

## Animal Vegetable Mineral Synthetic

#### **Moderator**

**Suzanne Quigley** 

Owner, Art & Artifact Services

#### **Speakers**

**Liese Pfeifer** 

Academic Curator/Collections Manager, Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection, UW- Madison

#### **Tim Roby**

Department of Textiles Specialist, The Art Institute of Chicago

#### **Stephanie Hebert**

Registrar, American Textile History Museum



## Relocating the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection

Liese Pfeifer
School of Human Ecology,
University of Wisconsin, Madison



Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection - a part of the Center for Integrative Design at the School of Human Ecology





# Today's Discussion: Relocating the Collection



13,000 Objects, 623 Boxes, 63 Crates, 1,686 Rolls of Textiles



#### **Relocation Timeline:**

- January 2010: The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection was moved off-site to a secure, temperature/humidity controlled environment pending completion of new building space
- June 2012: The new space designated to house 13,000 objects in the School of Human Ecology is ready for testing environmental controls. Begin collecting data on temperature and humidity stability
- August 2012: Move begins
- September 2012: Unpacking begins
- June 2013: Relocation is complete

## Phase I – Preparations for moving day





Volunteers to cut hundreds of archival sheets to fit the storage trays, cleaned over 43,000 square feet of cabinets and storage trays.

#### Phase II: The Move Begins







Day 1-3: Standard rolls of textiles were transferred from offsite storage (in custom racks) and then loaded onto the temporary wooden racks.

#### Phase II: The Move





Day 4-5: Oversized Rolls

Day 6-8: Flat Boxes

Day 7: Oversized Rolls & Crates

## Phase II: The Move - Completed

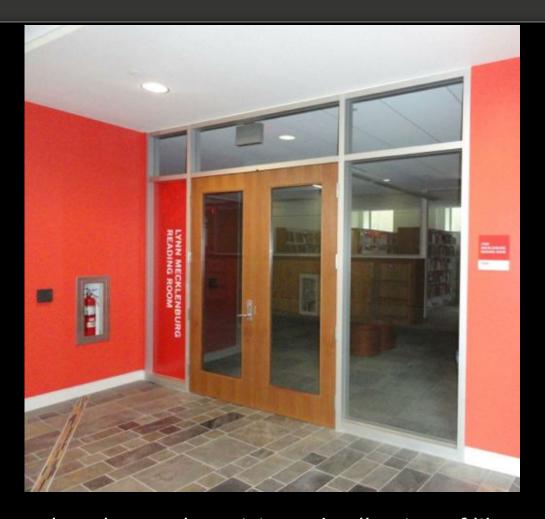




Volunteers help unload textile books and supplies.

Training began in earnest for object handling.

## Phase II: The Move - Completed



By mid-September the much-anticipated collection of library tables, lamps, task chairs and monitor desk station arrived to be installed in the Lynn Mecklenburg Reading Room.

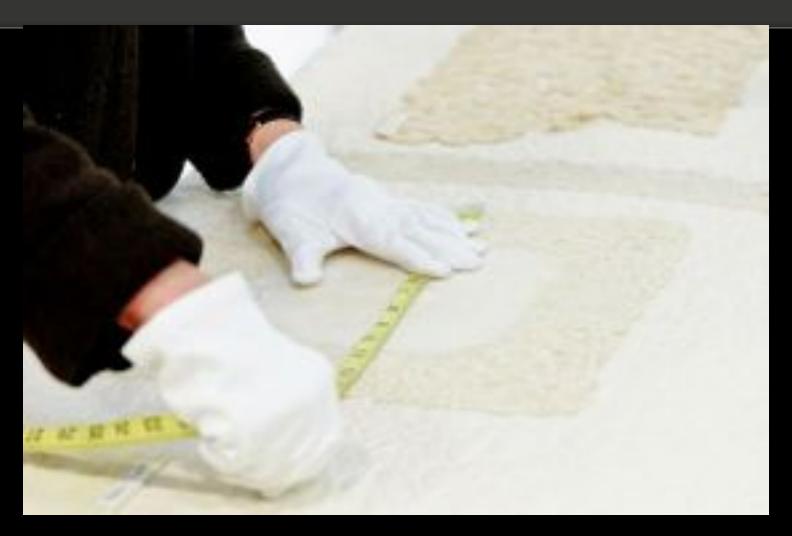
## Phase II: The Move - Completed



The Class Room was named in honor of the late Mary Kunz Berge (BS 1961 Textiles & Clothing), for her contributions to a 25-year long mission to raise funds for the Helen Louise Allen Collection and advance its educational mission.



