

Blanche Payne papers, 1930-1981

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Payne, Blanche, 1897-1972
Title	Blanche Payne papers
Dates	1930-1981 (inclusive) 1930 1981
Quantity	10.29 cubic feet (22 boxes, 1 tube)
Collection Number	1918 (Accession No. 1918-012)
Summary	Papers of a professor of home economics and authority on historic costume
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	These papers are open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Blanche Payne was born in 1897 in Thayer, Kansas. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Kansas State Teacher's College in 1916 and a master of arts degree in clothing from Columbia University in 1924. Payne taught high school English and home economics classes in Kiowa, Kansas, and Lewiston, Idaho, before serving as a student nurse at Camp Lewis, Washington in 1918. In 1919 she joined the faculty at Arizona State Teachers College, where she taught classes in textiles and clothing. From 1924 to 1926 Payne taught clothing classes at high schools in New York City, studied draping with French designer Madame Geo, and started her own design business.

Payne joined the University of Washington faculty in 1927, where she taught costume and apparel design in the School of Home Economics. In 1929 she took a leave of absence to study flat pattern at the Mitchell School of Design in New York City, then extended her leave until 1930 to travel through Central Europe and the Balkans surveying folk costume in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Albania, and Yugoslavia. Payne resumed her duties at the University of Washington in 1931 but returned to Yugoslavia in 1936 to 1937 for additional study. Her research focused on the regions of South Serbia (Macedonia), Croatia, Bosnia, North Serbia, and Dalmatia. In addition to exploring museum collections, Payne visited remote villages, markets, and festivals throughout the country to study and photograph peasant costumes. She also augmented her studies by drafting patterns from the clothing she encountered.

Payne's Yugoslav research failed to result in a full-length publication due to the prohibitive costs of publishing and the destruction of some of her color plates during World War II. However, in 1965 Payne published a textbook entitled *History of Costume*, which described the evolution of fashion from 3000 B.C. to 1900. The book contained detailed descriptions of historical and cultural fashions together with renditions of small-scale garment patterns that she meticulously drafted from various museum collections. In researching her book, Payne spent two years avidly collecting illustrations. Considered a foremost resource in the study of costume history, the text reflected her teaching philosophy that the study of original artifacts is of essential importance in understanding good design.

In addition to her intensive research on clothing and historic costume, Payne supervised work on the Textile and Costume Study Collection housed in the University of Washington School of Home Economics. As part of her studies of non-Western folk dress and embroidery technique, she collected original ethnic costumes along with textile and embroidery examples. She used her Balkan research as a valuable source for studying ethnic dress in its original context and to provide her students with primary source material for the study of modern costume construction and fine craftsmanship.

During the 1960s Payne consulted for the Brooklyn Museum, work that included a research trip to Europe to find costumes from the House of Worth for an exhibition. Payne retired from the University of Washington in 1966 and died in 1972.

Content Description

The Blanche Payne papers consist primarily of materials used in research for her books as well as for instruction. While the collection includes materials that are known to date from 1932-1981, many of the materials are undated. Most of the papers are from the 1940s through the 1960s. The original purpose of much of the material is unclear. For example, extensive notes, photographs, and illustrations that Payne made during visits to museums may have contributed to her *History of Costume* but were not kept with the manuscript. The typescript of the *History of Costume* is incomplete.

The bulk of the correspondence in the papers is with museums and organizations from which Payne had requested illustrations of costume and seems to be associated with the *History of Costume*.

Source material and several copies of the manuscript for Payne's book about Balkan costumes are grouped in the Speeches and Writings series under the book's tentative title, "Some Costumes of Jugoslavia."

The Study Sets series is a group of visual teaching aids that Payne and others in her department assembled as resources for students. They consist of clippings and occasional descriptions of various elements of costume, and were originally kept in binders in the library of the School of Home Economics.

The pattern drafts are scale drawings that Payne made of costumes she saw in various museums. Some depict garments of historical significance, such as the wedding costume of King Frederick V, while others are simply examples of period or ethnic dress. The sources of most of these costumes are marked on the pattern drafts.

The photographs are mostly reproductions of paintings that Payne selected for their significant examples of costume. Many of these were used or considered for the *History of Costume*, but some seem to have been teaching aids akin to the study sets. Payne acquired the reproductions from numerous museums worldwide.

Drawings in this collection are mostly tracings or copies of needlework, although some appear to be sketches of specific garments. Similar drawings can be found among her notes, which cover a wide variety of subjects related to costume history. It appears that the photographs, drawings, and notes served a similar function in Payne's research.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Some of the material in Blanche Payne's papers was originally part of the Textile Collection at the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington. The gallery collection was created in the University of Washington School of Home Economics but was disbursed after the school (reorganized as the School of Nutritional Sciences and Textiles in 1974) was dissolved in 1983. Some items were acquired by the Henry Gallery from the Seattle Museum of History and Industry before transfer to the University of Washington Libraries.

