

## ***For Every Occasion:*** **Clothing and Accessories of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Beginning in April, the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center will host a new exhibit of historic clothing and accessories. Drawn primarily from the museum's collection, this exhibit will feature pieces that have seldom been on display.

The exhibit will be organized around various categories of garments: work clothes, uniforms, evening attire, and recreation. Accessories such as a dramatic feather cape from the 1890s, shoes, jewelry, purses, and hats will illustrate the manner of dress in Montgomery County from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. Over this broad period, styles and clothing construction changed dramatically.

Further, this period saw a shift in how clothes were acquired. Clothes made at home or by local tailors and dressmakers were characteristic of the nineteenth century, but improved transportation networks in the twentieth century made store-bought clothes from national manufacturers more accessible and affordable. The clothing and accessories to be featured in this exhibit are beautiful to the eye, but also document important trends in taste and commerce.

Advertising from the period and many remarkable period photographs from the D.D. Lester collection will accompany the clothing.

The opening reception, "Gowns and Ganache," will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6:00pm. This gala event will feature luxurious desserts and an insightful lecture by Felice Proctor, Professor Emeritus in costume design at the Virginia Tech Department of Theatre Arts. Look for special events and related art exhibits that will accompany *For Every Occasion* throughout its run.