

The Charles Kleibacker Collection

Finding Aid created December 2004 by Michelle Wardle

Papers donated to the Kent State University School of Fashion in 2004 by Charles Kleibacker. Housed at the June F. Mohler Fashion Library, Rockwell Hall, Kent State University. To consult collection, please contact the Fashion Library Staff at 330-672-9500.

Biographical Note

Charles Kleibacker, “Master of the Bias Cut,” began his career in journalism, writing copy for Gimbels and then DePinna in the 1940’s. He then moved into the world of fashion design, working for first Sosenko and Hildegarde, then Castillo at Lanvin in Paris, and finally Nettie Rosenstein, before opening his own business in New York in 1960.

While designing his own line of clothing, he also worked with a number of companies, promoting both their products and his designs. He worked with Vogue on their “Sew It Yourself” patterns, with Dupont promoting the Qiana brand, and with the American Silk Mills in the 1970’s. In the early 1980’s he worked with the Taubman Company taking different fashion shows on the road.

Kleibacker also taught a number of workshops at various colleges and universities, including Mount Mary College, Stephens College, Georgia College and numerous others.

In 1984 he became a visiting designer in Ohio State University’s Department of Home Economics, and then became the Designer in Residence. He also acted as Curator of their Historic Costume Collection and was instrumental in developing and promoting that collection. He left OSU in 1995.

Scope and Content

The bulk of the papers relate to Kleibacker’s years at Ohio State University, the workshops he hosted at other colleges, and promotional work he did with companies. There are also numerous materials on the exhibits he curated and Fashion Shows he organized.

Note: Where Charles Kleibacker had given folders titles, his titles were retained, and the contents were broken down into smaller folders.

Box/Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1	Materials re: Kleibacker’s Designs (articles, client list, advertisements)
Folder 2	De Pinna (Catalogue ca. 1947)
Folder 3	Hildegarde (Photographs, flyers, show proposals, articles)
Folder 4	Paris – Lanvin/Castillo (catalogues, articles, images, cards)
Folder 5	Materials and Photographs of Jerry Silverman and Shannon Rogers
Folder 6	Pauline Trigere (articles, photographs)
Folder 7	Special Letters, Etc. (correspondence, book contract and employment information)
Folder 8	New York City Permits
Folder 9	Article “Techniques for Haute Couture...” by Elizabeth Rhodes (and photographs)
Folder 10	Additional Materials (press releases, articles, catalogues, correspondence)
Folder 11	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence from Kleibacker soliciting work
Folder 12	Letters, 1970-1984: Article “Women Who Dare” by Kleibacker
Folder 13	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence re: shows and appearances for companies
Folder 14	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with colleges re: programs, lectures and visits
Folder 15	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with Drexel University
Folder 16	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with Mount Mary College
Folder 17	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with University of Washington
Folder 18	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with Georgia College
Folder 19	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with and re: American Silk Mills
Folder 20	Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with the Taubman Company

Folder 21 Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with publishers re: book proposals
Folder 22 Letters, 1970-1984: Personal and Financial papers
Folder 23 Letters, 1970-1984: Correspondence with no clear purpose
Folder 24 Photocopy of the cover of a book by Steven Stipelman with sketch of Kleibacker design
Folder 25 Article "Mastectomy: Kleibacker Originals"

Box 2

Folder 1 Pattern Designs by Charles Kleibacker
Folder 2 Materials for "The Key Looks...And How to Sew Them" by Vogue and Kleibacker
Folder 3 Vogue (flyers, photographs, correspondence, articles, notes relating to Vogue program)
Folder 4 "Sewing by Satellite" (program materials, outlines, correspondence)
Folder 5 DuPont Folder: Dress Patterns
Folder 6 DuPont Folder: Materials and Correspondence re: Kleibacker appearances for DuPont 1971-1972, Tour Development and Schedules
Folder 7 DuPont Folder: Qiana and Fabrics (advertisements and orders)
Folder 8 DuPont Folder: Correspondence re: visits and shows
Folder 9 DuPont Folder: Correspondence with Colorado State University
Folder 10 DuPont Folder: Personal Papers (correspondence, receipts)
Folder 11 Promotional flyer for Qiana and DuPont (with sketches of clothing of famous designers)

Box 3

Folder 1 American Silk Mills Materials (contract, flyer and press release)
Folder 2 "That Belmont Look" fashion show promotional materials and photographs of sketches
Folder 3 Lecture Circuit with Taubman Folder (flyers, programs and articles)
Folder 4 Taubman Company Shows 1980-1981 (press releases, notes, photographs)
Folder 5 Taubman Photographs: Contact Sheets from "Famous People" fashion show in Detroit
Folder 6 Taubman Photographs: 8 x 10 photos from "Famous People" fashion show (Milwaukee?)
Folder 7 Taubman Company Folder: "Fashion Hall of Fame" show (schedules, flyers, show script)
Folder 8 Taubman Photographs: 8 x 10 photos from "Then and Now" fashion show
Folder 9 Taubman Company Folder: "Trends Then and Now" show (correspondence, flyers, articles, show script)
Folder 10 Kebbe & Tiegies: notes for Good Morning America TV Appearance, 1980

