



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No.: HRHS- 62

COLLECTION TITLE: Maria Morrison Watercolor Dress Designs and Fashion Plate Collection

DATES: 1899, 1902-1922

SIZE: 3 (three) folders and 5 (five) OV boxes

DONOR: Rebecca Reba Yancey, 9/8/1975

PROCESSED: Processed 06/18/2013 by K. Craun and L. Adams

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Maria Morrison lived in a house on the corner of Liberty and W. Market St, Harrisonburg, currently where the Union Station restaurant is now located. Maria was a slim small woman of 4 feet tall and an elegant dresser. She earned a living as a dressmaker, designer and seamstress.

Maria was a member of the United Dressmaker's Association, who met in New York City each season to attend exhibits of European designers. At the time, patterns and fashion books were not available to customers. Dressmakers relied on skilled artists to make detailed water-color pictures of each model they wished to take back for customers. Each picture cost \$25-\$75. A cutting had to be done from the muslin and pin-fitted to the customer.

Maria was the youngest of 10 children. She and her sister Elizabeth, raised pedigree cats as well as chickens. Maria died on 7/23/1931 and was buried in Woodbine Cemetery.

For more biographical information see admin file with information taken from surname files.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Collection of watercolor dress designs and collection of fashion plates owned and used by Maria Morrison from the early 20th century. Fashion plates are from Le Costume Royal, LaMode Parisienne, B. Altman, The Delineator magazine, Harper's Bazaar magazine, Godey's Lady's Book magazine. Also cross reference museum accession #'s 70.28.03, 70.28.05, 70.28.06, 70.28.07, 70.28.10, 70.28.13.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Folder 1: Fashion plates from B. Altman & Co., 1920, 1922

Folder 2: Watercolors from Berkley Studios (mus acc #70.28.04 a-f)

Folder 3: Fashion sketches from Spurdle Studio (mus acc #70.28.11 a-h)

OV Box 1:

Folder 1: Fashion plates from Le Costume Royal, 1899-1908 (mus acc #70.28.05 a-p)

Folder 2: Fashion plates from Toilettes de Bal (mus acc #70.28.03 a-q)

Folder 3: Fashion plate from La Femme Chic (mus acc #70.28.13 h)

OV Box 2: 13 folders of fashion plates from Le Costume Royal, 1899-1914

OV Box 3: 7 folders of fashion plates from Le Costume Royal, 1915-1922

OV Box 4: 8 folders of misc fashion plates, 1915-1923

OV Box 5: 5 folders of misc fashion plates, undated

ARRANGEMENT:

3 folders of fashion plates, watercolors and sketches

1 oversized box of fashion plates transferred from the museum collection

2 oversized boxes of fashion plates from Le Costume Royal

2 oversized boxes of miscellaneous fashion plates