

# Donna Rydberg fashion modeling album, circa 1960-1964

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Rydberg, Donna, 1933-2008
<b>Title</b>	Donna Rydberg fashion modeling album
<b>Dates</b>	circa 1960-1964 (inclusive) 1959 1964
<b>Quantity</b>	1 box, (.42 cubic feet)
<b>Collection Number</b>	2012.38
<b>Summary</b>	Photographs, newspaper clippings and other materials documenting Donna Rydberg's modeling career and professional activities
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Museum of History &amp; Industry, Sophie Frye Bass Library</a> Sophie Frye Bass Library Museum of History & Industry P.O. Box 80816 Seattle, WA 98108 Telephone: 206-324-1126 Fax: 206-780-1533 <a href="mailto:library@mohai.org">library@mohai.org</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	The collection is open to the public by appointment.
<b>Languages</b>	English.

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## Biographical Note

Donna Rydberg was born in Seattle in 1933, the only child of German immigrants Leo and Freida Bartl. Her father worked as a pastry chef and they lived in the Queen Anne neighborhood. She attended Coe School and Queen Anne High. She received training in dance and classical ballet and was an avid equestrian. She married Clifford Rydberg on July 12, 1955, and the couple lived in the Queen Anne house where Donna grew up. They had no children. She died in Seattle on October 8, 2008 from complications of diabetes.

During the 1960s, Donna Rydberg had a successful modeling career and her work appeared in magazines, newspapers and fashion catalogs. She was also featured at various charity events and fashion show benefits at venues such as the Edgewater Inn, Frederick & Nelson, Seattle Center and Longacres Race Track. In 1961, she appeared at the outdoor groundbreaking ceremony for Gracie Hansen's Night in Paradise Show at the Seattle World's Fair. On a cold December day, she wore a show costume and elaborate headdress and entered the stage through a paper apple while Gracie Hansen threw apples to the audience and local press. During the Seattle World's Fair, she danced in Gracie Hansen's nightclub show and worked with John Eaton, a successful Seattle milliner who created and sold hats to the city's social set from the 1940s to the 1960s. Later in her career, Donna Rydberg taught modeling at the Anita Charles Beauty School located at 7th and Pine Street in downtown Seattle.

## Content Description

The collection consists of photographs, articles, fashion catalogs and magazine advertisements documenting the career of Seattle fashion model Donna Rydberg. The materials were collected and organized by Donna Rydberg into a 12x10 inch 3-ring album. The black and white photographic series includes studio portraits and photographer contact sheets of various modeling poses intended for self-promotion. Other photographs, including some in color, document activities such as fashion show in various venues, photo sessions and charity events.

Of particular interest, the collection includes newspaper clippings and photographs of Gracie Hansen and Donna Rydberg at a promotional event for the Seattle World's Fair on December 21, 1961. Other unique photographs include Donna Rydberg posing with Seattle designer John Eaton and modeling his Century 21 inspired hats at the Seattle Center. Newspaper clippings include Dorothy Neighbor's Fashion column from the Seattle Times. The collection features various print advertisements featuring Donna Rydberg and other models, including a 14-page Alaska Arctic Furs catalog.

## Use of the Collection

### Alternative Forms Available

View selections from the collection in digital format by clicking on the camera icons in the inventory below.

### Restrictions on Use

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### Preferred Citation

Donna Rydberg Fashion Modeling Album, Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

## Administrative Information

### Location of Collection

3a.4.8

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Monique Vescia, 2012

### Processing Note

The photographs, clippings and other materials were removed from the scrapbook album and stored in folders for preservation purposes. The original order of the album was retained.

