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Work-in-Progress

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WORK-IN-PROGRESS

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INTRODUCTION

This slide presentation and brief introduction represent work-in-progress, originally undertaken for an exhibition that was to have been held at the Fashion Institute of Technology.¹

The textiles in question were either designed for the textile firm of F. Schumacher & Company or imported and sold under the company's name. The slides, reproduced from a number of periodicals and company manuals, were shown in the hope that they would be recognized by the other conferees.

HISTORY²

The company was founded by Frederick Schumacher, who came to the United States from France in 1883 to establish an office for the French textile firm Passavant & Company to sell furnishing fabrics. Prior to his moving to the United States, Frederick Schumacher had trained with several French firms including Vanoutryve and Passavant.

In 1889 Passavant decided to close its New York office, whereupon Frederick Schumacher bought their inventory and in August of that year opened his own firm at Broadway and 22nd Street. He continued to sell fine imported brocades, damasks, brocatelles and lampas to interior decorators and architects for use in hotels and private residences.

In 1895 the company leased a mill in Paterson, New Jersey, identified as the Waverly Mill where silk damasks, taffetas and satins were woven.

In the 1920's Schumacher began working with American and European designers, who created textiles which the company sold and promoted in its ads.

Today F. Schumacher & Company is still owned by descendants of its founder, Frederick Schumacher.

FOOTNOTES

1. The exhibition was scheduled for February 1989 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of F. Schumacher & Company.
2. Background information on the company's history was provided by Richard Slavin, curator, F. Schumacher & Company archives.

SLIDES

1. "L'Association des Toiles de Rambouillet," Art et Decoration, 43(January 1923), p. 10. Design of birds and nests on ogival ground.
2. "L'Association des Toiles de Rambouillet," Art et

- Decoration, 43(January 1923), p.11. Design of serpentining stripes and stylized flowers.
3. "Toiles de Rambouillet," Leaflet, 21(no date), F. Schumacher & Company. Company advertisement superimposed on a Toiles de Rambouillet in orange and blue on an ecru ground.
 4. "Schumacher Fabrics & Trimmings," Price List, (February and March 1930), front cover. Illustration of a "modern damask" designed by Edouard Benedictus, bell-shaped flowers and stylized leaves.
 5. American Union of Decorative Artists and Craftsmen, Annual of American Design 1931, (New York: Ives Washburn, Inc. 1930), p. 54. Textiles designed by Vally Wieselthier, distributed by F. Schumacher & Company.
 6. Advertisement, Waverly Fabrics, "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," House and Garden, 55(May 1929), p. 24. Textile designed by Rockwell Kent.
 7. "Schumacher Fabrics & Trimmings," Stock and Price List, (May 1929), cover. "Skyscraper" textile for the Cadillac coupe.
 8. "Schumacher Fabrics & Trimmings," Stock and Price List, (July 1929), back cover. Sikorsky amphibian interior with geometric patterned textiles designed by Adolph Griven.
 9. "Schumacher Fabrics & Trimmings," Stock and Price List, (November 1929), back cover. Airplane interior.
 10. Advertisement, F. Schumacher & Company, "Pastoral," Interiors, 107(April 1948), p. 80. Textile designed by Marcel Vertes for Stoffel & Co., St. Gall, Switzerland.
 11. Advertisement, F. Schumacher & Company, "Fig Leaves," Interiors, 109(February 1950), p. 66. Textile designed by Marion Dorn, print on linen ground
 12. "The Pace Setter House for 1953," House Beautiful, 94 (November 1953), p. 234. "All Square" and "Fancy Leaves" designed by Mariska Karasz after embroideries exhibited at the Bertha Schaefer Galleries, New York, from November 24-December 12.
 13. Ibid., p. 228. "Fancy Leaves."
 14. Ibid., p. 235. "Skein" designed by Mariska Karasz.
 15. "Fabrics '53: Semi-annual review of market," Interiors, 112(April 1953), p. 121. "Strata" designed by Lucienne Day, print on cotton ground.
 16. "Good Design," Interiors, 113(September 1953), p. 96. "Square Deal" designed by Angelo Testa.
 17. "Textiles USA," American Fabrics, 38(Fall 1958), p. 45. "School Figures" designed by Mariska Karasz, 1956.