

Richard O. Porter, fashion wholesaler: albums, 1902-1951

Introduction and summary description

Creator: Richard O. Porter
Reference: AAD/1995/10
Extent: 7 files

Context

Richard O. Porter managed Vivian Porter & Co. Ltd, a ladieswear and sportswear wholesalers which was founded in 1902 in premises at 9 - 10 Holles Street, London. Initially it manufactured only ladieswear but in the 1920s it expanded its range to include specialised sports fashions. It sold garments to a number of stores, including Altman's in New York and Harvey Nichols and Woollands in London. Designers who worked for the firm included Margaret Parker and Phyllis Wise. Porter was actively involved in many aspects of the wholesale clothing industry and belonged to the Wholesale Fashion Trades Association. He contributed a number of articles to trade journals such as the *Drapers Record* and was Chairman of the Fashion Display Committee for the British Industries Fair in 1937.

Scope and content

Albums of press cuttings, designs and photographs (1902-1951).

Provenance

Gift of the London College of Fashion to the National Art Library, 1993. Transferred within the National Art Library to the National Art Library, Archive of Art and Design, 1995. The albums are marked R.O. Porter bequest.

Access

This archive is available for consultation in the V&A Archive and Library Study Room, which is located at Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX. The Study Room is open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm, by appointment only. To request an appointment please email archive@vam.ac.uk or telephone 020 7603 7493. Access to some files may be restricted; these are identified individually with the catalogue.

Detailed catalogue

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1995/10/1	Original designs, particularly Edwardian dress designs by Helen Jones, and photographs with model numbers and price. 1 volume Includes items from collection of loose items, added in 1975. The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest 1902-1945, V.P. Fashions Year by Year'.	1902-1945
AAD/1995/10/2	Advertisements and photographs of Vivian Porter garments, occasionally annotated with name of newspaper/journal; photographs of Vivian Porter offices in Holles St. (1935), which were bombed during the Second World War; photographs of staff; original designs for garments. 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest 1934-1946, V.P. Sketches and Advertising'.	1902-1946 (bulk 1934-1946)
AAD/1995/10/3	Presscuttings on Vivian Porter & Co Ltd and the clothing industry in general, occasionally annotated with the name of the newspaper or journal, and cross-referenced to other articles in scrapbooks; advertisements from <i>Vogue</i> , invitations to shows, and lists of garments at shows. 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest 1926-1951'.	1926-1951
AAD/1995/10/4	Invitations, presscuttings, examples of firm's stationery, and brochures. 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest 1926-1937'.	1926-1937
AAD/1995/10/5	Presscuttings, memos, and photographs of staff at Vivian Porter & Co Ltd. 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest 1927-1934'.	1927-1934
AAD/1995/10/6	Pencil, pen and coloured wash fashion sketches, and printed 'selection from our collection.' 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest, collection of undated loose material'.	Undated
AAD/1995/10/7	Photographs for models and publicity sketches. 1 volume The album is labelled 'R.O. Porter bequest, collection of undated loose material'.	Undated