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**Object: Yellow Silk Damask Dress - Stain removal**

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**Date of Object:** circa 1905

**Material:** Silk, metal

**Dimensions:** bodice (flat) 17 1/2 x 21 inches (44.5 x 53.3 cm)  
skirt (flat) 63 x 68 inches (160 x 172.7 cm)

**SAC Studio #:** 17-125

**Date Examined:** August 10, 2017

**Accession #:** G2017.006

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**Object Description**

The dress is two-pieced, composed of a full-length skirt and long-sleeved bodice. The dress is constructed of pale yellow silk satin damask fabric with floral design. The full skirt is constructed of the pale yellow floral silk and is completely lined in yellow silk, with a yellow silk ruffle at the hem. The front center of the skirt features a large decorative pleat, within it is a large section of yellow floral lace as well as a yellow silk chiffon insert with ruffled hem with 6 silk rosettes. The skirt is longer in back, creating a train. Two sets of ties are located inside of the rear skirt, along with a small ruffled bustle pad attached to the inside waist at the rear closure. The skirt closes with several metal hook and eye closures.

The bodice is constructed of the same pale yellow silk damask as the skirt. The opening at the front of the bodice features the same decorative floral lace as is present at the front insert of the skirt. The bodice features hook and eye closures at the front, which have been re-sewn onto added pieces of cream silk to enlarge the bust area. The sleeves are composed of the silk lace and are fitted from shoulder to elbow where they then open in a lace ruffle composed of the same silk lace. From below the ruffled lace another piece extends that is composed of flowing accordion pleated yellow silk chiffon.

It is believed that the dress was altered when it was expanded. The added pieces include two sections of ivory satin to the front skirt as well as two pieces added to expand the front closure area of the bodice bust. The dress originally featured a high lace collar and full coverage of lace fabric over the neck and upper chest area. The high collar was removed and the lace at the neck and chest was folded under to create a v-neck style. The high collar was repurposed and placed on the closure area of the current bodice front to serve as an embellishment, or perhaps a bridge area to bring the two altered sides together. The collar has added hook and eye closure as well as snaps that match up to the altered front bodice area. Prior to delivery to SAC, the collar was removed by the curator and is currently separated from the dress.

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**Object Condition Summary**

The dress is creased overall, particularly the fine lace and chiffon of the bodice and sleeves, and decorative areas of the skirt. Three tears are present to the neckline lace and proper left inner sleeve. Very small scattered stains are located overall. Three dark stains are present: one small stain at the front of the bodice; one small dark liquid stain, and a large dark liquid stain, both located at the front proper right side of the skirt. The series of stains appears to be of the same color and liquid.

As mentioned above, the dress has been altered in appearance while simultaneously being expanded. The skirt shows two areas where darts were removed from the waist to expand it. The bodice has two additional pieces of cream silk fabric added to each side of the front opening to accommodate a larger bust area.

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**Previous Restorations**

See above.

**Goal of Treatment**

The goal is to reduce the stain if possible.

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**Proposal for Treatment**

1. To improve the appearance and to remove particulate materials that are damaging to the fabric, the entire surface of the artifact will be vacuumed with low suction and a small brush attachment.
2. The dyes of the artifact will be tested for fastness.
3. The three larger stains located on the skirt (2 stains) and bodice (1 stain) will be treated locally to remove the soluble products present. The dark stains will be cleaned locally. The stains will be lightly blotted with blotters and cotton swabs. The areas will be rinsed with distilled water. The process will be repeated with blotters being changed until they are clean.
4. The dress will be dried by gently blotting with absorbent materials. The artifact will then be laid flat and covered with a top layer of clean absorbent materials, which will wick away and absorb any resisting soluble products.
5. The artifact will be placed in an acid-free box lined with a fabric sling. All folds will be padded-out with needle-punched polyester batting covered with cotton stockinette.
6. The artifact will be photographed before and after treatment and the final treatment report will be completed.

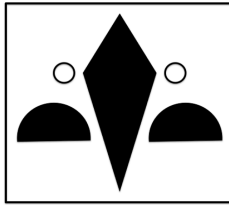
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**Proposal for Treatment**

Patricia Tice

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Genesee Country Village &amp; Museum

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**Mount Options**

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**Treatment Cost Estimate**

Estimated labor: \$1475-1875

Estimated supplies: \$190**Total Estimated Cost: \$1665-2065**

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- Please provide a Tax Exempt Form for your non-profit organization.
  - Does not include additional sales tax for New York State residents.