

Archive of Art & Design research guide

Fashion

V&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.



From the classic couture of the House of Worth to the street style of Antoni + Alison, the collections of the Archive of Art and Design show how fashion design has changed since the 19th century. As well as designs and sketches, there are also fabric samples, marketing records, photographs and correspondence, documenting the careers of several top British fashion designers.

Revolutionary fashion styles are represented in the archives of John Stephen (the 'King of Carnaby Street'), Barbara Hulanicki and Biba, the Presage fashion forecast magazine, and 1970s knitwear by Ritva. More traditional styles can be seen through the archives of Lachasse, Ronald Paterson, Michael Sherard and Victor Stiebel, while popular fashion is recorded in extensive collections of home knitting and sewing patterns.

Fashion photography and illustration, including the scrapbooks of Cecil Beaton, are also available, as are designs for shoes, hats, underwear, cosmetics and jewellery.

Designers in the AAD

- Antoni + Alison, fashion designers: records about 1976–97
AAD/1997/20
- Maison Arnold, fashion house: records about 1900–20
AAD/1984/5

- Cecil Beaton, illustrator, photographer and stage designer: scrapbooks 1922–80
[AAD/1986/13](#)
- Biba, fashion retailer and department store: records about 1970–94. See also Barbara Hulanicki
[AAD/1996/6](#), [AAD/2014/1](#)
- Beth Brett, knitwear designer: papers, 1970s–1990s
[AAD/2008/4](#), [AAD/2010/6](#)
- John Cavanagh, fashion designer: papers
[AAD/2011/13](#)
- Harold Felber, fashion designer: papers, about 1950– about 1989
[AAD/1991/13](#), [AAD/1994/3](#)
- Barbara Hulanicki, designer and founder of Biba ([AAD/1996/6](#)): papers 1980–86
[AAD/1988/14](#)
- Isobel, fashion designer: papers about 1950– about 1988
[AAD/1991/12](#)
- Marjorie Janko, lingerie designer: papers 1885– about 1974
[AAD/1998/14](#), [AAD/2011/5](#)
- Lachasse Ltd, ladies dressmakers, milliners and tailors: records about 1930–81
[AAD/1989/6](#)
- Lucile, fashion designer: papers, 1904–33
[AAD/2008/6](#)
- Mark Luker, fashion designer and illustrator: papers about 1919–72
[AAD/1997/6](#)
- Betty Newmarch, fashion designer: papers, 1946–83
[AAD/1995/16](#)
- Ronald Paterson, fashion designer: papers, about 1950– about 1970
[AAD/2001/4](#)
- Pilot Fashions, ladieswear designers and wholesalers: press cutting albums and fashion sketches. 1940–62
[AAD/1995/11](#)
- Richard O. Porter, fashion wholesalers: albums 1902–51
[AAD/1995/10](#)
- Thea Porter, fashion designer: papers about 1960–89
[AAD/1995/4](#)
- Ritva / Mike Ross / Ritva Ross, knitwear designers, records, about 1966– about 1980
[AAD/2001/2](#), [AAD/2003/8](#), [AAD/2005/4](#)
- Eve Sandford, knitting designer: albums, 1961–9
[AAD/1988/6](#)

- Michael Sherard, dress designer: press cuttings albums, 1947–83
[AAD/2000/6](#)
- Frederick Starke, fashion designer and promoter: press cuttings, 1949–69
[AAD/2000/10](#)
- Victor Stiebel, fashion designer: press cutting albums, 1932–63
[AAD/1994/1](#)
- John Stephen, fashion designer: papers, about 1955– about 1980
[AAD/1998/5](#), [AAD/2004/2](#)
- House of Worth Ltd and Paquin Ltd, couture house: drawings 1889– about 1952 and photographs about 1899–1929. A microform copy of the photograph albums is also available in the National Art Library (Pressmark F.92.0008)
[AAD/1982/1](#), [AAD/1990/4](#), [AAD/2009/11](#)

Manufacturers and Retailers in the AAD

- Calico Printers' Association Ltd: textile sample books, 1933–70
[AAD/1988/9](#)
- Denman and Goddard Ltd, tailors and woollen drapers: records, 1833–1987
[AAD/2008/10](#)
- George Malyard, hatter: records, 1966–83
[AAD/1988/7](#)
- John Templeton Ltd, button manufacturer: button samples and designs, about 1950–about 1969
[AAD/1995/23](#)
- Lilley and Skinner Ltd, shoe manufacturers and retailer: publicity albums, 1909–63
[AAD/1977/5](#)
- Madame Crystal Ltd and A. Tugendhat, glove maker; yarn importer: records, 1928–90
[AAD/1991/6](#)
- Portland Outfitters, hosiers and outfitters: records, 1896–1962
[AAD/1983/2](#)
- S. London Ltd. furrier: records, about 1920–68
[AAD/1994/5](#), [AAD/2011/15](#)
- Samuel Johnson & Sons (London) Ltd, button manufacturer and retailer: records, about 1920–80
[AAD/1998/9](#)
- Silhouette (Salop) Ltd, sportswear, underwear and swimwear manufacturer: marketing records, 1957– about 1989
[AAD/1994/21](#)

