



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Museum extension project costume plates

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Museum extension project costume plates
<b>Date:</b>	1940-1943
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.fedeartp08
<b>Creator:</b>	Federal Art Project (Pa.)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute. It is unclear how the materials came to M-W-P.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Museum projects were programs of the Work Projects Administration instituted during the Depression to increase employment opportunities, particularly among the white-collar worker. By 1941, museum projects came under the jurisdiction of the Federal Art Program (originally the Federal Art Project) of the WPA. Plates of historical costumes as well as dioramas, costumed dolls and craft objects were often prepared for educational purposes.

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## Scope and Contents

Handpainted, illustrated plates of period costume designs throughout history, accompanied by descriptive handbooks recounting the historical context of the costumes.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Costume
- Costume design
- Federal aid to the arts -- Pennsylvania
- Federal aid to the public welfare -- Pennsylvania

New Deal, 1933-1939 -- Pennsylvania

Names:

United States. Work Projects Administration  
United States. Works Progress Administration

Functions:

Agencies  
Programs (organizations)