



COLLECTING PLAN

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PREPARED BY THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This collection plan is a working document generated by and for the staff of the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) in order that it might better oversee the long-term development and refinement of the Society's collections so that it may ensure, to the extent possible, that the Society's holdings reflects everyone's history in Arizona.

AHS is mandated by the state legislature to collection and preserve objects and archival materials of historical significance. Such items make up the evidence from the past, and are valuable educational tools for researchers and public exhibitions/programs. AHS recognizes that objects and archival material inspire people and assist them in making meaningful connections with the past.

The Collecting Plan is intended as a guide for selective and sustainable statewide collecting, where new acquisitions have the most impact in telling stories of Arizona's past. The plan provides an intellectual framework for active, agency-wide collection development that supports the mission to connect people through the power of Arizona's history. Through the objects and archival collections, AHS strives to place Arizona in national and international context by producing a holistic historical record that shows the variety of experiences and voices across the social spectrum.

AHS COLLECTIONS PHILOSOPHY

GOALS OF COLLECTING

WHY WE COLLECT OBJECTS

- ❖ To protect and preserve objects and archival materials related to Arizona for future generations
- ❖ To help educate the public about Arizona's unique history by providing access to the evidence of the past.
- ❖ To allow diverse people from the past to have a voice—which can inform present debates and discussions—through the objects they owned and used and through the written and visual material they left behind.
- ❖ To serve as the most trusted source for Arizona history.
- ❖ To establish AHS as the recognized leader for the study of Arizona history.
- ❖ To be the primary custodian of Arizona's past, by selective collecting from the past and present in order to ensure future educational relevance.
- ❖ To ensure the protection and preservation of the most significant historical resources of Arizona.
- ❖ To identify historical materials at risk, in danger, or overlooked which should be preserved.
- ❖ To preserve selected materials which document the state's evolution.
- ❖ To encourage and promote preservation efforts by external individuals, groups, and institutions.
- ❖ To collaborate with other historical collecting institutions in Arizona, minimizing competition and maximizing cooperation.
- ❖ To utilize our collections to encourage the study and understanding of Arizona history.
- ❖ To serve the needs of researchers in their study of Arizona and the Southwest.
- ❖ To educate interested audiences in all aspects of state history.

PURPOSES AND RATIONALE OF COLLECTING

- ❖ Collecting is an institution-wide coordinated activity governed primarily by a guiding set of historical themes, and only secondarily by any specific form of historical information or evidence collected. Hence, AHS's approach to collecting should be more intellectual than physical. Such intellectual classification rests upon the understanding that information collected in one form supports and augments information collected in another, provided that all physical forms address the same thematic purpose. Although organizing structures within AHS which govern collecting are to a certain extent irreducible according to physical types of information collected (i.e., two- and three-dimensional objects, man-made structures, and living objects), the various collecting departments should nevertheless act in harmony to undertake collecting in compliance with the themes and goals set forth in this statement.
 - **EXAMPLE:** AHS decides to document Barry Goldwater's impact on Arizona. The library/archives accepts a collection of his correspondence and photographs of his home. The museum accepts several representative objects, including his desk and coffee mug. An oral historian conducts an interview. Different forms of evidence support the same thematic (and institutional) objective.
- ❖ The purpose of AHS's collecting is to document, research, and exhibit the most significant historical events, trends, and changes which are impacting and have impacted, or have in some way resulted from, the growth and development of the state. While such historical information or material will focus primarily on Arizona and the urban, suburban, and rural areas impacted by its development, that information or material will also consider important regional, national, and international influences that have shaped the state in distinctive ways. Hence, AHS's collecting

efforts will always be made in reference to Arizona, but will not always focus exclusively on Arizona per se.