Other parts of the Costume and Textile Collection were transferred elsewhere. The historic costume book collection went to the University of Washington Drama Library, and the responsibility for the textile collection was assumed by the Henry Art Gallery.

Acquisition Information

These papers were acquired by the Special Collections division of the University of Washington Libraries in various installments from Blanche Payne in 1972; from Judy Sourakli in 1983; from the Henry Art Gallery in 1988, 1994, and 1998; and from John W. Sweet, trustee for the Payne estate, in 1991.

Processing Note

Processed by Lily Rajan in 2005.

22 prints, 6 negatives, 2 color transparencies, and 25 watercolor paintings were relocated in 2005 to the Blanche Payne Visual Materials Collection, PH Coll 380, also in the Special Collections division.

Separated Materials

One carton of fabric samples and embroidery was transferred to the Costume and Textile Collection at the Henry Art Gallery in 1991.

Bibliography

Blanche Payne, *History of Costume, from the Ancient Egyptians to the Twentieth Century* New York: Harper and Row, 1965.

Blanche Payne, "Some Costumes of Yugoslavia," *Bulletin of the Needle and Bobbin Club*, v. 41, 1957.

Diana Ryesky, "Blanche Payne, Scholar and Teacher," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, January 1986.

Diana Ryesky, "The Blanche Payne Collection at the Museum of History and Industry," *Portage*, v.5, no.3, Summer 1984.

Related Materials

Blanche Payne and others in the University of Washington School of Home Economics collected the materials that make up the Fashion Plate Collection, circa 1800-1910, which is housed in Special Collections. Selected plates from this collection have been digitized and are [available online](#) through the University of Washington Libraries Digital Collections.

The Museum of History and Industry in Seattle, Washington, received over 400 costumes, textiles, and home furnishings from the estate of Blanche Payne in 1973.

The Costume and Textile collection from the University of Washington School of Home Economics is now housed at the Henry Art Gallery on the University of Washington Seattle campus. All of the Blanche Payne eastern European pieces were transferred from the Museum of History and Industry to the Henry Gallery in 1992.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Incoming Letters, 1932-1965

Box-folder1/1-20

Outgoing Letters, 1957-1965

Box-folder1/21-25

General Correspondence, 1958-1964

Box-folder1/26

Speeches and Writings

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Balkan Manuscript: ("Some Costumes of Jugoslavia")	undated
<hr/> Box/Folder		
1/27-30	Typescript	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Most complete copy.	
2/1-5	Carbon Copy	undated
2/6-9	Photocopy	undated
2/10	Typed Copy (Incomplete)	undated
2/11	Table of Contents	undated
2/12	"Matron from the Vicinity of Djakovo"	undated
2/13	Illustrations	undated
Box- folder:Oversize		
21	Illustrations: Pattern Drafts	undated
Box/Folder		
2/14	Maps	undated
Box- folder:Oversize		
21	Maps	undated
Box/Folder		
2/15	Miscellaneous	undated
Box/Folder		
3/1-2	"The Clothing of Seattle Citizens in 1951" A survey to be enclosed in a time capsule at Alki Point.	1951
<i>History of Costume</i>		
Box/Folder		
3/3-5	Typescript (Incomplete)	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/6-11	Lists of Illustrations	undated
3/12-4/3	Illustrations: Pattern Drafts	undated
Box/Folder		
4/4	"Needlecraft"	1942
4/5	T. & C. Conference Talk: Costumes of Central Europe	1965

Speeches and Writings of Others

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/6	Batik	undated
4/7	Selections from <i>Le Costume Historique</i> by Albert Racinet	undated
4/8	"Textiles, Their Scientific Cleaning and Care," by Francina S. Greene	undated

Study Sets

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/9	Bridal Costume	1930-1931
	Costume History Notebook	undated
Box/Folder		
4/10	A: Primitive and Egyptian	undated
4/11	B: Assyria, Persia, Crete, Greece, Rome	undated
4/12	C: Roman, Coptic, 1st to 12th Centuries	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/13-14	D: 13th to 15th Centuries	undated
4/15	French Manuscript Reproductions, 15th Century	undated
4/16-5/1	E: 16th to Early 17th Centuries	undated
5/2	F: 17th to Early 18th Centuries	undated
5/3	G: 1760-1805	undated
5/4	H: Peasant Costume	undated
5/5	I: Laces	undated
5/6	J: Interiors, Exteriors, Embroidery	undated
5/7	K: First Half of 19th Century	n. d.
5/8	19th Century Fashion Illustrations	undated
6/1	L: 1850-1915	undated
6/2	M: 1915 and Later	undated
Box/Folder		
6/3-4	Costume Illustration Notebook	undated
6/5-7/13	History of Costume	1943
8/1	History of Textiles: Ozalid Prints	undated
8/2	Lace Terms	undated
8/3-4	Setbook of Historical Costume	undated
8/5-7	Special Art Study Sets: Costume	1979
Box:Oversize		
22	Timelines	undated

