



MISSOURI HISTORIC COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION
NEWSLETTER

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



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CURATORIAL TRANSITION



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, DR. JEAN PARSONS!

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and the Department of Textile and Apparel Management wish to thank Dr. Jean Parsons for her years of dedication as Curator of the MHCTC. From 2012 to 2020, Dr. Jean Parsons utilized her unique background in design, theatre, costume history, and the apparel industry to enhance and refine the MHCTC's collections of designer garments and archival resources. The [Caroline Gershel Davis Style Service](#) illustration collection is one such resource used in the classroom (as seen in the middle image below), and in numerous professional publications. An exhibition in honor of her retirement titled *Jean Parsons: A Retrospective* is on view in Gwynn Hall through May 2021.

Dr. Parsons also increased use of collection objects in a variety of TAM classes and unique design projects, in academic research and in

professional publications. Her established career includes over 85 publications, awards, recognitions, and exhibitions. In 2020 Dr. Parsons was designated a Costume Society of America Fellow, the national organization's highest honor. The MHCTC wishes Dr. Jean Parsons all the best in her future endeavors! Celebrate Dr. Parson's contributions to TAM and the MHCTC with a gift to the Missouri Historic Costume & Textile Collection Endowment! [GIVE ONLINE](#)

Note from the Curator

Happy New Year Everyone. Most of us were happy to see the end of 2020 and with it, hope for the coming year. Hope especially that by the end of this year most will have been vaccinated and there can be a gradual return to face to face classes, events and museum visits. Many museums and collections struggled this year and some have permanently closed. We have been fortunate in that, through our endowments, we were not hit as hard by the many budget cuts. We were forced to cancel the planned F.A.M.E: *Fashion.Art.Museum.Experience* collaborative fund raising event with the Museum of Art and Archaeology. However, our main exhibit this year - *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft*, in collaboration with the State Historical Society of Missouri, was mounted in the gallery as planned in March. While the museum closed due to Covid immediately after, they were able to reopen in the summer and extend the exhibit into November. Despite the closure, we participated in a variety of webinars and were thus able to reach a significant number of people throughout the state and beyond. Perhaps a positive learning experience is that in the future we can begin to offer more opportunities to those who cannot attend exhibits in person to experience them virtually. Meanwhile please see the exhibit images and story on our website. I was also very honored to have an exhibit of my own work in the Filippello gallery.

Finally, this will be the last time I write as Curator. I am now retired and am pleased to turn over responsibility into the capable hands of Nicole Johnston. She is already moving the collection forward with a number of new initiatives. I want to thank all of you who support and love the collection as much as I do. I will continue to be an advocate for MHCTC. - Jean Parsons



CURATORIAL TRANSITION



INTRODUCING CURATOR NICOLE JOHNSTON!

The Department of Textile and Apparel Management and the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection welcome Ms. Nicole Johnston as the fifth Curator of the MHCTC beginning January 1, 2021. Ms. Johnston has lived in Columbia since 1994 after transferring to the University of Missouri as an undergraduate student in the Department of Anthropology. While pursuing her education (BA Anthro '93 ; MS HES '11), Nicole enjoyed a museum internship at MU's Museum of Anthropology, and archaeological fieldwork in Columbia, South Dakota, and Copán, Honduras, as well as a graduate research position with the MHCTC. Nicole has also worked in a variety of local retail management and visual merchandising positions at JC Penney, Gymboree, and the Poppy art gallery.

Ms. Johnston began her association with the MHCTC in 2007 as a TAM graduate research assistant under the guidance of curator Dr. Laurel Wilson. As Collection Manager, Nicole worked with curator Dr. Jean Parsons from 2012 to 2020, coordinating the collection's move into the newly renovated Holik Conservatory in 2012 (see before and after pictures below), and redesigning the MHCTC website in 2013, resulting in increasing numbers of inquiries from established institutions such as MoMA, the Smithsonian Institution, even Cambridge University in England! A second redesign is in progress for 2021.