- **EXAMPLE:** A branding iron used primarily in New Mexico is accepted into the permanent collection because the ranch spanned across the border into Arizona AND documents regional ranching practices.
- ❖ Because one of the purposes of the AHS is to make two-dimensional research materials available to the public, collections of such material considered for accession into the archives must have an inherent intrinsic value as a research collection. In other words, archival collections, unlike object collections, need to have a sustainable life of their own, with individual parts comprising a coherent whole. Such collections may relate to and support three-dimensional items held in the museum, but that relationship is secondary to a consideration of the collection's overall research value. Note that audio, visual, and audio-visual materials are not necessarily bound by the same delineation, as such items may qualify on individual intrinsic merits the same as three-dimensional materials.
- **EXAMPLE:** AHS decides to accept an IBM typewriter into its collections. The typewriter manual is included in the donation. The manual would not be added to the archives because it does not have intrinsic research value on its own, i.e., without the accompanying typewriter. (A researcher would go to IBM to research how to use an IBM typewriter, not the AHS archives.) Hence, in this case, the manual might be accepted into the museum collection as a supporting component to the typewriter, but it would not be accepted as an archival collection by itself. If, however, the manual belonged to Erma Bombeck, contained her notes about her typewriter, and related to an already existing Bombeck collection, then it would likely be accepted into the archives collection.
- ❖ The AHS collects historical information actively, seeking out the information or materials it deems fitting to collect, not passively awaiting their donation. To be an active collector, the AHS must establish and maintain strong ties with regional and national individuals, communities, organizations, sites, and other collecting institutions. AHS need not have physical possession of all relevant historical materials, but it does need to have intellectual command of where such materials may be found and how they might be accessed.
- ❖ The AHS collects historical information selectively; i.e., the AHS does not collect (or keep) every artifact or document related in any way to Arizona. Only those materials judged suitable according to established intellectual criteria will be considered for accession; those accessioned materials failing to meet those criteria will be considered for deaccession. Additionally, AHS will only accept historical information for which it can provide reasonable levels of security, conservation care, and storage/exhibit space.
- ❖ While AHS defines its collecting interests in relatively specific terms, the AHS does not limit its exhibitions by the same terms; indeed temporary collecting (i.e., loans) for the purpose of exhibitions will of necessity be defined in much broader terms of regional and national history.
 - **EXAMPLE:** In the early 2000s, some wedding accouterments were rejected for accession because the collecting scope did not extend to underrepresented communities at that time. In 2019, a curator working on an exhibit about resilient Flagstaff women finds a note in the file and reaches out to acquire these items on loan for the duration of the exhibit.
- ❖ The AHS will collect those forms of information deemed especially powerful interpretive, educational, or comparative tools. These may include items acquired temporarily on loan for purposes of exhibition, items acquired permanently but not accessioned for use in educational programming (e.g., "touchable" objects for children), and items acquired permanently for comparative research (e.g., a known forgery used for comparative purposes to ensure the future integrity of original objects now in the collection). AHS collecting should pay particular attention to connecting the above historical (and somewhat impersonal) trends and changes to personal human stories and artifacts imbued with emotional energy, hence likely to promote a sense of connectedness between visitors and their past(s).

GUIDING THEMES IN COLLECTING

WHAT DO WE COLLECT?

- ❖ Authentic objects and original archival materials directly related to Arizona’s past (and present) that can help tell a representative story about the state and its people
- ❖ Items that are likely to be important in helping future generations understand Arizona’s diverse peoples and their history
- ❖ Items (both object and archival) that are likely to be of use to researchers and scholars who will create new knowledge about the state’s history
- ❖ Selected items—we cannot collect everything
- ❖ In general, with regard to objects, we do not collect mass-produced items (type pieces) unless their provenance tells a uniquely Arizona story or unless the item was produced/built/made in Arizona (i.e., a Motorola phone)
- ❖ With regard to archival materials, we do not collect governmental papers; we are the peoples’ repository.

