Valentina collection, 1920s-1980s, [2000-2009]

Finding aid prepared by Celia Hartmann

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The Costume Institute's Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library
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Summary Information

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Repository The Costume Institute's Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library

Title Valentina collection, 1920s-1980s, [2000-2009]

Dates 1920s-1980s, [2000-2009]

Extent 31.0 Linear feet (9 document cases, 6 card boxes, 13 oversize boxes)

Language English

Abstract Russian-born American designer Valentina Sanina von Schlee (1904–

1989), known professionally as Valentina, designed for prominent society women and for notable actresses both on and off stage. From 1928 to 1956 Valentina Gowns was the most exclusive and most expensive American house of couture, providing a lavish lifestyle for Valentina and her husband/business manager George Schlee that was widely reported on in the popular press. The collection includes photographs, drawings, original muslin patterns, correspondence, press clippings, and ephemera created and collected by Valentina. Also included are materials from the personal collection of Kohle Yohannan, curator of the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" and materials specifically created to support research for the exhibition and an accompanying publication of the same title.

Preferred Citation note

[Title of item], [date of item], Box [number], Folder [number], Valentina collection, The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library at The Costume Institute, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Biographical note

American designer Valentina Sanina von Schlee (1904–1989), known professionally as Valentina, was born to a wealthy family in Kiev, Ukraine, but fled during the 1917 revolution. She and her husband and future business manager, George Schlee, settled in New York City in 1923 after having lived in Athens, Rome, and Paris. While in Paris, she had performed with the Chauve Souris and Revue Russe dance companies, which was formative in her talent for costuming performers as well as her own dramatic personal style.

As a highly visible member of café society, Valentina became known for her lithe, effortless style that incorporated practical yet elegant dresses and a variety of turbans, headscarves, and hoods that she made herself. Valentina was involved in a small concern called Valentina & Sonia, or Chez Sonia, in the mid-1920s, which declared bankruptcy. In 1928 she opened a dressmaker's shop initially stocked with 13 dresses from her personal wardrobe; by the end of the first year, *Life* magazine reported that sales reached \$90,000 (the equivalent of approximately \$1.3 million in 2018). Until 1956, Valentina Gowns was the most exclusive and most expensive American house of couture, providing a lavish lifestyle for the Schlees that was widely reported on in the popular press.

She designed for prominent society women and for notable actresses both on and off stage including Katherine Cornell, Lynn Fontanne, Lillian Gish, Katherine Hepburn, Rosalind Russell, and Greta Garbo with whom both Valentina and her husband were linked romantically. Valentina's salon closed in 1957, and she remained in New York until her death in 1989.

Scope and Contents note

The collection includes photographs, drawings, original muslin patterns, correspondence, press clippings, and ephemera related to the life and work of the 20th century American designer Valentina. The materials were predominantly created and collected by Valentina.

Also included are clippings, photographs, correspondence, and ephemera from the personal collection of Kohle Yohannan, curator of the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" as well as materials specifically created to support research for the exhibition and an accompanying publication of the same title.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged in six series: Series I. Business Records, Series II. Correspondence, Series III. Designs, Series IV. Personal Records, Series V. Promotion and Publicity, and Series VI. Exhibition Research.

Series I-V include materials identifiable predominantly as having been created or collected by Valentina. Series VI includes materials specifically created or collected by Kohle Yohannan to support the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" and an accompanying publication of the same title.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

The collection is open for research; materials are stored offsite and advance notice of 48 hours is required. Collection contains photographs that should be handled with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions apply. Consult Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library staff regarding permission to quote or reproduce.

Provenance

In 1995, Valentina's grandnephew Igor Kamlukin donated two of Valentina's scrapbooks.

The bulk of the collection was donated to the Costume Institute Library in 2016 by Valentina's grandniece Nina Frantzen. Before being donated, it had been used to support independent curator Kohle Yohannan's research for the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" and an accompanying publication of the same title.

In 2017, Kohle Yohannan donated clippings, photographs, correspondence, and ephemera from his personal collection related to Valentina's life and work.

Processing Information note

We are grateful for the assistance of Museum volunteer Suzanne Boller and interns Mia Ciallella and Tianni Graham in processing materials in Series III.A. Patterns.

Related Materials

Related Materials in the Costume Institute Collection

The Costume Institute collection currently holds over 100 garments and accessories designed by Valentina, many of which came to the Metropolitan Museum as part of the Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection in 2009.

More than 25 items were donated by the Kamlukin family in 1995 and 2016, including Valentina's iconic "monastic" dress, a signature aproned evening ensemble, and her 1943 Coty Award-winning bifurcated skirt.

