

Digitizing a Large Garment Collection at a Small Institution

The Mount Mary University Fashion Archive

Co-Authors:

Amanda Cacich, Grant Curator/Stylist

Dan Vinson, Principal Investigator for DHC grant and Library
Director

Marshall Lee, Photographer

Land Acknowledgment

Mount Mary University is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and we acknowledge that we are situated on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida, and Mohican nations remain present.

*Courtesy of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

History of the Mount Mary Fashion Archive

1913 - Mount Mary College founded by School Sisters of Notre Dame

1965 - Nation's first four-year Fashion Design degree program founded by Sister Aloyse Hessburg

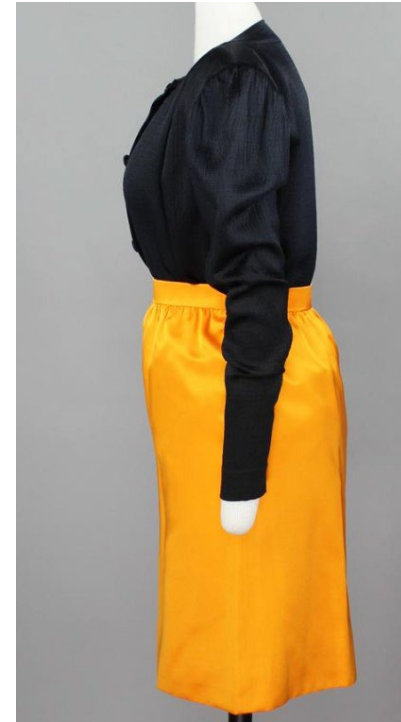
Today - 10,000 items spanning the 18th century to the 21st century

Only resource of its kind in the Milwaukee area



Pilot Grant and Platform

- Stella Jones Foundation pilot grant in 2018
- Iconasys photography software and turntable
- 360° images with high-quality zoom
- Omeka Classic



Metadata and Controlled Vocabulary

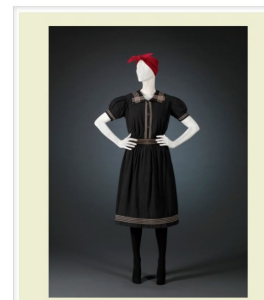
- Costume Core, based on Dublin Core
- Getty Research Institute's Union List of Artist Names (ULAN)



About

Costume Core is a work in progress, building on existing standards to create a specification for cataloging and encoding costume (historic clothing). This specification is being tested to consider its application for inter-institutional digital resources for the study of the history of dress, such as HistoricDress.org.

This website is intended to function as a user guide, addressing usage in both new and existing collection management systems, including relational databases, flat databases, spreadsheets, and XML documents.



Union List of Artist Names® Online

Search the ULAN [Help](#)

Find Name or ID: [Search](#)

Role: [Clear](#)

Nationality: [Clear](#)

[Pop-up Search](#) [Browse the ULAN hierarchies](#)

Getting Started

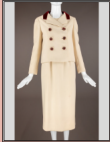

- Purchasing supplies
- Updating technology
- Working through challenges



Establishing a Workflow

Google Tracking Sheet

Curator → Photographer →
Archivist → Omeka

ITEM TRACKING SHEET									
 <p>OBJECT ID 1983.74.ab</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>ITEM - A</th><th>ITEM - B</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>white</td><td>white</td></tr><tr><td>wool</td><td>wool</td></tr><tr><td>dress</td><td>jacket</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>This item is connected to: _____</p> <p>Stand Alone <input type="checkbox"/> Collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norman Norell</p> <p>Storage Location <input type="text" value="Stienke, Hanging Rod 3"/></p> <p>Object Description Cream wool dress and jacket</p> <p>Styling Notes _____</p>	ITEM - A	ITEM - B	white	white	wool	wool	dress	jacket	<p>ITEM TRACKING</p> <p>9/9 ready for shooting <input type="text"/> photo added to Past Perfect</p> <p>9/11 photographed <input type="text"/> 9/13 returned to storage</p> <p><input type="text"/> added to web <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> padded hanger <input type="checkbox"/> new tissue in box</p>
ITEM - A	ITEM - B								
white	white								
wool	wool								
dress	jacket								
<p>PHOTOGRAPHY</p> <p>Shooting Notes _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Detail Image Shot of dress from front without jacket (shot# 1983.74a_detail) _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Detail Image Detail shot of hook closure on dress left shoulder (shot# 1983.74a_closure_detail) _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Detail Image Detail shot of closure on dress left side (shot# 1983.74a_shoulder_detail) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Detail Image _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional 360° Image _____</p> 	<p>WEB TEXT</p> <p>TITLE <input type="text" value="Two Piece Ensemble"/></p> <p>Description Cream wool evening ensemble. A. Dress, bateau neckline, sleeveless, softly gathered long skirt, side pockets. B. Jacket, red velvet collar, double-breasted with 6 large red glass buttons/bound buttonholes closure.</p> <p>Designer <input type="text" value="Norman Norell"/></p> <p>Collection <input type="text" value="Norman Norell"/></p> <p>Date <input type="text" value="1965-1970"/></p> <p>Tags <input type="text" value="Norman Norell, dress, jacket, wool, cream"/></p>								
	<p>NON-PUBLISHED NOTES</p> <p>Donor: Steven Stipelman</p> <p>_____</p>								

Selecting Garments to Digitize

- Assess strengths of our collection
- What does the Fashion Archive have to offer that's unique?
- Female designers
- Milwaukee area figures and brands



Photography Process

- 360° spin = 36 stitched images + 1 color-correction image
- **Shutter Stream 360°** (by Iconasys)
~23 MB each X 37
- **Lightroom** (by Adobe) make JPG copies at ≤ 2500 KB
- **360° View Creator** (by Iconasys)
create HTML5 spin code



Getting the Garments Online

- Open-source Omeka
- Short biography, photographs, and archival material
- Metadata and tags added
- Exhibition Gallery

Subject Clothing and dress

Identifier Object ID# 1980.102.ABC

[View 360 Image in New Window](#)

Description Navy blue honeycomb wool tweed suit; white, beige, and red specks inside holes. A. Jacket; cardigan neckline; two pockets; fringe bottom of jacket; 3/4 length sleeves; brown suede trim; unlined. B. Matching skirt. C. Beige suede tie belt.

Creator [Bonnie Cashin](#)

Source Philip Sills

Date 1974

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Type Physical Object

Tags [Beige](#), [Bonnie Cashin](#), [Jacket](#), [Navy Blue](#), [Skirt](#), [Suede](#), [Suit](#), [Wool Tweed](#)

Citation Bonnie Cashin, "Suit," *Mount Mary University Digital Collections*, accessed October 8, 2022,

Looking Forward

- Uses for students and faculty
- Greater awareness of Fashion Archive both locally and nationally
- Research and collaboration



Final Product: Digital Fashion Archive

[Let's take a look!](#)

