

Field Notes

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Fabulous Fashions Shine in New Exhibition

The Field House Museum's new exhibition, *Finishing Touches*, explores the most in-vogue accoutrements of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the multiple meanings and purposes of fashion accessories in the era of the Fields. A wide range of pieces that once belonged to the Field family are proudly featured, and serve as focal points in the exhibition. From Julia Field's dainty shoes to Eugene Field's cane made of a shark's spine, enjoy a wide selection of beautiful accessories from the Field House collection. These rarely displayed treasures are sure to delight lovers of history and fashion alike. Learn the language of the fan, the inspiration behind a wide-brimmed hat, and, according to Eugene, the flexible use of one's housecoat.



The Field family artifacts are accentuated by several pieces from the collections of local museums and private collectors. In the city home to the once-bustling Garment District, the exhibition also includes the story of St. Louis' significant contribution to the fashion industry at the turn of the century. The Museum is thrilled to include the story of the Saint Louis Fashion Fund in *Finishing Touches*, and to display pieces from their talented Fashion Lab designers.

Catch a glimpse of the stylish accessories of a times-gone-by, discover the exciting history of Washington Avenue, and

leave hopeful with the story of St. Louis' upward journey to reclaim its fashionable past in *Finishing Touches*, open to the public through March 29, 2020.

Attire to Inspire: Hats Off to Fashion Luncheon

The Field House Museum cordially invites you to a luncheon at the Saint Louis Woman's Club on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm. Inspired by our latest exhibition, *Finishing Touches*, this year's fundraiser is aptly named: *Attire to Inspire: Hats Off to Fashion*. Men and women will find the ambiance provided by the club to be a perfect backdrop while sipping drinks perusing auction items, and enjoying a lavish lunch.

Fundraisers play a key role in providing support for the Museum's operations, programs, and exhibitions. Our fund-a-need items this year will feature these categories allowing you to give to the area you feel most passionate about. Additionally, donors will be recognized for their support at the museum in 2020.

Silent and live auction items for the fundraiser feature fashion and experience packages. A trip to New York City is the star of the show with a stay at the fabulous St. Regis New York. Other packages include St. Louis museum memberships, a consultation with a personal stylist, theatre package, and more. So, grab your hats, gloves, bow ties, and wallets then meet us at the Saint Louis Woman's Club for a delightful afternoon!

The Board and Staff hope that you will join us in making this next year a continued success. And remember, hats are admired but not required.

Treasures from the Collection: Eugene Field's Medicine Kits

Field House Museum members and friends who have read "With Ten Thousand Kisses," the recently published book chronicling Eugene Field's loving correspondence with his beloved Julia, undoubtedly noticed that Eugene made several mentions of his health problems in his letters to Julia. His complaints may seem surprising to us today, since he was only a young man in his twenties when he wrote those early letters:

August 30, 1872 (at age 21): *"My right arm is so heavy with rheumatism that it is with the greatest pain that I use it."*

January 26, 1873 (at age 22): *"Little did I think when I last wrote you from Genoa that I was to have a siege of sickness. I wrote your father on Thursday night and complained then of feeling somewhat unwell and when I awoke the next morning I found I had a high fever. I summoned a physician at once and he pronounced my complaint a slight case of small pox."*

June 29, 1873: *"I have not felt very well for the past few days. I am excessively nervous and find that my strength is easily undone."*

February 6, 1874 (age 23): *"The weather continues disagreeable and I have a severe cold that almost incapacitates me for work."* [Note: In a letter dated February 19, 1875, one year later, Eugene notes that "One year ago last night I was taken sick with pleural pneumonia."]

January 17, 1875 (age 24): *"I am quite well at present, but there is no telling how long I shall remain so, as the weather is cold, and changeable, and I am so sensitive to cold."*

In the U.S. in 1900, life expectancy at birth for men was only 47; by 2015, it had advanced to 77. Eugene's death at the age of 45 due to natural causes was not as unusual as we might think in modern times. In fact, many of his illnesses and complaints were likely experienced by others of his generation.



