

# Fashion

## Collections Resource Guide

**Last Updated: 22 October 2024**

We preserve and provide access to a diverse range of archival material and Special Collections publications. This guide showcases some of our collections and items related to predominantly British and French fashion and textiles history to help you start your research, but it isn't an exhaustive list and won't cover all of the material that we hold.

You can also browse a frequently updated list of collections [tagged as relating to Fashion](#) via our catalogue.

Email [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk) for further information, and all enquiries and appointments. To browse all of our collections A-Z, please [visit our catalogue](#).

## SC – Special Collections Books and Publications

LJMU's Special Collections books and publications cover a wide range of topics from 1634-2024. Both visual arts and fashion publications are heavily represented within our collections.

Our [SC/19CP](#) 19<sup>th</sup> Century Periodicals subcollection includes many magazines aimed at women or which focus on domestic life which may be relevant to fashion. This includes titles such as *Ladies' Cabinet of Fashion, Music, and Romance*; *Ladies' Companion*; *The Ladies' Treasury: An Illustrated Magazine*; and *The Leisure Hour*, among others. This subcollection also has some crossover with the [LH](#) Liddell Hart Collection of Costume and the early [FEM](#) Femorabilia periodicals. If you are an LJMU student or staff member, you will also have access to the Gale online databases for 19<sup>th</sup> Century British [periodicals](#) and [newspapers](#).

20<sup>th</sup> Century fashion material held in Special Collections includes: early 20<sup>th</sup> Century French fashion plates from *Gazette Du Bon Ton*; British *Vogue* 1938-2010, *Vogue Italia* 1976-2009, *Vogue Paris* 1989-2010, *Vogue Knitting* 1955-1969, and *Vogue Patterns* 1974-1984 (American and Italian *Vogue* are also both available online via the [LJMU Library Discover](#) databases); *Vanity Fair* 1992-1999; *Stitchcraft* 1947-1958; among other textile and visual arts publications.

Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century publications held in Special Collections often relate to subculture and counterculture fashion, including contemporary fashion zines [SC/Z/2](#) and [SC/Z/3](#) produced with LJMU's School of Art, and rare and unique book publications related to streetstyle and punk. These book collections often crossover with our other Special Collections such as [TP](#), the papers of streetstyle photographer Ted Polhemus; [1966JS](#) 1966, [TJS](#) Teenage, and [ED](#) England's Dreaming, the writer's reference papers and collections for author Jon Savage; and [BM](#), the writer's reference papers and collections for author Barry Miles.

Our Special Collections are in progress of being transferred from our legacy catalogue into CALM. Until this transfer is complete, to browse all Special Collections, please visit the [LJMU Library Discover](#).

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## [LH](#) – Liddell Hart Collection of Costume

The Liddell Hart collection is a personalised 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century fashion collection curated by Sir Basil Liddell Hart, containing works concerning fashion, but also feminism, psychology of dress, and the social scene and society and used primarily as a substantial reference library for women's period dress.

It includes: reference books on fashion, textiles, and costume construction in the UK and continental Europe including the medieval, early modern, Victorian, and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century periodicals such as *The English Woman's Domestic Magazine*, *Belle Assemble*, *Aglaia*, *The Lady's Realm*, *Ladies Treasury*, *Journal de Demoiselles*, *Ladies' Cabinet*, *The Lady's Magazine*, *Ladies' Monthly Museum*, and *Harper's Bazaar*, among others; early-late 19<sup>th</sup> Century English and French fashion plates; Liddell Hart's writing and correspondence with other fashion enthusiasts and writers; newspaper cuttings related to early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century fashion in addition to a Spring-Summer 1957 Sears catalogue; and curated scrapbooks of clippings based on Liddell Hart's personal interests in women's period fashion, particularly 19<sup>th</sup> Century corsetry and tight lacing. The collection has some crossover with [SC/19CP](#) 19<sup>th</sup> Century Periodicals Special Collections and the early [FEM](#) Femorabilia periodicals.