Indexing Terms

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Clippings (Books, newspapers etc.)
- Correspondence.
- Drawings (Visual works).
- Photocopies
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Occupation(s)

- Fashion designers -- Press coverage
- Fashion designers -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Subjects - Topics

- Fashion -- New York (State) -- New York -- History -- 20th century
- Fashion -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Fashion design -- History -- 20th century

Collection Inventory

Series I. Business Records 1925-1970s (bulk 1930s-1950s)

Scope and Contents note

The series includes records relevant to Valentina's various business entities, including financial documents, correspondence related to trademarks and expenses, sample letterhead and business cards, as well as a run of alphabetized index cards detailing clients and the garments they ordered.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Address books. 1977, undated
1	2	Announcements, invitations. [1940s]
2		Clients. Client cards A-H. 1930s-1960s
3		Clients. Client cards H-S. 1930s-1960s
4		Clients. Client cards T-Z. 1930s-1960s
	Folder	
1	3	Clients. Correspondence. 1920s, undated
1	4	Clients. Lists. 1930s-1950s
1	5	Clients. Order book. October-December 1927
1	6	Contact information, to do lists. 1968-1972
1	7	Correspondence. Sullivan and Cromwell. 1938-1957
		Note: Re trademark issues.
5	1	Endorsements and collaborations. 1940s
1	8	Film and theater work. Contracts, correspondence, union cards. 1940s-1970s
1	9	Finances. Banking, retail accounts. 1942, undated
1	10	Finances. Bills, expenses.
5	2	Finances. Bills, expenses. Interiors. 1933
1	11	Finances. Commissions, orders. 1925-1944, undated
5	3	Finances. Payroll. 1939, undated
1	12	Finances. Sample ledger [empty]. [1940s]
5	4	Labels. Originals, photoreproductions. [1930s]
1	13	Letterhead. [1930s-1950s]
1	14	Notebook. Undated
1	15	Valentina business cards. Undated
6	1	Vendors. 1931, 1935
		Note: Copies by Kohle Yohannan.

Series II. Correspondence 1910s-1980s (bulk 1930s-1980s)

Scope and Contents note

The series includes both business and personal correspondence received by Valentina and George Schlee as well as their correspondence to each other. Most of the latter, as well as correspondence from Schlee's mother, is in Ukrainian, for some of which typed translations were provided as part of Kohle Yohannan's research for the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" and an accompanying publication of the same title. Some pages were originally marked using Post-It notes as part of that research: these notes have been photocopied, removed from the documents, and the copies are clipped to the original documents.

Also included are empty envelopes separated from their contents, business and calling cards collected by Valentina and George Schlee, blank stationery, and telegrams received.

Arrangement note

The series' arrangement is alphabetical by correspondent and then by material type. It reflects the materials' organization when received: the Schlees' letters and those from painter and theatrical designer Dimitri Bouchene were separated, while mixed correspondence was arranged chronologically. Some documents were originally organized into binder sleeves, while others were loose in the collection.

Box	Folder	
6	2	Bouchene, Dimitri. 1930s-1940s Note: In French and Ukrainian.
6	3	George to Valentina. 1950s-1960s <i>Note</i> : Originals in Ukrainian; accompanying typed English transcripts created under the supervision of Kohle Yohannan.
6	4	Marie Pavlovna to George. 1955, [1964] <i>Note</i> : Originals in Ukrainian; accompanying typed English transcripts created under the supervision of Kohle Yohannan.
6	5	Valentina to George. 1920s-1940s Note: Originals in Ukrainian; accompanying typed English transcripts created under the supervision of Kohle Yohannan.
6	6	Various. 1910s
6	7	Various. 1920s
6	8	Various. 1930s
6	9	Various. 1940s
6	10	Various. 1950s
6	11	Various. 1964-1965 Note: Most related to death of George Schlee in 1964.
6	12	Various. 1960s
6	13	Various. 1970s

6	14	Various. 1980s
6	15	Various. Undated
6	16	Various. Selected. 1930s-1950s Note: These may have been removed from other correspondence files and are more business-related than personal. Correspondents include designers Charles James and Mainbocher, editor Diana Vreeland, and others.
7	1	Various. Selected. 1930s-1960s Note: These appear to have been gathered together at some time as examples of "famous" correspondents, and include letters from The Duchess of Windsor, Princess Grace of Monaco, actresseses Lynn Redgrave and Rosalind Russell, architect Philip Johnson, among others.
7	2	Alienated envelopes. 1960s-1980s
7	3	Business and calling cards. 1960s-1980s
7	4	Hotel stationery.
7	5	Telegrams. 1920s-1970s

Series III. Designs 1930s-1940s

Scope and Contents note

The series includes records of Valentina's clothing design in the form of original patterns, documentation that describes the patterns, as well as some works on paper by Valentina and by artist and theatrical designer Dimitri Bouchene.

Further documentation on some of the clients for whom patterns in Subseries III.A. Patterns were created is provided in Series I. Business Records.

Arrangement note

The series is organized into three subseries: Series III.A. Patterns, Series III.B. Pattern Documentation, and Series III.C. Works on Paper.

Series III.A. Patterns 1930s-1940s

Scope and Contents note

The subseries includes more than 200 muslin patterns for women's suits, outerwear, and dresses created during the 1930s to 1940s. The significance of the patterns' designated numbers is unknown, but Valentina was known to keep thorough and extensive records of her designs.

Valentina's clothing and accessories were notable for their lack of the ornate decoration common in the work of other designers at this time. She adopted an architectural approach to dressmaking and insisted on tailoring to accentuate her

clients' best attributes, using precise measurements. Her designs included floor-length gowns made of jersey, linen twopiece ensembles, and wool boleros; patterns for all of these are present in this subseries.

