

**Collection number:** ADJL-01

**Creator:** Emery, Irene

**Title:** Irene Emery Papers

**Dates:** circa 1954-1973

**Volume of collection:** 58 cubic feet

**Language of materials:** Collection materials in English.

**Collection summary:** Research papers of the curator of technical studies at The Textile Museum.

**Biographical note:**

Irene Emery (1900-1981) began working as a curator at The Textile Museum in 1954, where she specialized in researching how to systematically describe textile structures from all over the world. Her research work at the museum led to the seminal 1966 publication *The Primary Structures of Fabrics: An Illustrated Classification*, which is still used in the study of textile structures today. Irene Emery retired from her position at the museum in 1970, but she continued to be active at the museum and in her field. The Irene Emery Roundtable on Museum Textiles was established in 1973 to honor the important contributions she made to the study of textiles.

**Collection description:**

The collection contains Irene Emery's research notes relating to *The Primary Structure of Fabrics*, her professional correspondence while at the museum, the physical textile samples she made to demonstrate the structures she wrote about in her book, negatives and prints for all the photographs of the textiles that were used in her book, card files of fabric terms with their definitions from various sources, cards with bibliographic information, and her personal collection of textile-related books, pamphlets, and other publications.

**Arrangement:** The materials are grouped by fiber and fabric terms in the same order they appear in the book, bibliographic information in alphabetical order by last name, technical studies of textiles organized by institution name, and correspondence by first letter of last name.

**Digitized copies:** Digital copies of collection material are not available.

**Access restrictions:** Requests to use the archive must be made in advance of a research visit; please contact the Arthur D. Jenkins librarian to schedule a visit.

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**Rights note:** Materials in the collection may be subject to copyright restrictions.

**Preferred citation:** Irene Emery Papers, Arthur D. Jenkins Library, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum

**Works used in preparation of inventory:** Rowe, Ann Pollard. "Irene Emery Obituary." *The Textile Museum Journal* vol. 19-20 (1982).

**Acquisition note:** The papers were created by Irene Emery during her tenure as curator of technical studies at The Textile Museum and have remained in the museum's possession since then.

**Processing information:** This collection was initially organized by Ann Lane Hedlund in collaboration with Irene Emery in the 1970s. Librarian Lydia Fraser indexed the collection in 2013.