

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
Collection #001-04-04
Dresden Foil Textile Labels
19th century

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 001-04-04

Title: Dresden Foil Textile Labels

Creator: Unknown

Dates: 19th century

Quantity: ¼ manuscript container, 19 items (total 0.25 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Purchased from Joslin Hall in 2019

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from a bookseller.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jessica Rogers-Cerrato in 2021.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English and Latin.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item number], [item title], Dresden Foil Textile Labels, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection. Consideration of the copyrights is the responsibility of the researcher.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None.

Published description Not applicable.

Location of originals Not applicable.

Location of copies	The final folder in this collection, folder number 6, contains enlarged color photocopies of materials for ease of viewing and research.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Textile industry Textile industry--United States Textile industry--Great Britain Textile fabrics--Labeling Labels Embossing (printing) Commercial art Dresden (Germany) product labels embossed works (visual works) die cutting metallic paper

SEE ALSO

Renard Silk Co. of New York, Collection of silk manufacturers' labels from China and Japan, Providence Public Library Special Collections, 741.692 R394c SpecColP Quarto.

Textile Industry Labels & Ephemera, Collection of pictorial labels used for the advertisement and sale of printed textiles, bales of cloth, and individual fabric lengths, Providence Public Library Special Collections, 001-04-03.

HISTORICAL NOTE

These elaborate die-cut embossed gold and silver foil labels are known as "Dresdens" for the city in Germany that became synonymous with their manufacture in the 18th and 19th centuries and, in fact, continues to produce them today. Though they were used by many different merchants, nearly all the examples in this collection were made for the British or American cloth and linen trade, and thus have spaces at the base for measurements and/or price. Often labels of this type were used to fasten the end of a bolt of fabric.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The labels in this collection are highly detailed examples, die-cut in various shapes, and predominantly represent textile manufacturers in the United States and Great Britain during the 19th century.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Materials are described at the item level. The original order in which they were received from the bookseller has been preserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Item	Description	Date	Folder
1	Round die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a queen on a throne holding a sceptre. Dimensions: 3x3 inches	19th century	1
2	Round die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a woman seated before a clock. Dimensions: 3x3 inches	19th century	1
3	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a crest with three eagles and three of the letter S. Above the crest is the bust of a deer shot through with an arrow. Below appears the Latin phrase Te Ipsum Nosce, an inversion of the phrase "Know thyself." Dimensions: 3x3 inches	19th century	1
4	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a lion and an eagle with American and British flags on either side. Mounted on tan cardstock. Dimensions: 3x3.75 inches. See also: item number 18	19th century	1
5	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a woman in motion waving a long scarf. Mounted on pale blue cardstock. Dimensions: 3x3.75 inches	19th century	2
6	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a beaver on a branch. Text at the bottom reads, "Berkeley Company." Dimensions: 3.75x3 inches	19th century	2
7	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a woman seated in nature surrounded by flowers and beside a lamb. Mounted on pale pink cardstock. Dimensions: 3.5x3 inches. See also: item number 8	19th century	2
8	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a woman seated in nature surrounded by flowers and beside a lamb. Heavily tarnished. Dimensions: 3.5x3 inches. See also: item number 7	19th century	2
9	British die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Elaborate image of harbor featuring masted ships. In the background can be seen a series of domed official buildings. Small seal with a unicorn bust on the bottom alongside the phrase, "Entd. at Stationers Hall." Dimensions: 3.75x3 inches	19th century	3
10	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of Pegasus in flight. Dimensions: 3.75x3 inches	19th century	3
11	Die-cut gold foil embossed textile label. Greco-Roman image of a man on horseback with a raised spear fighting off a	19th century	3

	humanoid tiger. Dimensions: 3.5x3 inches		
12	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a tree on a rocky shore next to a hillside. Two small dwellings and a stag in the foreground. Dimensions: 3x3.75 inches	19th century	3
13	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a hunting dog standing in the grass, possibly pointing. Two rifles crossed at the top center. Dimensions: 4x3.5 inches	19th century	4
14	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a hunting dog head down catching a scent in the grass. Dimensions: 4x3.5 inches	19th century	4
15	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a winged lion marching across a bridge carrying a banner. Mounted on blue cardstock. Dimensions: 3x3.5 inches	19th century	4
16	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of an eagle bent over to eat a round object in its talons. Mounted on red cardstock. Dimensions: 3x4 inches	19th century	5
17	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Image of a man and a woman shaking hands above a crest adorned with fleur de lis. Text in banners across the bottom reads, "Pretio Prudentia Praestat," Latin for "Wisdom is beyond price." Mounted on red cardstock. Dimensions: 3x4 inches	19th century	5
18	Oval die-cut silver foil embossed textile label with scalloped edges. Image of a lion and an eagle with American and British flags on either side. Mounted on blue cardstock. Dimensions: 3x3.75 inches. See also: item number 4	19th century	1
19	Circular die-cut silver foil embossed textile label. Brand listed as, "Mull a la Suisse." Hand-colored image of an eagle on a branch with arrows in its talons. Mounted on plain paper. Handwriting on paper lists a name, presumably of the previous owner. Dimensions: 3x3 inches	19th century	5
20	Enlarged color photocopies of items	n.a.	6