Arrangement note

The patterns are arranged in ascending numerical order by their original numbers, followed by unnumbered patterns that are arranged in alphabetical order by any existing description accompanying them.

Processing Information note

Each pattern was received folded, pinned into a square, and housed in a zip-closed plastic bag. To each was pinned a handwritten card laminated with adhesive tape. Information on each card included an assigned number, a description of the garment to be constructed, how many pieces the pattern consisted of, the name of a cutter or seamstress, as well as a fabric swatch uniformly applied to the card's the upper-right corner. A few pattern descriptions are in Cyrillic handwriting. The tape used in the makeshift lamination process caused significant discoloration to the cards over time; discoloration has transferred onto the muslin in some cases.

The patterns have been removed from their original plastic bags, unfolded to fit the width of the archival boxes in which they are rehoused, pinned with hang tags on which has been transcribed information from the original description cards, and wrapped in acid-free tissue paper. Photocopies of the laminated cards have been placed in the outer fold of each pattern's tissue wrapping.

The original description cards are housed separately, in numerical order, in Series III.B. Pattern Documentation.

Box	
8	999. 1930s-1940s
	Note: Original documentation has been removed to box 7, folder 14.
8	1000-C. Grey wool swagger, 5 pieces by Gordinoff 1930s-1940s
8	1002-C. Grey chiffon and coffee taffeta evening dress, 2 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
8	1004-C. Grey satin swagger, 4 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
8	1005-C. Blue taffeta one-sleeve stole, 1 piece by Milli. 1930s-1940s
8	1006-C. Red heavy wool bolero, 1 piece by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1008-C. Red duvetyn swagger, 5 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
8	1010-C. Black velvet, net, and taffeta evening dress (top only), 2 pieces by
	Novotna. 1930s-1940s
8	1012-C. Black wool day dress, 9 pieces by Telejkim; altered by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
8	1013-C. Black canton day dress, 6 pieces by Shilli. 1930s-1940s
8	1015-C. Black velvet and net short evening dress, 7 pieces by Shara. 1930s-1940s
8	1017-C. Beige satin short evening dress, 3 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
8	1018-C. Ivory and brown tweed jacket, 5 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
8	1018-C. Ivory and brown tweed skirt; 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1019-C. Olive wook day dress, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1020-C. Brown wool coat, 7 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
8	1025-C. White velveteen bolero by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
8	1026-C. Red wool swagger, 5 pieces by OJ 1930s-1940s

8	1027-C. Red wool day dress, 5 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1028-C. Brown wool day dress, 9 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
8	1029-C. Red wool swagger, 4 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
8	1030. Brown [] cape. 1930s-1940s
8	1030-C. Black wool box jacket, 6 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
8	1032-C. Navy wool jersey skirt. 1930s-1940s
8	1032-C. Navy wool jersey suit (jacket only), 4 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
8	1033-C. Navy wool coat, 7 pieces by Lily. 1930s-1940s
8	1034-C. Black raincoat, 8 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
8	1035-C. Black wool day dress, 4 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
8	1039-C. Red satin evening dress, 7 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1043-C. Black, royal, and green faille robe, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1044-C. Pink taffeta short evening dress, 8 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
8	1049-C. Royal taffeta and black velvet short evening dress, 2 pieces (top only) by
	Novotna. 1930s-1940s
8	1050-C. Gold and grey sari evening dress (top only), 2 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
8	1051-C. Yellow wool blouse, 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1053-C. Black wool day dress, 4 pieces by Konownitjin. 1930s-1940s
8	1062-C. Black taffeta dinner dress, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1063-C. Navy wool jacket, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
8	1066-C. Beige and black silk and wool print day skirt, 3 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
9	1067-C. Black Ottoman suit (jacket only), 3 pieces by Lilly. 1930s-1940s
8	1069-C. Black wool day dress, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
8	1072-C. Olive wool box coat, 7 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
8	1074-C. Black and white tweed coat, 4 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
8	1078-C. Boise de rose print silk day dress (top only), 3 pieces by Novotna; altered by
	Ozloff. 1930s-1940s
8	1079-C. Black wool day dress, 6 pieces by Konownitjin. 1930s-1940s
8	1081-C. Beige and brown specks shantung day dress, 4 pieces by Cherny 1930s-1940s
8	1082-C. Beige and brown specks shantung coat, 2 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
8	1083-C. Black taffeta blouse, 2 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
8	1087-C. White organza evening dress, 5 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
8	1089-C. Black alpaca day dress, 5 pieces by Martha. 1930s-1940s
8	1092-C. Olive print shantung halter dress (top only), 2 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
8	1093-C. Grey and pink print shantung halter dress and bolero, 5 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
8	1095-C. Red duretyn swagger, 4 pieces by Otti. 1930s-1940s
8	1103-C. Navy silk linen day dress (blouse and belt only; skirt 1 double, 1 single sapho),
	4 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
8	1107-C. Red wool bolero, 1 piece by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
9	2000-C. Red wool short evening dress, 4 pieces by Martha 1930s-1940s

