



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

Vintage Hats on View at the Morse

WINTER PARK, Fla. (August 1, 2002) — On October 15, The Morse Museum of American Art opens an exhibit of 22 women's hats representing a span of some 70 years and a fashion era in which headdress was not only *de rigueur* but an emblem of both style and social status.

Three Women of Taste and Style: Their Hats from the 1870s through the 1940s is an intimate glimpse into the wardrobes of three women of different generations but of the same family. The hats, all from the Morse's permanent collection, were purchased and worn by women whose lives are integral to the museum's own history and mission.

Martha Owens Morse (1839 — 1903) and Elizabeth Morse Genius (1872 — 1928) were the wife and daughter, respectively, of Chicago industrialist and Winter Park philanthropist Charles Hosmer Morse for whom the Museum is named. Jeannette Genius McKean (1909 — 1989), his granddaughter, founded the Museum in 1942. They were women of education, taste and talent, who though always fashionably dressed, were not slaves to the latest fad. Through a select number of hats, this exhibit suggests their joy in choosing styles that best suited their own views of themselves.

The installation includes bonnets, cloches, and flowery straws bearing labels from Chicago, New York, and Paris, all expressing the best of the milliner's art. Until the middle of the 20th century, a hat was a way for a woman to express her senses of style, beauty, artistry and, occasionally, frivolity. The hats will be on view until September 28, 2003.

Costume historian June Burns Bové is the guest curator of the exhibit. Ms. Bové, who holds a master's degree in costume studies from New York University, is an adjunct professor in the graduate program in museum studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Previously, she played a major role in exhibitions at the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, including all of Diana Vreeland's exhibitions since 1973. She has guest curated such exhibitions as *Scaasi: The Joy of Dressing Up, a Retrospective Exhibition* at the New York Historical Society.

Beginning Sept. 6, museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday; and 1

p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, free for children under 12, and free to all visitors after 4 p.m. Friday.

The Morse Museum is owned and operated by the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation and receives additional support from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. It receives no public funds.

###

445 North Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789

Phone (407) 645-5311 Fax (407) 647-1284