

# 2021

MISSOURI HISTORIC COSTUME AND TEXTILE COLLECTION

# NEWSLETTER



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## *From the Curator...*

Greetings, friends and donors, as we begin a new year! This past summer the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and the Department of Textile and Apparel Management transitioned into the College of Arts and Science where we look forward to new and exciting collaborations and even more opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching, research, exhibition, and outreach! Explore the legacy of our former home, the College of Human Environmental Sciences, in the virtual exhibit [Forever HES!](#)

The past year saw new opportunities for even more engagement in MU coursework (page 4), a new student volunteer (page 4), and fun bicentennial exhibits (page 3). I also had the pleasure of assisting the Museum of Art and Archaeology team as they packed their textile collections for their move back to campus; it will be so nice having both MU museums just across the street!

I was starstruck by our new acquisition of dresses worn by the legendary award-winning performer **Ginger Rogers**, born in Independence, Missouri! Her long feathered gowns were certainly made for dancing! See page 6.

Enjoy these and other highlights from this past year of MHCTC activities in our newsletter and on our [website!](#) Best wishes for a safe and happy new year! - Nicole Johnston, Curator



# EXHIBITIONS



## **FOREVER HES Exhibits, April -June 2021**

For 121 years, faculty, staff and students in the five departments housed within the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri improved people's lives in ways that mattered to everyone, everyday. With the dissolution of HES in July 2021 and our transition to the College of Arts and Science, the MHCTC commemorated the HES legacy of excellence with the exhibition [FOREVER HES](#) highlighting its people, artwork and collections.

## **SILK AND STEEL: FRENCH FASHION, WOMEN, AND WWI; NATIONAL WORLD WAR 1 MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, Kansas City**

September 2020 - September 2021

**32,637 visitors** attended the National World War I Museum and Memorial exhibition [Silk and Steel](#) in Kansas City, Missouri. Included in the exhibit were ten apparel and accessory objects from the MHCTC! Pictured are five 1920s garments from the MHCTC displayed in the Museum's Wylie Gallery.



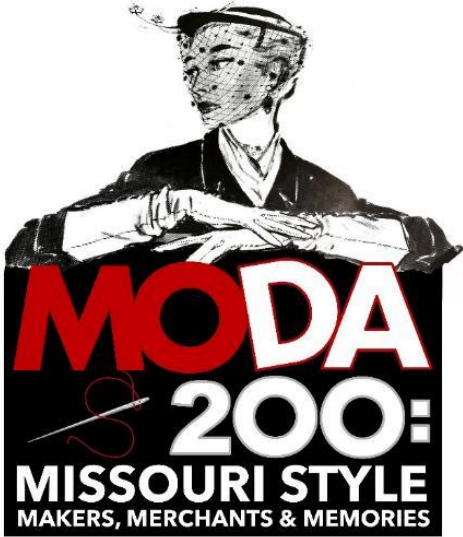
## **TRAILBLAZING MISSOURIANS, MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM, Missouri State Capitol Building, Jefferson City; April -June 2021**

As part of the State's Bicentennial celebration, the Missouri State Museum exhibited two MHCTC garments by trailblazing apparel manufacturer Ellen Donnelly Reed of The Donnelly Garment Company of Kansas City, Missouri! Exhibited in the state capitol building in Jefferson City, garments included a 1930s/40s cotton dress and 1930s Handy Dandy apron, pictured here.

"The artifacts help tell the story of one of Kansas city's entrepreneurs, Nell Donnelly Reed (1889-1991) who created an empire of affordable, ready-to-wear clothing for women of all shapes and sizes. Beyond her fashionable designs, Nell's business helped hundreds of women get jobs, healthcare, college tuition, and more. She was truly an innovative trailblazer!" - Missouri State Museum, April 28, 2021, Facebook



# EXHIBITIONS



**AUGUST 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022** Filippello Exhibition Showcase, Gwynn Hall, University of Missouri

The MHCTC commemorated Missouri's bicentennial with the exhibition **MOda 200: Missouri Style Makers, Merchants and Memories**. In 1764 the French founded a fur trading center along the Missouri River named St. Louis. Over the next two centuries, the Show-Me State emerged as the world's largest primary fur market, a global leader of stylish footwear, the nation's second largest garment producer, a national leader of the millinery trade, and the nation's largest manufacturer of junior dresses. Missouri has made its mark on fashion!

**MARCH 11 - JUNE 25, 2022**

*MOda 200: Missouri Style Makers, Merchants and Memories* will move to the Center for Missouri Studies in March 2022! Even more objects will be added to highlight Missouri's history as an important apparel manufacturing center!



