Fandemonium

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Fans are among the earliest accessories because they perform a critical function. In the days before air conditioning, the cool breeze created by a fan became as welcome relief. Far from purely functional, fans became highly ornamented and beautiful. Over the centuries and across continents, a number of different basic forms of fans developed. This exhibition explores these different shapes and styles. From hand-painted rococo designs of the eighteenth century to celuloid, art deco pieces from the twentieth century, the variations are remarkable and stunning.

**Rococo and revival**

Folding fans with painted leaves made of paper or vellum, often bearing biblical, mythological or pastoral scenes, were popular in the 18th century, particularly in France.

1. **Fixed fan**
   - European, ca. 1790s
   - Painted vellum or 'chicken skin' leaf with carved, painted and gilded ivory sticks and guards
   - Anonymous gift, KSUM X2004.001

2. **Fixed fan**
   - French, 18th century
   - Painted paper leaf with carved and painted ivory handles and mother of pearl sticks and guards
   - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 1983.1.1564

Although these fans fell out of favor following the French Revolution they saw a revival in the mid-19th century. The Chinese began to adapt the fans for the Western market. The fans were produced by a number of specialized artisans including carvers, painters, and even jewelers. The "Thousand Faces" fan is a variation of Chinese export fan characterized by the application of small painted ivory faces and pieces of silk for the robes.

3. **Decoupé fan**
   - Chinese, 18th century
   - Painted vellum leaf cut out like lace with carved ivory sticks
   - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1513

4. **Decoupé fan**
   - French, ca. 1800
   - Hand painted silk leaf embroidered with gold sequins and sticks of carved and gilded ivory
   - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1572

5. **Asymmetrical fan**
   - Chinese, late 19th century
   - Embroidered silk leaf with carved ivory guards and pierced sticks. Painted lacquer box.
   - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1704.6

**Fixed**

Fixed fans have existed longer than those that fold or have moving parts. Such fans can be found around the world and made from a range of materials, ranging from vegetable fibers to plastic.

6. **Fixed fan**
   - American, ca. 1900
   - Hand painted vellum or chicken skin' leaf with sequins and mother of pearl sticks and guards
   - In memory of Elise and LaMar Choisy, Sr., KSUM 2002.24.1

7. **Fixed fan**
   - Possibly French, mid-19th century
   - Lithograph on paper leaf with carved and gilded bone sticks and guards
   - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.80

8. **Fan box**
   - American, ca. 1900
   - Box of wood entirely covered with celuloid, brass closure and hinges, lined with blue silk.
   - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.102

9. **Chinese export**
   - Folding fans originated in China and were exported to the west in substantial numbers by the early 18th century. The Chinese began to adapt the fans for the Western market. The fans were produced by a number of specialized artisans including carvers, painters, and even jewelers. The "Thousand Faces" fan is a variation of Chinese export fan characterized by the application of small painted ivory faces and pieces of silk for the robes.

10. **Decoupé fan**
    - Chinese, 18th century
    - Painted vellum leaf cut out like lace with carved ivory sticks
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11. **Decoupé fan**
    - French, mid-18th century
    - Painted paper leaf with carved and gilded ivory sticks
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1572

12. **Asymmetrical fan**
    - Chinese, 19th century
    - Embroidered silk leaf with carved ivory guards and pierced sticks. Painted lacquer box.
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1704.6

13. **Fixed fan**
    - American, ca. 1920s
    - Hand painted vellum or chicken skin' leaf with sequins and mother of pearl sticks and guards
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.80

14. **Fixed fan**
    - Asian, 19th century
    - Embroidered silk leaf stretched over frame covered in brocade with carved ivory handle and silk tassels
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.6

15. **Fixed fan**
    - Asian, 20th century
    - Woven vegetable fiber
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.51

16. **Fixed fan**
    - American, 1863
    - Cardboard base covered in white, down covered, carved ivory handle
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.13