9	2003-C. Rust wool day dress, 7 pieces by Martha. 1930s-1940s
9	2004-C. Grey tweed box coat, 4 pieces by Otti. 1930s-1940s
9	2007-C. Green antique taffeta short evening dress, 6 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
9	2010-C. Yellow wool day dress, 3 pieces by Martha. 1930s-1940s
9	2014-C. Black taffeta short evening coat, 6 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
9	2015-C. Black velvet day skirt, 1 piece by Cherny. 1930s-1940s
9	2016-C (1 of 2). Black and white tweed day dress, 2 pieces by Mara. 1930s-1940s
9	2016-C (2 of 2). Black and white tweed bolero, 6 pieces by Gurin. 1930s-1940s
9	2018-C. Black wool fitted coat, 8 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	2019-C. Brown wool box coat, 6 pieces by Lilly. 1930s-1940s
9	2020-C. Black taffeta short evening dress "Twist", 5 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
9	2022-C. Red lace evening dress, 3 pieces by Cherny. 1930s-1940s
9	2028-C. Black satin blouse, 1 piece by Shilli. 1930s-1940s
9	2029-C. Black wool day skirt, 2 pieces by Jourin. 1930s-1940s
9	2044-C. Black taffeta afternoon dress, 6 pieces by Jourin-Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
9	2045-C. White, yellow, red, adn green print wool robe; 3 pieces by Martha, checked by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
9	2049-C. Black chiffon afternoon dress (top only), 4 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
9	2050-C. Orange wool swagger, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	2053-C. Blue taffeta short evening skirt, 1 piece by Cherny. 1930s-1940s
9	2056-C. Navy wool jersey day dress, 3 pieces by Martha. 1930s-1940s
9	2058-C. Navy wool jersey day dress, 4 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
9	2063-C. Black shantung faille evening dress (skirt only), 2 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
9	2066-C. 1930s-1940s
9	2067-C. Black taffeta bolero (copy of Madame V's white taffeta), 2 pieces by Martha. 1930s-1940s
9	2071-C. Black and white tweed box jacket, 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	2073-C. Red poplin suit (skirt only), 3 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
9	2077-C. Oxford taffeta short evening coat, 6 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	2088-C. Beige lace coat (top only), 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
9	2092-C. Oxford taffeta short evening dress, 2 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
9	2094-C. Red duvetyn swagger, 1 piece (back only, rest 1095-C) by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	2096-C. Pink linen blouse, 3 pieces by Kushmins. 1930s-1940s
9	3000-C. Black heavy wool swagger, 6 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3002-C. Black wool day dress [with] black satin trim, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
9	3007-C. Navy and royal tweed short coat, 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	3008-C. Black brocade short evening dress, 3 pieces of Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
10	3010-C (1 of 3). Pink cotton damask short evening dress, 2 pieces by Cherny. 1930s-1940s

10	3010-C (2 of 3). Pink cotton brocade "Douchegreika", 3 pieces by Zaleosky. 1930s-1940s
10	3010-C (3 of 3). Pink cotton brocade overskirt, 5 pieces. Belt by Cherny, front piece by Anita, skirt by Milli. 1930s-1940s
10	3012-C. Green duvetyn "Douchegreika", 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	3014-C. Black cotton brocade evening dress, 5 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
10	3015-C. Black self dotted taffeta afternoon dress "Mouchoire" (top only), 2 pieces by Anita. 1930s-1940s
10	3017-C. Black satin evening dress, 4 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
10	3018-C. Shrimp wool day dress and tunic, 8 pieces by Bogaevsky. 1930s-1940s
10	3021-C. Yellow wool jacket (copy leather jacket of Madame V), 8 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3022-C. Grey tweed and corduroy suit (skirt only) 3 pieces by Simone. 1930s-1940s
9	3026-C. Blue wool coat, 8 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
9	3029-C. Grey and black carnations velveteen short robe, 6 pieces, by Smirnoff. 1930s-1940s
10	3033-C. Royal wool jersey day dress (top only), 3 pieces by Cherny. 1930s-1940s
10	3035-C (1 of 2). Oxford tweed jacket, 4 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3035-C (2 of 2). Oxford tweed skirt, 1 piece by Boquevsky. 1930s-1940s
10	3037-C. Red wool coat, 6 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3041-C. Black duvetyn swagger, 6 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3048. Royal and black tweed coat. 1930s-1940s
10	3056-C. Blue heavy wool swagger, 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
10	3057-C. White foulard blouse, 3 pieces by Anita. 1930s-1940s
9	3061. White grosgrain evening coat, 5 pieces by OU. 1930s-1940s
10	3061-C. Shrimp and wool bolero (like Ms. Sherwood's), 2 pieces by Anita. 1930s-1940s
10	3062-C (1 of 2). Black faille dress (no sleeves), 5 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
10	3062-C (2 of 2). Black faille underskirt, 2 pieces by Aleksejev. 1930s-1940s
10	3072-C. Black faille dress with sleeves (top only), 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
10	3079-C. Black tropical wool day dress, 2 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
9	3083-C. Royal and black velvet brocade bolero, 1 piece by Anita. 1930s-1940s
10	3086-C. White-black-brown cotton sari 2-piece day dress (top only), 3 pieces by Cherny. 1930s-1940s
10	3088-C. Grey raw silk blouse (like Madame V's black linen), 4 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
10	3101, 3106. New Spider plea[t]s, in back. 1930s-1940s
	Note: Original documentation in box 7, folder 14.
10	4017. Black crepe dinner dress, 5 pieces by Lucie. 1930s-1940s
10	4023. Black Canton evening dress, 4 pieces by Liamin. 1930s-1940s
10	4041-C. Hobble nampon black coat, 7 pieces by Iuu. 1930s-1940s
10	4075. Black short chiffon evening dress, 3 pieces by Liamin. 1930s-1940s