## 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, four of which were selected from the MHCTC:

- [1929 wool Masonic Lodge uniform](#) of J.R. Baker whose family founded Millersburg, Missouri
- [1850 cotton triangle quilt](#) from the Cornett family of Lynn County, Missouri
- [1940s silk crepe dress](#) by St. Louis junior dress manufacturer Dorsa
- [1963 American Royal Queen gown and boots](#) worn by MU student Kay Hunter





# EDUCATION



The MHCTC was invited to present in three new MU classes in 2021! We continued our Cultural Appropriation and Appreciation presentation in **TAM 2580** *Digital Textile and Apparel Applications* as part of a digital textile design project; over 25 world dress and textile objects were paired with a short visual drawing exercise, after which students researched and designed their own digital print designs.

Fourteen students in **TAM 2280** *Apparel Production* toured the collection over three days, viewing a variety of construction and design techniques!

In **TAM 1200** *Basic Concepts of Apparel Design and Production*, thirty-nine students from a variety of majors were introduced to the collection and fashion history through the lenses of politics, economics, social structure, and aesthetics (art, music.)

Fourteen students, primarily science and health profession majors, from **INTDSC 2950** *Introduction to Research, Scholarship and Discovery*, toured the collection and bicentennial exhibit in October with Office of Undergraduate Research Assistant Director Dr. Sarah Humfeld to explore different research spaces and perspectives in scholarship, ethics, diversity, and communicating scholarship to the public.

***"Seeing the costume exhibit not only opened my eyes to how clothes have impacted Missouri's economy over the years, but also how important clothes are to history. That is what finally opened my eyes to why research in humanities or creative achievement is so important. To improve in the future, we need to understand our past, so doing research on these things is important."* - INTDSC 2950**

## STUDENT VOLUNTEER EXPLORES MUSEUM & PRESERVATION PROCESSES!

Anthropology Senior Loren Macon volunteered weekly in the collection this past fall, assisting with accessioning and preservation needs while exploring her interest in pursuing an advanced Museum Studies degree.

*"I am currently a Senior in the College of Arts and Science studying Anthropology with a double minor in Studio Art and Korean Studies. After graduating in the fall, I hope to pursue my masters studying Fashion History, Museum Studies, or a combination of both! I have really enjoyed my past semester volunteering in the collection and have learned a lot about how collections work and about fashion. My time in the collection really led me to realize what exactly I want to do in my future studies, and I specifically would like to explore the history of dress in East Asia. I hope to continue volunteering in the Spring 2022 semester!"*



# OUTREACH



## MISSOURI LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONFERENCE, Sedalia, Missouri November 13, 2021

Curator Nicole Johnston presented at the Missouri League of Women Voters' fall conference held in Sedalia, Missouri in November. Both in-person and virtual attendees enjoyed highlights from the MHCTC's fall 2020 exhibition [Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft](#) celebrating the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

## MIZZOU MAGAZINE, Winter 2022

The MHCTC was included in the Winter 2022 edition of the Mizzou Alumni Magazine! [Mizzou's Roaring 20s](#) featured three MHCTC dresses and shell buttons as part of a look back at Mizzou's enormous growth in the 1920s!

Flip through the online edition:  
[https://issuu.com/maa1939/docs/mizzou\\_w22?fr=sNmY3MDMxMzI5Mjg](https://issuu.com/maa1939/docs/mizzou_w22?fr=sNmY3MDMxMzI5Mjg)



**HISTORY**

**1926** Thomas T. Hulley, Arts 1927, who works in the legal department of the Missouri Pacific Railway Co., writes lyrics for a new show-music song: "Our Alma Mater / Thy son and daughter / With one accord to thee / Tunes with pride, / Old glory / Missouri, great and grand / Loyalty and helping hand / We pledge same to you."

**1927** M.D. geneticist Lewis J. Stadler co-discovered that radiation mutates genes in plants, a breakthrough that opened development of new varieties. Under his leadership, M.D.'s genetics laboratory becomes a world-renowned center.

**M.D. shells**, associate professor of physiology in the School of Medicine, discovers how to artificially propagate mussels, ensuring a steady supply of raw material for buttons, knife handles and other ornamental articles.

**The Scribes'** collection comprises **seventeen volumes**. (Today, the collection includes over 3.6 million print volumes and 1 million e-books.)

**1928** Mizzou, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Nebraska and Oklahoma break away from the smaller Missouri Valley schools to form the **Big Six Conference**.

**1929** An influenza **epidemic** forces the early dismissal of school.

**Thomasmas Williams**, Arts '29, arrives at Mizzou from St. Louis as Thomas Lewis. He goes on to become one of the foremost dramatic playwrights of the 20th century, his body of work honoring at least 20 characters, locations and situations from Mizzou and Columbia.

**More than 4,000 students** register as **4,400 men and 4,100 women**. It would be 21 years before the first black students are admitted.

**1920s TUNES, FLICKS AND FASHION**

**Chart-toppers**  
Louis Armstrong - West End Blues (1928)  
Al Jolson - April Showers (1921)  
Gene Krupa - My Blue Heaven (1927)

**Picture Shows**  
Date night might include a viewing of *The Shark* (1921), starring Rudolph Valentino; *The Kid* (1921), starring Charlie Chaplin; or director King Vidor's *The Big Parade* (1925).