17. **Fixed fan**
    - American, 1890s
    - Embroidered silk leaf with carved ivory guards and pierced sticks. Painted lacquer box.
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1704.6

18. **Feather fan**
    - American or European, early 19th century
    - Black and yellow feathers attached to wooden sticks connected with yellow silk ribbon and bow
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.12

19. **Feather fan**
    - American, 1890-1910
    - Teal blue ostrich feathers with celluloid handle
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 1983.1.57.3

20. **Feather fan**
    - Chinese, early 20th century
    - White goose feathers painted with gold, carved ivory sticks and guards
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1517

21. **Briseé**
    - Chinese, late 19th century
    - Embroidered silk leaf with carved ivory guards and pierced sticks. Painted lacquer box.
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1704.6

22. **Feather fan**
    - American, ca. 1800
    - Marquise fans with tortoise shell sticks
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.24

23. **Jenny Lind fan**
    - American, 19th century
    - Red crepe paper decorated with paint and glitter, white wood sticks
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 1995.17.268

24. **Jenny Lind fan**
    - American, 19th century
    - Cardboard base covered in white, down covered, carved ivory handle
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.13

25. **Feather fan**
    - English, 18th to early 19th century
    - White goose feathers painted with gold, carved ivory sticks and guards
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.52

26. **Feather fan**
    - Chinese, late 19th century
    - Carved ivory sticks, gossamer-ribbon
    - Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM 1983.1.1516

27. **Feather fan**
    - American or European, late 19th or early 20th century
    - Imitation tortoise shell guards and pierced sticks with painted flowers, brown silk ribbon
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.26

28. **Feather fan**
    - American or European, late 19th or early 20th century
    - Ivory colored plastic sticks

**Variations**

The interplay between the painted silk and the blades of these two fans differs from the more conventional arrangement of leaves and sticks.

29. **Briseé**
    - American, 1910s
    - Ivory colored plastic sticks and guards, painted pink silk ribbon
    - Gift of the Martha McCaskey Sol- horn Collection, KSUM 1996.08.486

30. **Pleated fan**
    - Probably Asian, 20th century
    - Imitation tortoise shell guards and painted plastic, silk leaf, metal rivet
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.56

31. **Pleated fan**
    - Asian, ca. 1900
    - Chinese export fans of the 19th century

**Palmette**

When the sticks are in equal length the fan will be a semi-circle, but when the middle sticks are longer than those on the ends, the fan becomes palmette-shaped.

32. **Pleated fan**
    - American or European, 1920s
    - Black net and gauze leaf with painted gold decoration and sequins, wood sticks and guards, brass pin, studs and loop
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.27

33. **Pleated fan**
    - American or European, 1920s
    - Black net and gauze leaf with painted gold decoration and sequins, wood sticks and guards, brass pin, studs and loop
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.61

34. **Pleated fan**
    - American or European, 1920s
    - Black net and gauze leaf with painted gold decoration and sequins, wood sticks and guards, brass pin, studs and loop
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.56

35. **Pleated fan**
    - American or European, 1920s
    - Black net and gauze leaf with painted gold decoration and sequins, wood sticks and guards, brass pin, studs and loop
    - Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM 2004.31.27
**Sequins**

The placement of sequins on a mesh or gauze leaf creates a dazzling interplay of brilliance and transparency.