Dedicated to increasing interdisciplinary and outreach opportunities, Ms. Johnston will continue to build and enhance relationships with campus, local and state institutions, and actively collect garments as part of her *Notable Missourians and Tigers Collection* and Timely Response Collecting Strategy. Ms. Johnston currently teaches both dress history courses for TAM and is a member of MU's Undergraduate Visual Art and Design Showcase Committee and HES Inclusion Diversity and Equity Task Force.

Note from the Curator

During my time with the MHCTC, I have had the privilege of being mentored by two incredible, dynamic women highly regarded in the field of costume history: former MHCTC curators Dr. Laurel Wilson and Dr. Jean Parsons. It was an honor to work alongside them performing research, creating exhibitions, developing outreach opportunities, and much more! Their knowledge and expertise have strongly influenced my own professional development, and I will be forever grateful for their guidance and continued friendship.

Residing in Missouri for almost 40 years and earning two degrees from MU means the University and Collection hold special places in my heart. Being a part of the University inspires me every day to seek new opportunities for collaboration, exhibition and outreach to highlight one of MU's most unique treasures. - Nicole Johnston



EXHIBITS AND EVENTS



MISSOURI WOMEN: SUFFRAGE TO STATECRAFT Exhibition; Mar 14 – Nov 19, 2020

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and the State Historical Society of Missouri commemorated the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment and women's suffrage with a collaborative exhibition! *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft* displayed clothing and artwork from statewide collections that highlighted roles of Missouri women in the national suffrage movement and trailblazing women in Missouri politics who opened doors for others to participate in the democratic process. Explore the [online exhibit](#)!

Related Virtual Events

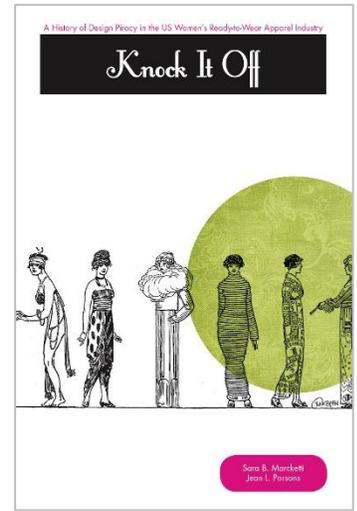
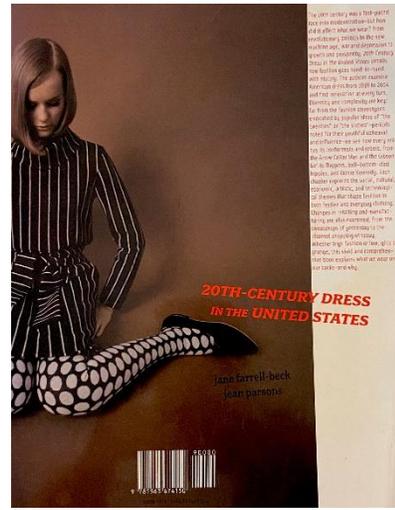
A variety of online discussions were a result of the Center for Missouri Studies closure in March 2020. These included *Votes for Women Part II* with the State Historical Society of Missouri, *A Missouri Suffrage Celebration* with Missouri M.A.D.E. (Molding A More Diverse Electorate) which reached over **600 viewers**, an online social with MURA (Missouri University Retirees Association) and OSHER, and a virtual presentation for the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives Annual Conference. Click on the first two images or links below to view the online recorded webinars.

[Votes for Missouri Women! PART TWO](#)

[Missouri M.A.D.E.: Missouri Women's Suffrage Celebration](#)



