

Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Jewellery

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 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.

Jewellery in the AAD

- Nelson and Edith Dawson, silversmiths and decorative artists: papers, 1822–1939
[AAD/1987/7](#), [AAD/1988/8](#), [AAD/1991/9](#), [AAD/1992/4](#)
- Garrard & Co. Ltd, crown jewellers: records, 1735–1949
[AAD/1995/7](#), [AAD/1999/6](#)
- Godman and Rabey, jewellers: records and designs, 1928–80
[AAD/2005/1](#)
- William Snelling Hadaway, jewellery and metalwork designer: papers, about 1900–35
[AAD/1978/8](#)
- Frederick Mew, jewellery designer: papers, about 1924– about 1984
[AAD/2009/9](#)
- Oppitz Jewellers, jewellery designers: albums, about 1890
[AAD/1984/2](#)

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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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IMAGE: Album page, Oppitz Jewellers, about 1840. Museum number AAD/1984/2/1. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London