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UNH Museum Wedding Dresses On Display At Bridal Show Jan. 17, 2010

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Wedding dresses from the late 1800s will be on display at the annual bridal show at UNH Jan. 17, 2010.

DURHAM, N.H. – An exhibit of antique wedding dresses from the Irma Bowen Textile Collection at the University of New Hampshire Museum will be on display at the annual WERZ bridal show at the Whittemore Center on Jan. 17, 2010.

Bowen taught textile classes, including in the history of fashion and dressmaking techniques, at UNH from 1920 to 1947. During that time, she collected more than 600 samples of women's and children's clothing from the 1700s through the early 20th century.

Most of the items were donated by members of the community. Among them were the wedding dresses that will be on display at the bridal show. They include a wool designer gown covered with hand stitched lace and netting

from the house of Maison Rouff in Paris and a burgundy long sleeve silk taffeta. Both dresses are circa 1890.

In addition to the Bowen garments, several other dresses on loan to the museum will be displayed, including a navy blue hooped brocade borrowed from the John Paul Jones House in Portsmouth.

Also on display will be an orange beaded dress and matching hat from the flapper era, worn at the wedding of the grandmother of a member of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, who helped put the UNH exhibit together.

"The exhibit helps to show the history of wedding dresses. I think people will be surprised to find that they weren't always long and white," says UNH Museum curator Dale Valena.

The bridal show takes place Jan. 17, 2010, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Images available for download at

http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2010/jan/jr07dresses.jpg

http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2010/jan/jr07dresses_02.jpg

Cutline: Wedding dresses from the late 1800s will be on display at the annual bridal show at UNH Jan. 17, 2010.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 12,200 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.

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