

Costume Museum Miss Gustafson's Hope at C

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"I have always felt a growing department of textiles and clothing should have a costume museum."

Miss Dagmar Gustafson was discussing one of her greatest hopes for the College of Home Economics at Colorado State University when she made this statement. Head of the college's textiles and clothing department, she has just ended her 19th year at CSU.

A costume museum, she said, would include costumes indigenous to America, fashion periodicals of the past and present and really fine and rare books in the field. The books would represent this country, western Europe and the Middle and Far East.

"The textiles and clothing department," she emphasized, "Should preserve such materials. They should be housed to permit proper cataloging and to give textile and clothing students access to them. The students could use them as inspirational materials for creative courses. A study room should be included."

The department, she explained, hopes to foster creativity in students so that some, at least, may earn a living in the apparel design field. Many students are interested in professions in fashion and fabric merchandising.

HAVING an appreciation of fabrics and costumes of the many countries, Miss Gustafson said, assists students to be more proficient. A knowledge of costumes of the past also adds interest to their chosen field.

The basic function of a CSU costume museum would be to assist students. However, exhibits of interest to area residents would be arranged.

Miss Gustafson has discussed creation of a costume museum with the university administration. Ideally, some pieces would be added to the collection each year.

The department has acquired a few items — a Japanese kimono, a number of oriental dolls and an Indian sari. The sari was purchased this year.

"When a museum is established," Miss Gustafson said, "we would be happy to receive any garment or fine piece of fabric of the past as a gift or loan. The department would want to recognize and honor any donor."

Seeing what peoples have done in clothing, she said, helps develop an appreciation of other cultures. "We learn that ours is not the only way."



Costume Museum Her Dream

Miss Dagmar Gustafson, who hopes that a costume museum will be established at Colorado State University, is showing two items from her own collection. Miss Gustafson, head of the textiles and clothing department in the College of Home Economics, is ending her 19th year at the university. In the picture at the left she is showing a woman's costume of China of the 1800s or earlier. The costume includes an an-

cestral collar and a 12-panel skirt. At the right Miss Gustafson is holding a sunbonnet of black taffeta. The bonnets were worn in this country from the middle 1880s to the middle of the 1890s. Miss Gustafson shows items from her collection at CSU to aid those studying textiles and clothing design. (COLORADO-AN Photos by BILL WUNSCH)

Oregon and Kansas State universities are two schools which have costume museums and there is a collection at a Rhode Island school.

"A costume museum at CSU," Miss Gustafson said, "would be part of any new home economics facility. We hope it will be in the near future."

The textiles and clothing department is now housed in three buildings — Guggenheim Hall, the Home Economics Annex and the former publications building. The department even has a piece of testing equipment in the Animal Science Building.

MISS GUSTAFSON'S personal collection includes 60 to 70 items — costumes, parts of costumes, fabrics and costume dolls. She has some valuable oriental pieces — including a Kashmir shawl of the late 18th century. The

shawls were used by court women in Europe. She also has a paisley shawl. Designs in the paisley shawls were copies of the ones in the oriental wraps.

In Miss Gustafson's button collection are ones of jet, ivory, walnut, silver, pewter, brass, copper, teakwood, rose quartz, cinnabar and Satsuma porcelain.

On display in her office in Guggenheim Hall, among other articles, are fingernail protectors from China and a Chinese hairpin of spinach jade.

She has fortunate nieces and nephews who will inherit her collection. Some of the pieces she has bought partly as an investment, because they increase

in value as they grow older.

Her interest in collecting was inspired by Miss Olive Settles, one of Miss Gustafson's instructors at Iowa State University at Ames. Miss Settles was an avid collector.

Explaining her interest in a CSU costume collection museum, Miss Gustafson said, "We've gone beyond the day when we sew; therefore a forward-looking textiles and clothing department goes into other areas."

The CSU department head received a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska and a master's degree at Iowa State University.