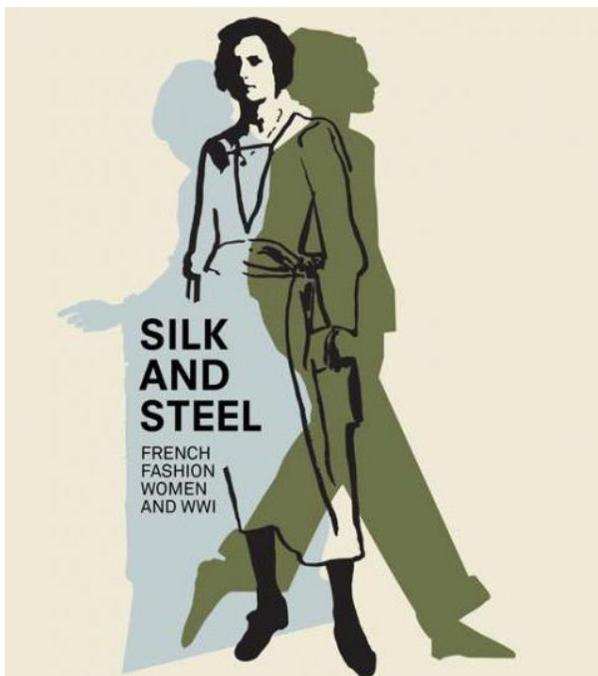
EXHIBITS AND EVENTS



JEAN PARSONS: DESIGN RETROSPECTIVE Exhibition; August 2020 – May 2021

The University of Missouri celebrates the award-winning career of Dr. Jean Parsons of the Department of Textile and Apparel Management with an exhibition of past and present design and scholarship. After earning a PhD from the University of Maryland in 1998, Dr. Parsons has pursued scholarship in both design and history with twelve years at Iowa State University prior to beginning her tenure at the University of Missouri in 2011. In addition to her academic career, Dr. Parsons worked as an apparel designer and theatre costume designer and draper in the Washington, D.C. area.

Dr. Parsons has received numerous accolades that include more than 15 publications, 30 exhibitions, and 40 awards and recognitions. *Jean Parsons: Retrospective* includes samples from a lifetime of design and scholarship in the areas of digital textile and apparel design, history of dress and the apparel industry, and intellectual property rights.



SILK AND STEEL: FRENCH FASHION, WOMEN, AND WWI; NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, Kansas City September 2020 – September 2021

Ten apparel and accessory objects from the MHCTC were selected by the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, as part of their adaptation of a special exhibition originally designed by the Bard Graduate Center on French Fashion – Women & The First World War.

[*Silk and Steel*](#) features original dresses, coats, capes, hats, shoes and accessories. Topics presented are the evolution of the war-time silhouette, Parisian designers during the war, military uniforms' influence, women's uniforms in France and America, war work, economics of fashion and post-war emancipation.

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS



COLLECTIVE VOICES Exhibition, George Caleb Bingham Gallery, School of Visual Studies October 26 – November 13, 2020

Collective Voices included art, archival, and textile objects from three campus collections - Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, University Archives, and Special Collections – that reveal historically repeating narratives relevant to today: marginalized voices, Mizzou student activism, thoughtful citizenship, civil rights, political tensions, and climate and environmental concerns. These accounts, while simultaneously local, national and global, emerged as common themes shared across time. This exhibition was a gathering of these persistent narratives and an acknowledgement that so many voices still need representation and amplification within our campus collections and across cultural institutions. Several MHCTC objects acquired as part of our Timely Response Collecting Strategy were included in the exhibit.

VIRTUAL EVENTS:

October 26: [Collective Voices Virtual Exhibit Tour PART I](#)

November 11: [Collective Voices Virtual Exhibit Tour PART II](#)

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- **Stanford University** consulted with the MHCTC regarding their 1,000 piece clothing collection that includes garments from Stanford founder and former California Senator Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane Stanford.
- **University of Cambridge (UK)** PhD student Francesca Dytor included in her dissertation an image of the MHCTC's 1920s silk textile by legendary Italian designer Mariano Fortuny (see image at right.)
- **Williams Wood University** in Fulton, MO consulted with MHCTC staff regarding proper preservation of their unique collection of collegiate graduation robes dating from the 1910s to the present.
- Dress historian Catriona Fisk from the **University of Technology in Sydney, Australia**, inquired about the MHCTC's maternity fashions for an upcoming book publication.
- Researchers from the **Cornell Fashion and Technology Collection** in New York inquired about garments related to how fashion articulates gender, race and professional expertise during the early 20th century for an upcoming exhibition.