- Robina Wallis, second hand clothes dealer: records, about 1928–59
[AAD/1989/8](#)

Photographers in the AAD

- John French, fashion photographer: papers, about 1948–85
[AAD/1979/9](#)
- Cecil Beaton, illustrator, photographer and stage designer: scrapbooks, 1922–80
[AAD/1986/13](#)

Fashion illustration in the AAD

- Loulou Brown, fashion illustrator: papers, 1916–50
[AAD/1997/10](#)
- Husey Gould, illustrator, album: 1903–4
[AAD/1995/27](#)
- Cuthbert Grasemann, amateur artist: sketches, 1906–57
[AAD/1988/11](#)
- Jan Langan, fashion illustrator: papers, about 1960– about 1980
[AAD/2013/1](#)
- Mark Luker, fashion designer and illustrator: papers, about 1919–72
[AAD/1997/6](#)
- Francis Marshall, fashion and social illustrator: tearsheets, ca.1920–80
[AAD/1987/8](#), [AAD/1990/2](#), [AAD/2011/17](#)
- Daphne Razzell, fashion illustrator and design assistant: papers
[AAD/2015/11](#)
- Sigrid Roesen, editor and fashion illustrator: papers, ca.1930–71
[AAD/1991/2](#)
- Eric Stapler, fashion illustrator and textile designer: papers, about 1930– about 1950
[AAD/2018/3](#)
- Elizabeth Suter, fashion illustrator and lecturer: papers, 1960s–1980s
[AAD/2007/9](#)

Fashion accessories in the AAD

- Lilley and Skinner Ltd., shoe manufacturer and retailer: publicity albums, 1909–63
[AAD/1977/5](#)
- Lachasse Ltd, ladies dressmakers, milliners and tailors: records, about 1930–81
[AAD/1989/6](#)

- George Malyard, hatter: records about 1966–83
[AAD/1988/7](#)
- Simone Mirman, milliner: albums, 1954–67
[AAD/1995/24](#)
- Madame Crystal Ltd and A. Tugendhat, glove maker; yarn importer: records, 1928–90
[AAD/1991/6](#)
- George Malyard, hatter: records, 1966–83.
[AAD/1988/7](#)

Fashion promotion in the AAD

- The Ambassador, export magazine for fashion and textiles: records, 1933–87
[AAD/1987/1](#)
- BLITZ magazine: records, 1980–91
[AAD/1997/2](#)
- Trudie Bradley, shop window designer: papers, 1937–38
[AAD/2013/4](#)
- European Commission for the Promotion of Silk, silk garment publicists: photographs, about 1970–6
[AAD/1978/5](#)
- Barbara Goalen, model: papers, 1950s
[AAD/2010/5](#)
- INSOC (Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers): papers
[AAD/2011/14](#)
- Alyson Lancaster, swimwear model: papers, 1929–2008
[AAD/2011/10](#)
- Eric Lucking, window dresser: papers. 1936–1984
[AAD/1986/8](#)
- Presage: Paris Fashion Forecast, about 1961–87
AAD 746.92 PRE
- Frederick Starke, fashion designer and promoter: press cuttings, 1949–69
[AAD/2000/10](#)

Sewing and Knitting in the AAD

- Beth Brett, knitwear designer: papers, 1970s–1990s
[AAD/2008/4](#), [AAD/2010/6](#)

- 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](#)
- Glove patterns: about 1940s
[AAD/2010/1](#)
- Ramah Judah, embroiderer and knitter: collection, 1918– about 1949
[AAD/1990/3](#)
- Knitting patterns: about 1850– about 1863
[AAD/2000/1](#)
- Knitting Patterns: about 1939– about 1960
[AAD/1990/11](#), [AAD/1995/34](#)
- Ritva / Mike Ross / Ritva Ross, knitwear designers, records, about 1966– about 1980
[AAD/2001/2](#), [AAD/2003/8](#), [AAD/2005/4](#)
- Eve Sandford, knitting designer: albums, 1961–9
[AAD/1988/6](#), [AAD/2014/13](#)
- Sewing Patterns: 1933–90
[AAD/1984/7](#), [AAD/1984/8](#), [AAD/1988/15](#), [AAD/1992/7](#), [AAD/1995/28](#), [AAD/1996/3](#), [AAD/2014/12](#)

Collectors in the AAD

- Heather Firbank, socialite: papers, about 1880–74
[AAD/2015/1](#), [AAD/2017/12](#)

Ephemera in the AAD

- Exhibition ephemera: Textile Arts Festival, Bradford (1990), Clothes Show Live, London (1989)
AAD Ephemera
- Paul Frith, fashion designer: carrier bags and printed ephemera (1980–89)
[AAD/1993/2](#)
- High Street Trawl ephemera: files of High Street Trawl ephemera (1988–2001)
AAD Ephemera
- Thematic ephemera: patterns for crochet, embroidery, knitwear and sewing (1885– about 1979)
AAD Ephemera

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

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Image: fashion photograph, John French. Museum no. AAD/1979/9. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London