

# Short Subjects

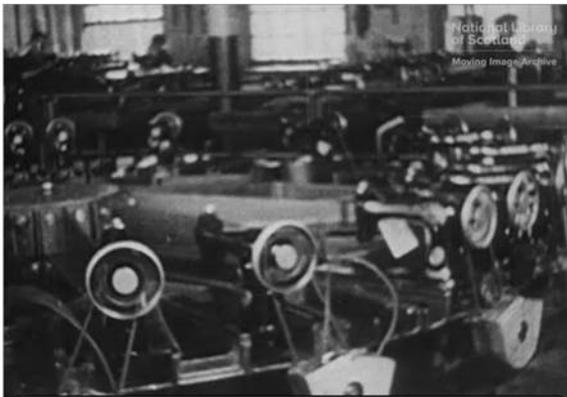
## Birth of a Sewing Machine

*Movie shows in-depth how Singer sewing machines were manufactured in 1934.*

Thanks to the support of the Scotland National Heritage Memorial Fund, the documentary film, *Birth of a Sewing Machine*, has been preserved and is now available to view.

The silent movie was produced by the Singer Sewing Machine Company and released in 1934. Shot in black-and-white, the film runs 70 minutes. It shows the manufacturing process of making a Singer sewing machine at Clydebank, Glasgow, Scotland, from its raw form of iron to the finished product. This was the largest sewing machine factory in the world.

To [view this movie online](#), visit the Moving Images Archive at the National Library of Scotland.



Frame from *Birth of a Sewing Machine*, 1934.

## Daily Victorian Collection of Fashion Advertisements

*An eclectic collection of historical advertising material available online.*



Young man, c. 1910.

The Daily Victorian is an eclectic collection of magazine prints, portraits, advertisements, fashion plates and other images from the Victorian era.

This collection will appeal to people interested in the history of fashion, as the Daily Victorian features seven different collections dedicated specifically to the topic.

One collection features 15 sewing patterns taken from the Godey's Ladies Book, which offer templates for a sun bonnet, a hoop crinoline, and "gentleman's traveling dressing-case." Another collection features Victorian bathing suits. In addition to exploring by collection, visitors can also explore the Daily Victorian by subject tags, including photography, illustration, civil war era, textile, diagrams, and more.

Visit the [exhibit website](#) to browse the items in the collection

## "Undressed" Exhibit at the Frick Museum, Pittsburgh

*Major exhibit reveals how fashion relies on what lies beneath.*

"'Undressed' is the first major international exhibition to examine — or reveal — how fashion throughout history has been so reliant on what lies beneath," says Frick Executive Director Robin Nicholson, noting wryly it's a topic that "literally touches us all."

"Undressed" asks us to consider underwear and other intimates from the boudoir as works of art. That perspective can't be under-estimated at this exclusive North American presentation of a show originating at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, which boasts having the greatest collection of historic costumes on the planet.

"I think visitors will be fascinated by the actual history of underwear — seeing it evolve through the exhibition from hidden, functional, really structural foundational garments to more naturalistic shapes, high-tech fabrics and streamlined forms — and a greater openness (no pun intended) in terms of making underwear outerwear," says Sarah Hall, The Frick's chief curator and director of collections.

With a timeline from the 18th century to today, "Undressed" is organized into

various thematic components, including health and hygiene, support (bras and girdles), performance (for sports, pregnancy and extreme climates), hosiery, luxury lingerie, relaxation and loungewear, and areas with rather suggestive titles such as “revelation” and “temptation.”

Manufacturers and designers included are contemporary couture stars such as Alexander McQueen, Elie Saab and Agent Provocateur.

The exhibit at Pittsburgh’s The Frick museum runs from October 21 through January 7, 2017. Visit their [website](#) for more details on the exhibit.



Cotton and whalebone corset, c. 1890. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Use with permission.

## University Creates First Public Menswear Archive

*The world's first dedicated archive of men's fashion to be open to the public.*

Westminster University in the United Kingdom has created what it believes is the world's first dedicated archive of men's fashion to be open to the public. The archive at the Harrow campus contains more than 1,000 garments. Highlights include designs by Alexander McQueen and Burberry, as well as rare military clothing.

According to its creator, Andrew Groves, the archive shows the impact military styles have had on menswear designs. The archive's military clothing collection dates back to World War One.

There are also key pieces from Jean Paul Gaultier, Barbour, Levi's, Berghaus and Comme des Garçons, said Mr Groves, a fashion designer and course director of Westminster's BA in menswear.

"It's like pulling together a social history of menswear in this country, which I don't think has ever really been properly looked at," Groves said.

"I think what's interesting about menswear is that it's a much smaller community and they're more open and wanting to support each other. I think it enables us to do things other archives can't do. It enables us to draw out those connections between military menswear and uniform and how that has impacted menswear design."



The archive was created by fashion designer and academic Andrew Groves.

The archive was started last year to coincide with the launch of the university's master's degree in menswear. Pieces range from 1900 to the present day and include contemporary designers like Craig Green.

"We've got a collection of rare Alexander McQueen menswear which is bigger already than the collection at the V&A," said Mr Groves.

He said the aim was to inspire a new generation of menswear designers and allow them to see the historical context of the garments they are reinterpreting.

Specially shot detailed images of the pieces are available [online](#) and anyone who wants to visit the archive in person can book an appointment through the university.



The archive includes over 1,000 pieces, some rare.