



For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Kellogg

Phone: 800-381-7670

Email: mkellogg10@aol.com

Titanic Branson Web Site: www.titanicbranson.com

Titanic Branson Media: <http://www.titanicbranson.com/media/photos-titanic-dresses>

Lady Duff Gordon

First Class Passenger on RMS Titanic

Now - November 2018

*Rare Edwardian era fashion collection on view
at Titanic Museums*

Lucile Collection has never been seen by the public in its entirety.

Now on display in Branson, MO and Pigeon Forge, TN.

Rare examples of high fashion clothing from the Edwardian period are on display at the Titanic Museums. All were designed by Lady Duff Gordon for her couture house Lucile or endorsed by her company.

Lady Duff Gordon was one of the leading dress designers of the day and with her husband and her secretary she escaped the sinking ship in a lifeboat. The tabloid media spread false rumors that the couple bribed the sailors in their boat not to pick up more survivors but these allegations were dismissed by the British Board of Trade hearings into the *Titanic* disaster.



Altogether there are 29 items included in the Lucile exhibition that accompanies the “Amazing Women on the *Titanic*” program. These are divided between the Titanic Museum’s Branson, MO and Pigeon Forge, TN locations and are on view through November 2018.

Most of the garments and accessories on display have been loaned by Randy Bryan Bigham, author of *Lucile – Her Life by Design* (MacEvie Press: San Francisco, 2012). The artifacts comprise the most extensive collection of Lucile-associated garments in private hands in America. Until now the collection has never been seen by the public in its entirety. Highlights include couture gowns from Lady Duff Gordon's Lucile Ltd salons in London, Paris and New York as well as examples of ready to wear clothing endorsed by her fashion house.

Perhaps, the most striking pieces on display are four Lucile wedding gowns – one of them, from 1911, may have been worn by an unidentified bride when she was presented to Queen Mary at London's Court of St. James. This dress, from Canada's Fashion History Museum, is being shown in the United States for the first time.

Another of the bridal gowns, from 1916, was worn by New York society girl Mary Stevens Chapin who was the 3rd great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. Randy Bigham purchased the dress from Monica Seggos, the bride's great granddaughter, who will be visiting the Titanic Museum later in the year to see the dress for the first time since its restoration.

Seldom seen pieces of Lucile lingerie are also on view, including a corset cover, a petticoat and a rare pannier undergarment. There is also a bejeweled belt from the collection of Inger Sheil.

The display is comprehensive. In addition to the wedding gowns and underwear, there are two hats, a cream lace blouse, a striped organdy summer dress, a black velvet afternoon gown, and four evening dresses, including a blue silk ball gown with the couture house's Chicago label, on loan from Deborah Kominek.

An especially interesting piece is a taffeta jacket from Lucile's spring 1912 collection, worn by one of the wealthiest heiresses in America, Margaret Preston Draper of Washington, D.C., who later married into Italian royalty, becoming Princess Boncompagni.

Two of the evening dresses are from the FIDM Museum, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles, and are being exhibited for the first time.

Along with the gowns are fascinating archival documents – an original 1922 style show program from the Paris house of Lucile, two original 1916 watercolor fashion sketches, rendered by Lucile staff artist Robert Kalloch. One of the drawings bears Lady Duff Gordon's handwritten initials and the date she approved the sketch.

Rounding out the items on display are a lilac blossoms perfume bottle with the "Lucile, New York & Paris" label and a box of Holeproof brand silk stockings endorsed by the Lucile company in the late '20s.

For further dress information email Randy Bryan Bigham at randybigham@yahoo.com.