**Project Runway**  
Flapper-era gowns in the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection (photo). Missouri edit (include two below, from right, that belonged to Loren McKler Doney, BS Ed '21; and a tangerine silk gown worn by Mabel-Ruth Bandy Anheuser, BA, BA '26. Left, Beatrice Schmidt gazed the pages of the 1928 *Syllabus*.)

**1926**, (above) students likely celebrated the St. Louis Cardinals' first World Series Championship, leading **Bobo Ruth's** New York Yankees in seven games.

"Button up your overcoat when the wind is free..." Students gather in Jesse Hall's lobby between classes in 1924.



# NEW ACQUISITIONS: STARSTRUCK!

The MHCTC accepted 91 garment and accessory objects into its permanent collection in 2021, as well as numerous archival fashion books, catalogs, and more from Dr. Jean Parsons' personal collection. Highlights include three garments worn by legendary award-winning performer and Missouri native **Ginger Rogers**, acquired from Roberta Olden, Rogers' personal assistant for eighteen years. We are excited for more Rogers acquisitions in the future!

## Ginger Rogers Garments:

- LEFT: This pink ostrich feather gown was designed by Academy Award-winning Hollywood costume designer Jean Louis for Rogers' nightclub act in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Louis was asked to create a new gown inspired by Ginger's blue ostrich feather dress in the 1935 Rogers/Astaire film *Top Hat* but in Ginger's favorite color: pink.
- RIGHT: The second gown of hot pink ostrich feathers and silver sequins was a second iteration by Louis of the first pink dress and was worn by Rogers during her performances at Radio City Music Hall (New York) and Olympia Hall (Paris) in 1980.



- RIGHT: Ginger Rogers played the unforgettable Dolly Levi in the Broadway musical *Hello Dolly!* beginning August 9, 1965 for a total of 1,116 performances. One of the role's most iconic garments was a red and pink satin dress worn in the title number. Fringe, beads, sequins, embroidery, and yards of heavy satin provide significant weight to this vibrant ensemble. White leather gloves and detachable bustle complete the donation. The elaborate feather headdress pictured here is expected in the future!



# NEW ACQUISITIONS



## **SIMONE ESTERS (Journalism '19): 2020 Miss America Competition Evening Gown and 2017 MU Baton Twirler Uniform**

Simone Esters was crowned Miss Missouri in 2019 while enrolled in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. The following year, she finished third in the 2020 Miss America competition, dressed in the beautiful black velvet beaded evening gown pictured here. Miss Esters maintained the title and duties of Miss Missouri through June 2021.



Simone Esters was also one of the world's most elite baton twirlers: a National Twirling Champion and World Medalist, as well as Miss Majorette of America (twice) and U.S. Twirling Ambassador to Peru. The MHCTC now preserves Miss Esters' uniform worn in 2017 as a feature twirler for Marching Mizzou.

## **CHRISTIANA LAPETINA-JOHNSON (BA Clothing and Textiles '83) Clothing and Accessory Collection**

Designer Christiana Lapetina-Johnson (1961-2020) became internationally recognized for her high-end, hand-beaded garments and accessories. After debuting her own successful beaded and patchwork vests, Lapetina-Johnson founded Christiana Enterprises, Inc. in 1994 in California. The company made a collection of hand-beaded bags, home furnishings, and apparel imported from India. Her niche: vintage-inspired handbags. Before beaded bags became all the rage with couture designers, Lapetina-Johnson pioneered the concept of beaded bags for everyday use, not just for evening and special occasions.

The collection includes over twenty garments, accessories and archival artifacts including a sequin jacket and checkered dress made by Christiana as part of her TAM senior capstone project at Mizzou in 1983! Look for Christiana's collection coming online soon in our [Collection Highlights!](#)





# NEW ONLINE COLLECTIONS!

New updates and additions to the MHCTC website reached broad audiences in 2021! Our new online collections include **over 60 artifacts** highlighting Mizzou [Tiger spirit](#) of the past and present, TAM [creativity](#), efforts of [notable Missourians](#) and MU alums, and our important [Timely Response](#) collecting strategy. More highlighted [collections](#) coming in 2022!



## 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 with us by giving to the MHCTC Endowment as part of the COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE: [https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/Item.aspx?item\\_id=61](https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/Item.aspx?item_id=61).

You may also contact the College of Arts and Science Office of Advancement:

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The MHCTC wishes to thank Dr. Laurel Wilson, founder of the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection Endowment and former MHCTC Curator, for her generous gift to the endowment in 2021! We also wish to thank all twenty-two of our wonderful donors for their garment and archival gifts this past year, and other friends and donors who also contributed to the MHCTC Endowment. We appreciate your continued support of our educational mission!