

## **FAQ about your object's history, or about donating an object to MHM:**

### **1/ How can I learn more about my object?**

There are several approaches you can take. In our Library and Research Center look for the following:

- ❖ ***Maloney's Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory***, a good multipurpose reference. A copy is kept in our reading room. Updated periodically, it is arranged by type of object (example: clocks) and lists collectors and collectors' groups, newsletters and publications; specialist museums and libraries; dealers and experts. Other books about objects are listed in the library's online catalog: <http://slrlc.org/search~S2/>
- ❖ **St. Louis City and County directories** can give information about how long a company was in business and its street address at the time the directory was compiled, allowing you to pinpoint the date of an object. If it is a manufactured object with a maker's name on it, that maker can sometimes be researched.
- ❖ **Business catalogues:** check the card file of business catalogues in our collection, especially for St. Louis and Missouri manufacturers. Some are listed in the online catalog: <http://slrlc.org/search~S2/>
- ❖ **Mail Order catalogues:** The Simmons and Shapleigh and Sears reprint mail-order catalogs may picture similar objects and include descriptions.

Other resources:

- ❖ ***Patent numbers:*** the St. Louis Public Library has a listing of patent numbers and can provide the date the design was patented.
- ❖ ***Information about artists:*** The St. Louis Public Library has a list of local artists and some folders of information about them. The library of the St. Louis Art Museum has information about artists in general, both local and worldwide. Search artist's name at: <http://slrlc.org/search~S3/>
- ❖ ***Missouri corporations:*** The Missouri Secretary of State's database may provide name changes and dates of incorporation to help date an object: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/soskb/csearch.asp>

## **2/ Will the experts at MHM appraise my object?**

By law, we are not allowed to provide appraisal amounts. However, a number of printed price guides are available at local bookstores and the public library. If you wish to sell your item, the telephone yellow pages list antique dealers and auction houses. If you are donating an object and wish to take a tax deduction, the cost of an appraisal may also be tax deductible. Consult a tax advisor.

## **3/ Is there someone at MHM that I can talk to about my object?**

The following MHM curators may be able to assist you. Contact them directly by phone, mail, or email to set up an appointment or talk more. Photographic images help a great deal in identification.

- ❖ Furniture, ceramics, silver, kitchenware and art works and all things pertaining to home life: Anne Woodhouse, 314-746-4534; [awood@mohistory.org](mailto:awood@mohistory.org)
- ❖ Toys and games, dolls, St. Louis World's Fair objects, Charles and Anne Lindbergh, and all things pertaining to St. Louis public life and organizations: Sharon Smith, 314-746-455; [sharons@mohistory.org](mailto:sharons@mohistory.org).
- ❖ Clothing, textiles, and personal items such as shoes, jewelry or watches: Shannon Berry, 314-746-4530; [sberry@mohistory.org](mailto:sberry@mohistory.org).
- ❖ Military items, tools, weaponry and some American Indian: Jeff Meyer, 314-746-4589; [jmeyer@mohistory.org](mailto:jmeyer@mohistory.org).
- ❖ Tools, technology, and river boats: David Lobbig, 314-361-4824; [dl@mohistory.org](mailto:dl@mohistory.org).

For some American Indian items, the following St. Louis professors are willing to take your questions:

- ❖ Prehistoric objects (arrowheads, for example): Professor Michael Fuller, St. Louis Community Colleges, [mfuller@stlcc.edu](mailto:mfuller@stlcc.edu)
- ❖ Historic objects (beadwork, for example): Professor J. Frederick Fausz, University of Missouri-St. Louis; [jff@umsl.edu](mailto:jff@umsl.edu).

## **4/ How do I donate an object to MHM?**

Contact one of the curators listed above; they will examine the object, ask you questions about its history, and be able to tell you whether or not MHM would like to accept it into our collections. If the answer is yes, they will provide you with the necessary paperwork.