His collection also contains bound volumes of *The Family Doctor*, an 1880s domestic medical periodical which Liddell Hart's friend Peter Farrer borrowed for use in his crossdressing research due to its frequent mention of both male and female crossdressing, and discussions of the intersections between fashion, beauty, and health, especially

corsetry and tight lacing. The Liddell Hart collection also contains occasional reference to transgressions of gendered norms in fashion, such as photographs of the notable crossdressers Fanny (Frederick William Park) and Stella (Thomas Ernest Boulton) and Stella's husband Lord Arthur Clinton, who also feature in Farrer's 1987 publication *Men in Petticoats*.

This collection is currently uncatalogued but a provisional list can be found in the Multimedia field of its [collection-level description](#), and the books within this collection are searchable via [LJMU Library Discover](#).

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **PF – The Peter Farrer Collection**

The Peter Farrer collection consists of published works by Peter Farrer, notable crossdresser and crossdressing historian, in addition to his large collection of unique and rare publications related to crossdressing, fetish, LGBTQ+, and transgender life in Britain from the Victorian period until the early 2000s, with a particular focus on corsetry and tight-lacing. This collection is uncatalogued but a provisional box list can be obtained by emailing [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk).

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **FEM – Femorabilia**

Femorabilia is a wide-ranging collection of comics, magazines, and periodicals aimed at girls and women. Although the collection is predominantly 1950s-1990s, it dates from 1857 until the 2000s, charting the development of the feminine reading career.

With over [200 titles](#) from vastly different time periods sitting under Femorabilia, the collection could be beneficial on a variety of research projects. It includes useful material on the expectations on women from Victorian deportment up until modern and contemporary beauty standards and popular fashion reflected within child, teen, and adult magazines respectively. The magazines also reflect subculture fashion, including subversive titles such as the feminist magazine [FEM/49 Spare Rib](#).

Femorabilia also has some crossover with [SC/19CP](#) 19<sup>th</sup> Century Periodicals Special Collection and the [LH](#) Liddell Hart Collection of Costume.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## TP – Ted Polhemus' Papers

Ted Polhemus is a photographer and anthropologist of fashion and the body, known for his sociological and anthropological examinations of style, the communicative importance of personal expressions within fashion, and representations of bodies within material culture.

His papers are split into three subcollections:

- [TP/ABAD](#) Anthropology of the Body, Adornment, and Dress. Themes from this subcollection include: body modifications such as tattoos, piercings, and cosmetic or plastic surgery; body image and eating disorders; body adornment; different cultural bodily norms; and representation of bodies. It contains mostly reference material such as books, magazines, and clippings, in addition to Ted Polhemus' own research notes, writing, and correspondence concerning copyright permissions.
- [TP/FF](#) Fashion and Fetishism consists of material collected and created by Ted Polhemus related to how fashion manifested within the (predominantly London-based) fetish and sex club scene, including: fetish fashion and erotic magazines; reference books; ephemera such as club flyers, business cards, and clippings; photographs; and audiovisual material.
- [TP/SS](#) Streetstyle consists of the material collected and created by Ted Polhemus related to his V&A *StreetStyle* exhibition and subsequent 1994 publication *Streetstyle: From Sidewalk to Catwalk*. It includes: photographs mostly taken by Polhemus; magazines including a full run of *i-D* and *The Face*; reference books; correspondence; London club flyers and ephemera, including fetish club promotional material; album covers; and other records related to *Streetstyle*.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## SR – Sheila Rock Photographic Collection

Sheila Rock is an American photographer who gained notoriety following her move to London in 1970 and subsequent work with *The Face* magazine. She is particularly known for her *PUNK +* (2013) publication which documented her time in the London punk scene and sparked following exhibitions in London, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

The majority of this collection consists of photographs, negatives, contact sheets, digital photographs, and photographic slides taken by Sheila Rock documenting the 1970s and 1980s London punk music scene, including photographs of many notable bands and

artists. The collection also includes one punk album MP3 pin badge, and a selection of other punk badges.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## Counterculture Collections

Alongside the aforementioned Ted Polhemus, *Spare Rib*, and Sheila Rock papers, our counterculture collections contain many potentially useful sources on subculture and counterculture fashion from the 1960s until the early 2000s. For a full list of our counterculture collections, please see the [Pop Culture, Music, and Counterculture Collections Resource Guide](#) available alongside this guide on our website.