10	4087. White Swiss organd[ie] evening dress, top only, 3 pieces by Kolat. 1930s-1940s
10	4088. Grey fancy taffeta evening dress, 6 pieces by []. 1930s-1940s
10	4092. Black linen short evening dress, red trim, 5 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
10	4094. Yellow shantung short evening dress, 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
10	4094. Yellow Shant[u]ng bolero, 1 piece by Shelkoff. 1930s-1940s
11	5009. Red mixture chiffon short evening dress (top only), 2 pieces by Flanders. 1930s-1940s
11	5033. White and gold embroidery, 8 pieces by Flanders. 1930s-1940s
11	5048. Green and blue taffeta evening dress, 7 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
11	5049. Black and white faille two-piece evening dress, 8 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
11	5050. Jacket "Emma". June 21, 1940
	<i>Note</i> : Original documentation has been removed to box 7, folder 15.
11	5056. Black satin and velvet flowers short evening dress, 6 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
11	5059. Black velvet evening dress, 5 pieces by Flanders. 1930s-1940s
11	5061. Black sheer wool short evening dress and red taffeta slip, 6 pieces by Kolat. 1930s-1940s
9	5065. Red faille evening dress, 7 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
11	5091. Taupe faille overskirt, 2 pieces by Kolat. 1930s-1940s
11	5099. White mouss[e]line trim on gold evening dress, 7 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
11	5101. White lace evening blouse, 3 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
11	5113. Orange georgette evening halter, 2 pieces by Kolat. 1930s-1940s
11	6003. Pink satin evening dress, 3 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
11	6011. Navy and blue cotton sari evening dress, top only, 2 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
12	6050. Ice blue taffeta skirt, 1 piece by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
12	6060. White lace blouse, 3 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
12	6061. Ivory mouss[e]line evening dress, soleil pleating, 2 pieces by Janter. Skirt 12 saphos, two in one. 1930s-1940s
12	6062. Copenhagen organza evening dress, 4 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
12	6066. Gold damask short evening dress and overskirt, 6 pieces by Kopat. 1930s-1940s
12	6068. Ivory satin evening dress, 7 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
12	6073. Navy and black stripe taffeta and organza evening dress, 5 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
12	6080. White heavy linen afternoon dress, 6 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
12	7052. Peasant skirt [with pocket], pattern made by Panow. 1930s-1940s
12	7099. Red, green, and purple t[h]in wool short evening dress, 3 pieces by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
12	7111-B. Black taffeta short evening skirt, 3 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
13	8000-B. Navy satin bolero, 7 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
13	8000-B. Navy satin short evening dress, 4 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s

13	8002-B. Sand striped sheer wool day dress, blouse only, 4 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
13	8004-B. Black brocade day coat, 6 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
13	8006-B. White pique collar on black cel. jersey blouse, 1 piece by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
13	8012-B. Blue heavy wool short jacket, 4 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
13	8013-B. Pink tweed swagger, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8016-B. Grey and white stripe taffeta two-piece afternoon dress, blouse only, 4 pieces by Kolat. 1930s-1940s
13	8018-B. White heavy linen day dress, 3 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8019-B. B+7084. Beige brocade and net evening dress, 2 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8024-B. Red foulard day dress, top only, 3 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8026-B. Black net evening dress, top only, 2 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8027-B. Black net bolero, 1 piece by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8029-B. Black taffeta afternoon dress, 6 pieces by Cassera. 1930s-1940s
13	8031-B. Pink alpaca day dress, 5 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8034-B. +7084. Green satin and net evening dress, 2 pieces by Sarantdoff. 1930s-1940s
13	8035-B. Pink print organza short evening dress, top only, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
13	8042-B. Black and white tweed box jacket, 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8048-B. Blue chambray day dress, 4 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8052-B. White pique bolero, 1 piece by Ohlers. 1930s-1940s
13	8052-B. White pique evening dress, top and 1 panel of skirt, 4 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8054. Black voile two-piece day dress, blouse only, 2 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8054-B. Black voile two-piece day dress, blouse only, skirt 3 yards across mat[erial], 4 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8057-B. Beige heavy wool swagger, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8060-B. Shrimp fl[owered] crepe and gold embroidered robe, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8062-B. Black duvetyn swagger, 4 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8064-B. Beige brocade evening dress, 8 pieces by Koklin-Novotny, skirt 3 saphos. 1930s-1940s
13	8064-B-2. Beige brocade evening dress, 5 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
13	8065-B. Black thin wool day dress, 8 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8066-B. Black Canton day dress, [] pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
13	8068-B. Black wool day dress, 5 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
13	8070-B. Black Canton day dress, 6 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8071-B. Black duvetyn day dress, 3 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s
13	8075-B. White organza shawl collar, 1 piece by Mara. 1930s-1940s
13	8079-B. Red chiffon evening dress, 5 pieces by Janter. 1930s-1940s

