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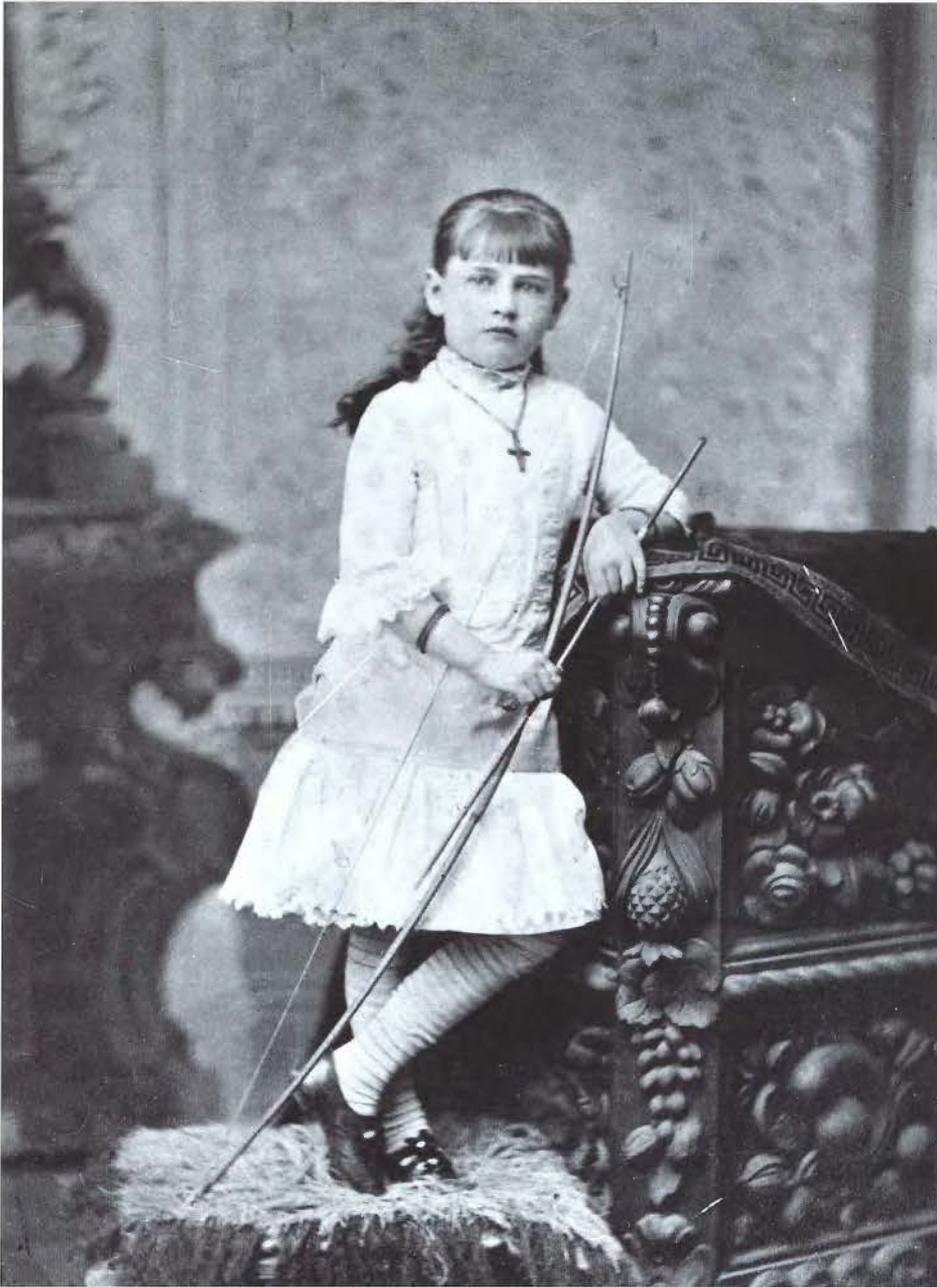
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Photographs / Images: Willa Cather as a child, dress worn by Cather in the late 1870s

P.S. Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances



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Born in Virginia in 1873, Willa Cather came to live in Red Cloud, Nebraska, at age ten. The dress shown here dates from the late 1870s and is made of sheer cotton voile and lace. Cather wore it for a recitation of the poem *The Song of Hiawatha* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. At the proper moment of her recitation, she dropped to one knee and shot an arrow into an imaginary forest. In this



Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances will be at the Nebraska History Museum October 9, 2010 through August 31, 2011. Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial. Source: Helen Cather Southwick, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. NSHS 3560-673

photograph, she wore a cross necklace made of the hair of her mother and father and tipped in gold.

The dress is part of an upcoming exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. *Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances* uses clothing and textiles owned by Willa Cather, her friends, and family to tell the story of a woman who made her own rules in fashion and literature. 