



Offers of Gift  
Information for Prospective Donors

Thank you for thinking of the Clothing and Textiles Collection as a place for your valued artifacts. While we are happy to accept artifacts that strengthen our Collection and help us achieve our goals, we **strongly recommend that you accompany your gift with the financial resources to help maintain it** in our museum quality storage in perpetuity. Every object will require numerous hours of staff time to insure its physical well-being. To protect our collection, all objects entering our storage need to be vacuumed, fumigated and carefully examined for mold and mildew. They also need to be stabilized, tagged, catalogued and stored according to their materials and condition. A special mount or support will often need to be custom-made using archival materials. Your support to our Endowment will help us cover staff time and materials as well as the running of our storage and conservation facilities.

The Curator will be happy to look at every object offered to the collection. However, because our storage room is limited and space is at a premium, we only accept about 3% of what is offered to us each year. The donation process can be lengthy. We first request that a **photograph of the object** be sent via e-mail or regular mail. We ask that you please give us as much information as you can on the object, such as **how** it came to be in your possession, **what** it is, **who** made it and when, **where** it was fabricated or used and how it was produced. From then, we will survey our collection to see what we have that may be similar. If the object is not redundant, we will present it to the Collection Management Committee for review. The Committee meets four times each year: September, November, January and March. The Committee will decide whether the piece fits our mission, adds to our holding and has a use in the classroom and for research. Once an agreement is reached, the donor will be contacted so that we may assess the object's condition and make our final decision.

**Please do not drop off or send artifacts before they are requested: we do not have enough staff and resources to treat and hold on to pieces until a decision is made.**

Included is information that is part of our Acquisition Strategy that may help you understand how Acquisition Committee members come to a decision. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Anne Bissonnette, PhD  
Curator, Clothing and Textiles Collection  
325 Human Ecology Building  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2N1  
Tel.: 780-492-3604  
Fax: 780-492-4821  
E-mail: [anne.bissonnette@ualberta.ca](mailto:anne.bissonnette@ualberta.ca)

\*\*\* THE INFORMATION BELOW THIS POINT IS TAKEN FROM THE POLICY ENTITLED:

## ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY – CLOTHING AND TEXTILES COLLECTION

---

### B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

#### 1. Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above.

Though every object offered to the collection will be considered, only about 3% of offered objects are accepted each year. Constraints on storage space, staff time, and other resources necessitate that all acquisitions be carefully considered to ensure artifacts fit the collection's mission, add to its holding and have a use in the classroom and for research. Objects will be acquired via donation and purchase.

- **Artifact Donated to the Collection:** if an artifact that is offered as a gift to the Collection is recommended for acquisition, the work and funds needed to transport, receive, stabilize, research, catalogue, photograph, appraise, enter data regarding the artifact, store the piece according to the highest museum standards and mount the piece for potential display must be assessed. If this is considered to be extensive, the Committee might not recommend acquisition unless the donor is willing to help in this endeavor.
- **Artifact Purchased for the Collection:** in the current state of affairs, the purchasing of artifacts will not be encouraged and, if exceptions are to be made, the Committee will assess the likelihood that such pieces may be donated in the near future.

#### **Broad Theme/Topic/Area of Collecting:**

- **High fashion items**, including clothing and accessories, for women, men and children from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- **Ready-to-wear/ready-made:** clothing and accessories for women, men and children; with emphasis on (Western) Canadian designers

#### **Priority Collecting Areas:**

- Every-day attire
  - Pre-1850 garments: undergarments to outerwear.  
In particular:
    - 1790s clothing artifacts.
    - pre-1910 corsetry and support garments (excluding chemises and drawers)



- from 1870s on)
  - lounge wear: 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century (banyans, dressing gowns, smoking jackets, hostess garments)
  - menswear pre-1930s (excluding formalwear)
  - outer wear (pre-1850 garments, spencer jacket, pelisse)
  - active sportswear of the 1980s-1990s (neon-colored clothing and accessories)
  - 1990s documented pop-culture attire and grunge wear
- Accessories and jewelry
  - In particular:
    - 18<sup>th</sup> century stomacher and calash
    - men's watch fobs
    - pre-1920s hats, caps and bonnets (excluding sunbonnets)
    - regional cowboy hats and belt buckles
    - women's and men's shoes prior to the 1950s
    - pre-1900 eyewear and Google glass
- Alberta Designers

- **Ethnic/Ethnographic:** clothing, accessories and textiles from around the world.

Priority Collecting areas:

- Clothing, accessories and textiles from ethnic groups established in Western Canada
- Textiles with political and social messages (in particular commemorative textiles like Afghan war rugs and African commemorative textiles).

- **Material culture objects** that document things used every day related to either clothing or textiles.

Priority Collecting Areas:

- First Nation embroidery such as moccasins, jackets, bandolier bags, gauntlets.

