



Animal Vegetable Mineral Synthetic

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Relocating the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection

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WELCOME

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





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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The School of Human Ecology contributes to family, community, and society with a global perspective. We are the center of all things.

Welcome from the Dean

All levels of human ecology (HE) programs are based on a shared vision that is meant to be both relevant and globally prominent. Our students and alumni have joined a school that is truly in supporting students as students in scholar engagement.

Read more 

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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.

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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.

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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.

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



Examples of two early 20th century photographic transfers onto silk pillow covers.

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects

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.



Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection

DIGITAL COLLECTION



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Search



The Digital Collection is best used on a computer.

SEARCHING FOR OBJECTS

There are approximately 5000 of our items from 1900-1950 included in the Helen Louise Allen Digital Collection database.



When searching for objects be sure to choose "Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection" under "Choose a collection otherwise you will search the entire digital collection database.



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Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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

Phase IV: Unpacking and Storing Objects



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



Mission



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.