THE AHS WILL SHAPE ITS COLLECTING EFFORT AROUND THE FOLLOWING THEMES IN ARIZONA HISTORY:

PEOPLE

The famous and not-so-famous individuals who have made notable interventions in Arizona’s past or whose actions have impacted Arizona (e.g., Cesar Chavez, Isabella Greenway, Wyatt Earp, Geronimo, and so on, plus other “nameless” individuals.

TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY

Technological innovation and development that have shaped Arizona, especially in the aerospace, semiconductor, extractive, and renewable energy industries.

LIFE, LABOR, AND LEISURE

Daily life in rural, urban, and suburban environments in Arizona, in both private and public spheres, especially as related to the evolution of social classes, and paying particular attention to social contrasts (e.g., distinctive lower, middle, and upper-class settlement patterns, living and working conditions, domestic life, social clubs, education, religion, leisure activities, sports, entertainment, and other forms of popular culture).

CONFLICT

Conflicts or social tensions that have defined and defied Arizona, from within and without, including race, ethnicity, and gender construction and conflict (e.g., removal of indigenous peoples, segregation, Women’s Suffrage, the Civil Rights movement, and border-related events and activities); military, cultural, and intellectual conflict (e.g., all of the above, plus the Spanish Colonial period).

CHANGE

Going hand-in-hand with conflict, these are the defining moments of community evolution which made Arizona distinctive, including population, immigration, and settlement shifts (e.g., rural to urban, region to region, country to country, suburban sprawl to foreign-language neighborhoods and businesses); shifting patterns of economic and political power, especially between rural and urban settings and brown and white neighborhoods (e.g., business history, politics, traditional rural home-based subsistence living versus urban market-based for-profit businesses and lifestyles, integration of neighborhoods and schools).

FUTURE EMPHASES FOR COLLECTING

COLLECTING OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

AHS seeks to collect objects, and written, visual, and audio materials that show the multitude of voices of Arizona's past and present. In collecting new items to accession into our collections we are selecting the objects and archival materials that future generations will depend on to understand Arizona's history. Strengthening collections of under-documented communities and contemporary events requires a pro-active, flexible, and creative approach to the identification and appraisal of potential acquisitions.

We think carefully before accepting or rejecting an item. To the extent possible, we think broadly and universally. What might seem boring or uninteresting to one person, might be exciting and energizing to another. We represent all residents of the state of Arizona, and we consider that as we selectively collect the evidence of the past. General guidelines for collections development:

- ❖ Most objects and archival materials accepted into our collections have a broad appeal: AHS has a statewide mandate and our collections reflect that
- ❖ Focus on underrepresented areas of the state or cities without a history museum
- ❖ Focus on items that demonstrate the diversity of groups and people in the state
- ❖ Actively seek to fill gaps in collections
- ❖ To the extent possible, avoid overlap with collecting strengths of other institutions in the state
- ❖ Collect objects that can help AHS staff produce exhibits that help the public think critically about Arizona's past
- ❖ Seek to actively collect twentieth- and twenty-first-century items
- ❖ Collect materials that will be of use to scholars who are actively researching Arizona history
- ❖ Be discerning and selective in materials accepted

Like most museums, AHS has also tended to collect passively those objects documenting the lives of

upper-class community leaders, such as wedding dresses, plaques, or other family heirlooms. In the past, many of these objects were saved as much by emotional attachment on the part of the donors as by an objective sense of historical importance on the part of curators. Additionally, donors generally consider such objects to be historically significant only if they are at least sixty or seventy years old, the use of the objects being just at or beyond the living memory of the donor.

What is generally lacking in the Society's collections are the more commonplace tools and ephemera of everyday life, especially those dating from the past fifty years related to Mexican Americans and to lower or lower-middle class working families. These objects, along with the oral histories of the people who used them, are among the "non-traditional" collecting areas that museums across the nation are beginning to explore. In response to growing academic emphasis on the social history of marginalized peoples, and the need for museums to engage increasingly diverse audiences, museum curators in the twenty-first century will need to be increasingly proactive and creative in building relevant collections with strong educational and research potential. Today, curators at the Arizona Historical Society are finding ways to limit traditional collecting of objects and expand the scope and relevance of future collecting.

