



## MINNESOTA'S GREATEST GENERATION

### A Checklist for Preserving Textiles and Clothing

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- ✓ Display clothing and textiles only for a limited time.
- ✓ Keep light exposure to a minimum.
  - Display an item for a while and then store it so that no item is exposed to light for long periods of time.
  - Turn off the lights when no one is in a room. Use lower wattage bulbs.
  - Close draperies and blinds when out of the room for extended periods of time or when not at home.
  - Place framed textiles on walls that get the least amount of sun.
- ✓ Framed textiles, such as samplers, may benefit from having ultraviolet light-filtering glass.
- ✓ Store clothing and textiles in moderate temperature and humidity; avoid the attic and basement.
- ✓ Store single layer textiles flat when possible.
- ✓ When boxing clothing and textiles, use acid-free tissue and acid-free boxes.
- ✓ When folding textiles for storage, use crumpled acid-free tissue in the folds to minimize the sharpness of the creases.
- ✓ Rolling is better than boxing for fragile large single layer textiles
  - A large diameter tube is best.
  - If you use an acidic tube, cover it with layers of a safe barrier such as Tyvek™, unbleached cotton muslin, or a heavy acid-free paper.
  - Use a cotton muslin dust cover over the rolled textile
  - Finally, suspend the tube so that the weight of the tube & textile is not all on one narrow band.
- ✓ If hanging sturdy clothing like uniforms, use padded hangers (see the handout “Instructions for Making a Padded Hanger”).
- ✓ Do not use mothballs. It is not a good repellent and it is a suspected carcinogen.

**continued**

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### A Checklist for Preserving Textiles and Clothing (continued)

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- ✓ Textiles and clothing benefit from being vacuumed periodically to remove dust. Use the bristled, round furniture brush on low suction. Vacuuming through a clean piece of nonmetallic window screen will keep delicate fabric and loose threads from being pulled into the vacuum.
- ✓ Some textiles, such as white cotton or linen, may be washed or cleaned. Contact the Minnesota Historical Society conservation outreach program or a local museum for advice before attempting to wash vintage textiles and clothing.
- ✓ Dry cleaning antique clothing and other textiles is usually not recommended. Commercial dry cleaning uses strong solvents, heat and a lot of hard tumbling or mechanical action. If you think that a textile needs to be dry cleaned, contact the Minnesota Historical Society conservation outreach program or a local museum for advice.

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