

HELP US PRESERVE THESE SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLS
OF OUR CULTURE AND HISTORY.

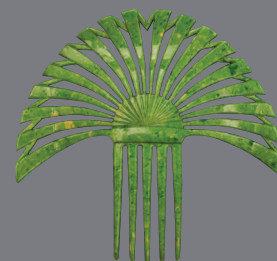
Our mission as a university-based collection is to educate and inspire while providing a significant resource for an ever expanding community of historians, scholars, artists and designers. Westphal College's URBN center facility has greatly improved the accessibility and visibility of the DHCC and allowed us to honor A.J. Drexel's original educational intent in taking a leadership role in research and scholarship, while preserving the collection for future generations of researchers and admirers.



Community engagement is extremely vital to the life of the collection. The DHCC's efforts - exhibitions, publications and lectures - are only made possible by the enthusiastic support of the public and the remarkable generosity of our donors.

For more information on collection storage tours, and FASHION FRIDAY seminars, please contact:
DHCC Curator
Clare Sauro at
215-571-3504
or via email at
dhcc@drexel.edu

Visit the collection online at:
drexel.edu/westphal/resources/DHCC/



THE DREXEL
**HISTORIC
COSTUME
COLLECTION**

The URBN Center 3501 Market Street Phila. PA 19104



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Antoinette Westphal
College of Media Arts & Design
www.drexel.edu/westphal

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**HISTORIC
COSTUME
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L & E Stern
Textile sample
Fall 1935, USA
Anonymous donor



When A.J. Drexel founded the Drexel Institute in 1891, he made provisions for the purchase of fine and decorative arts for the edification of its students. Textiles and garments were among these early purchases and soon, this small collection grew into one of the finest teaching collections in the United States.

Oliver & Co.
Day dress
Circa 1898, USA
Gift of Mrs. Tyson Nimick

Hair comb
Circa 1918, USA
Gift of Ms. Anne Wright



Cover:
Charles James
"Bustle" evening gown (detail)
Circa 1948, USA
Gift of Mrs. William S. Paley

Back Cover:
Evening dress
Circa 1912, France
Gift of Mr. Alexander J. Cassatt

Hair comb
Circa 1918, USA
Gift of Ms. Anne Wright

Paul Poiret
Evening coat (detail)
Circa 1926, France
Gift of Victor L. Drexel

"Bustle" evening gown
Circa 1948, USA
Gift of Mrs. William S. Paley

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Today, the Drexel Historic Costume Collection (DHCC) encompasses more than 12,000 articles of fashionable dress and accessories, folk costume and traditional dress, textiles, photographs, illustrations and related ephemera. The objects in the collection serve as important educational tools for fashion design, interior design, theatre, film, history, merchandising, and library and archival studies.

Utilizing a controlled environment designed to protect historic textiles from damage, the DHCC preserves a wide range of fashion history - from late Renaissance velvets to Parisian haute couture to mid-20th century American garments by designers and retailers such as Norman Norell and Nan Duskin. Recent acquisitions include examples from Prada, Oscar de la Renta and Romeo Gigli. The DHCC has been featured in exhibits including **A Legacy of Art, Science & Industry: Highlights from the Drexel Collection, Rest Your Feet, and Brave New World: Fashion & Freedom, 1911-1919**, in conjunction with the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA).



Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel
Evening ensemble
Circa 1969, France
Gift from the Estate of
Mrs. Charlotte Dorrance Wright

Boué Soeurs
Afternoon dress (detail)
Circa 1926, France
Gift of Mrs. R. R. Loening



Callot Soeurs
Evening dress (detail)
Circa 1926, France
Gift of Mr. Alexander J. Cassatt



Halston
Evening gown
Fall 1978, USA
Gift of Ms. Sandra Blumberg



Neglige
Circa 1912, France
Gift of Mr. Alexander J. Cassatt

Mariano Fortuny
"Delphos" dress
Circa 1919, Italy
DHCC purchase



Fenton Footwear
Evening shoe
Circa 1930, USA
Gift of Mrs. Haig H. Pakradooni