13	8080-B. White chiffon evening dress, 9 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
13	8081-B. White linen blouse, 5 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
13	8082-B. Brown wool coat "London", 10 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8083-B. Black Canton day dress, top only, 5 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8084-B. Red wool swagger, 4 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8091-B. Black Canton evening dress, 3 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
13	8092-B. Grey wool day skirt, 2 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
13	8109-B. Purple wool day dress, 3 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
13	8114-B. Black duvetyn coat, 5 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
13	8115-B. Navy taffeta drape, 2 pieces by Jourin. 1930s-1940s
12	9002-B. Brown wool jacket, 7 pieces by O.J. 1930s-1940s
12	9004-B. Black velvet afternoon dress, 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
12	9007-B. Blue taffeta cowl collar, 1 piece by Mara. 1930s-1940s
12	9017-B. Sand striped alpaca day dress, top only, 3 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
12	9018-B. Black heavy wool swagger, 6 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
12	9019-B. Black wool swagger, 5 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
12	9022-B. Yellow jersey day dress, 4 pieces by Suilli. 1930s-1940s
12	9023-B. White and navy stripe and red dot wool blouse, 4 pieces by
	Novotna. 1930s-1940s
12	9024-B. Beige checked wool jersey dress, 3 pieces by Konownitzin. 1930s-1940s
12	9025-B. Navy velveteen day skirt, 2 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
12	9025-B. Navy velvet[een] chandaille, 3 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
12	9026-B. Black cotton day dress and bib, 8 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
12	9028-B. Yellow wool blouse, 2 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
12	9030-B. Black damask dinner dress, 7 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
12	9031-B. Black wool bolero-box, 2 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
12	9032-B. Black wool suit, jacket only, 4 pieces by Smirnoff. 1930s-1940s
12	9032-B. Black wool suit, skirt only, 4 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
12	9035-B. Red and white check wool day dress, 5 pieces by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
12	9036-B. Beige brocade underskirt, 2 pieces, by Konownitzin. 1930s-1940s
12	9036-B. Grey brocade short evening dress, 6 pieces, by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
14	9037-B. Black and white check wool swagger, 5 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
14	9038-B. Orange and black stripe wool jersey blouse, 2 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
14	9039-B. Green wool swagger, 4 pieces by Schiffner. 1930s-1940s
14	9041-B. Taupe crepe afternoon dress, 6 pieces by Fanny. 1930s-1940s
14	9043-B. Grey and black stripe wool jersey day dress, 3 pieces by
	Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
14	9051-B. Black brocade afternoon skirt and halter, 3 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
14	9052. 1930s-1940s
14	9054-B. White satin evening dress, grey organza trim, 2 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s

14		9056-B. Beige georgette afternoon dress, 4 pieces by Konownitzin. 1930s-1940s
14		9058-B. Black, grey, and white wool jersey day dress, 4 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
14		9060-B. Grey taffeta overskirt, 2 pieces by Tilda. 1930s-1940s
14		9061-B. Black [Ottoman] swagger, 3 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
14		9062-B. Black ottoman short evening dress, 5 pieces by Novotna. 1930s-1940s
14		9063-B. Black lace blouse, 1 piece by Telejkin. 1930s-1940s
14		9064-B. Beige and black strip satin short evening dress, 5 pieces by
		Erma. 1930s-1940s
14		9065-B. Beige brocade jacket, 4 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
14		9068-B. Brown and beige tweed suit, skirt only, 3 pieces by
		Konownitzin. 1930s-1940s
14		9070-B. Black Duvetyn bolero, 2 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
14		9071-B. White buckram short petticoat, 2 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
14		9084-B. Blue black velvet organd[ie] evening dress, 2 pieces by Milli. 1930s-1940s
14		9085-B. Coral print voile afternoon dress, 3 pieces by Erma. 1930s-1940s
14		9086-B. Black duvetyn box jacket, 3 pieces by OJ. 1930s-1940s
14		9091-B. Gandarme taffeta afternoon swagger, 4 pieces by Gordinoff. 1930s-1940s
14		9092-B. Grey and yellow organd[ie] 2-piece day dress, blouse only, 4 pieces by
		Tilda. 1930s-1940s
14		9150, 9172. 1930s-1940s
	Folder	
7	6	Fabric pattern fragments. 1930s-1940s
7	7	Muslin. Unused. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. [Black dress sketch]. 1930s-1940s
		<i>Note</i> : Original documentation has been removed to box 7, folder 16.
11		Unnumbered. [Text in Cyrillic]. Black [] coat [text in Cyrillic], 6 pieces by Ou Ub,
		formerly Cigarette. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. [Green dress sketch]. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. Model. Cape [text in Cyrillic]. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. Navy jersey bolero with brass buttons, 2 pieces by Koklin. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. "Sigarett" or "Coldonie". 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. Swagger Greta Garbo, red lining, pockets a[n]d hook,
		1942. 1930s-1940s
		<i>Note</i> : Original documentation has been removed to box 7, folder 17.
11		Unnumbered. Tie. 1930s-1940s
11		Unnumbered. Various, with no description. 1930s-1940s
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Series III.B. Pattern Documentation 1930s-1940s

Scope and Contents note

The subseries includes the original pattern description cards removed from the patterns in Series III.A, as well as descriptions found separated from muslin pattern pieces.

