Jewellery in the V&A's Archive of Art and Design

The V&A’s Archive of Art and Design holds the working papers of individual artists and designers, as well as the records of companies and associations involved in all aspects of applied art and design. The archives can be consulted by appointment at Blythe House, located near Olympia in West London.

The jewellery archives offer an interesting overview of changes in taste and style across some two hundred years of the design, manufacture and retail of jewellery. The archive for Garrard & Co. Ltd, who became crown jewellers in 1843, includes Gentlemen’s ledgers containing indexes of goods and some client accounts covering the period 1735 to 1949. There is also a collection of hand-drawn jewellery designs by William Snelling Hadaway as well as his privately printed essay on opals dating from 1907.

Prolific design team Nelson and Edith Dawson exhibited 125 pieces of jewellery at the London Fine Art Society in 1900, their archive contains designs dating from this time as well as glass negatives of necklaces, illustrated stockbooks and photographs.

The archives also contain albums produced by Anglo-Belgian designers Oppitz Jewellers which are full of meticulously detailed drawings and some early photographs of their work, all of which are quite beautiful in their own right.

For more details please visit Search the Archives consult the Guide to the Archive of Art and Design, Victoria & Albert Museum by Elizabeth Lomas (London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 2001), which not only lists the AAD archives, but also identifies related material in the V&A Museum and other institutions.

Jewellery Archives

  AAD/1995/7, AAD/1999/6
• Godman and Rabey, jewellers: records and designs, 1928-1980
  AAD/2005/1
• William Snelling Hadaway, jewellery and metalwork designer: papers,
  ca.1900-35.
  AAD/1978/8
• Frederick Mew, jewellery designer: papers, ca. 1924- ca.1984
  AAD/2009/9
• Oppitz Jewellers, jewellery designers: albums, ca.1890.
  AAD/1984/2

Contact details
Archive of Art and Design
Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, London, W14 0QX
Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2303
Contact us online

Access to the Archive of Art and Design
The Blythe House Archive & Library Study Room is open Tuesdays to Fridays, from
10.00 to 16.30, by appointment only.

You can find further access information, including a map on the V&A’s website.

IMAGE: Album page, Oppitz Jewellers, about 1840. Museum number AAD/1984/2/1