

Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Textiles

W&A



The V&A's Archive of Art and Design (AAD) 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 Archive of Art and Design's holdings for Fashion Textiles demonstrate a number of different facets of the creative process, from the design of textiles to their production and promotion to costume research. There is also an extensive collection of sewing and knitting patterns which, as well as providing an overview of changing fashions, act as a reminder of a time when making clothes at home was the norm.

Ramah Judah's collection of knitting and embroidery patterns include his personal notebook delineating knitting pattern effects,

two hand-written patterns, published knitting patterns of men's, boys and babywear from the 1930s to the 1960s and printed embroidery patterns, some of which date back to 1918. The archive of designer Elizabeth Davenport charts changes of style in ladies' knitwear with fifty-nine Vogue pattern books covering the period from 1937–1967.

George F. Ainscow's archive includes a personal account of his design career from the late 1920s to 1979. It also contains painted paisley designs for dressing gowns and ties and many other eye-catching designs for fashion fabrics dating from 1950–1978. Sylvia Clarke designed prints for silk dresses and ties, especially popular was her 1937 'Coronation' design celebrating the accession to the throne of George VI. Her archive contains a selection of fabric designs, including hand-painted floral and geometric patterns and screen printed textile samples.

The *Ambassador* magazine (originally called *International Textiles*) published news on developments in the fashion and textiles industry from 1933–1987 with articles on subjects such as dyeing techniques and newly created fabrics. As well as holding volumes of the magazine from its inception up to 1970, the Archive of Art and Design has photographs and negatives from magazine shoots and correspondence between the editors and artists, including such names as Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland.

Design in the AAD

- George F. Ainscow, textile designer: papers, 1930– about 1993
[AAD/1993/12](#)
- O.M. Bayles, advertising artist and textile designer: textile designs, about 1938–50
[AAD/1984/14](#)
- Beth Brett, knitwear designer: papers, 1970s–1990s
[AAD/2008/4](#), [AAD/2010/6](#)
- Sylvia Clarke, textile designer: papers, 1935– about 1995
[AAD/1998/2](#)

- A. Haines & Son, textile designers: designs, about 1950–60
[AAD/1986/2](#)
- Francis Johnston, needlework pattern designer: papers, about 1904– about 1962
[AAD/2001/1](#)
- James Morton, founder of Morton Sundour Fabrics Ltd: papers, about 1890–1990
[AAD/1978/4, AAD/1991/3](#)
- Trude Neu, textile designer: papers, about 1912–96
[AAD/2000/7](#)
- Mike Ross / Ritva Ross, knitwear designers, records, 1962–2003
[AAD/2001/2, AAD/2003/8, AAD/2005/4](#)
- Eve Sandford, knitting designer: albums, 1961–69
[AAD/1988/6, AAD/2014/13](#)

Promotion in the AAD

- The Ambassador, export magazine for fashion and textiles: records, 1933–87
[AAD/1987/1](#)
- European Commission for the Promotion of Silk, photographs, about 1970–76
[AAD/1978/5](#)
- Presage: Paris Fashion Forecast, about 1961–87
AAD 746.92 PRE

Production in the AAD

- Calico Printers' Association Ltd: textile sample books, 1933–70
[AAD/1988/9](#)
- Madame Crystal Ltd, glove maker and A. Tugendhat, yarn importer: records, 1928–90
[AAD/1991/6](#)
- Textile sample book, 1856–57
[AAD/2008/5](#)

Research in the AAD

- Catherine Lucas, costume researcher: papers, about 1967–78
[AAD/1982/5](#)

Sewing and knitting patterns in the AAD

- Eileen Calvert, knitter and needlewoman: collection, about 1930–86
[AAD/1993/10](#)
- Elizabeth Davenport, knitwear designer: papers, 1937–88
[AAD/1991/8](#)
- Ephemera Collections: patterns for crochet, embroidery, knitwear and sewing, 1885 – about 1979
[AAD Ephemera](#)
- Ethel Garnham, crocheter, knitter and seamstress: collection, about 1930–51
[AAD/1991/5](#)
- Ramah Judah, embroiderer and knitter: collection, 1918 about 1949
[AAD/1990/3](#)
- Knitting Patterns: about 1850 – about 1863 and about 1939– about 1959
[AAD/1990/11, AAD/1995/34, AAD/2000/1](#)
- Eve Sandford, knitting designer: albums, 1961–69
[AAD/1988/6](#)
- Sewing Patterns: 1933–90
[AAD/1984/7, AAD/1984/8, AAD/1988/15, AAD/1992/7, AAD/1995/28, AAD/1996/3](#)

Search

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You can also 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 and other institutions.

Access

The V&A Archive of Art & Design is located at Blythe House, near Olympia in West London and can be consulted by appointment only.

[Find out how to access the Archive of Art & Design](#)

Contact

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