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Finding Aid - Sophie of Saks Fifth Avenue sketches (SC.40)

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Sophie of Saks Fifth Avenue sketches

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Summary information

Repository: Fashion Institute of Technology-SUNY, Gladys Marcus Library, Special Collections and College Archives

Title: Sophie of Saks Fifth Avenue sketches

ID: SC.40

Date: 1940-1969 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2.63 linear feet in 7 boxes and one large format folio

Language: English

Language: Latin

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Sophie Gimbel, more well-known as Sophie of Saks, was born Sophie Hass in 1898 in Houston, Texas. She attended Agnes Scott College in Atlanta. In the late 1920s she moved to New York and was hired as a stylist at Saks Fifth Avenue. Shortly thereafter she was asked to re-vamp their foundering custom-order Salon Moderne. She was successful in this endeavor, as well as with her line of ready-to-wear, Sophie Originals. In 1931 she married Adam Gimbel who was president of Saks Fifth Avenue from 1926 to 1969. Sophie did not sketch her designs, rather, she used sketchers to assist with visualizing her ideas, or purchased designs from other designers and modified them. She enjoyed significant success, particularly in the 1940s, and her designs were noted for their elegance. Her clientele included Claudette Colbert, Rose Kennedy, and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson who wore a red coat and dress designed by Sophie Gimbel to her husband's inauguration in 1965. Sophie Gimbel retired in 1969 and passed away in 1981.

Notes

Title notes

Location of originals

The Library of the Fashion Institute of Technology, Department of Special Collections and FIT Archives, 27th St. at 7th Ave., NY, NY , USA, 10001

Restrictions on access

Access is open to researchers by appointment at the Fashion Institute of Technology Library, Department of Special Collections and College Archives. If you have any questions, or wish to schedule an appointment contact us at fitlibsparc@fitnyc.edu or call (212) 217-4385.

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Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Partial
 - **Status description:** Draft
 - **Description identifier:** US
 - **Institution identifier:** NNFIT
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Access points

- Saks Fifth Avenue (New York, N.Y.)
 - Gimbel, Adam (subject)
 - Gimbel-Saks Purchasing S.A. (subject)
 - Bozett, John Paul (subject)
 - Goudy, Albert (subject)
 - Laffitte, Julio (subject)
 - Fashion designers (subject)
 - New York (N.Y.) (place)
-

Series descriptions

Series SC.40.1: John Paul Bozett sketches

Creator: Bozett, John Paul

Date: circa 1950s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sketches signed by John Paul Bozett, done on tissue paper in colored pencil and ink, are of eveningwear, suits and sportswear for women and date to the 1950s. A few sketches have fabric swatches are included.

Physical description: 7 folders containing sketches on tissue paper in colored pencil and ink.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.2: Women's evening and sportswear sketches, unsigned

Date: circa 1950s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unsigned sketches of 1950s women's evening and sportswear. These sketches are done on tissue or tracing paper in pencil and watercolor.

Physical description: 6 folders containing 235 sketches on tissue or tracing paper in pencil and watercolor.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.9: Large format watercolor sketches

Date: undated (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.3: Women's suits, coats, sportswear, and swimwear sketches and correspondence, 1947-1950

Date: 1947-1950 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unsigned sketches of women's suits, coats, sportswear, and swimwear from the late 1940s, in pencil and/or watercolor. In several cases, it appears that signatures may have been purposely cut off of the sketches. Some sketches are grouped with letters from from Lea Thompson to Adam Gimbel, dated in 1947.

Correspondence from Gimbel-Saks Purchasing S.A. in Paris to Ms. Gimbel. The letters are dated 1950 and include reports detailing the colors, materials, and silhouettes employed by major French fashion designers. These letters originally accompanied sketches of French designs and many of the unsigned sketches bear numbers that, in some cases, correspond to the sketch numbers cited in the letters.

Physical description: 10 folders containing sketches of various media, and related correspondence.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.4: Albert Goudy and Julio Laffitte sketches

Creator: Goudy, AlbertLaffitte, Julio

Date: circa 1960s (date of creation)

Date: 1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sketches by Albert Goudy and Julio Laffitte. Goudy's sketches of 1960s women's wear are in ink and watercolor. A few have fabric swatches attached. Laffitte's sketches of women's sportswear, eveningwear, and suits are in pencil and watercolor; many are dated 1947.

Physical description: 2 folders and one loose sketchbook.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.5: Women's evening and sportswear sketches

Date: circa 1950s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unsigned sketches of 1950s women's evening and sportswear, done on tissue paper in pencil and watercolors.

Physical description: 4 folders containing unsigned sketches

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series SC.40.7: Women's eveningwear and sportswear, unsigned (in box 6)

Date: circa 1950s and 1960s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sketches of women's eveningwear and sportswear (1950s-60s) done in a variety of media: ink, watercolor, and pencil. Each sketch is stamped "Made in France." Seven flat technical sketches of women's suits and coats (1940s) drawn to scale on graph paper with attached fabric samples and two patterns.

Physical description: 3 folders containing sketches and technical patterns.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series SC.40.8: Unsorted sketches**

Creator: Bozett, John Paul unknown - DO NOT USE THIS TERM LIGHTLY!!

Date: undated (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unsorted sketches of various media, patterns, fabric swatches, tear sheet, some of which are stamped on the back with John Paul Bozett.

Physical description: One box of unsorted papers.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series SC.40.6: Women's suits and coats sketches**

Date: circa 1940s and 1950s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unsigned sketches of women's suits and coats from the 1940s and 1950s.

Physical description: 1 folder with sketches.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list