A few pattern description cards include a sketch of the garment to be constructed. These may have been drawn by Valentina to inform the object's seamstress of the final design's appearance.

Box	Folder	
7	8	Alienated description. 835, 836. Cape. Val 1930s-1940s
7	9	Alienated description. 5003, 5027. Pockets, shirring in front, hooks on belt. 1930s-1940s
7	10	Alienated description. 6129. [Red dress]. 1930s-1940s
7	11	Alienated description. 7000. Swagger jacket, skirt, O.U., 1941. 1930s-1940s
7	12	Alienated description. 7076. Red plaid evening dress, 4 pieces by Guerriere. 1930s-1940s
7	13	Alienated description. Unidentified. [1940s]
15		Pattern description cards 1000-3062. 1930s-1940s
		<i>Note</i> : A photocopy of the appropriate card has been placed with each pattern in boxes 8-14.
16		Pattern description cards 3072-9038. 1930s-1940s Note: A photocopy of the appropriate card has been placed with each pattern in boxes 8-14.
17		Pattern description cards 9039-9172. 1930s-1940s Note: A photocopy of the appropriate card has been placed with each pattern in boxes 8-14.
	Folder	
7	14	Pattern description cards. Oversize. 999, 3101, 3106. 1930s-1940s
7	15	Pattern description cards. Oversize. 5050. Emma. June 21, 1940
7	16	Pattern description cards. Oversize. Unnumbered [Black dress]. 1930s-1940s
7	17	Pattern description cards. Oversize. Unnumbered. Swagger Greta Garbo, red. 1930s-1940s

Series III.C. Works on Paper, Undated

Scope and Contents note

The subseries includes various sketches by Valentina, as well as others by artist and theatrical designer Dimitri Bouchene.

Box	Folder	
7	18	Sketches. Various. Undated
18	1	Bouchene, Dimitri. Renderings. Undated

Series IV. Personal Records 1937-1979

Scope and Contents note

The series includes address books, financial records not related to Valentina's business, calendars and daybooks, official documents, ephemera from the Schlees' travels, as well as invitations and detailed guest lists for some of the couple's famously extravagant cocktail parties and holiday entertainments.

Box	Folder	
7	19	Address book. [1940s-1960s]
7	20	Bills, expenses. 1937, 1945
7	21	Daybook. 1954
19	1	Daybook. 1955
19	2	Daybook. 1960
19	3	Daybook. 1965
19	5	Daybook. 1966
19	4	Daybook. 1967
19	6	Daybook. 1969
19	7	Daybook. 1970
19	8	Daybook. 1972
20	1	Daybook. 1973
20	2	Daybook. 1975
20	3	Daybook. 1976
20	4	Daybook. 1977
20	5	Daybook. 1979
20	6	Documents. Alien registration, identity card. 1920
25	1	Documents. American Fashion Critics Award. 1942
20	7	Documents. Passport. Schnee, George. 1920
18	2	Ephemera. Lido Hotel, Venice. [1930s-1950s]
20	8	Gift lists. 1961-1963
20	9	Guest lists. 1961-1963
5	5	Guest lists. 1964-1968

Series V. Promotion and Publicity 1920s-1980

Scope and Contents note

The series includes photographs, press releases, loose clippings, bound and loose scrapbook pages, written drafts and transcripts of speeches and articles published under Valentina's name, as well as other published works that promoted Valentina's life and work mostly in newspapers and popular magazines.

Arrangement note

The series is organized in three subseries; Series V.A. Photographs, Series V.B. Press and Publications, and Series V.C. Speeches and Writings.

Series V.A. Photographs 1920s-1980s, bulk 1930s-1950s

Box	Folder	
20	10	Actors and actresses. 1930s-1940s
20	11	Bouchene, Dimitri. 1930s-1980s Note: Includes installation photographs, ephemera.
21	1	Fashion show. 1953 Note: Stereo Kodaslide color transparencies.
18	3	Horst. [1940s]
21	2	Hoyningen-Huene, George. Includes proofs. 1940s-1950s <i>Note</i> : Oversized material has been removed to box 18, folder 4.
		Note: Includes annotations related to placement in the exhibition catalogue.
18	4	Hoyningen-Huene, George. Includes proofs. Oversize. 1940s-1950s <i>Note</i> : Oversized material removed from box 21, folder 2.
18	5	Rawlings. [1950s]
21	3	Rawlings. Contact sheet enlargements. 1950s? Note: The original mats for these photographs have been removed to box 22, folder 1.
22	1	Rawlings. Contact sheet enlargements. Mats. 1950s? <i>Note</i> : Oversized mats removed from box 21, folder 3.
21	4	Schnee, George; Valentina. 1930s-1960s Note: Originals for images used in the publication Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity.
21	5	Theatrical performances, Valentina. 1930s-1940s
21	6	Valentina, family. 1920s-1950s Note: Oversized material has been removed to box 23, folder 1.
		Note: Many of these were reproduced in the publication Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity that accompanied the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition of the same title.
23	1	Valentina, family. Oversize. 1920s-1950s Note: Oversized material removed from box 21, folder 6.
		Note: Many of these were reproduced in the publication Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity that accompanied the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition of the same title.
5	6	Vanderbilt, Gloria. [1970s]

Note: Framed and inscribed.

