
The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library Fashion Resources

The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library

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For current Library
hours visit us at
metmuseum.org/watson

Costume Institute Library and the Costume Institute Collection

- General information about The Costume Institute department [here](#).
- The [Costume Institute's Irene Lewisohn Costume Library](#) is accessible to qualified researchers by appointment only. Please contact: CostumeInstitute.Library@metmuseum.org
- Any questions about garments, objects, or accessing the [Costume Institute Collection](#), please contact: CostumeInstitute.Collections@metmuseum.org

Press releases for Costume Institute exhibitions

Past and present press releases available on the [Met's website](#).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Timeline of Art History: Costume Institute Essay Collection

Thirty of the [41 essays displayed](#) are written by curatorial staff in the Costume Institute

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Libraries' Digital Collections

[Costume Institute](#) collection

- [Bergdorf Goodman fashion sketches, 1929-1952](#)
- [French fashions, 1895-1915](#)
- [Costume Institute exhibition binders, 1939- recent](#), including installation/gallery views, wall text, label information
- [Costume Institute Fashion Plates \(1790-1939\)](#), from various publications, including women's, men's, children's, wedding dresses, accessories

Bloomsbury Fashion Central

(subscription database includes these two resources accessible from same homepage, onsite only)

[Berg Fashion Library](#)

- Covers 1600 to present, non-western/western, fashion accessories and jewelry
- Useful for verifying biographical information and terminology
- Includes full text access to the Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion, the A-Z of Fashion, the Dictionary of Fashion, e-books and journals, and museum collection images

[Fashion Photography Archive](#)

- 775,00 images currently available runway, behind the scenes, and street style images by photographer Niall McInerney from international runway shows 1970s-early 2000s and over 400 designers including McQueen, Gaultier, Westwood, Chalayan, Galliano, and more.

Fashion and trade magazines via ProQuest

(subscription databases available onsite only)

- [Harper's Bazaar Archive](#): 1867 to present



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- [Harper's Bazaar UK Archive](#): 1929-2015
 - [Vogue Archive \(US\)](#): 1892 to present
 - [Vogue Italia Archive](#): 1964 to present
 - [Women's Wear Daily Archive](#): 1910 to material within last twelve months

For each of these resources, the "About" link will have a short history of the magazine and subject coverage.

"Browse Issues" page will indicate the most recent issue digitized. Some issues have a list of fashion editors and their working dates, but this section also allows you to look for a specific issue (e.g. April 15, 1967).

Sample search: "Cindy Crawford": You can modify your search results with the options on the left side of the screen and find out how many *Vogue* covers she has been on and how many times each photographer has photographed her.

Sample search: "Chanel": You can narrow your results to only advertising images, as well as specific brands and products such as Chanel No. 5 perfume.

Vogue Runway

(free online resource)

- Runway photographs since Spring 1991 ready-to-wear collections
- Covers women's wear, menswear, ready-to-wear, couture, etc.
- Searchable by season or designer

Designer Files

Ephemera, tearsheets, press clippings, etc. In Watsonline, these files are marked "Department Use Only" but these can be viewed in Watson Library if a researcher inquires (a few folders). Folders with less than a dozen sheets can be scanned and emailed as a courtesy.

- [Link](#) to see all people/company files (call number search for "Costume File – People")
- [Link](#) to see all subject files (call number search for "Costume File – Subject")

Lookbook Collection

Catalogs of a designer's collection for a specific season, e.g. Chanel Fall-Winter 2002. These are requestable by the box by designer/brand name and time period (not individually cataloged).

- [Link](#) to see all records

Costume Institute Records, 1930s-2008

These are available by appointment only to qualified researchers in the [Museum Archives](#)

- The Costume Institute records document the organization's activities from the 1937 founding of its precursor, the Museum of Costume Art, through its 1946 merger with the Metropolitan Museum as The Costume Institute, its establishment as a curatorial department in 1959, and its production of exhibitions in the early 2000s. The largest volume of records document individual curators and administrators from 1937 through the early 2000s, exhibitions organized by the Museum of Costume Art at various locations and by The Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum from 1937 to 2008, Party of the Year administrative records from 1948 to 1970, and scrapbooks and publicity materials from 1948-2007.

Costume Institute Special Collections

These include photograph collections, scrapbooks and ephemera collections, sketch collections, and textile samples. The collections document European and American fashions from the late 19th through the early 21st centuries and complement the Museum's holdings in the Costume Institute and digital collections.

- Photograph collections
- Scrapbooks and ephemera collections

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- Sketch collections
 - Textile samples
 - See PDF [here](#) for the complete list of Costume Institute Library special collections materials with brief descriptions, size, and links to each finding aid

Instagram @costumeinstitutelibrary

- A look at The Costume Institute Library collection and the latest acquisitions, updated daily
- Each @costumeinstitutelibrary post has a Bitly URL link that can be copy/pasted into a web browser that leads to the Watsonline record for the specific book or object shown
- Specific library hashtag content: [#CILDigitalCollections](#), [#CILlookbooks](#), [#CILSpecialCollections](#), [#CILPeriodicals](#)
- You do not need a smartphone or iPad! Viewable from any browser:
<https://www.instagram.com/costumeinstitutelibrary/>
- Also follow The Costume Institute department's main Instagram account [@metcostumeinstitute](#)

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