Note from the Curator

Happy New Year! The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection has again had a busy and exciting year. The increased presence of the collection online – from our exhibits to images of the collection – has brought us contacts from around the world. Please take a look! It is always gratifying to see friends at our events and also to have the collection used to support all aspects of our mission. A new collaboration with Plant Sciences students for Art in Bloom was certainly eye-catching. Collaborations with TAM students for both design and for research extended our education mission. Thank-you to all who supported us this year through donations of all types. And, thank-you to Nicole Johnston, who has developed exhibits, maintained the collection, led development of the website, and communicated with donors. We now look forward to new exhibits and opportunities. Please visit the first of our planned 3-part exhibit, *Endangered: Fauna and Fashion* through February in Gwynn Hall. Part 2, Flora and Fashion will open in Fall of 2019. And stay tuned for our summer exhibit, opening in early June. I hope to see you there!

- Jean L. Parsons
ART IN BLOOM; March 16-18

Over 1,400 guests browsed this year’s Art in Bloom event at the Museum of Art and Archaeology! New this year was a collaboration with Lesleighan Cravens of Plant Sciences and her students in MU’s Wedding Floral Design course in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Sixteen students previewed floral garments from the MHCTC in February which inspired eight one-of-a-kind floral designs of jewelry and accessories for the event! We look forward to working with Plant Sciences again in 2019! View more images of this year’s display online: http://www.tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/collection.html
50s: FORMS IN FASHION Popup Exhibition; May 2
Prior to the MSA/GPC Wednesday film Phantom Thread set in 1950s London, the MHCTC highlighted over 40 period garments, shoes and accessories depicting the various forms and shapes of 1950s design.

WEDDING BELLE BLUES Exhibition and Presentation; June – August
Great Britain’s May royal wedding heralded the opening of the 2018 bridal season and the MHCTC celebrated with an exhibit highlighting over a century of bridal garments in a variety of non-traditional colors and styles. Dr. Ashley Hasty, a Columbia, Missouri native and TAM alumna, presented an overview of non-traditional wedding apparel from recent history. It was also a pleasure to visit with numerous donors whose family wedding garments were featured in the exhibition. More online: http://www.tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_wedding.html
ENDANGERED: FAUNA AND FASHION Exhibition with TAM Student Design Showcase, September 20; Gwynn Hall

2018 marked the 45th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act and the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In commemoration the MHCTC explored the apparel industry's past and present material manipulation of numerous animal species, including periods of exploitation. For the exhibit’s opening reception on September 20th, TAM students in Dr. Jean Parson’s Creativity and Problem Solving class displayed their Art (Wear) Off the Wall designs inspired by threatened and endangered species. Dr. Joan Stack and Maggie Mayhan of the State Historical Society of Missouri were also in attendance to discuss prints by John James Audubon of the now extinct Carolina parakeet and passenger pigeon.

Explore over 150 artifacts from the MHCTC, Museum of Anthropology, Museum of Art and Archaeology and the State Historical Society of Missouri in the online exhibit: http://www.tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_origins_endangered.html.
ENDANGERED: FAUNA AND FASHION POP-UP EXHIBITION and MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION Presentation; September 20th, Memorial Union
An additional 35 animal-related clothing and accessory artifacts were displayed in a 2-hour popup exhibition in Memorial Union South prior to a presentation by Brian Flowers and Emily Porter of the Missouri Department of Conservation which highlighted Missouri’s integral role in North America’s 18th century fur trade, as well as the state’s unique, citizen-based methods of conserving and maintaining its animal populations. See more images online: http://www.tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_origins_students.html

MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY DAY; October 6
Over 230 guests enjoyed a variety of activities at this year’s Museum Archaeology Day at the Museum of Art and Archaeology! The MHCTC showcased leather accessory artifacts from the Endangered: Fauna and Fashion exhibition on illustrated postcards; see a guest’s completed postcard above. Attendees tried on boars tusk necklaces from the Museum of Anthropology’s Education Collection.
Dr. Jean Parsons, Collection Curator and TAM Professor, was the recipient of the 2018 Costume Society of America’s Beth Dunlap Award, "in recognition of dedication, commitment, leadership and outstanding service to the Midwest Region of the Costume Society of America."

Curator Jean Parsons presented her design copyright research and publications to the local chapter of King’s Daughters in February.

On March 6th Collection Manager Nicole Johnston presented Stories of Dress: Selections from the MHCTC to the Genealogical Society of Boone County, highlighting a variety of artifacts and the stories they tell of their owners and time periods.

2018 proved to be a Nelly Don year as several institutions reached out to the MHCTC with inquiries about this important Kansas City garment manufacturer:

• The MHCTC began discussion with the Kansas State Costume Collection to participate in the creation of a Nelly Don label archive for use by student and professional researchers.

• The Kansas City Museum reached out to the MHCTC in their search for advertisements and graphics related to their own recently acquired 1940s Nelly Don beach set.