Of particular note is:

- [ED](#) England's Dreaming, the Jon Savage collection of Punk archival and reference material collected for research for his 1991 publication *England's Dreaming: Sex Pistols and Punk Rock*.
- [FSXS](#) the Falcon Stuart and X-Ray Spex papers documenting the career of the photographer and subculture band music manager Falcon Stuart.
- [EPF](#) the papers of Pete Fulwell and Eric's Club, covering the management and promotion of punk and subculture music artists in the 1970s-1980s.
- [JMS](#) the John McCready Situationist International collection related to the Avant Garde situationist movement in Europe, and including items such as [JMS/O/000007](#) the Two Cowboys pillowcase t-shirt featuring illustration by Jim French, produced by Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood for their SEX shop on King's Road.

## [LJMUH/FLC](#) – F L Calder College of Domestic Science

F L Calder College of Domestic Science, founded 1875 as the Liverpool Training School for Cookery, is one of the ancestor Colleges which amalgamated into the 1970 Liverpool Polytechnic to eventually become Liverpool John Moores University in 1992. As a College of Domestic Science, Needlework and other textile-based skills were taught to students throughout its lifetime.

The collection includes a substantial number of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century examples of work produced by students for assessment, or made by teachers or purchased for demonstration purposes. These samples cover a range of textiles skills including many different forms of lacework, felting, knitting, crochet, tailoring, boning,

embroidering, applique, and other sewing and needlework skills. [LJMUH/FLC/9](#) contains most of the miscellaneous garment and textile work; [LJMUH/FLC/3/5/2](#) is the personal papers of alumni Myra Potts (née Barbara Mair Davies) whose student work from 1950 includes a series of 11 sewing and miniature garment samples; and [LJMUH/FLC/10/3](#) contains photographs of students on campus and in teaching, including photographs of students in needlework and sewing classes.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **LJMUH/SA – Liverpool School of Art**

Liverpool School of Art papers include records of the Department of Fashion and Textiles, which originated from the College's Tailoring Trades and Fashion Drawing classes established in the 1930s, alongside Hairdressing courses. Of particular note is:

- [LJMUH/SA/5/6/2](#) the annual Dress Parade records including photographs and programmes from the degree show dress parades
- [LJMUH/SA/5/6/3](#) the Cotton Board fashion competition records
- [LJMUH/SA/5/6/4](#) the Helanca Fashion School competition records
- [LJMUH/SA/5/7/2](#) photographs of students at work, including students in Fashion classes and of models wearing student-designed work.

Records of the School from the 1960s onwards overrepresent the Department of Fashion comparative to other departments, owing to the good record-keeping of the then-Head Charles Metcalfe, friend of Liddell Hart. Although records of the School end in 1970 when it was absorbed into the Liverpool Polytechnic, records of the Department of Fashion within the new Faculty of Art & Design continue under [LJMUH/LP](#) and later under [LJMUH/LJMU](#) after the 1992 establishment of Liverpool John Moores University.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## **LW/5 – Littlewoods Mail-Order Catalogues**

In addition to the Littlewoods [digital repository](#), we also physically hold twelve mail-order catalogues for Littlewoods dating 1934, 1939, 1947, 1949, 1953-1954, 1982-1983, 1983-1984, 1983, 1984, 1989-1990, 1991, 1993-1194, and 2011. These include many advertisements for clothing both adults and children.

Other clothing catalogues include a Spring-Summer 1957 Sears catalogue in [LH](#) the Liddell Hart Collection of Costume.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

## Future Collections

LJMU Special Collections & Archives is anticipating receiving more collections which relate to fashion history in the near future. Keep an eye on our social media for future updates, and email any enquiries to [archives@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:archives@ljmu.ac.uk).

We also welcome proposals for donations to our collections related to this theme. See our [Donations page](#) for more information.