

Lucille Rivelis Pfeiffer (1912-2002)
Papers, ca. 1970 - 1989
Doc 684-685, MS Size D

Introduction

This collection contains the research notes, patterns, painting formulas, publicity, historical costume research images, and photographs of Lucille Pfeiffer of Montpelier, Vermont, a creator of figurines wearing period costumes. The collection was donated to the Vermont Historical Society by Agathe McQueston, the executrix of the Pfeiffer estate, in 2003. It is housed in two archival document storage boxes and one oversize folder and consumes 2 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Note

Lucille Rivelis was born on June 16, 1912, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While in high school, she took private lessons in oil painting and attended classes at the Graphic Sketch Club. After high school, she studied in Paris (one year) and spent four years in Vienna, Austria, where she attended the Wiener Frauen Akademie, an art school for women and studied commercial art. At this school, she also had the opportunity to design costumes for the balls in Vienna. While in Vienna, she met and married Gerhard F. Pfeiffer (1907-1982), a chemist. Back in the United States, Mrs. Pfeiffer took a two-year course in dressmaking. Subsequently, she did some apron and quilt designs for the *Farm Journal* and also started making dolls. Not happy with the dolls, she used a book written by a sculptor to instruct her in making figurines using a wire armature and layers of newspapers.

In 1966, the Pfeiffers moved to Montpelier, Vermont. Lucille died on June 20, 2002, in Berlin, Vermont.

Scope and Content Note

Group I of this collection includes two appraisals of the figurines that are housed in the VHS museum collection, accounts of various exhibits, talk and lecture notes, display cards, documentation of an appearance on a Boston television show, newspaper articles, and witty sayings of Gerhard Pfeiffer.

Group II consists of photographs and slides of some of the figurines created by the artist.

Group III includes some of the artist's sketches and her directions for nearly every step in the process of making the figurines.

Group IV consists of patterns (paper, cardboard, and fabric) for the costumes the figurines wear, props that they hold or use, and the wooden carrying cases made by Gerhard Pfeiffer for some of the figurines.

Group V includes catalogues and research used by the artist. The catalogues include wigs, hair, sculpting tools, paint, and costume books. The research includes magazine cut-outs of bodies in various poses, different hair styles, hand positions, and extensive collections of articles with photographs of historically accurate costumes from many time periods and countries.

Related Collections

The VHS museum houses many figurines made by Lucille Pfeiffer. The accession number is 2003.14 and includes items .1 - .40. In addition to the finished figurines, there are plywood storage boxes built by Gerhard Pfeiffer, undressed figurines, a jig for forming hands, and some copper wire hands.

Inventory

I. Appraisal and Exhibits

- Doc 684:01 Appraisals of figurines, 1982, 1995
- 02 Exhibits/exhibit notes, 1971-1981
- 03 Notes
- 04 Display cards
- 05 Correspondence, 1969, 1972, 1976, 1973
- 06 Television appearances
- 07 Newspaper clippings, 1970, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1989
- 08 Miscellaneous

II. Photographs/slides

- Doc 684:09 Photographs, figurines
- :10 _____, Lucille Pfeiffer
- :11 _____, models
- :12 _____, family
- :13 Slides, figurines

III. Sketches, how-to

- Doc 684:14 Sketches
- :15 Materials, swatches

IV. Patterns

- Doc 685:01 Body measurements
- :02 Dressmaker form and directions, 1902
- :03 Gloves, men's and women's
- :04 Musical instruments
- :05 Top hat, 1863
- :06 Female shoes 1880, 1886, 1926
- :07 Male shoes
- :08 Basic underwear, stockings, crinoline
- :09 Male underwear and socks

- :10 Wooden cases for figurines
- :11 Fans, 1830, 1870
- :12 1066, man's costume (museum 2003.14.2)
- :13 1066, woman's costume (museum 2003.14.1)
- :14 1100, woman's costume
- :15 1440, Medieval man (museum 2003.14.7)
- :16 1440, Medieval woman (museum 2003.14.6)
- :17 1805, man
- :18 1830, female (museum 2003.14.8)
- :19 1830, man (museum 2003.14.9)
- :20 1839, morning dress and bonnet
- :21 1843, woman's dress (museum 2003.14.10)
- :22 1843, babet cap
- :23 1843, Victorian woman (museum 2003.14.10)
- :24 1843, male
- :25 1850s, female costume
- :26 1852, dress with flounces (museum 2003.14.11)
- :27 1853, man's costume (museum 2003.14.12)
- :28 1863, dress with crinoline
- :29 1863, male trousers and coat
- :30 1870, dress and small leather purse (museum 2003.14.17)
- :31 1870, evening dress (museum 2003.14.15)
- :32 1870, man's outfit (museum 2003.14.16)
- :33 1876, female (museum 2003.14.18)
- :34 1880, Victorian woman (museum 2003.14.19)
- :35 1886, woman's dress (museum 2003.14.20)
- :36 1897, female country dancer (museum 2003.14)
- :37 1897, female square dancer (museum 2003.14)
- :38 Female square dancer (museum 2003.14)
- :39 1897, square dancer and fiddler's trousers (museum 2003.14.27)
- :40 1890, square dancer jacket, trousers, belt, tie (museum 2003.14)
- :41 1907, afternoon dress, hat, parasol, handbag, corset
- :42 1914, figurine clothing
- :43 1920s, evening dress
- :44 1970, woman shopper (museum 2003.14.31)
- :45 1972, longhair wedding (museum 2003.14.30)
- :46 Woman hippy (museum 2003.14)

V. Catalogues / research

- Doc 684:16 Directions/ how-to
- :17 Catalogues for wigs, tools, costume books
- :18 Catalogues, paint
- :19 Research, body poses
- :20 _____, dolls
- :21 _____, faces, eyes, ears, lips
- :22 _____, fans, parasols

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| :23 | _____ | , hair-dos |
| :24 | _____ | , hands |
| :25 | _____ | , hats |
| :26 | _____ | , head profiles |
| :27 | _____ | , musical instruments |
| :28 | _____ | , sketches, American male, apparel, accessories |
| :29 | _____ | , Medieval, saints, virgins, mourners |
| :30 | _____ | , Medieval |
| :31 | _____ | , Colonial period costumes |
| :32 | _____ | , in German language |
| :33 | _____ | , Gothic, Medieval, German Medieval |
| :34 | _____ | , Hungarian peasant costumes |
| :35 | _____ | , Polish, Swiss, Austrian peasant costumes |
| :36 | _____ | , Tunbridge Fair dancers |
| :37 | _____ | , Miscellaneous |
| Size D | _____ | , Oversize miscellaneous |

Anita Rogers
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