NOTABLE MISSOURIANS & TIGERS

The MHCTC acquired several garments from notable Missouri women and men this past year as part of our **Notable Missourians and Tigers Collection** coming soon to the new MHCTC website. View garments once belonging to the women pictured below and others featured in the exhibition "[Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft.](#)"



ST. JOHN KNIT SUIT JACKET AND SKIRT (2007-19) Gifts of Claire McCaskill, first woman from Missouri elected to the U.S. Senate

This two-piece suit was worn by the donor while on the floor of the U.S. Senate and in the White House.



WOOL SUIT WITH SHIRT AND TIE (2000s) Gifts of Michael Middleton, third Black student to graduate from the MU School of Law, founding member of MU's Legion of Black Collegians, MU School of Law's first Black faculty member, and Interim President of the University of Missouri system.



AUTOGRAPHED CAMPAIGN T-SHIRT (2020) Gift of Ella Jones, First Black and female mayor of the City of Ferguson, Missouri



SUIT JACKET AND SKIRT (Late 1990s-2001) Gifts of Ann Covington, first woman to serve as Judge and Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court

TIMELY RESPONSE COLLECTING

The MHCTC acquired several items in 2020 as part of its *Timely Response Collecting Strategy*.

These types of items are collected to document important current events, as well as vital activities of MU faculty, staff, students and alums, and do not reflect any personal opinions or beliefs of MHCTC staff.



3D-Printed N-95 FACE MASKS (April 2020) Gifts of A. Soni

Mizzou sophomore Anshul Soni printed about 35 N-95 masks as part of a group donated to southwest Missouri health and emergency personnel including Citizens Memorial Hospital, the local fire department, and law enforcement. Soni used an Ender 3 3D printer in his home, utilizing patterns and tutorials found online. Soni said his Mizzou education helped him with the project. "I had to learn on my own, and I think that's one of the things that Mizzou really teaches." Learn more about Anshul's project in [MU News](https://news.missouri.edu/2020/making-masks-to-give-back/). <https://news.missouri.edu/2020/making-masks-to-give-back/>

FACE MASK PATTERN, SEWING KIT AND MASK FOR MU HEALTH CARE (APRIL 2020)

As COVID-19 continued to spread, face masks became more difficult to find, MU Health Care workers gathered supplies to assemble kits so community members could help make masks. The Department of Textile and Apparel Management cut over 35,000 masks as part of the MU Health Care kits. Read the fully store online: <https://news.missouri.edu/2020/life-saving-fabrics/>.



POLYCARBONATE CAPR FACE SHIELD AND COVER PROTOTYPES (April 2020) Gift of D. Coyle

In spring 2020 MU's Hacking Covid-19 Task Force created CAPR face shields to protect health care workers against airborne viruses. The cross-campus volunteer group and fabrication team consisted of the College of Engineering director of facilities Ron Monson; engineering technicians Matthew Marciniak and Ghassan Al Bahhash; and Damon Coyle of the MU School of Medicine's Sheldon Clinical Simulation Center. Five mask prototypes, four of which now belong in the MHCTC's permanent holdings, were tested and 1,000 masks were made and assembled in the College of Engineering's machine shop.



MU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING 3D-PRINTED FACE SHIELD

(2020) Days after MU President Mun Choi announced instructors would be required to wear face shields for in-person classes, MU's College of Engineering began producing face shields for professors on campus. As of August 7th, 2,174 face shields had been completed for campus and the Columbia community. Faculty, staff and students came together to make the shields for Columbia Public Schools and MU faculty, as well as cuffs for [MU] hospital's frontline workers.

TIMELY RESPONSE WISH LIST

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN APPAREL

Acquiring recent campaign apparel from Missourians is a way to preserve important moments in past and present Missouri politics that also reflect major national events. For example, 2020 saw elections of many notable firsts including Cori Bush, Missouri's first Black U.S. Representative; Emily Weber, Missouri's first Asian American woman elected to the Missouri General Assembly, and many others!