• University of Missouri-Kansas City faculty member Dr. Sara Oliver is Costume Designer for an upcoming Nelly Don musical produced by Terence O’Malley of Kansas City and contacted the MHCTC as part of her costume research. Dr. Oliver is considering visiting the MHCTC to view our Nelly Don collection for additional design inspiration.

• The National Museum of American History/Smithsonian Institution’s Division of Work and Industry inquired about our Nelly Don clothing and archival artifacts for an upcoming exhibition about the history of house work and house dresses.

• Learn more about the MHCTC’s 62-piece Nelly Don Collection online: http://www.tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/collection_nelly.html

The MHCTC contributed to MU’s Material Culture Study Group presentation at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference of the American Library Association in New Orleans, Louisiana in June.

HES Staff Council members toured the Josephine Margaret Holik Conservatory on April 13th.

The MHCTC transferred a signed 1935 “Map of the United States” by Ernest Dudley Chase to Ellis Library’s Special Collections and Rare Books for proper preservation. The map was made as part of the Works Progress Administration’s Federal Art Project from 1935-43 as a means of employing artists and artisans during the Great Depression.

University Archives accepted the transfer of an 1879 University of Missouri vellum diploma from MHCTC collections that included the signature of George C. Swallow, first professor of the Missouri College of Agriculture (1851-53) and first Dean (1870-72) of MU’s Agricultural and Mechanical College.
The MHCTC loaned dress forms for MU’s Voz Latina fall exhibit in Columbia’s City Hall as a culmination of Hispanic Heritage Month activities.

Columbia Mayor Brian Treece designated October 15, 2018 as “Celebrating Our Latin American Cultures Day” in a proclamation which identified Columbia as a model community through its enthusiastic efforts to welcome and support the needs of the Latino and Hispanic populations, recognizing the strong sense of tradition brought forth by the spirit of Latino/Hispanic pride.

The MHCTC’s 1910s silk crepe bodice pictured to the left was selected for inclusion in one of the first exhibitions at the new Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement opening in early 2019 in St. Petersburg, Florida! MU alumna Elyse Zorn Karlin (MU School of Journalism), guest curator for their fall 2019 exhibition Forging an American Style: Jewelry and Metalwork of the Arts and Crafts Movement, selected the MHCTC garment for the exhibit and catalog. The MHCTC will be highlighting more Arts and Crafts-related dress in a summer 2019 exhibition exploring the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement on dress and textiles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; stay tuned!

Tetsuo (Ted) Tamanaha, Adjunct Instructor at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and patternmaker for Alice & Olivia, visited the historic clothing collection, TAM labs, and the Product Development Capstone course while in Columbia as a Juror for MU’s third annual Visual Art and Design Showcase.

MHCTC Curator Jean Parsons and Collection Manager Nicole Johnston both received spring 2018 Langsham Family Awards for Teaching Excellence.

Over 200 collection artifacts were used in TAM courses such as History of Western Dress, 19th and 20th century Western Dress, Digital Textile and Apparel Applications, and Patternmaking.

TAM undergraduate student Hadas Cohen researched and documented a 1968 suit by established Kansas City tailor Sol Stolowy who worked for and later owned the Kansas City Custom Garment Company for 54 years. During that time Stolowy designed custom suits for numerous notable Americans including U.S. President Harry S. Truman. After closing the business in 1981, Sol opened S&R tailoring in 1982. Stolowy and his wife Rose, owner of Midtown Fabric Shop in Kansas City from 1944-1958, became prominent figures within the Kansas City garment industry and the Kansas City Jewish community. See Mr. Stolowy’s suit with matching cap at left, displayed in the Endangered: Fauna and Fashion popup exhibit on September 20th.
TAM 2580 Digital Textile and Apparel Applications: Over 40 MHCTC world dress artifacts were used by students in Dr. Kristen Morris’s TAM 2580 class as inspiration for a cultural appropriation/appreciation digital pattern design project. See images above.

MU HONORS COLLEGE TUTORIAL: Get Real, Go Places! Let Objects Take You There: August – October 2018

The MHCTC and other members of MU’s Material Culture Studies Group collaborated this fall to offer an Honors College tutorial titled Get Real, Go Places! Let Objects Take You There. The 8-week 1-hour course introduced Honors students to artifacts in the MHCTC’s upcoming fall exhibition prior to a tour of the Josephine Margaret Holik Conservatory.

TAM graduate students documented and researched collection artifacts as part of Dr. Jean Parson’s summer graduate course Design Theory and Research. Artifacts included a 1910s paisley wrap, a 1940s patented Davidow suit, and a 1910s cocoon coat used as a pattern and design study; see Lida Aflatoony’s cocoon coat pattern above.
• TAM Graduate Research Assistant Eunmi Lee also digitized a 130-piece collection of Harzfeld’s Couture Fashion created by illustrator Patricia George who spent two decades designing stylish ads and materials for the Kansas City retailer. See her 1960s illustration to the left.

