and silver lamé halter dress, made in 1972 by Adelaide Margerite Haas Pinaud Knapp of Falls Church, VA.

## Note from SHAPE's President

As the community's only non-profit arts organization, Shippensburg Arts Programming and Education (SHAPE) seeks to enrich the quality of life in the Shippensburg community.

Founded in 1999, SHAPE organizes interactive cultural, artistic, and heritage activities, supports local artists and arts organizations, and promotes the arts in area schools. As an all-volunteer arts council, SHAPE is organized and run by individuals dedicated to the arts.

In an effort to showcase all forms of expression and creativity, SHAPE has committed to partner with area organizations to spotlight their mission and the role art plays in their operation.

The power of this collaboration became clear in 2009 when artwork created by survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse was on display at the gallery. This incredible partnership with Franklin County's Women In Need encouraged SHAPE to explore other collaborative partnerships.

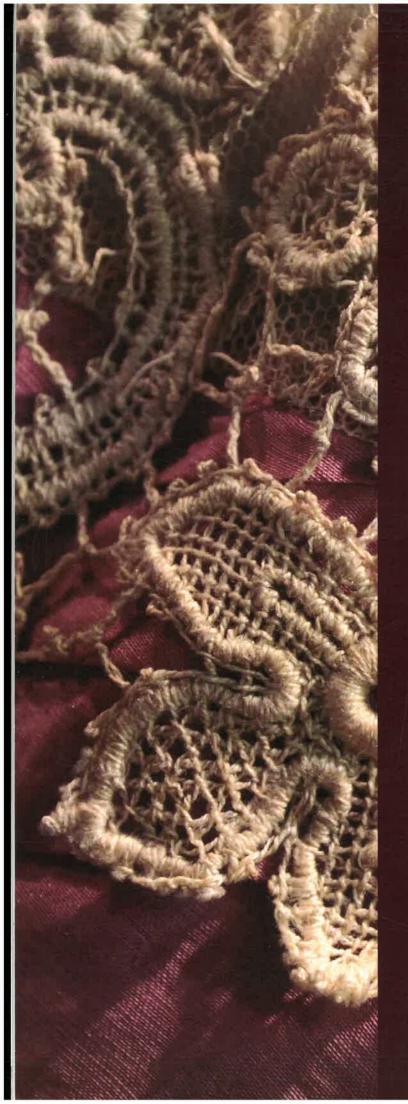
Since then the gallery has displayed artwork from students at NHS Autism School in Carlisle. According to NHS Autism School Art Director Catherine Eicke, students use their art time to work on fine motor skills, learn about artists and art movements, and have a creative outlet for self-expression. The exhibition provided an opportunity for students to showcase their creativity.

For three years, SHAPE has partnered with the Shippensburg Historical Society to showcase its unique historical collections. These exhibits allowed community members to create links between past and present through artwork and artifacts.

This year, we hope you enjoy this new collaborative partnership with the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University. These fabulous garments offer a glimpse into the lives and fashions of the past. The exhibition also encourages us to explore the ways fashion and art merge in the historical narrative.

Thank you to FA&M Director Karin Bohleke for working with SHAPE to bring this dynamic exhibit to the gallery. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped install the exhibition and those who helped keep the gallery open throughout the month.

Trisha Grace President Shippensburg Arts Programming and Education





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