



Collecting at MHS

As families with different faces, languages, religions, and histories settle in this growing urban center, the population of St. Louis has become more complex and diverse. Whether the immigrants merged into the mainstream culture or remained apart, their influence enriches life in the city. We seek to include all of these people who are under-represented in the MHS collection today.

Building on several existing collections, we seek to document and collect from African American, Muslim, Hispanic, Asian and all new immigrant residents of St. Louis. In addition to wedding clothes; work, formal, and everyday clothing and accessories such as hats, jewelry and shoes from these communities are sought. We are also interested in household textiles such as bedding and table coverings.

Recognizing the emergence of the gay community in St. Louis, the Missouri Historical Society is also collecting to document the gay rights movement in the region and collections relating to the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender community in St. Louis. Clothing from commitment ceremonies and civil unions are also of great interest for the Clothing and Textile collection.

We are seeking items that are in good condition which come with information or a story about the people who wore or used them. If you wish to donate any clothing or textiles, please contact the Museum Collections Department at (314)746-4441.