- **Fabric and Fibre Technology**

Priority Collecting Areas:

- Pre-1800, especially early chintz and printed cottons such as toiles de Jouy
- Sustainable design, smart textiles, etc.
- Textiles made from early man-made fibres, including rayon, acetate and regenerated proteins.

- **Tools and equipment** used in the design, manufacture or decoration of clothing or

textiles/ artifacts that depict clothing and relate to the production and embellishment of cloth e.g. looms, spindles, needlework tools, patterns, historical fashion magazines and photographs.

Priority Collecting Areas:

- Small-size hand-cranked sewing machines from before the 1920s.

- **Paper-Based Documentation**

Priority Collecting Areas:

- Fashion plates/photographs pre-1900
- Fashion periodicals pre-1939
- Patterns pre-1900 (especially from periodicals)

## 2. List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented

Artifact that are extremely well represented in the collection include that will not be presented to the Collections Management Committee.:

- Quilts: the Rosenberg Quilt Collection provides extensive representation of quilts [http://collections.museums.ualberta.ca/cltx/search.aspx?type=items&featured\\_collection=22](http://collections.museums.ualberta.ca/cltx/search.aspx?type=items&featured_collection=22).

**We WILL CONSIDER** rare or exceptional pieces, currently not represented in the collection, in particular:

- pre-1850s quilts
- ethnographic quilts
- political or commemorative quilts.
- Sewing machines and industrial machines: only small-size hand-cranked sewing machines from before the 1920s will be considered.
- Wedding dresses

## 3. List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire

The Clothing and Textiles Collection is committed to maintaining the highest museum standards. Over the next five years, the acquisition of artifacts will be curtailed so that the work of staff members can be directed towards serving its public rather than spending a large portion of their time receiving, stabilizing, researching, cataloguing, appraising, photographing, storing and entering data regarding new artifacts.

Priority will be given to objects that:

- **fit acquisition strategy priority collecting areas**
- **will be used in teaching and/or research in the next five years:** a clear need must be established for an artifact by a specific instructor or faculty member in their research program or in a specific class in the next five years.
- **have clear provenance (known origin of the artifact):** priority will be given to objects of known provenance.
- **have supporting documents:** priority will be given to objects with supporting documents such as photographs, bills of sales, supporting advertisements etc.
- **are specific to human ecology:** Other Departments and Institutes on campus also collect clothing and textile artifacts. If the artifacts fits better into the East Asian Studies, Ukrainian Folklore Collection, Anthropology/Ethnology, Art and Museums and Collections Services and can be borrowed from the, it should be offered to those collections.
- **are in good condition:** due to lack of conservation staff, priority will be given to artifacts in near perfect condition. Exceptions can be made for archeological textiles and offers accompanied by funds for conservation treatment.
- **have easily-accommodated storage requirements:** due to limited storage space, artifacts that occupy too much space or require extensive and elaborate support for storage and display will not be recommended for acquisition.
- **have minimal appraisal costs:** due to limited budget, artifacts, or groups of artifacts, that require the hiring of a professional appraiser will , the Committee should not recommend acquisition unless the donor agrees to fund this endeavor.

\* \* \*

TO ADDRESS WHEN AN ARTIFACT IS OFFERED		
<b>Preamble</b> (if the answer is negative, acquisition is not advised)	NEGATIVE	AFFIRMATIVE
1. Is the artifact listed in our broad theme/topic/area of collecting?		
2. Is the artifact unrepresented in the collection? (i.e. Does a similar artifact exist offering common characteristics for the purpose of inclusion in the courses listed?)		
<b>Main Issues</b>	NEGATIVE	AFFIRMATIVE
1. Is the artifact listed as lacking in the collection?		
2. Are there no other artifacts that can be used for the same teaching and research purpose? (Using classes currently taught and research topics listed in faculty research section).		
3. Will the artifact be used for teaching within the next five years? Which class? _____		



4. Is the artifact an essential part of a faculty member's research? Whose research?		
5. Is the artifact in near perfect condition <u>or</u> , if not, is the donor willing to fund its conservation?		
6. Can the artifact be easily accommodated in existing storage? (i.e. Is the size excessive; will a three-dimensional support be needed?)		
7. If the services of a professional appraiser are required, is the donor willing to fund this endeavor?		
8. Does this donation cause unusual or excessive work to the staff?		
9. If this is a purchase, is it unlikely that such an object may be donated in the future?		
10. Is the provenance known?		
11. Does the artifact have supporting documentation?		
12. Is the artifact specific to more than one of the topics covered in the field of Human Ecology? (i.e. clothing, family, home and community)		
13. Is the Clothing and Textiles Collection the appropriate collection within the University to collect this artifact?		
14. Would another University collection prevent access to a similar artifact for class use, research or exhibition?		

---