Pictured are examples of the types of campaign materials the MHCTC seeks to preserve for future teaching, research and exhibition. If you have examples of these or other clothing-related campaign materials that you would like to offer to the MHCTC, please contact Curator Nicole Johnston at johnstonnr@missouri.edu.



Cori Bush Campaign T-Shirt (2020)



"Make America Great Again" Baseball Cap (2016)

KATE SPADE SIGNATURE HANDBAG (LATE 1990S)

Katherine Noel Bosnahan (1962-2018) was born in Kansas City, Missouri on December 24, 1962. She and her husband Andy Spade formed Kate Spade in 1995. Spade's quintessential American look and values defined her brand as she quickly became a style icon and award-winning designer. In 1999 the couple sold their shares of the company to the Neiman Marcus Group.

"Buying a Kate Spade handbag was a coming-of-age ritual for a generation of American women. The designer created an accessories empire that helped define the look of an era. The purses she made became a status symbol and a token of adulthood." - Jonah Engel Bromwich, Vanessa Friedman and Matthew Schneier, *The New York Times*; June 5, 2018

MHCTC ENDOWMENT



Each of the MHCTC's 7,000 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 appropriate collection management and preservation standards in climate-controlled facilities, as well as continued educational and exhibition programming.

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.

2021 MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL

SHOW ME 200: MISSOURI APPAREL MAKERS AND MERCHANTS

The MHCTC commemorates Missouri's bicentennial with *Show Me 200: Missouri Apparel Makers and Merchants*. It's not a new kind of love, Missouri's love for fashion. From humble beginnings as a fur trading post in the eighteenth century, the Show-Me State emerged over the next two centuries as the world's largest primary fur market and leading maker of stylish footwear and youthful, sometimes practical, dresses. For decades Missouri courted national landmarks of fashion – Petticoat Lane in Kansas City and Washington Avenue in St. Louis. Today, Missouri reclaims its roots in style, a fashion future *in the making*.



SHOW ME MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL Virtual Exhibition

Show Me Missouri is a state-wide collaborative initiative sponsored by UMKC's Center for Midwestern Studies to document and commemorate Missouri's bicentennial in 2021. This digital exhibit tells the story of Missouri and Missourians through the lens of 200 historically and culturally significant objects, three of which are from the MHCTC, including the 1929 wool Masonic Lodge uniform pictured here that once belonged to J.R. Baker whose family founded Millersburg, Missouri. Gift of M. Baker.

TIGER TALES: ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVES

On January 7, 2021, the Mizzou Alumni Association announced the launch of *Tiger Tales*, a historical archive of collected alumni stories and experiences. This unique project, undertaken in partnership with Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI), will involve extensive interviews of Tigers across generations, culminating in a full-color hardcover volume published later this year.

Many MU alums have shared their garments and stories with the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection over the last fifty-four years, many of which will be shared on the updated MHCTC website in summer 2021 through our *Notable Missourians and Tigers* and *University Spirit* collections. Consider sharing your stories with the MAA! [LEARN MORE!](#)

NEW WEBSITE DOMAIN

www.mhctc.missouri.edu

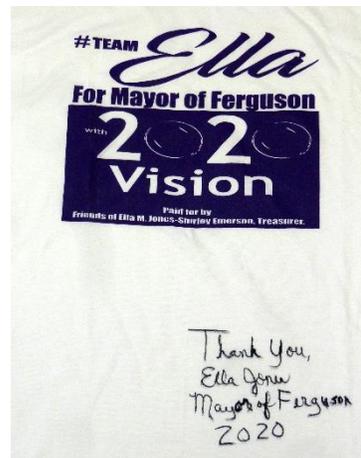
With a new website domain comes a website redesign in 2021! The MHCtC website will be redesigned and enhanced this upcoming year. More of our interdisciplinary and educational collaborations will be highlighted, as well as new online collections shown below:



Tiger Spirit



*Made @ Mizzou
TAM Student Designs*



*Notable Missourians
and Tigers*



*Timely Response
Collecting*