



Women's History

Object Groups

Object Groups are collections of related objects that curators have gathered together and provided historical background and contextual information.

Below is a listing of selected women's history related Object Groups at the museum. This is only a small fraction of the thousands of objects available online at the museum. To browse other Object Groups, visit the [Object Groups homepage](#). To search for individual objects in the online collections, visit the museum's [Collections Search page](#).

Cultures & Communities



Mexican America

"Mexican America" is a sampling of objects from the collections of the National Museum of American History. The stories behind these objects reflect the history of the Mexican presence in the United States.

Look for:

Our Lady of Guadalupe
China Poblana Dress
La Malinche
Mexican Kitchen

Muñeca de La Llorona
Selena's Leather Outfit
Work and Rest

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/mexican-america>



The Teodoro Vidal Collection of Puerto Rican History

Explore Puerto Rico's history, from the 16th to the 20th centuries, through the eyes of collector Teodoro Vidal. Vidal captured the island's history by collecting objects.

Look for:

[Funda de Almohada](#)
[Sewing Kit](#)
[Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria](#)
[Virgen de Monserrate](#)
[The Three Maries](#)
[Sampler](#)

[Peine de Mujer](#)
[Our Lady of Solitude](#)
[Virgen de Monserrate](#)
[Virgen de Monserrate](#)
[Mourning Fan](#)

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/teodoro-vidal-collection-of-puerto-rican-history>



Women's History

Military



Women in World War I

World War I was a watershed event for women and their involvement in the military and military efforts. Women provided indispensable services for the country and were involved in every aspect of the war, whether volunteering with wartime organizations, serving in auxiliary units of the armed forces, working on the home front, caring for the sick and wounded in hospitals and medical units, sending loved ones off to flight, living in the devastation of war, or inspiring and commemorating patriotism and service. This group brings together objects from across the Smithsonian that showcase the numerous roles women played in WWI and their significant contribution to that moment in history.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/women-in-wwi>



World War I Laces

The laces made in Belgium during World War I are an important part of the lace holdings of the Division of Home and Community Life's Textile Collection in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. They are representative of laces made by about 50,000 lace makers throughout Belgium from 1914 through 1919 during the time of World War I.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/world-war-one-laces>

Photography



Anne Noggle Collection

The Anne Noggle collection in the Photographic History Collection consists of four panoramic photographs signed and dated between 1969 and 1972. The subjects are: a neighborhood group, an elderly woman in a kitchen, a row of thirty-three mailboxes and two waitresses behind a lunch counter. The negatives were made using a Panon 35mm camera.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Anne+Noggle+Collection%22



Berenice Abbott Photographs

During the 1920s, Berenice Abbott was one of the premier portrait photographers of Paris. She returned to the United States in 1928. Amazed upon her arrival to see the changes New York had undergone during her stay in Paris, Abbott decided to pack up her lucrative Parisian portrait business and move back to New York. The Bernice Abbott collection consists of sixteen silver prints which represent a range of work Abbott produced during her lifetime, including her early portraiture work in Paris, her *Changing New York* series, *Physics* and *Route 1, U.S.A.* series.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Berenice+Abbott+Collection%22



Women's History



Betty Hahn Photographs

The Betty Hahn collection at the National Museum of American History consists of five color gum bichromate photographs on paper and two color gum bichromate photographs on fabric with stitching, dates ranging between 1965 and 1970.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Betty+Hahn+Collection%22



Gertrude Käsebier Photographs

In 1898 New York photographer Gertrude Käsebier (1852-1934) embarked on a deeply personal project, creating a set of prints that rank among the most compelling of her celebrated body of work. Her new undertaking was inspired by her first viewing the grand parade of Buffalo Bill's Wild West troupe en route to Madison Square Garden for several weeks of performances. She quickly sent a letter to William "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917), requesting permission to photograph in her studio the Sioux Indians traveling with the show. Within weeks, Käsebier began a unique and special project: photographing the Indian men, women, and children, formally and informally.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Gertrude+Käsebier%22



Imogene Cunningham Photographs

The Imogen Cunningham collection consists of thirty gelatin silver photographs, mounted, with label, signed and dated by the photographer, and three platinum prints, mounted and labeled. The subjects in the thirty gelatin silver photographs range from plants to portraiture between 1925 and 1968. The three platinum prints were made in 1912 and are representative of Cunningham's pictorialist style. They were acquired from the photographer in 1968.