Patricia “Pat” George studied fashion at the Kansas City Art Institute and, after graduating in 1948, began working for Harzfeld’s advertising department. George continued to bridge the worlds of fashion and art by studying under the lead of Frederic James (1915-1985), an American painter who taught at the Kansas City Art Institute and studied under famed Regionalist Thomas Hart Benton.

Harzfeld’s, A Brief History
Patricia George is featured in the 2009 publication “Harzfeld’s, A Brief History” by Joe and Michele Boeckholt. Patricia George modeled for her mentor at Harzfeld’s, Randall Miller, in the early 1950s illustration below right.
In 2018 the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection designated a ‘NOTABLE MISSOURIANS’ collection within its artifact holdings. Several artifacts owned by Notable Missourians already exist as part of this collection, including items mentioned in this newsletter: Sol Stolowy’s 1968 suit and illustrations by Patricia George. The most recent addition to the ‘NOTABLE MISSOURIANS’ Collection is a 1990s navy knit dress (pictured below) by Missouri native Carolyne Roehm purchased from Harzfeld’s in Kansas City, Missouri by Mrs. Adele Hall, also of Kansas City, Missouri.

MRS. ADELE HALL
Mrs. Adele Hall was a philanthropist, civic leader and wife of Donald Joyce Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Hall held leadership positions on the boards of the United Negro College Fund, the Points of Light Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, Partnership for children, the Menninger Foundation, George Bush Presidential Library Center and the Library of Congress Trust fund, among others. Locally, Mrs. Hall was the first woman president of the Heart of America United Way, was a board chairman of Children’s Mercy Hospital and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and served on the boards of the Pembroke Hill School, Salvation Army, Starlight Theatre and American Red Cross.

Ms. CAROLYNE ROEHM
Mrs. Hall’s dress was designed by another notable Missourian, Carolyne Roehm, a fashion designer, author, style icon, and “lifestyle maven” born in Kirksville, Missouri. In 1973 Roehm graduated from Washington University in St. Louis then moved to New York City to work at Kellwood, a manufacturer of women’s dresses. She then began a 10-year career as an assistant designer and model for Oscar de la Renta, who would become her mentor and life-long friend.

Roehm opened her own fashion line in 1985, the same year she married wealthy investor Henry Kravis. During their marriage from 1985 to 1993 the couple became symbols of the “Nouvelle Society” in Manhattan.

Manolo Blahnik named his most iconic shoe style – the Carolyne sling-back pump - after her in 1986, a style that remains popular today.

The ‘NOTABLE MISSOURIANS’ collection will soon be featured on the MHCTC website; stay tuned!
King Louis XIV of France once said, “Fashion is the mirror of history.” The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection agrees and seeks to record and preserve that history through clothing and textile artifacts reflective of changing times. The MHCTC actively seeks men’s, women’s and children’s apparel and accessories and select household textiles with Missouri and University-related provenance, as well as those by notable past and present designers, manufacturers and retailers with strong documentable history.

If you are interested in donating clothing or textile artifacts to the MHCTC, please contact Collection Manager Nicole Johnston at johnstonnr@missouri.edu or (573) 884-5001. Please do not send artifacts without prior consultation; the safety of unsolicited objects cannot be guaranteed.

The MHCTC also collects objects from major moments in more recent decades, like the 2017 total eclipse t-shirt pictured at left. Last year’s Timely Response request resulted in the gift of a pink pussycat hat worn during the 2017 Women’s March in Washington, DC.

This year the MHCTC seeks artifacts connected to the most recent presidential campaign. Related items may include but are not limited to a red “Make America Great Again” baseball cap or other clothing worn to campaign rallies in Missouri.

If you own an example of these kinds of items and would be interested in having it preserved for future generations, please contact Collection Manager Nicole Johnston at johnstonnr@missouri.edu or (573) 884-5001.
MISSOURI HISTORIC COSTUME AND
TEXTILE COLLECTION ENDOWMENT

The MHCTC accepted 160 artifacts into collection holdings in 2018! Each of these objects, as well as the other 6,000+ apparel and textile artifacts and 4,000 archival resources, must be properly preserved for future generations. Contributions to the MISSOURI HISTORIC COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION ENDOWMENT enable maintenance of appropriate collection management and preservation standards in climate-controlled facilities, as well as continued educational and exhibition programming.

Examples of what your gift may support include:

- $30 (one archival textile storage box)
- $65 (50 hangers)
- $145 (one roll acid free archival tissue)
- $1,000 (one Ethafoam conservation form)

Partner in this endeavor by giving to the MHCTC Endowment as part of the COLLEGE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/Item.aspx?item_id=61 or contact the HES Office of Advancement at (573) 882-5142 or HESdevelopment@missouri.edu.