



Arranging costumes on models is an enjoyable part of Patricia Trautman's job as "curator" of the CSU collection. This model, on display in the Gifford Building, is wearing a 1912 silk velvet coat lined with gold lame.

Free attractions are numerous for visitors

By DAVID SHAPIRO
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Visitors to Washington, D.C., are amazed at the number of prime tourist attractions that are free to the public.

The museums, the zoo, the monuments, the historical sites — features that would cost an arm and a leg to see in other cities — are free. The Washington Monument will, however, set you back a dime for the elevator ride to the top.

Despite this, many visitors miss attractions and spend needless hours standing in long lines because they neglected to check in with one particularly accommodating class of officials: their friendly congressmen and senators.

Elected representatives can smooth the way for you and provide you with a wide range of services that are not available elsewhere. And, hoping you will mention their names favorably when you get home, they will do so gladly.

A survey of the Hawaii congressional delegation indicates that their offices will help you arrange your itinerary, provide you with free literature on Washington's attractions, arrange special VIP tours, make hotel and travel reservations, get you discounts on souvenirs and, sometimes, even pick you up at the airport when you hit town.

Sen. Spark Matsunaga, undisputed king of the congressional travel business, will even buy you lunch in the

plush Senate dining room.

Often, the only limit to what you can get is how pushy you are in asking for it. Some people are skittish about taking freebies from their legislators, feeling the lawmakers should be doing more legislating and spending less time and money running a travel agency to ingratiate themselves with voters from back home.

If you are offended by the largesse, you can always vote for someone else in the next election.

The four Hawaii offices will all help you with your itinerary and provide a staffer to give you a tour of the Capitol building that sidesteps long lines and is generally better than the standard tour given by professional guides. The offices can also provide you with tickets for the Senate and House galleries to watch your lawmakers in action.

Each office has an allotment of passes for special VIP tours of the White House, which are well worth getting because you see more rooms and don't have to stand in the long lines for the standard National Parks Service tours.

The offices can also arrange tours of the FBI building, Kennedy Center and Library of Congress.

As a rule, you can get more help from the Senate offices than from the House, since senators have larger staffs.

But an advantage of checking in with the House offices is their proximity to the congressional supply store.



Graduate student Polly Willman and CSU professor Patricia Trautman admire the beautiful designs and colors of this 300-year-old, hand-embroidered Chinese skirt, one of many items in the CSU costume collection.

Clothes museum at CSU provides a unique insight

By ROSEMARY CASHMAN
Of the Coloradoan

On the third floor of the Gifford Building at Colorado State University, there is a unique "museum," one where the visitor can pick up and study the displays.

"In most museums you can't touch anything. Here you can touch it (an item) and turn it inside out," explained Patricia Trautman, acting "curator" of the collection of clothing, patterns, accessories and textiles at CSU.

Various accessories from the collection are currently on display on the second floor of the William Morgan Library at CSU.

A professor in the textile and clothing department (home economics), Ms. Trautman is assisted in cataloging and caring for the approximate 4,500 items by graduate student Polly Willman.

Prior to the department's move into the Gifford Building in January 1976, the "collection" consisted of about 1,200 items which were kept in several places.

But three rooms in the new building were reserved for the collection. "The building was to last 10 years in terms of the collection and we're already out of space," said Ms. Trautman, who was recently selected as an Outstanding Young Woman of America by that organization's national board.

Items date back to the 1600s. Some are replicas. Men's clothing pieces are not as abundant as women's, said Ms. Trautman, and donations are always welcomed.

Stored in closets, drawers and shelves, the items were donated for the most part by students, alumni, the community or people who have heard of the collection.

Its purpose is not to enclose historic items in glass cases. "The collection is a study resource," said Ms. Trautman. Home economics students are not the only ones utilizing the collection.

Design students may scrutinize a bodice from the Gibson Girl period of the early 1900s to see what construction techniques were used. Sometimes a forgotten technique is rediscovered and re-introduced into fashion styles.

"Some people even come in and take patterns off an item," said Ms. Trautman.

Art students will come to study textiles (fabrics not yet made into a garment) to learn various weaving techniques. For example, Ms. Trautman said they have some India textiles that were woven with 14-karat gold or silver, resulting in a shimmery fabric.

Students also visit from the local schools. The general public can visit the collection weekdays generally from 10 a.m. to noon.