AHS should define one or two of the following potential areas of emphasis (already identified by staff, community curators, and academic advisors) as top priorities for the next ten to twenty years, and then work from there to prioritize the rest. This list will need to be re-examined and revised at least every two years.

- ❖ Already-defined areas of strength, include folklife, quilts, military, Arizona urban and business history, architecture, and decorative arts. Collecting in these fields should not only fill existing gaps in these collections, but should also reflect current trends and adaptations as appropriate. As the AHS collections grow, areas now targeted as potential will eventually become classified as strengths, thus increasing the breadth and depth of research and interpretive capacity.

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- ❖ In-use objects and/ or contemporary materials with potential significant historical value, including those reflecting current events in politics, sports, the Information Revolution, business development, social movements, and urban/suburban growth. This emphasis will require staff to keep abreast of current events, develop community or business contacts and “ambassadors” with local organizations, and actively document the people associated with these objects through photographs or interviews. In this effort, staff should be mindful of race, class, and gender differences to ensure that the AHS’s collections are as representative of Arizona’s increasing diversity as possible.
- ❖ Materials representative of everyday Mexican American life in the twentieth century, especially during the 1945-1970 period of transition between segregation and desegregation, with special emphasis on churches and schools. Because no other area institutions collect materials related to everyday Mexican American life (but do collect with reference to the Civil Rights Movement), this is a natural “sphere of influence” for AHS. Collecting in this area could be guided by questions such as: How did a Mexican American family operate in this period? Where did the kids go to school? Where did the family buy their clothes?
- ❖ Materials documenting the transition from country/rural life to urban/suburban life throughout the middle and late twentieth century. As the collecting potential in this area of emphasis is especially broad, collecting should be focused wherever possible on already-assembled family, business, church, or school-based collections, as the research value of such collections would lie in their capacity to serve as case studies or personal examples of this transition process. Specific initiatives in this area should also emphasize automobile culture, the growth of regional highway networks, and their impact on Arizona, including suburban commercial and residential architecture. Collecting in this field might include planning documents or drawings, photographing “urban sprawl,” and selective collection of “icon” objects such as commercial signs, automobile ephemera, and community protest banners.
- ❖ Materials documenting Arizona’s new ethnic communities. AHS should initiate and supervise ongoing community studies to document a community’s ethnic identity and culture as it adapts to life in Arizona. Much of this work will involve community-based efforts at self-documentation through oral histories, photography, newsletters, or objects such as traditional crafts transformed through the use of different materials or performances altered by new venues. Studying the adaptation of foodways is one way of documenting new ethnic communities.
- ❖ Materials documenting post-World War II social movements and popular culture, including political movements, women’s history, the growth of LGBTQ2IA+ communities, growth of retirement communities, local music, theater, and film, Arizona nightlife, tourism, food fads, and “cult” personalities such as musicians or poets.

PROCESS FOR ACQUISITION AND DEACCESSIONING

ACQUISITION CRITERIA

The following conditions must be met before materials are acquired by AHS (See *Collections Management Policy*):

- ❖ The AHS must have the resources to properly care for the proposed acquisition. There must be adequate space to properly house and adequate staff time to properly process the items being considered. Storage, maintenance and/or conservation can be appropriately met given current and reasonable expectations of future AHS resources.
- ❖ The collection items are consistent with the collections plan and goals of AHS. The acquisition has potential use for research, exhibition, education, or other forms of public outreach. Type pieces will not be accepted into the permanent collection.
- ❖ The material must have clear title.
- ❖ The historical significance of the material must be relevant to AHS's mission.
- ❖ All legal and ethical implications of the acquisition must have been considered and any issues resolved.
- ❖ Acquisition should occur without donor restrictions. Restrictions or conditions may be considered when in the best interest of AHS's fulfillment of its mission. Restrictions or conditions must have a termination date. Use and disposition will be at the discretion of AHS unless otherwise specified.
- ❖ Copyright will be transferred to AHS when possible.