## Related Materials

MOHAI's accession number 2013.6 consists of 4 black and white photographs of Donna Rydberg modeling clothing at MacDougall & Southwick fashion shows at the Edgewater Inn, 1963-1964.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

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

### Photographs, circa 1960-1964

Description	Dates
2012.38.1: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 2 copies 8x10 inches Photographer proof sheet with 8 different images, stamped on back, Photographic Productions, Inc.	circa 1960
2012.38.2: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 8x10 inches Photographer proof sheet with 12 different images, stamped on back, Photographic Productions, Inc.	circa 1960
2012.38.3: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 8x10 inches Photographer proof sheet with 12 different images, stamped on back, Photographic Productions, Inc.	circa 1960
2012.38.4: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 8x10 inches Photographer proof sheet with 8 different images, stamped on back, Photographic Productions, Inc.	circa 1960
2012.38.5: Donna Rydberg head and shoulders pose 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Frederick & Nelson Photograph Studio	circa 1960
2012.38.6: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed dresses Color photograph ; 8x10 inches Two different photographs attached together.	circa 1960
2012.38.7: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed coat with umbrella 8x10 inches	circa 1960

Description	Dates
Stamped on back, Frederick & Nelson Photograph Studio	
2012.38.8: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed coat with umbrella 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Frederick & Nelson Photograph Studio	circa 1960
2012.38.9: Donna Rydberg posing in raincoat with umbrella 8x10 inches	circa 1960
2012.38.10: Donna Rydberg posing in fur wrap and black dress 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Frederick & Nelson Photograph Studio	circa 1960
2012.38.11: Donna Rydberg head and shoulders pose 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Kennell-Ellis, Inc.	circa 1960
2012.38.12: Donna Rydberg head and shoulders pose 8x10 inches Signed on back, Donna Rydberg	circa 1960
2012.38.13-14: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed coat 8x10 inches	circa 1960
2012.38.15: Donna Rydberg posing in raincoat with umbrella 8x10 inches	circa 1960
2012.38.16-17: Donna Rydberg modeling on stage in front of audience 8x10 inches	circa 1960
2012.38.19: Donna Rydberg posing in a group with Union Oil sign, Space Needle in the background <a href="#">[view]</a> 8x10 inches	1962
2012.38.21: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 4 photographs 2x2 inches Individual photographs cut from proof sheet	circa 1960
2012.38.22: Donna Rydberg head and shoulders pose 8x10 inches	circa 1960
2012.38.23: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed dress with red hat <a href="#">[view]</a> Color photograph ; 8x10 inches	circa 1960

Description	Dates
2012.38.24: Donna Rydberg posing outdoors in fur-trimmed dress with Space Needle in the background Color photograph ; 8x10 inches	circa 1962
2012.38.25: Donna Rydberg modeling poses Color photograph ; 8x10 inches Photographer proof sheet with 12 different images, stamped on back, Yang Color Photography	circa 1962
2012.38.26: Donna Rydberg posing in fur-trimmed dress with back hat Color photograph ; 8x10 inches Handwritten on back: Bud Kimball, Box 66, Steilacoom, WA	circa 1960
2012.38.31: Donna Rydberg posing in white hat with John Eaton in front of Science Center <a href="#">[view]</a> 8x10 inches	circa 1962
2012.38.32: Donna Rydberg posing in white hat with Science Center arches in background <a href="#">[view]</a> 8x10 inches	1962
2012.38.33-34: Donna Rydberg posing outdoors in show costume with Gracie Hansen <a href="#">[view]</a> <a href="#">[view]</a> 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.35: Donna Rydberg posing in show costume holding a TV Guide 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.36: Donna Rydberg posing in show costume 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.37: Donna Rydberg on stage with John Eaton 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.39: Donna Rydberg, Gracie Hansen and Anne Stover 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photograph by the Seattle Times	1961
2012.38.40: Donna Rydberg on stage with John Eaton <a href="#">[view]</a> Donna Rydberg fashion modeling album, circa 1960-1964 <a href="http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv53503">http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv53503</a>	1961

