



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Shoe Storage Trays by Ann Frisina Textile Conservator



Shoes, whether moccasins or slippers, are difficult artifacts to support in storage and transport safely. When stored in drawers, they can slide to the back during opening and closing, lilt to one side, or become separated from their mate. As an answer to each artifact's individual needs, the Conservation Department implemented a shoe tray system originally designed and executed by the Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). FIT's ingenious solution to the problem was to design a flat pattern out of Coroplast corrugated board, which would fold into a handling tray with slots and tabs. MHS hoped to purchase these trays from the original manufacturer. However, the manufacturer is no longer in business. Unwilling to let this stymie our plans, we then redrew the original design in three sizes - small, medium, and large - and found a company in Minnesota to create new dies for us. Modernistic, of St. Paul, Minnesota, created new dies and cut new trays.

Moccasins and shoes are now being supported with a sock fabricated of orthopedic cotton knit tubular fabric used under casts. The socks are filled with thermo-bonded polyester batting and are inserted into the shoe to support the foot overall. A shoe support tray of the appropriate size is folded into shape. A twill tape tie is inserted through slits allowing for the footwear to be secured in place with a loose tie.

These dies are available from Modernistic for use by other institutions for storage needs. Please contact us for further information.