Various. [1930s-1950s]

Note: The original mats for these materials have been removed to box 24.

Various. Mats removed (11). Undated

Note: Mats removed from box 21, folder 7.

Series V.B. Press and Publications 1927-1970s (bulk 1930s-1950s)

Arrangement note

The subseries is arrangeed alphabetically by material type, and chronologically within those groupings.

Box	Folder	
21	8	Clippings. Loose. 1920s
21	9	Clippings. Loose. 1927-1964
5	7	Clippings. Loose (1 of 2). 1930s
5	8	Clippings. Loose (2 of 2). 1930s
21	10	Clippings. Loose. 1930s-1940s
23	2	Clippings. Loose. 1940s-1960s
5	9	Clippings. Loose. 1952-1954
21	11	Clippings. Loose. 1950s
21	12	Clippings. Loose. 1965-1990 Note: Includes some posthumous.
5	10	Clippings. Loose. 1960s-1970s
21	13	Clippings. Loose. Undated
21	14	Clippings. Loose. Designs for film, theater. 1937-1957
23	3	Clippings. Loose. Garbo. 1950s, undated <i>Note</i> : Probably compiled by Kohle Yohannan.
5	11	Clippings. Loose. "New York Couture". 1940s-1950s
23	4	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1937-1939
		Note: Donated by Igor Kamlukin.
22	2	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1937-1940 <i>Note</i> : This item is extremely brittle and should only be handled by the staff of The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library.
25	2	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1941 <i>Note</i> : This item is extremely brittle and should only be handled by the staff of The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library.
26	1	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1942-1943 Note: Donated by Igor Kamlukin.

25	3	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1942-1945
25	4	Clippings. Scrapbook. 1940s-1960s
		Note: Extremely brittle pages. These should only be handled by Irene Lewisohn
		Costume Reference Library staff.
18	6	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. 1930s-1950s
18	7	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. 1940s-1950s
26	2	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. 1940s-1950s
		Note: Probably compiled by Kohle Yohannan.
25	5	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. 1950s-1970s
26	3	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. Theater. 1940s
27	1	Correspondence. Press agents, publications. 1930s-1960s
27	2	Press releases. Various. 1930s-1950s
27	3	Press releases. Various. Undated
27	4	Programs, playbills. 1930s-1950s
27	5	Scripts. The Chinese Prime Minister; High Spirits. 1963, undated
27	6	Summaries of press coverage. 1930s

Series V.C. Speeches and Writings 1946-1961

Box	Folder	
27	7	Biographies. Current Biography. 1946
27	8	Biographies. Various. 1940s-1950s
27	9	Presentations. Colony Club. 1961
18	8	Presentations. Radio interview "First Ladies of Fashion" with Louise Wilson, station WHAM Rochester NY. [1940s-1950s] Access note: At this time, the Museum Archives does have equipment on which to access this long-playing record.
27	10	Presentations. Various. 1945-1951
28	1	Writings. Theater design. 1920s-1940s

Series VI. Exhibition Research 1920s-2009

Scope and Contents note

The series includes materials identifiable as being created by Kohle Yohannan in preparing for the 2009 Museum of the City of New York exhibition "Valentina: American Couture and the Cult of Celebrity" and an accompanying publication of the same title.

Some material created as part of this research is also found in other series, and has been identified as such wherever possible.

The "Bakst research" folder contained both original and contemporary material; some of the correpondence in Ukrainian is accompanied by English translations and transcripts.

Box	Folder	
28	2	Client lists. 2001
29	1	Clippings. Scrapbook pages. Photocopies. 1920s-1950s
28	3	Clippings. Various. Photocopies. 1988, 1995
28	4	Financial records. Photocopies.
28	5	Images. Transparencies for catalogue. [2009]
28	6	Images. Transparencies for catalogue. Costumes. [2009]
28	7	Images. Transparencies for catalogue. Cuts, duplicates. [2009]
28	8	Inspirations. [1930s-1960s]
		<i>Note</i> : Oversized material has been removed to box 29, folder 2.
29	2	Inspirations. Oversize. [1930s-1960]
		Note: Oversized material removed from box 28, folder 8.
28	9	Photocopies. Various. [2000-2009]
	Folder	
18	9	Photographs. Various. [1930s-1940s]
		Note: From Kohle Yohannan's collection; previously matted for exhibition.
28	10	Theater career (1 of 3). [2000-2009]
		Note: From a binder labeled "Bakst research".
28	11	Theater career (2 of 3). [2000-2009]
		Note: From a binder labeled "Bakst research".
5	12	Theater career (3 of 3). [2000-2009]
		Note: From a binder labeled "Bakst research".
28	12	Theater credits. [2000-2009]
28	13	Theater programs. 1920s-1950s
28	14	Travel timeline. 2000
		<i>Note</i> : Includes photocopies of passports, correspondence, and other documents.