

Website Spotlight



The Smithsonian Library's Digital Photo Gallery *Philip Gust**

A new on-line gallery from this U.S. national institution provides a “Galaxy of Images” for costumers.

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. has launched a digital photo gallery that provides access to images in their collections, including many fashion and clothing-related images. Known as the “[Galaxy of Images](#),” this on-line gallery is a constantly growing sample of the many items from the Smithsonian.

The gallery is curated by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL), which unites the 20 libraries into one system. According to Director Nancy Gwinn, SIL contain over 1.5 million printed

books and manuscripts. The gallery is a small but growing on-line representation, with over 11,000 images in 1600 collections.



Sample of Fashion and Clothing Collection.

The main page features several collections with a link to an index of all the collections in the gallery. It also includes a featured image, and a search facility that enables you to locate images by specific keywords and collections.

SIL Digital Images Librarian Erin Clements Rushing pointed out that, “It includes some important works that may be of interest to your readers, such as Racinet’s *Le costume historique* and ‘Le Moniteur de la mode’ and ‘Journal des dames et des modes.’” The currently featured image on their main page is from “Le Montier de la mode,” a French fashion magazine from the

19th and early 20th centuries, with plates based on the work of artist Jules David.

The [Fashion and Clothing Collection](#)



Image courtesy SIL.

contains 140 plates and illustrations, including “Rouge et Or” (left), from the “Gazette du Bon Ton” created between 1924 and 1925, by artist George Barbier. Plates like these from contemporary fashion magazines, are great for historical costume research.



Image courtesy SIL.

Everyday clothing and sportswear for both men and women are also included in the collection, such as this smart golfing outfit from a 1914 issue of “Journal des dames et des modes.” Hats, jewelry, and parasols are also well represented.

The SIL “Galaxy of Images” is a must-see resource for vintage and historical costumers.

Philip Gust enjoys sci-fi and fantasy costuming, and has particular interests in props, special effects, and prosthetic makeup. He also costumes in historical periods, including Regency, Victorian, and early 20th C.

