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Nell "Nelly Don" Donnelly Reed Collection

2024

Marla Day Press Pack

Marla Day Humanities Kansas

Marla Day Kansas State University

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About the Museum

The Historic Costume and Textile Museum is a notable collection of traditional and artistic artifacts. With over 15,000 holdings, the collection includes a number of Nelly Don dresses, wearable art from Anita Mayer, American quilts, salon shoes, military uniforms, Byzantine-era textiles, Chinese and other ethnic textiles, and clothing and textiles from famous



and not-so-famous midwesterners. The collection began at the beginning of the 20th century and continues to be augmented by friends, faculty and Kansas State University alumni who have lived and traveled throughout the world.

Mission

The mission of the museum is to preserve clothing and textile items of historic and artistic value that will facilitate educational, research and service activities in the department, the college and the university.

Ownership and Administration

The museum is administered by the <u>Department of Interior Design and Fashion Studies</u> in the College of Health and Human Sciences, Kansas State University.

The museum is located inside <u>Justin Hall</u>, where it is maintained in a climate- and light-controlled secure environment.



Exhibits of the collection holdings rotate throughout the Justin Hall display cases.

The museum works together with other K-State and community partners such as the <u>Marianna Beach Museum of Art</u>, the <u>Kemper Art Gallery</u> at the <u>K-State</u>

Student Union, and the Manhattan Arts Center to feature selections from the collection.

The museum also collaborates with area art and history museums that support a greater understanding and appreciation of historic dress and material culture in the community.

Some of the exhibits are the work of student assistants or volunteers who learn about creating historical exhibits.

Goals

The museum contributes to the mission of the Department of Interior Design and Fashion Studies, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and Kansas State University by its use in support of the following goals:

- To serve as an active repository for significant clothing and textiles artifacts acquired by the department
- To preserve this museum for use by present and future generations as a resource for instruction and research
- To promote the study and understanding of artifacts in the museum
- To support department curricula, especially in the area of historic costume and historic textiles

Welcome

The Historic Costume and Textile Museum is a notable collection of traditional and artistic artifacts. With over 15,000 holdings, the collection includes a number of Nelly Don dresses, wearable art from Anita Mayer, American quilts, salon shoes, military uniforms, Byzantine-era textiles, Chinese and other ethnic textiles, and clothing and textiles from famous and not-so-famous midwesterners. The collection began at the beginning of the 20th century and continues to be augmented by friends, faculty and Kansas State University alumni who have lived and traveled throughout the world.

Read more about the museum

How to Become Involved

Interested individuals can become involved with the Historic Costume and Textiles collection through:

- Donations of historic artifacts of designer origin, or with unique stylistic or designer elements, or provides an emphasis on the cultural aspects of clothing
- Donations of non-historic supplies
- Financial contributions to help defray costs of maintaining this valuable resource

Can you help? If so, please <u>contact us!</u>

<u>How to give</u>

Visiting the Museum

The museum features selected pieces for display in exhibit cases throughout <u>Justin Hall</u> on the Kansas State University campus.

Marla Day

Curator, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum

Contact Information

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Professional Biography

Marla Day received her B.S. and M.S. in Apparel and Textiles from Kansas

State University. She has been actively involved in the university's <u>Historic Costume and Textile</u>

<u>Museum</u> for much of her career, as well as being a K-State Research and Extension associate in textiles. She has been responsible for numerous curated exhibits including: Mantles for women: Rites of passage; Nelly Don: Dresses that worked for women; Woven wonders: A cross-section of American history; and the exhibit catalog Life passages: Women, dress and culture. She was awarded the NEH Scholarship in both 2007 and 2008 from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. She is an active member of the Kansas Museum Association.





Marla Day, Speaker

Curator of Kansas State University's Historic

Costume and Textile Museum in Manhattan

Dress for Success: Nelly Don and American Fashion

PRESENTATION BY: MARLA DAY

You can't mention 20th-century women's wear without thinking of Nelly Don. The Parsons native built a fashion empire on the vision that women deserved affordable, stylish clothing regardless of means or status. From humble beginnings, Don built a company that treated her workforce of women fairly, brought fashion to millions of American women, and became the largest dressmaker of the century. Ellen "Nell" Quinlan Donnelly's story is one of innovation, triumph, and hard work—all rooted in her small-town Kansas upbringing.

Contact Marla directly about speaking at your event:

mday@k-state.edu

(785) 532-1328

Manhattan

How to Bring a Humanities Kansas Speaker to Your Event

- 1. Review the Speakers Bureau catalog and select a speaker and topic.
- 2. Contact the speaker and confirm time, date, and location.
- 3. If interested, you can apply for funding to bring this speaker to your community. Find out how. (Please Note: Completed applications must be submitted six weeks before the event date to be considered for funding.)
- 4. Publicize your event. Download a press release template and photo and Humanities Kansas logo poster.
- 5. Tell us how it went. After the event, download and fill out a Speakers
 Bureau Evaluation and Cost Share Form. For applications submitted after November 1,
 2023, please log in to your applicant dashboard to access your report.