Pattern Drafts, undated

Box-folder8/8-9/70

Pattern Drafts, undated

Tube:oversize23

Pattern Plates, undated

Box-folder:oversize21-22

Needlework Patterns, undated

Box-folder9/71-76

Photographs

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Costume History Illustrations Includes both illustrations used and illustrations considered but not used in Payne's book, <i>The History of Costume, from the Ancient Egyptians to the Twentieth Century</i> . The arrangement corresponds to the structure of the book.	
Box/Folder		
10/1-2	Introduction: The Origin of Clothing	undated
10/3-11	Chapter 1: Egypt	undated
10/12-15	Chapter 2: Mesopotamia	undated
10/16-18	Chapter 3: The Bronze Age in Denmark	undated
10/19-11/1	Chapter 4: Crete and Greece	undated
11/2-11/9	Chapter 5: Etruscans and Romans	undated
11/10-11/13	Chapter 6: The Byzantine Empire	undated
11/14-15	Chapter 7: Western Europe to the Twelfth Century	undated
11/16	Ancient Jewlery	undated
11/17	Ancient Embroidery	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12/1-4	Chapter 8: Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries	undated
12/5-10	Chapter 9: The Fourteenth Century	undated
12/11-20	Chapter 10: Men's Costume of the Fifteenth Century	undated
12/21-13/7	Chapter 11: Women's Costume of the Fifteenth Century	undated
13/8-14/15	Chapter 12: High Renaissance: Men's Costume of the Sixteenth Century	undated
14/16-31	Chapter 13: Women's Costume of the Sixteenth Century	undated
15/1-10	Chapter 14: The Baroque Period: Men's Costume of the Seventeenth Century	undated
15/11-16/5	Chapter 15: Women's Costume of the Seventeenth Century	undated
16/6-16/19	Chapter 16: Eighteenth-Century Fashions for Men	undated
16/20-17/10	Chapter 17: Women's Costume of the Eighteenth Century	undated
17/11-18	Chapter 18: Men's Wear in the Nineteenth Century	undated
17/19-18/11	Chapter 19: Women's Fashions of the Nineteenth Century	undated
18/12-16	Miscellaneous	undated
Box/Folder		
18/17	Cooper Union Museum	undated
18/18	Goteborgs Museum	undated
18/19	Nordiska Museet	undated
18/20	Oriental Institute	undated
18/21	Ozolid Prints	undated
18/22-19/6	Miscellaneous	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box- folder:Oversize		
21	Miscellaneous	undated

Drawings

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
19/7	Byzantine Tracings	undated
19/8	Greek Tracings	undated
19/9-10	Miscellaneous	undated
Box- folder:Oversize		
21	Miscellaneous	undated

Notes

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
19/11	Artists	undated
19/12-20/2	Costume	undated
20/3	Costume: 20th Century Fox	undated
20/4-5	Miscellaneous	undated

Subject Series

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
20/6	<i>Encyclopedia Americana</i>	1959-1962

Datebook/Journal, 1936

Box-folder20/7

Concerns a trip to the Balkan countries to collect documentation on Balkan costume.

Financial Records, 1936-1963

Box-folder20/8

Linen Samples, 1964

Box-folder20/9

Petticoat Model, 19th century, undated

Box-folder20/10

Ephemera, 1941-1958, undated

Box-folder20/11

Clippings

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box:Oversize		
21	Balkan Costumes	1981, undated
Box/Folder		
20/12-13	Miscellaneous	1928-1958, undated
Box:Oversize		
21	Miscellaneous	1950-1965, undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Blanche Payne papers, 1930-1981
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv22589>

Clothing and dress--History
Clothing and dress--Study and teaching (Higher)
Costume--Drawings
Costume--History
Costume--Photographs
Ethnic costume--Yugoslavia--History
Fashion--History
Home economics teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
Needlework--Drawings
Slavs, Southern--Clothing
Teaching--Aids and devices
University Archives/Faculty Papers (University of Washington)
Women college teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
Women historians--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives

Personal Names :

Payne, Blanche, 1897-1972--Archives

Corporate Names :

University of Washington--Faculty--Archives

Form or Genre Terms :

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

correspondence

curricula

Diaries

drawings

ephemera

Maps

Photographs

scale drawings

timelines (chronologies)

tracings

typescripts

writings

Titles within the Collection :

History of costume

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

University of Washington. University Archives

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