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ACCESSION# 1984 .001 .

TITLE 1879 Graduation Ensemble

DATE 4/10/10

TREATMENT REPORT

BRIEF. Ensemble of off-white silk twill and cotton lace, with basque bodice, bustled skirt, and short fringed cape,
DESCRIPTION worn by Sallie Tucker Blake at her graduation from Vassar in 1879
(summarize from
DESCRIPTION.MAIN)

CONDITION OF ITEM (refer to condition report)

Bodice

1. Silk ribbon bow has fraying ends on left sleeve
2. Stain on right front and small pin-holes, both possibly relating to wearing a corsage
3. Small gold stains possibly relating to difference in warp/weft threads
4. Lace on sleeves, collar and center front has holes
5. One of the buttons is missing its crocheted cover
6. Stiffness in underarms
7. Missing its satin bow on cuff of right sleeve
8. 8th button from the bottom is loose

Skirt

1. Holes in lace all over
2. Moth holes at bottom hem, as well as fraying from use
3. Some pleats at waist have become unattached from the waistband at centerback

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Bodice

1. Nothing to be done
2. Nothing to be done
3. Nothing to be done, except possible fiber analysis in the future
4. Will back and secure lace
5. Nothing to be done
6. Nothing to be done except possible candidate for cleaning in the future
7. Possibly make another bow in the future for display purposes
8. Will resecure button

Skirt

1. Will back and secure
2. Nothing to be done
3. Will reattach pleats to waistband

TREATMENT.REPORT

Set aside, then completed in May of 2011 for the exhibition "Fashioning an Education"

Bodice

4. Lace was backed with conservation net
8. Button was re-sewn more securely

For the exhibition, the top of the lace at center front was pinned to lift slightly and cover the stain and holes.

Skirt

Folds of pleats/tucks in drape of skirt were marked with colorfast red thread, then un-stitched so that most of the lace on the skirt could be laid flat. Then it was lightly steamed, also to help flatten it.

1. Lace was backed with conservation net in numerous places
3. After the lace was stabilized, the skirt was put on a mannequin and the drape of the skirt was re-shaped using the previous lines marked in red thread. This was all sewn in place, then the red thread marks were removed.