Box 4

Folder 1 College Seminars: Mount Mary College, Wisconsin (and fashion shows)
Folder 2 College Seminars: Adrian College, Michigan
Folder 3 College Seminars: Colorado State University
Folder 4 College Seminars: Georgia College
Folder 5 College Seminars: Iowa State University
Folder 6 College Seminars: Mansfield State College, Pennsylvania
Folder 7 College Seminars: University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Folder 8 College Seminars: University of Wisconsin - Stout
Folder 9 College Seminars: Additional Colleges and Program information and
Folder 10 Birmingham Museum of Art programs, 1994 and 1996 (articles, correspondence)
Folder 11 World Wildlife Fund Show "No Skin Off Their Backs," 1970 (press releases, etc.)
Folder 12 Columbus Museum of Art Show "Something Old, Something New" (program, press release, articles)
Folder 13 Materials on Shows and Exhibits relating to the Columbus Museum of Art or the Ohio State University Historic Costume and Textiles Collection
Folder 14 Materials on Additional Shows and Exhibits, not related to Ohio State University

Box 5

Folder 1 OSU 1984, 1985, etc: Correspondence and Articles not related to Ohio State University
Folder 2 OSU 1984, 1985, etc: Independent Study Paperwork and Class Papers
Folder 3 OSU 1984, 1985, etc: Historic Costume Collections and Exhibits
Folder 4 OSU 1984, 1985, etc: Personal Papers (resumes, appointment as visiting professor)

Folder 5 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Historic Costume and Textiles Collection: Corr. with donors
Folder 6 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Historic Costume Collection: Corr. with potential donors
Folder 7 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Historic Costume Collection: Corr. re: specific items in collection
Folder 8 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Corr. with and re: Presidents Gee, Jennings and Presidential Search
Folder 9 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: courses and students
Folder 10 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Letters of Recommendation sent by Kleibacker and Resumes sent to Kleibacker
Folder 11 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: Dean Bailey and search for a new Dean
Folder 12 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Time Sheets for Susan Kirk
Folder 13 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Performance Evaluation for Robert Stearns, Dir., Wexner Center
Folder 14 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Department of Clothing and Textiles External Review Report
Folder 15 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: tours of the Historic Costume Collection
Folder 16 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: financial donations, Kleibacker Fund and Campbell Hall Addition
Folder 17 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Historic Costume and Textiles Collection: Building Maintenance
Folder 18 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: Library and Parking Fines, and bills for slides
Folder 19 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: Fashion Shows and Galas
Folder 20 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: Exhibits and Ideas
Folder 21 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: loan of items from Historic Costume Coll.
Folder 22 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: "In Black and White" Video
Folder 23 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence re: "In Black and White" Exhibit
Folder 24 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Correspondence with Mirabella and Trigere
Folder 25 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Personal Correspondence (not related to OSU)
Folder 26 OSU 1990's Folder 1: Corr. re: lectures, juried shows, etc. (not related to OSU)

Box 6

Folder 1 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Corr. re: Historic Costume Coll: donations, possible donations and items in the collection
Folder 2 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Corr. promoting the Historic Costume and Textiles Collection
Folder 3 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Corr. re: Interviews and Resumes sent to Kleibacker
Folder 4 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Correspondence re: possible exhibits
Folder 5 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Kleibacker's Schedules, To Do Lists, and Reports on the Historic Costume and Textile Collection
Folder 6 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Friends of the Collection materials
Folder 7 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Financial Papers
Folder 8 OSU 1990's Folder 2: "Then, Now and Tomorrow" Exhibit
Folder 9 OSU 1990's Folder 2: "Reel to Reel" Exhibit
Folder 10 OSU 1990's Folder 2: "Asian Textiles and Art" Exhibit
Folder 11 OSU 1990's Folder 2: "Classic Crusin'" Exhibit
Folder 12 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Campbell Hall Addition
Folder 13 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Correspondence w/ College of Human Ecology and OSU President
Folder 14 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Correspondence w/ Helen Gurley Brown
Folder 15 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Correspondence re: supplies and maintenance
Folder 16 OSU 1990's Folder 2: OSU Paperwork and Letter of Resignation
Folder 17 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Correspondence re: 1990 article in the Columbus Dispatch
Folder 18 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Student Papers and Correspondence with students
Folder 19 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Slide Lists
Folder 20 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Copy of Speech given by Karen Johnson in 1994
Folder 21 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Personal Correspondence
Folder 22 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Exhibit at the Richard Nixon Library "Dressing the First Ladies"
Folder 23 OSU: Correspondence re: Items donated to the Historic Costume Collection by Carroll Baker and Mrs. Preston Davis
Folder 24 OSU 1990's Folder 2: Corr. with Elizabeth Rhodes and Kent State University