DEACCESSION CRITERIA

In all instances of potential deaccessioning, the historical significance of an object shall be considered of primary importance. Material from AHS's collections to be considered for deaccessioning must meet at least one of the following criteria (See *Collections Management Policy*):

- ❖ The material is outside the scope of, or is irrelevant to, the mission of the Arizona Historical Society and its acquisition policies.
- ❖ The material is a type piece.
- ❖ The material lacks physical integrity (it is incomplete, broken, or in poor and unsalvageable condition) or it has deteriorated to the degree that it cannot be used for exhibit or research purposes.
- ❖ The historical evidence that led AHS to accept an object has been proven false.
- ❖ The material has been unaccounted for or stolen and remains lost for at least five years.
- ❖ The material is duplicative in that AHS's collections contain other examples of the same type of material that are sufficient or better-suited to the needs of AHS.
- ❖ The Arizona Historical Society is unable to preserve the material properly.
- ❖ The material constitutes a physical hazard or health risk to staff, the public, or other collections.
- ❖ The material is culturally appropriate for, and would be better preserved and managed in, a more suitable repository.
- ❖ It is discovered that the material has an unethical or illegal provenance.
- ❖ The material is determined to be out of compliance with state and/or federal legislation.

ACQUISITION PROCEDURE

Staff members will refer proposed acquisitions to the Vice President, Library, Archives, and Collections, who will bring it to the Staff Collections Review Committee for approval. Final decisions pertaining to accessions, exhibits, purchases and loans are made by the Collections Review Committee.

STAFF COLLECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be comprised of the following staff members:

- ❖ Executive Director
- ❖ Vice President– Education, Exhibitions and Publications
- ❖ Vice President– Library, Archives and Collections
- ❖ Statewide Museum Collections Manager
- ❖ Archivist
- ❖ Museum Curator
- ❖ Exhibitions Staff
- ❖ Registrar

AHS COLLECTIONS IN DETAIL

INTELLECTUAL FRAMEWORK OF COLLECTIONS

This section describes the underlying conceptual structure that focuses the Society’s collecting, built around the mission and the needs of the users, and organized around interpretive themes that guide exhibitions, programming, and research as well as collecting.

- ❖ **Decorative and Visual Arts:** The decorative and visual arts collection consists of roughly 4,500 objects, personal items, household furnishings, and artwork mostly utilized for exhibits and research.
 - Art: 1,922
 - Building Furnishings: 2,541
- ❖ **Military:** The military collection consists of roughly 1,500 objects, weaponry, equestrian equipment, and uniforms, largely representing the Civil War to the early Twentieth Century. Much of this material consists of type pieces lacking Arizona provenance, and was collected for potential general Western military research and exhibits.
 - Armament–Edged: 276
 - Armament–Artillery: 5
 - Armament–Firearm: 494

- ❖ **Social History:** The social history collection consists of roughly 25,000 objects, personal items, clothing, and medical paraphernalia. Utilized mostly for potential exhibits or research.
 - Medical and Psychological: 1,935
 - Personal Artifacts: 11,612
 - Recreational Artifacts: 2,819
 - Clothing–Outerwear: 3,435
 - Clothing–Accessory: 1,279
- ❖ **Urban History:** The urban history collection consists of 4,000 objects, 19th and 20th century business items, and machines, Wallace and Ladmo collections, aviation, and urban objects mostly utilized for exhibits and research.
 - Wallace & Ladmo: 763
 - Land Transportation–Motorized: 162
 - Advertising: 607
 - Documentary Object: 1,945
- ❖ **Rural/Agricultural History:** The rural/agricultural history collection consists of 2,000 objects that generally represent Arizona’s five Cs, and early horse-drawn transportation pieces, mostly utilized for exhibit purposes.
 - Land Transportation–Animal-powered: 241
 - Animal Husbandry: 661
 - Agriculture: 168
- ❖ **Textiles:** The textiles collection consists of 1,500 objects, the most important part of this collection is the quilt collection primarily used for both exhibits and research.
 - Textile-working: 985
 - Bedding: 367
 - Floor Coverings: 19
- ❖ **Manuscripts:** Consists of roughly 1,800 text-based collections totaling over 25,000 linear feet of material. The collections cover early Territorial and Statehood periods through the early 21st century, mining, military, ranching, agriculture, social and cultural history. They are utilized by staff and external researchers in developing exhibits, publications, presentations, programming and events.

