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
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.
Volunteers to cut hundreds of archival sheets to fit the storage trays, cleaned over 43,000 square feet of cabinets and storage trays.
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.
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.
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.
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 20\textsuperscript{th} 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).
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.
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.
Archival boxes on hand were put to good use to house smaller, delicate, or 3-dimensional objects. The goal was to keep costume pieces together and figuring out how they could share the same tray.
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.
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.
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
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.