



CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Bid Number:
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

Date: October 24, 2025

Contact:

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Object:

Child's shirt

Object ID:

2024.09.09.13

Description:

A homespun linen shirt made for a small child, likely dating to the early 19th century. It features simple construction from rectangular panels, short sleeves with gussets, and a squared neckline. This shirt has the initials "HJM" cross-stitched in the middle of the front, indicating the owner or wearer for laundering purposes. This shirt would have been worn under a dress as an extra barrier layer between the body and the outer garment, preventing sweat from migrating to the outer garment or providing an added layer of warmth. Shirts like this would have been worn by either a girl or a boy, as both genders wore gowns until boys reached the "breeching" age, or between the ages of 2-8 and usually after successful toilet training.

Measurements:

Height- 11 ¼"

Width- 12 ¾"

Category:

Textile

Clothing/Main Garment/Shirt

Article of Clothing/Dress/Costume

Clothing/Children

Location:

Box 12

Display Case 102

Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection

George Hail Free Library

Condition Analysis:

Overall good condition with acidification and yellowing due to age throughout. Some areas of creasing due to improper storage.

Recommended Treatments:

This piece would benefit from aqueous cleaning with a reduction bleach to correct the pH. Caution would need to be taken prior to bleaching to ensure that the red dyed yarns utilized in the cross-stitched initials do not bleed. The shirt should be dried flat to prevent creasing.