

V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Support for the acquisition of a wide variety of dress and textile items is available from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, ([link to](#)



<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/purchase-grant-fund>) a government fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) as part of its nationwide work.

owned by
Dress by Charles Frederick Worth
Mary Holden Illingworth of
Bradford, 1881 bought by Leeds Museums and Galleries
©Leeds Museums and Galleries

The Fund supports the acquisition of objects relating to the arts, literature and history by regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Its annual budget, currently £600,000 is provided by Arts Council England (ACE). Each year it considers about 250 applications from archaeology to commissioned art and awards grants to around 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £3 million to go ahead to go ahead.

Recent examples of textiles and dress acquired with the Fund's help include:

- Leeds Museums and Galleries
Dress by Charles Frederick Worth owned by Mary Holden Illingworth of Bradford, 1881
- Foundling Museum, London
Sampler by Sarah Ann Quartermain depicting the Foundling Hospital, March 1825
- Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester
Babel, textile work by Michael Brennand-Wood, 2008
- Manchester City Galleries
Woman's suit by Yves St Laurent for Dior, 1958
© Manchester City Galleries



Organisations must meet the Purchase Grant Fund's eligibility criteria; the minimum requirement is that museums are accredited under the ACE scheme. The Fund retains an interest in the organisations and objects it supports and collections they join and ensures that the terms of grant offer continue to be met.

For more information on the Purchase Grant Fund visit the website (<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/purchase-grant-fund>); telephone 020 7942 2536 or email purchasegrantfund@vam.ac.uk to discuss a potential acquisition.



Quatermain, 1825

Sampler depicting the Foundling Hospital by Sarah Anne bought by the Foundling Museum, London

© Foundling Museum, London