THE JO COPELAND COLLECTION
Sketches, photographs, papers, clippings
1.3" linear feet

Fashion Institute of Technology Library, Special Collections
X-41
processed by Whitney Blausen

PROVENANCE: Gift of Jo Copeland, February, 1977

ACCESS: Open to qualified researchers by appointment

BIOGRAPHY/HISTORY:

Jo Copeland, (1899-1982), was a designer of up-scale ready-to-wear clothing, especially noted for her "after five" ensembles for dinner or the theater.

With her father's reluctant permission, she studied at the Parson's School of Design from the age of fifteen. While she was there, Rose Amado, of Patullo Modes, spotted her work and brought her into the firm as a design trainee. She began working for Patullo Modes on a part time basis in the 1920's, later moving into the position of designer on a full time basis.

She left the firm briefly (sources differ on for what length of time) in 1930 to establish her own firm with a partner and backer named Ann Sadowsky.

She returned to Patullo Modes, either in 1931 or in 1935, and by 1936 the name of the firm was changed to Patullo-Jo Copeland. She was among the earliest designers to have her name on the garment's label and in the advertising copy. In 1961, Copeland received the award of Chevalier de l'Ordre Courtoisie Francais.

Patullo-Jo Copeland ceased operations in 1970. Jo Copeland briefly retired, found it not to her liking, and in 1971 accepted a job as designer for a firm called Lisa Meril. It is not known how long this association lasted.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Sketches of Jo Copeland's work 1940's & 1950's in the Berley Collection of Fashion Sketches, X-21

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Jo Copeland Collection, housed in 5 boxes and 1 scrapbook comprises personal papers, (letters, art gallery catalogues, documents related to her lecturing, charitable work, etc., photographs), as well as press clippings
showing or discussing her work, and 701 fashion sketches. Many of the fashion sketches are from various subscription services, reporting on Paris fashions. Others are most likely sketches of Copeland's work, but as she preferred to drape fabric on the model, not to sketch, and as the sketches are without attribution, this can only be an educated guess based on the fact that many of them have model numbers assigned to them.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST:

Series I: sketches

Scrapbook: 19"x24", primarily sketches from the Elsie Cobin Service, a subscription service reporting on Paris fashions, 1938.

Box 1:

7 folders: Elsie Cobin Service sketches of Paris fashions, pencil and color on vellum.

Box 2:

Folder 1: designer sketches from the Wool Bureau, 1960's
Folder 2-5: miscellaneous sketches, 1960's, '70's without attribution or model numbers
Folder 6-8: miscellaneous sketches, 1940's, with model numbers (presumably Jo Copeland designs)
Folder 9: designer sketches from Elsie Cobin Service, 1930's
Folder 11: designer sketches from Paris Fashion Services, early 1960's
Folder 12: photographs of Jo Copeland clothing, 1940's

Series II: press clips, personal papers, photographs

Box 3: Material arranged chronologically w/in folders

Folder 1: Letters to Jo Copeland, 1950-1969
Folder 2: Letters to Jo Copeland, 1970 & undated
Folder 3: Awards, lectures, charitable activities, biographical notes
Folder 4: Press clips of parties given or attended by Jo Copeland, 1957-65 & undated.
Folder 5: Press clips of parties given or attended by Jo Copeland 1966-73; press clips about the decoration of Jo Copeland's various apartments, 1959, '65, '69.
Designers Represented in the Jo Copeland Collection
FIT Special Collections, X-41

Alix (Mme. Gres): scrapbook; box 1, folders # 1-7
Antonelli: box 2, folder #1
Balenciaga: scrapbook; box 1, folders #2-5, 7; box 2, folders 9-11
Balmain: box 2, folder #9
Vera Borea: scrapbook
Bruyere: scrapbook; box 1, folders 2-3
Cardin: box 2, folder #1
Chanel: scrapbook; box 2, folder #10
Mad Charpentier: box 2, folder #9
Jo Copeland: box 2, folders #2-8 are probably Jo Copeland designs, though without attribution. Folder #12 contains photographs of some of her work from the 1940's & 60's. Press clips contain other photos of her work.

Courreges: box 2, folder #1
Creed: scrapbook; box 1, folders 2-3
De Rauch: box 2, folder #10
Desses: box 2, folder #11
Dior: box 1, folder #1, box 2, folders 10-11
Dormay: scrapbook; box 1, folders # 1 & 6
Fath: box 2, folders 9-10
Feraud: box 2, folder #1
Galitzine: box 2, folders 1 & 11
Gaston: scrapbook
Givenchy: box 2, folders #1 & 11
Griffe: box 2, folder #10
Goma: box 2, folders #10-11
Folder 6: Press clips about family and friends
Folder 7: Press clips about other designers and/or fashion trends
Folder 8: Brochures from various artist's exhibitions

Box 4: All material arranged chronologically

Folder 1: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1940's, 1950's & undated (1960's-70's)
Folder 2: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1960-64
Folder 3: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1965-66
Folder 4: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1967
Folder 5: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1968
Folder 6: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, Jan-June, 1969
Folder 7: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, July-Dec., 1969
Folder 8: Patullo-Jo Copeland press clips, 1970's
Folder 9: Photographs, Copeland, family, celebrity friends
Folder 10: Photographs, Copeland, family, celebrity friends
Addendum: envelope of slips from clipping service detached from press clips

Box 5:
Press clips, 1930's, 1940's, 1960's