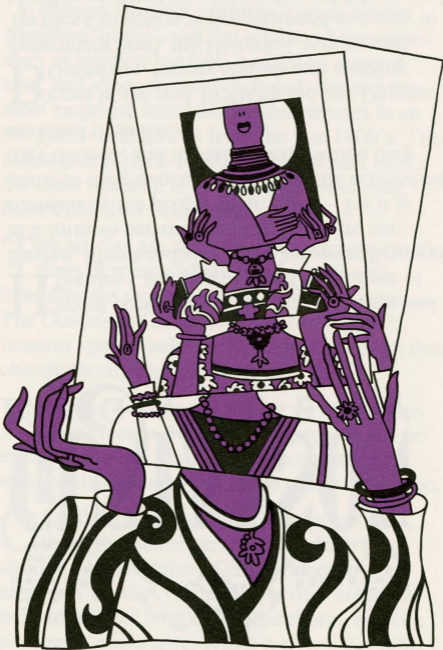




# GUSTAFSON GALLERY

*Featuring a collection of historic costumes and textiles*



Department of Design, Merchandising  
and Consumer Sciences  
College of Applied Human Sciences

**Colorado  
State  
University**



# GUSTAFSON GALLERY

**H**istory pervades the Historic Costume and Textiles Collection in the Department of Design, Merchandising and Consumer Sciences in a form so personal, you feel you are surrounded by the people themselves – for it is home to the garments they wore, the accessories they donned, and the fabric with which they enriched their lives.

**B**egun in the mid 1950s by the late Dagmar Gustafson, former textiles and clothing department head, the Historic Costume and Textiles Collection was envisioned as a way to instill in students an appreciation of fabrics and costumes. Dagmar believed a knowledge of foreign and past clothing styles would generate student interest and broaden their cultural background.

**S**he once said, “The students could use the clothes as inspirational materials . . . to learn that ours is not the only way.”

**T**he collection has proven to be an interdisciplinary resource for students, faculty, and members of the public, both at state and local levels. It is unique to this region, in that it is a hands-on collection available for close study.

**S**tudents study the articles to learn how fashion trends come and go and how one style evolves from another. Some are challenged by historic designs as inspiration for contemporary garments.

**A**rt students use the collection to learn about weaving techniques. It is an invaluable resource for theatre students seeking garments appropriate for stage reproductions and for commercial vendors who do design, textile, and fiber research.

**T**he collection consists largely of women’s dresses, lingerie, children’s wear, ethnic costumes, quilts, and flat textiles. Accessories such as jewelry, hankies, handbags, scarves, hats, and shoes are also included. Among the most exquisite items are beaded dresses from the 1920’s and gowns from the late 1800’s. The oldest piece, circa 1450, is a chain-mail shirt; the most valuable is a maharajah’s wedding robe with silver ornaments.

**T**he articles are stored under optimum conditions in rooms where temperature and humidity are regulated to prevent deterioration. The Gustafson Gallery, named for Dagmar, features special exhibits from the collection that change throughout the year.

**E**xhibits occasionally are set up off campus where secure display arrangements can be made. Traveling trunk shows, complete with scripts, also broaden the scope of the collection.

**O**ver the years, the collection has grown through donations, some of which were sizable. The Gustafson Gallery/Historic Costume and Textiles Collection invites contributions of articles with historic, cultural, or even personal significance. It is a way to offer others a personal glimpse into the past.

**T**he Friends of the Gustafson Gallery is a volunteer group whose activities include promoting the Gallery and the collection, publishing a newsletter, and assisting in fund raising, gallery security, and artifact conservation. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Gustafson Gallery or in donating to the permanent collection are encouraged to contact the address shown below.

**T**he Gustafson Gallery is located in Room C105 Aylesworth Hall, Meridian Avenue on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. Please call (303) 491-1983 for gallery hours or to arrange for special viewings or tours of the collection.

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