

## HISTORIC TEXTILE PRESERVATION SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Use extreme care when handling historic textiles making sure to support the weight of the garment evenly. Two people may be needed with oversized textiles. Use a sling fashioned from a clean cotton sheet or rigid piece of archival-quality grey board or coroplast for support
- ❖ Remove jewelry (rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces) that could snag fibers when handling historic textiles
- ❖ Wash hands and/or use white cotton gloves when handling historic textiles
- ❖ Avoid lotions, perfume, etc. when handling textiles
- ❖ Do not smoke around textiles
- ❖ Store historic textiles in acid-free, unbuffered archival boxes lined with acid-free tissue or unbleached muslin
- ❖ Pad folds and creases of garments which cannot be stored completely flat. Stuff sleeves, bodices with crumpled acid-free tissue rolls for support
- ❖ Take photos of your historic textiles for documentation and as a baseline for the general condition of the item(s)
- ❖ Document what you know about the history of the textile for future generations
- ❖ Do not use wire hangers. Make your own padded hanger using polyfil stuffing and unbleached muslin for support
- ❖ Do not hang garments which are heavy, heavily beaded, cut on a bias, knit or have weak seams
- ❖ Do not store historic textiles directly in cedar chests or wooden drawers. The off-gassing from the wood can cause yellowing
- ❖ Do not store your historic textiles in an attic, basement or non-climate-controlled shed to avoid wild fluctuations in relative humidity and temperature
- ❖ Store and display items in areas away from windows, exterior doors, HVAC vents, etc.
- ❖ Store in an areas with good ventilation

## HISTORIC TEXTILE PRESERVATION SUGGESTIONS continued

- ❖ Do not encapsulate textiles. Let them breathe.
- ❖ Avoid storing textiles in dry cleaner's plastic
- ❖ If storing multiple garments in an archival box, place the heaviest item at the bottom and interleave between pieces with acid-free tissue. Do not overpack the box
- ❖ Do not store textiles in vacuum sealed plastic bags—plasticizers cause yellowing; storing in a plastic sealed container creates a microenvironment that can promote mold growth