People can pick up laces and feel the texture, or admire the creative uses made of ribbons. Their imaginations can take them back to the era of the Flappers in the 1920s, when women wore heavily beaded or sequined gowns. "Some of these dresses weighed 20 to 25 pounds," said Ms. Trautman.

There are "bustle" dresses from the 1880s and "hourglass" dresses from the 1890s.

"In the era of the hourglass dress, the idea was to have a waist size that was equal to your age when you got married. Some women removed the bottom rib," said Ms. Trautman, who also is working on a doctorate in American History from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

A few designer dresses give a European flair to the collection with such French names as Chanel, Patou and Cheruit. One of the most beautiful pieces is a hand-embroidered Chinese skirt that is more than 300 years old and worth some \$2,000, according to Ms. Trautman.

She noted that they are in the process of appraising the entire collection and hope to complete it by the end of the academic year.

In order to preserve the items, the storage rooms are kept at an average temperature of 70 degrees. If it gets to 80 degrees, bugs appear. Humidity is best at 55 percent, but in Colorado that's almost impossible, laughed Ms. Trautman.

Each item is fumigated before it is allowed in the area. Every once in awhile, a little critter gets in and the entire area is fumigated.

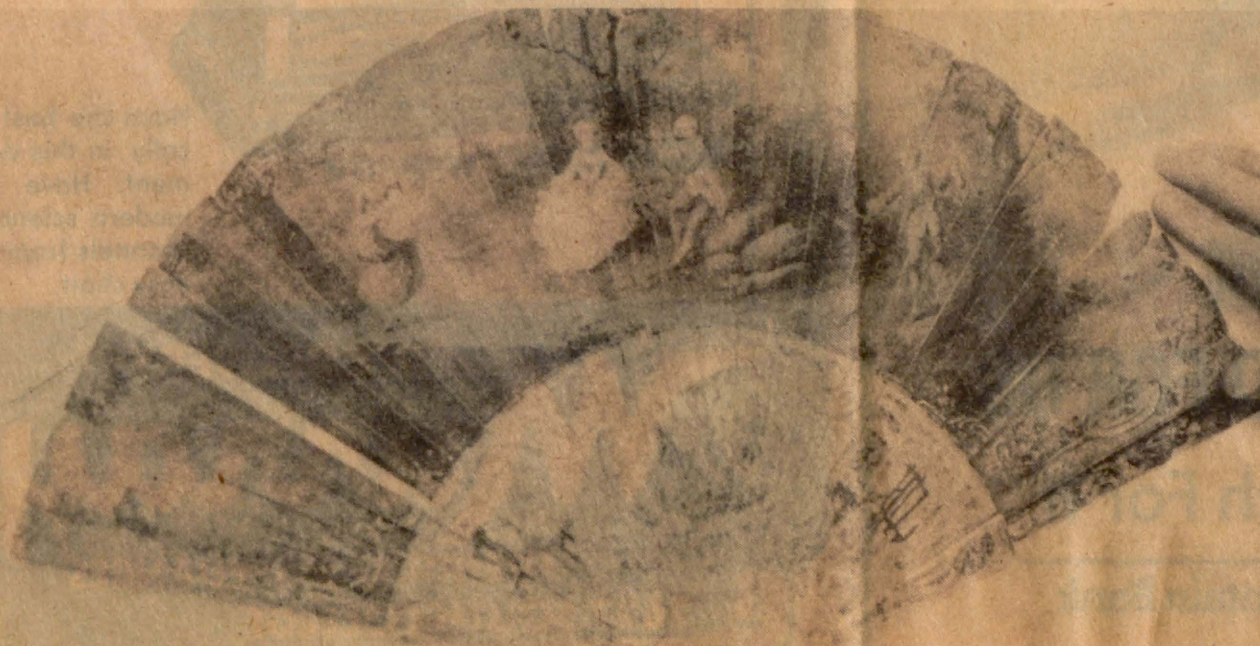


One of the many items currently displayed at the CSU William Morgan Library, this silk embroidered shawl was purchased in 1928 in Florence, Italy, according to Polly Willman.



Restoring this French fan, hand painted on vellum, is a delicate job for Polly Willman, who believes it dates back to 1760.

Coloradoan
photos
Bob Gunter



1760 French fan