



—Herald-Examiner Phot

ART MUSEUM COSTUME CURATORS EUGENE AND STEFANIA HOLT
show Madonna and Child ecclesiastic garments woven with true gold wire

1966



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Husband-Wife Curator Team

Costumes of the Ages

By **WALTER E. BURKE**
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Two of the most unusual art curators in the world today work at the Los Angeles County Art Museum.

One is Mrs. Stefania P. Holt and the other is her husband, Eugene Holt. For more than 30 years they have worked together in the field of art.

They are co-curators of a world-famed permanent collection of rare costumes and priceless textiles in the museum at Hancock Park.

Thirteen years ago they established the Textiles and Costumes Section of the museum when it was located at Exposition Park.

Art connoisseurs say the husband-wife team is believed to be the only one of its kind in any big city museum in the world.

NOTED COLLECTION

Sketching the couple's work since 1953, Kenneth Donahue, acting director of the museum, said:

"In this short period, they have created a collection noted internationally for its scope and excellence."

On the museum's organizational chart of seven curators and two assistant curators, Mrs. Holt is officially listed as curator of her section. Her husband is her assistant, but she explains their teamwork this way:

"I'm not much of a boss. We complement one another. The fact that he is

an assistant is in title only. We are really co-curators." The European-born designer added:

"At home, he's the official boss."

ART THEORY

During World War II she was a leading fashion designer and artist in London. Before joining the museum staff, the Holts taught art at USC and UCLA.

They are exponents of the art theory that "beauty is altogether in the eye of the beholder." They oppose "sensationalism and exhibitionism" in art. Topless costumes are "verboten" in their collection.

As curators, their job is to study, research, acquire, preserve and present educational and cultural exhibits to unfold the panoply of man's creativity from the Pharaohs to today.

The past is on parade in their permanent collection of 2000 costumes on the sun-lit fourth floor of the Ahmanson Gallery.

OLDEST COSTUME

The oldest costume is the newest addition. It is a hand-woven wool tunic, first worn in Egypt four centuries after the death of Christ.

More than 700 textile specimens representing significant periods from the 4th century to the present time are included in the permanent collection.

Hats, gloves, shoes, parasols and other costly ac-

Los Angeles
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1966

cessories round out the collection. The Costume Council, a volunteer group, and the local chapter of the Fashion Group of America, have contributed many gifts.

Name a period in history and the curators can reconstruct it from the costumes and other art objects in the museum.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Costumes worn by Thomas Jefferson and other early statesmen and stately garments used by royalty and princes of the church are preserved with tender care.

Special services are also provided. Hundreds of theater, motion picture and fashion designers make frequent use of the Textile and Costume Research Center.

VALUABLE GUIDE

"The collections, and an 800-volume library, are a valuable guide to researchers in archeological, anthropological and sociological research," Mrs. Holt noted.

"Costumes and textile reveal data on ancient culture, religions, customs and other aspects of humanity."

She is leaving next week on an art shopping tour in Europe.

"The prices are three times cheaper overseas," she said.

Her husband will "mind the store" while she is away.

"I'll be official curator, then," he said smiling.

A cikkben említett "Hancock
Park" - Haraszthy Ágoston
unokájáról (Haraszthy Jolán
fia) van elnevezve.

Lásd: Haraszthy Kötetek