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- ❖ **Media:** Consists of over 30,000 items including 35 mm film, 1- and 2-inch tapes, oral histories (audio, video), Betamax and VHS, microfilm (16mm, 35 mm, and 70mm), maps, and architectural drawings. Items are used by researchers -internal and external- in publications, websites, exhibits, and programming.
- ❖ **Books:** Consists of 32,000 books dating from the 16th century to the present. The books are used for general research.
- ❖ **Photographs:** Consists of roughly 160 collections totaling over 1 million images. These include studio and individual photographer collections plus large subject collections. They include ambrotypes, tintypes, glass plate negatives, lantern slides, 20th century images and digital files. Subject coverage includes Territorial life, military, mining, landscape, aerial surveys, fashion, buildings, street scenes and people. Photo collections are used daily by staff and external researchers for use in publications, programming, websites, social media, and exhibits.
- ❖ **Historic Structures:** Consists of the Douglas Williams House, Strawberry Schoolhouse, Sosa Carrillo House, Charles O. Brown House, Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens, Molina block adobe, and Pioneer Museum (indigent hospital, cabins, barn) utilized for tours, events, and programming, and exhibitions.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Archival collections are held at three of the AHS locations. They are focused on the Territorial and Early statehood periods (1864-1930). Collection strengths: Business, Law, Military, Mining, Pioneers, Politics, Ranching and Social Organizations.

ARIZONA HISTORY MUSEUM

The Library and Archives at the Arizona History Museum is the oldest of the AHS locations. In 1884, early members of the Society began actively collecting materials relating to Arizona's 'pioneer' residents. Pioneers were defined as those who lived in the Arizona Territory prior to 1870. Over the years, the collecting scope expanded beyond pioneers.

This location, however, still has the strongest collection of Territorial materials. Other collection strengths include business, ranching, politics, mining, military, law, social organizations, ephemera, photographs, and maps.

ARIZONA HERITAGE CENTER

The Library and Archives at the Arizona Heritage Center was opened in the mid-1990s. Its main collecting focus has been Central Arizona in the 20th and 21st centuries. After a four-year closure the archives was re-opened in 2012 with an all-professional staff.

FLAGSTAFF/CLINE LIBRARY

Arizona Historical Society–Flagstaff archive collections have been located in Special Collections at the Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, since 1974 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU was developed in response to a lack of storage space and adequate environmental controls at the Pioneer Museum.

Overall, the Territorial and early statehood periods are very well documented in the library and archives. Future collecting should focus on post-WWII to the present. AHS is a participant in the annual Arizona Archives Summit. Summit participants, from archives across the state, support a non-compete agreement, to allow archives to work together to collect materials related to under-documented communities and topical areas. Through a survey of archival collections at Arizona repositories the following topical areas were found to be under-documented statewide: ethnic communities, alternative communities, migration/immigration, health, aviation, climate, communication and technology.

STRENGTHS OF COLLECTIONS

THIS SECTION ADDRESSES THE CENTRAL

QUESTION: What is in the collection, and what will continue to be collected because of its importance to the Society's mission.