Description	Dates
8x10 inches	
2012.38.41: Donna Rydberg posing in show costume holding a TV Guide 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.42: Donna Rydberg on stage with John Eaton 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.43: Donna Rydberg on stage with John Eaton and Gracie Hansen[ <a href="#">view</a> ] 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.44: Donna Rydberg on stage with Gracie Hansen throwing apples 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Photo by Howard Staples	1961
2012.38.48: Donna Rydberg head and shoulders pose 4x7 inches Outline trimmed from larger photograph	circa 1960
2012.38.49: Donna Rydberg posing in cape and skirt 8x10 inches Signed on back, Moe	circa 1963
2012.38.52: Donna Rydberg on stage in metallic jumpsuit 8x10 inches	1964
2012.38.54: Donna Rydberg on stage with other models 8x10 inches	1964
2012.38.55: Donna Rydberg on stage in gold jumpsuit 8x10 inches	1964
2012.38.56: Donna Rydberg posing in ski outfit 8x10 inches	1964
2012.38.58: Models applying makeup in front of mirror 5x7 inches	1964
2012.38.59: Donna Rydberg posing in black dress 8x10 inches Stamped on back, Frederick and Nelson Photographic Studio	circa 1963

Description	Dates
2012.38.61: Models applying makeup in front of mirror 5x7 inches	1964
2012.38.62: Models applying makeup in front of mirror 5x7 inches	1964
2012.38.64: Donna Rydberg modeling poses 1963 March 27 8x10 inches Photographer contact sheet with 12 images, includes negatives	

## Ephemera, circa 1962-1964

Includes newspaper and magazine clippings, programs and a catalog.

Description	Dates
2012.38.18: <i>Time</i> Magazine advertisement for Union Oil Company Photograph of Donna Rydberg posing in a group with Union Oil sign and Space Needle in the background.	1962 June 22
2012.38.20: Newspaper clipping "Premiere at Playhouse" Photograph of Donna Rydberg posing in full length dress	1964
2012.38.27-28: Alaska Arctic Furs catalog clippings of Donna Rydberg in fur parkas	circa 1964
2012.38.29: <i>Seattle Post-Intelligencer</i> article "Adventures in (Fair) Paradise- A Ground Break with Girls" Photograph of Donna Rydberg in show costume with Gracie Hansen	1961 December 22
2012.38.30: Newspaper clipping "Fall Fashions at Longacres and Luncheon Benefit" Photograph of Donna Rydberg in group outdoors	circa 1962
2012.38.38: Newspaper clipping "Home to Morton: Gracie to Lead Parade" Photograph of Donna Rydberg, Anne Stover and Gracie Hansen	1962
2012.38.45: <i>Seattle Times</i> article "Dorothy Neighbors Fashions" Photograph of Donna Rydberg modeling velvet dress	1963 September 15
2012.38.46: <i>Sea and Pacific Motor Boat</i> magazine covers 2 covers July 15, 1963 and September 1963 covers.	1963

Description	Dates
2012.38.47: <i>Seattle Times</i> clippings "Dorothy Neighbors Fashions" 5 clippings Photographs of Donna Rydberg modeling	1964
2012.38.50-51: <i>Seattle Times</i> clippings "Dorothy Neighbors Fashions" 7 clippings Photographs of Donna Rydberg modeling	1964
2012.38.53: <i>Queen Anne News</i> clipping, Designers on Stage Fashion Show Photographs of Donna Rydberg modeling on stage	1964 September 30
2012.38.57: "Designers on Stage" fashion show program Donna Rydberg modelled at this show, put on by the National Society of Interior Designers and the Seattle Children's Home	1964 September 28
2012.38.60: Newspaper advertisement for Anita Charles Beauty School 2 advertisements Photograph of Donna Rydberg	circa 1964
2012.38.63: Alaska Arctic Furs catalog 14 pages Alaska Arctic Furs, 1517 5th Avenue, Seattle	circa 1964
2012.38.65: <i>Sea and Pacific Motor Boat</i> magazine	1953 November
2012.38.: Newspaper clipping of Donna Rydberg in white hat with John Eaton in front of Science Center	1962

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Fashion industry--Washington (State)--Seattle

Fashion models--Washington(State)--Seattle

### Geographical Names :

United States--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Form or Genre Terms :

Ephemera

Photographs

Finding aid prepared by Sue Terrible  
2013





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