Box 7

- Folder 1 OSU: Friends of the Collection material
 Folder 2 OSU: Development of New York Exhibitions
 Folder 3 OSU: Articles from 1985 and 1986 mentioning Kleibacker
 Folder 4 OSU: Campbell Hall Addition and Donations to the Historic Costume Collection
 Folder 5 1986 Exhibit "Memorable Dress: Ohio Women"
 Folder 6 1989 Show "Then, Now and Tomorrow"
 Folder 7 1992 "In Black and White" publicity
 Folder 8 1992 "In Black and White" publicity (designers list, events corresponding with exhibit and article by Peter Woolen)
 Folder 9 1993 "Reel to Reel" publicity
 Folder 10 1993 "Reel to Reel" publicity (photographs, floor plans, letter re: loan of items)
 Folder 11 2000 Exhibition "Reality and Interpretation"
 Folder 12 2000 Exhibition "Reality and Interpretation" Biographies of Designers
 Folder 13 2000 Exhibition "Reality and Interpretation" Items loaned for the show
 Folder 14 2000 Exhibition "Reality and Interpretation" Photographs found with these materials, though the photographs pre-date the show
 Folder 15 Other Kleibacker lectures, exhibits, programs

Oversized Items**Box 8**

Loose Magazines:

- Visitors East, October 1979. See page 10 for article "A Fashionable Fete...The Belmont Look"
Sew News, December 1985. See Page 49 for article "Charles Kleibacker: Master of the Bias Cut"
Elle, May 1992. See pages 123 to 126 for article on "In Black and White" exhibit
Quest, March 1988. See pages 46-49 for article "Collections: Charles Kleibacker"
Fort Lauderdale Magazine, July/August 1980. See pages 13-14 for article "Fashion in Retrospect: ...Coming Our Way – Kleibacker 'King of the Bias Cut'"
WWD 75 Years in Fashion, 1910-1985. See page 41 for mention of Kleibacker
Vogue, July 1974 (two copies). See pages 106 to 115 for "Sew Them Yourself" article
International Vogue Pattern Book, April/May 1972. See page x for Qiana Advertisement.
Vogue, March 1975 (two copies). See pages 154-163 for patterns with Kleibacker sewing tips
Vogue, July 1972. See pages 90 to 97 for "Sew it Yourself" patterns
La Femme Chic, Number 463. See pages 41 and 87 for mention of Lanvin-Castillo
- Folder with farewell sign made for Kleibacker when he left Gimbels

Box 9

- Folder Title: "In Black and White" Exhibit, newspaper clippings
 "Reel to Reel" Exhibit, newspaper clippings
 "Reality and Interpretation" Exhibit, newspaper clippings
 Oversized Photographs: Silverman, Rogers, and others
 Lanvin-Castillo materials
 Taubman Company, newspaper clippings
 1950's and 1960's newspaper clippings
 Vogue & Bazaar magazine clippings
 Clippings from "Lantern Publicity"
 Clippings from "The Columbus Dispatch"
 Clippings from "Columbus Citizen-Journal"
 Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings
 Posters: for shows and of newspaper clippings

Box 10

- Folder Title: Publicity: Columbus and Milwaukee, newspaper clippings
 American Silk and Sew-It-Yourself, newspaper clippings
 Taubman and other vintage presentations, newspaper clippings
 Kleibacker Exhibitions and Costume Collection, newspaper clippings

WWD clippings
Ohio State University, newspaper clippings
New York Papers, newspaper clippings
Other City Papers, newspaper clippings
Miscellaneous Articles

Audio Visual Materials

Box 11

Large Format Videos (note: the library does not have the equipment to view these materials)

“Think Couture with Charles Kleibacker, Shows 1, 2 & 3” (Iowa- NY Racing)
“Then, Now, Tomorrow” Show and “Hildegard”
“So You Want to Sew”
“MMC – 5/10/1979”
“Charles Kleibacker”
“Taubman Co. 1981 Hall of Fame show at Fairlane Town Center”
“Woodfield Fashion Show 9/20/1980”

Box 12

Large Format Videos (note: the library does not have the equipment to view these materials)

“Couture Close-Ups with Charles Kleibacker: Fabrics and Grain / Working with Prints”
“Couture Close-Ups with Charles Kleibacker: Fitting the Anatomy”
“Couture Close-Ups: Designer Construction”
“Couture Close-Ups: Designing with Fabric”
“Edited ‘Trends Then and Now’ Woodfield, Sept 1980”
“Edited ‘Fashion Hall of Fame’ Fairlane, Sept 1981”

VHS (library has a VCR to view these)

“Hildegard, TNT”
“An Evening with Hildegard” 1982
“Atlanta Fashion Show”

Audio Reels (Library does not have machine to hear these. Can be transferred to cassette, inquire at library)

“Fashion Hall of Fame, Fall, 1981, Overture and Walkout”
“Fashion Hall of Fame, Fall 1981, Act 1, 2 & 3”
“Fashion Hall of Fame, Fall 1981, Act 4, 5, Finale and Bows”

Box 13

Photographs, mainly of Charles Kleibacker

Unboxed:

Smaller Portfolio Case: contains newspaper clippings and articles about Kleibacker’s designs and appearances ca. 1970-1972

Larger Portfolio Case: Program from show: Memorable Dress, Ohio Women
Newspaper clippings and articles ca. 1976-1977