As with other Western state historical organizations the Arizona Historical Society's collections represent Western European American settlement from the territorial (1860s) period onward. A notable exception in Arizona is the Spanish Colonial period (1650s-1821) collections housed at the Arizona History Museum in Tucson. The collections of the agency represent decorative and visual arts, military history, social history, and industrial history (mining, agriculture, lumber industry) important to Arizona in 19th and 20th century. These collections are complemented by a strong costumes collection, and a growing and important quilt collection. Other strengths represent the extraordinary growth of the Phoenix metropolitan area between the 1950s and the present, and its business community. Japanese internment is a small but important collection for the organization. Many objects illustrating everyday life in the 19th and 20th century comprise the bulk of the Society's three-dimensional collections.

The current collections are highly representative of past historiography and collecting practices in the museum profession. A substantial evolution in historiography and collecting practices has taken place in the past quarter century; AHS practices have not kept pace, remaining solidly rooted in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Thus, much of the collection does not represent diverse or underrepresented communities, and contains many type pieces with no direct relevance to Arizona history other than the imagined.

Flagstaff: Collection strengths include its historic structures, objects illustrating the lumber industry, saddles, clothing, office machines, early-twentieth-century household furnishings, and medical equipment. A growing campus of buildings includes the museum located in the former Coconino County Hospital for the Indigent (1908-1938), a collection of log cabins and barns, and a locomotive.

The photograph collections contain some of the earliest and rarest views of Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon and Northern Arizona held in Arizona. Collection strengths include the timber industry, railroads, family and personal papers, and the Kolb photograph collection.

Tempe: Strengths include large collections from the Wallace and Ladmo television show, textiles spanning the bulk of the twentieth century, fine arts (primarily mid-century through the 1980s) including the Ditson and Yares collections, internment memorabilia and artifacts, political buttons and ephemera, and coins and tokens from 1860 forward. Additionally, the A. J. Bayless collection is a large assortment of household and food preparation objects. Other small but important collections include decorative arts from the Luhrs Tower and a business collection representing the history of metropolitan Phoenix commerce, including Valley National Bank, the Arnold Pickle Company, O'Malley Lumber Company, and pharmaceuticals such as the Walker Drug Store.

Archival materials document Arizona's involvement in World War II, including Japanese internment camps and aviation, 19,000 architectural drawings from the Lescher & Mahoney firm, 6,500 reels in the KOOLTV film archive, the E.D. Newcomer's 1929 aerial photographic survey of Phoenix and locations around the State, and over 900 oral histories. Other collection strengths include mining, banking, health care, social organizations, and arts and culture.

Tucson: Collection strengths are in Spanish colonial and Mexican period decorative arts, saddles, furniture, firearms, Victorian women's clothing, and military uniforms and accouterments of the second half of the nineteenth century. Territorial period objects and items attributed to Arizona "pioneers" are also important holdings.

Archival materials include over 100,000 glass plate negatives from the Buehman Studios, 9,000 maps and blueprints from the Robert Lenon engineering office, and early settlement of southern Arizona.

Yuma: Significant collections include the Sanguinetti home, built as an adobe residence in the 1870s, and the neighboring adobe shotgun-style home of a steamboat captain. In addition to Victorian furnishings, the museum has five early landscape drawings and sketches once owned by Major Samuel Peter Heintzelman, commanding officer at Fort Yuma, and a model of the steamboat Gila.

LIMITS OF COLLECTIONS

This section discusses what objects will not or will no longer be collected or accessioned because it is outside the scope of the collection, because they do not relate directly to the Society's mission, or interpretive framework, or because they appear to have been illegally or unethically obtained.

The Arizona Historical Society will no longer collect or retain type pieces. Type pieces are those that are defined as historic, perhaps even valuable yet have no direct tie to Arizona history and no attribution to Arizona during their appropriate period of use.

The Arizona Historical Society will continue to collect decorative and visual arts, military history, social, urban, rural and agricultural history that are reflective of authentic stories, relatable to a wide range of audiences, and that represent a broad spectrum of Arizona's residents.