36. **Pleated fan**  
European, ca. 1790s  
Silk satin leaf embroidered with sequins and carved ivory sticks and guards  
Anonymous gift, KSUM.2004.2

37. **Pleated fan**  
American or European, early 19th century  
Gold mesh and silk satin leaf with sequins, gilded and pierced wood sticks and guard  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1276

38. **Pleated fan**  
American, early 20th century  
Label: Tiffany & Company, New York  
Green silk and mesh leaf with sequins, horn sticks and guards painted with gold and silver, gold ring with diamond studs  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1798

39. **Pleated fan**  
American or European, early 20th century  
Black gauze leaf embroidered with sequins, wood sticks and guards inset with metal  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1276

40. **Pleated fan**  
French, late 19th to early 20th century  
Gold mesh and ivory silk leaf embroidered with sequins, mother of pearl sticks and guards  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1608

41. **Pleated fan**  
American or European, early 20th century  
Black silk gauze leaf with iridescent sequins, wood sticks and guards with laced sequins  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1174

42. **Pleated fan**  
American, early 20th century  
Leaf of painted gauze and net with applique lace flowers, mother of pearl sticks and guards pierced and inlaid with silver and gilt  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1767

43. **Pleated fan**  
American, 1890s  
Painted black silk organza and chantilly lace leaf, black painted wood sticks and guards, brass ring, black silk ribbon  
Gift of the Martha McCaskey Selhorst Collection, KSUM.1996.58.400

44. **Pleated fan**  
Austrian, late 19th century  
Leaf of handmade lace with plastic sticks and guards  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.85

45. **Pleated fan**  
American or European, early 20th century  
Leaf of handmade lace with carved ivory sticks and guards  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.79

46. **Lace fan**  
American, late 19th century  
Leaf of black net applied with white Brussels lace and blue sequins, dark mother of pearl sticks and guards inset with sequins  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1382

**Advertising**

The ability to print images on fans inevitably led to their adoption for advertising and as souvenirs. Curiously the imagery on the face of these fans can be unrelated to the product being advertised.

47. **Commemorative fan**  
American, 1904  
Cut paper and black net leaf with metal sequins, red wood sticks and guards  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.74

48. **Commemorative fan**  
American, 1901  
Paper leaf, wood sticks and guards  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.84

49. **Commemorative fan**  
American, 1892  
Paper leaf, wood sticks and guards, brass pin and loop  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.39

50. **Advertising fan**  
American, ca. 1940s  
Printed paper blades, metal rivet  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.35

51. **Brisé fan**  
German, ca. 1910  
Printed paper blades attached with brass rivet, string, ribbon  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.40

52. **Advertising fan**  
American, ca. 1910  
Paper, wood, staple  
Gift of the Martha McCaskey Selhorst Collection, KSUM.1996.58.400

**Lace**

Among the most prized of textiles, lace is a natural choice as a leaf for a fan. The lace is custom made in a semi-circle shape to form the leaf. Mother-of-pearl was often chosen for the sticks and guards of lace fans.

42. **Lace fan**  
American, early 20th century  
Leaf of painted gauze and net with applique lace flowers, mother of pearl sticks and guards pierced and inlaid with silver and gilt  
Silverman/Rodgers Collection, KSUM.1983.1.1276

43. **Lace fan**  
American, 1892  
Pleated cloth, paper, string  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.12

44. **Cigar-shaped cockade fan**  
American, ca. 1930  
Paper  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.11

53. **Cockade fan**  
American or European, Late 19th or early 20th century  
Leaf of red cloth with metal handle  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.12

54. **Cockade fan**  
Possibly American, ca. 1920s  
Leaf of red cloth with metal handle  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.13

55. **Mechanical fan**  
French, 1920s  
Label: La Brisé  
Paper  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.38

**Mechanical**

The fans in this case are remarkable for the mechanisms by which they fold. Breaking away from the typical semi-circular shape of the folding fan, cockade fans open into a full circle. The fan with the plastic blades spins when the metal button is pushed.

53. **Cockade fan**  
American or European, Late 19th or early 20th century  
Pleated cloth, paper, string  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.85

54. **Cockade fan**  
American or European, early 20th century  
Leaf of handmade lace with carved ivory sticks and guards  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.11

55. **Mechanical fan**  
French, 1920s  
Label: La Brisé  
Celluloid fan with metal mechanism  
Gift of Dr. Lotar and Luanna Stahlecker, KSUM.2004.31.38