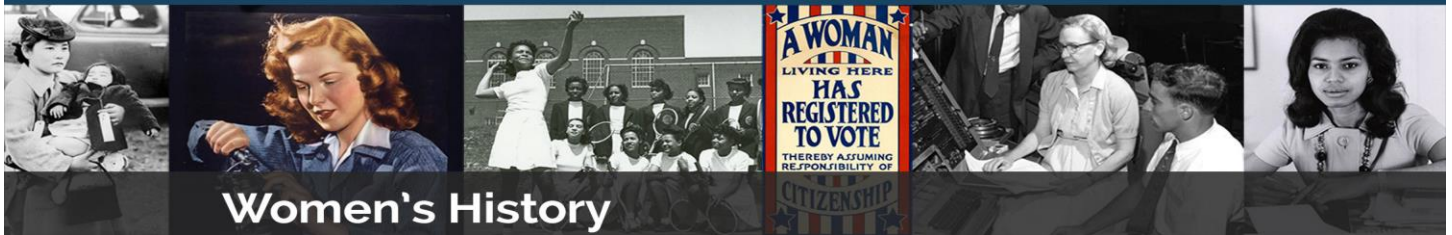
http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Imogen+Cunningham+Collection%22



Titanic - Bernie Palmer's Story

In 1900, the Eastman Kodak Company came out with the handheld box camera known as the "Brownie." Canadian Bernice "Bernie" Palmer received a Kodak Brownie box camera. In early April, Bernie and her mother boarded the Cunard liner Carpathia in New York, for a Mediterranean cruise. Carpathia had scarcely cleared New York, when it received a distress call from the White Star liner Titanic on 14 April. It raced to the scene of the sinking and managed to rescue over 700 survivors from the icy North Atlantic. With her new camera, Bernice took pictures of the iceberg that sliced open the Titanic's hull below the waterline and also took snapshots of some of the Titanic survivors.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/titanic-group?ogmt_page=bernie-palmers-story



Women's History

Science & Mathematics



Rosa Bonfanto's Midwife Kit

The owner of this midwife kit was Rosa Bonfanto. Rosa was from Palermo, Sicily, and immigrated to the United States in 1922, settling first in Buffalo, NY, and later in Albany. Midwives have been helping deliver babies for millennia. Midwives in the early 20th century, with the advent of big-city hospitals, continued to serve the needs of immigrants and rural American women.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/main?edan_q=set_name:%22Midwife+Kit%22



Women Mathematicians and NMAH Collections

During the last third of the nineteenth century American mathematics matured and American women gained access to both undergraduate and graduate education. Most of the items in the Smithsonian collections that relate to women mathematicians are connected with pioneering women who joined the growing American mathematical community before World War II.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/women-mathematicians>

Textiles



Clothes and Heritage: Chinese American Clothes from the Virginia Lee Mead Collection

Clothing houses people. These objects provide not just warmth and wrapping of the human form, but also establish identity and distinctiveness. The Virginia Lee Mead collection objects give insight on a Chinese immigrant family through the clothes in which they lived

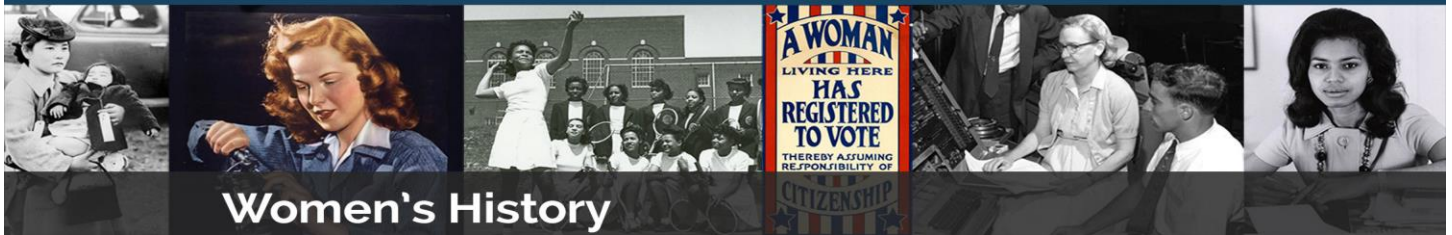
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/clothes-and-heritage-chinese-american-clothes-from-the-virginia-lee-mead-collection>



Embroidered Pictures

In the early 1800s, silk-embroidered pictures became a popular form of needlework in America, and young women could learn this challenging needlework technique at specialized academies. In addition to patriotic scenes, subjects included classical, biblical, historical, and the ever-popular mourning pictures.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/embroidered-pictures>



Women's History



National Quilt Collection

The National Quilt Collection incorporates quilts from various ethnic groups and social classes, for quilts are not the domain of a specific race or class, but can be a part of anyone's heritage and treasured as such. Whether of rich or humble fabrics, large in size or small, expertly crafted or not, well-worn or pristine, quilts in the National Quilt Collection provide a textile narrative that contributes to America's complex and diverse history. The variety and scope of the collection provides a rich resource for researchers, artists, quilt-makers and others.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/national-quilt-collection>



Patent Models: Textile and Sewing Machines

This sampling of patent models from the Textile Collection describes the two major groupings, textile machinery and sewing machines. In both groups, the examination of the models begins with the earliest of the inventions. In this early group of patent models, the textile machinery models date from 1837 to 1840, and the sewing machine models from 1842 to 1854.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/patent-models-textile-and-sewing-machines>