French Fashion Plate Collection: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Charla DelaCuadra.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.
Prints and Ephemera
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
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URL: http://www.huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection
Title: French Fashion Plate Collection
Dates (inclusive): 1807-1897
Bulk dates: 1832-1870
Collection Number: ephFASH
Extent: approximately 2,400 items in 24 boxes
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Abstract: This collection contains approximately 2,400 fashion plates from primarily French periodicals dating from 1807-1897 that depict contemporary fashions for women, men, and children, with the majority focused on women's fashions.
Language: French and English.
Note: Finding aid last updated on November 12, 2014.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Item title, Call number]. French Fashion Plate Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
No acquisition information is currently available for this collection. The majority of the fashion plates are mounted on album pages, but a small number of unmounted plates in Boxes 13-17 may have been added from a separate source. Prior references to this collection in Huntington Library shelf lists refer to it simply as "costume prints."
Scope and Content
This collection consists of approximately 2,400 printed illustrations of fashion trends dating from 1807 to 1897, with the majority of items spanning from 1832 to 1870. The images, known as "fashion plates," were often published in fashion and women's magazines or in bound volumes and primarily depict women modeling current dress styles, although some also contain children's and men's clothing. The majority of the collection is French and most of the tailors, seamstresses, fashion designers, artists, and printers credited on the plates were located in Paris, France.
Periodicals commonly represented in the collection include Le Bon Ton, Le Boudoir, Le Cabinet de Lecture, Le Caprice, Costume Parisiens, Le Follet Courier des Salons, Gazette des Salons, L'Illustrateur des Dames, Journal des Demoiselles, Journal des Femmes, Journal des Jeunes Personnes, Journal des Modes, La Lanterne Magique, Le Magasin des Familles, La Mode, La Mode des Demoiselles, La Mode Illustrée, Modes de Paris, Paris Elegant, Revue de la Mode, La Sylphide, Le Voleur, and several other publications. The English closely followed French fashions during this time period, and the collection also includes a few British plates. One example is an 1861 plate from the London periodical The Queen (Box 18).
The materials in this collection consist predominantly of hand-colored engravings that range in size from approximately 6" x 9" to 10" x 14". Most of the plates are mounted individually on larger loose album pages with mounting corners, tape, and/or adhesive, however a small number of additional unmounted plates are interspersed throughout.
Arrangement
This collection of fashion plates is contained in 24 boxes. The plates are arranged chronologically by year, and grouped loosely by publication within each year span.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Genres
Fashion plates.
Ephemera.
Engravings.
Intaglio prints.
Printed ephemera.

Subjects
Advertising -- Fashion.
Children's clothing -- Pictorial works.
Clothing and dress -- Pictorial works.
Dresses -- Pictorial works.
Fashion -- France -- 19th century.
Fashion -- France -- Periodicals.
Fashion -- Pictorial works.
Men's clothing -- Pictorial works.
Women's clothing -- Pictorial works.

Box 1 Fashion plates, 1807-1831
Box 2 Fashion plates, 1832-1833
Box 3 Fashion plates, 1834-1835
Box 4 Fashion plates, 1836
Box 5 Fashion plates, 1837
Box 6 Fashion plates, 1838
Box 7 Fashion plates, 1839
Box 8 Fashion plates, 1840
Box 9 Fashion plates, 1841-1842
Box 10 Fashion plates, 1843
Box 11 Fashion plates, 1844
Box 12 Fashion plates, 1845-1847
Box 13 Fashion plates, 1848-1850
Box 14 Fashion plates, 1851-1853
Box 15 Fashion plates, 1854-1856
Box 16 Fashion plates, 1857-1858
Box 17 Fashion plates, 1859-1860
Box 18 Fashion plates, 1861-1862
Box 19 Fashion plates, 1863-1864
Box 20 Fashion plates, 1865-1866
Box 21 Fashion plates, 1867-1868
Box 22 Fashion plates, 1869-1870
Box 23 Fashion plates, 1871-1884
Box 24 Fashion plates, 1885-1897