Twentieth-century records including photographs, business records, and records of traditionally under-documented and under-served communities are underrepresented in the collection and will be a focus of future collecting efforts for the archives.

Records and photographs documenting suburban growth, local business, and personal records from the postwar era, as well as immigrant and other underrepresented community groups will also be a focus of collecting for the archives.

The bulk of the archival holdings span the 1880s-1940s. Twentieth-century records including photographs, business records, and records of traditionally under-documented and underserved communities will be a focus of future collecting efforts.

NEEDS OF COLLECTIONS

AHS seeks to collect objects, and written, visual, and audio materials that show the multitude of voices of Arizona's past and present. The lack of materials documenting the 1970s to the present is the greatest weakness of the collection. Priority should be given to actively collecting objects and archival materials that document those decades. First and foremost, the Society should begin contemporaneous collecting as events unfold before objects and archival materials are discarded and memories fade.

When collecting new items to accession into our collections we actively select the objects and archival materials that future generations will depend on to understand Arizona's history. Strengthening collections of under-documented communities and contemporary events requires a pro-active, flexible, and creative approach to the identification and appraisal of potential acquisitions.

We think carefully, critically, broadly, and universally, to the greatest extent possible, before accepting or rejecting an item. What might seem boring or uninteresting to one person, might be exciting and energizing to another. We represent all residents of the state of Arizona, and we collect the evidence of the past that represents them holistically.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT:

- ❖ Most objects and archival materials accepted into our collections should have a broad appeal—AHS has a statewide mandate and our collections should reflect that
- ❖ Focus on underrepresented areas of the state
- ❖ Focus on items that demonstrate the diversity of groups and peoples in the state
- ❖ Actively seek to fill gaps in collections
- ❖ To the extent possible, avoid overlap with collecting strengths of other institutions in the state
- ❖ Collect objects that can help AHS staff produce exhibits that help the public think critically about Arizona's past
- ❖ Seek to actively collect twentieth and twenty-first-century items

- ❖ Collect materials that will be of use to scholars who are actively researching Arizona history
- ❖ Be discerning and selective in materials accepted

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

- ❖ Assessment of collections from an agency level
- ❖ Active collecting requires outreach to individuals, businesses and communities
- ❖ Procedures/responsibilities to be refined

Primary Collecting Areas: We are unable to collect everything so we need to focus on specific areas for collection. For each area, the strengths and gaps will be identified along with gaps for specific areas of active collecting.

The Arizona Historical Society will judiciously collect items relating, but not limited to, the technology sector, local businesses and industries, natural resources, the environment, legal decisions, and contemporary social issues/cultures/foodways/migration patterns. Care will be given to represent all Arizonans to the greatest extent possible. Emphasis will be placed on change over time.

Careful attention to future obligations regarding storage space and financial limitations will be of utmost concern regarding collecting activities.

GAPS OF COLLECTIONS

The Arizona Historical Society will judiciously collect objects, with attention being paid to locations across the State, and a particular emphasis on communities that are underrepresented in collections currently.

OVERLAP OF COLLECTIONS

This section lists materials considered to be overrepresented in the collections, or that are well represented in the collections of peer institutions.

- ❖ Decorative and visual arts
- ❖ 18th century military history
- ❖ 19th and early 20th century social history
- ❖ 19th and early 20th century urban history
- ❖ 19th and 20th century rural and agricultural history
- ❖ Ethnological and archaeological collections from the 22 sovereign nations in Arizona

FUTURE PLAN

- ❖ House collections in more secure, climate-controlled spaces
- ❖ Consolidate to help management of all collections
- ❖ Utilize storage space in more practical ways
- ❖ Improve storage conditions for higher importance objects
- ❖ Restrict incoming collections to items with strong provenance and powerful stories
- ❖ Judiciously deaccession type pieces, pieces that were not legally or ethically collected, pieces that present a danger to staff, visitors or other objects



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