Volunteers lift a stack of handkerchiefs in unison. Every movement was pre-planned and communicated, followed by slow, gentle lifting to place the objects on the table.



Tremendous care, mindfulness, and observation skills were employed by each volunteer. Each textile was measured with gloved hands and a cloth tape. The collection has a substantial holding of lace textiles.



Once the handkerchiefs were housed, volunteers unpacked textiles from South America and India.









Every imaginable textile fiber, type of construction, garment design, needlework, and embellishment of its kind.





Examples of two early 20<sup>th</sup> century photographic transfers onto silk pillow covers.





This cabinet is filled with Victorian hair wreaths, hats, shoes, and accessories (a favorite to unpack).



When 3-dimensional items are placed in the storage trays, archival tags are exposed and positioned for easy reading and access by curators.

Pillow cover, Italy, c. 1870-1899. The casalguidi technique used here produces a heavy raised and textural embroidery that is done typically on linen. Palestrina knots and chain stitches are also used in this stitchery.

The corners are embellished with elegant knotted tassels.





#### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

HOME . TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES.

#### Find Learning Objects

Search

Choose a collection.

The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection

Advanced search a



#### EAQ<sub>b</sub>

What is a LOF

How do LOs enrich teaching?

How do LOs enhance learning?

#### Faculty Toolbox

Using LOs

Creating UDs:

Cantributing LOs

Capyright.

Other collections

Ov-campus resources

Exterences/Web/lography

#### How to...

Embed an object a

Email so object w

Search this collection? +

Citie am object o

Create a list a



Twelve-dragon robes and exquisitely embellished textiles hand-stitched for the royalty.



With the new 96" trays, we are able to collect and display a cultural costume in its entirety.





Creative placement, organizing by tribe, country, craft. or special garment type, plus mindful handling of objects was the greatest asset to the final outcome of the HLATC rehousing project.

#### Phase V: Organization & Special Collections



Design studies faculty utilize the collection in their curriculum via "Class Pulls" - a select grouping brought to the classroom for closer observation.

#### **Many Hands**

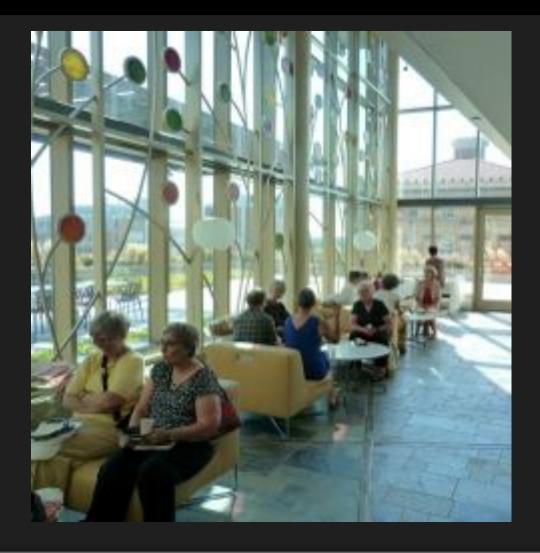
HLATC's Rehousing Story is only possible with the help of many interns from the University and community volunteers.



#### **We Are Seeking Continued Community Support!**

- Become a Member
- Inquire about Volunteer Opportunities
- Spread the Word
- And...

## Volunteer thank you event







Academic Curator of Design Gallery & HLATC Collection Manager,

Liese Pfeifer

The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection furthers the understanding of human beings within their material and social environments through the **study of textiles of artistic, cultural, and historic significance.** Our mission is to provide educational resources both within the University and beyond.