When Eugene suffered from episodes of ill health, there was very little that physicians could do to treat infections or diseases. Consider that it took more than 80 years after the discovery of the smallpox vaccine (in 1796) for scientists to develop and adopt the use of vaccines for other diseases. In the late nineteenth century, the study of bacteriology was still in its infancy: The first true antibiotic, penicillin, was not discovered until 1928, and was not routinely used until more than a decade later when it became a vital tool in healing those injured and sick during World War II. Before the 20th century, patients' only options were to rely upon medicines and treatments that may not have been effective, and could have even have been harmful to their health.

That might lead you to wonder how Eugene coped with his complaints and illnesses, particularly when his time included extensive travel within the U.S. and Europe. Fortunately, the Field House Museum offers visitors a revealing look at Eugene's personal elixirs and medications. Two of Eugene's own medicine kits can be viewed in a vitrine cabinet located on the second floor of the Museum. The smaller of the two kits, contained in a leather pouch, includes four medication bottles labeled "Cascara," "Calomel 1/10 gram," "Headache," and an empty unlabeled bottle. Even more intriguing is a larger leather pouch containing 19 bottles of medications, including such items as "Paregoric Elixir," "Catechu," and "Ammonia," as well as the more-innocuous "Olive Oil" and "O.K. Liniment." His detailed, handwritten list of the kits' contents is displayed behind the kits, revealing how meticulous Eugene was in documenting exactly what each medication was ("Medicines"), what ailment it treated ("What Used For"), and how it was to be used ("Directions").

Please stop by the second floor to see this unique display of historic treasures on your next visit to the Field House Museum.





A Wonderful Day Filled with Disneyana

A delightful “Day of Disneyana” was had at the Field House Museum on July 20, 2019! Inspired by our recent exhibit, *The Wonderful World of Collecting: The Disneyana of Don & Shirley Zork*, the day was filled with Disney©-inspired crafts, a bubble



station with Disney© tunes, storytelling, and face painting. Kids of all ages enjoyed meeting superheroes from Heroes for Kids along with a magical performance by characters from St. Louis Princess Parties.



We hope that with the continued support of members and the community we can make next year's event even bigger. Rumor has it that teddy bears are coming back for the summer of 2020!



Bidding Farewell to Summer Interns

The Field House Museum offers internships each year that give students hands-on experience in a professional museum environment. These projects not only help the students, but also provide valuable assistance to the staff. This year the museum accepted two summer interns: Emma Simpson and Kristin Clynes.

The Collections Intern, Emma Simpson, is currently in her second year at the University of Chicago studying History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (HIPS). She was tasked with ensuring the museum's archives were up to current museum standards. Emma's favorite discovery during her internship were the invitations and images belonging to Julia Field from the 1904 World's Fair, which is currently on display on the second floor of the historic house.

Kristin Clynes joined the museum as the Exhibits Intern and is currently studying Art History with a Pre-Conservation Emphasis at Lindenwood University. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art History from the University of Memphis. Kristin assisted with the newest exhibit, *Finishing Touches*. Her favorite part was working with a collection of hand fans on loan from the Tappmeyer House.

The Field House Museum is grateful for the additional help and looks forward to welcoming future interns.

Stay Connected with Us

Please keep abreast of all the latest news and events at the Field House Museum!



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A Taste of *Field's Fabulous Foods*

Served at the table or described within literature, food is an intrinsic part of every culture and their customs. From a simple bowl of clam chowder to abundant Thanksgiving feasts, food has been featured prominently in many texts. Through his travels in Europe and across the United States, Eugene Field was introduced to new foods and ways of eating, helping him to add verse and tales to the literary cache of savory dishes.

The Eugene Field Library's newest exhibit, *Field's Fabulous Foods*, highlights a selection of Field's cuisine works. A man of many tastes, Field did not hold back his odes and praise for the fare that graced his plate. He dedicated pen to paper creating such verse as "An Ode to Wine", "The Oyster," and many more that are on exhibition along with modern recipes of his favorite dishes.

Whet your appetite when you stop in and explore *Field's Fabulous Foods* on display through January 2020.

THANK YOU!

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Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Give STL Day our best yet! Every May, the Saint Louis Community Foundation hosts an online day of giving that highlights nonprofits within our community. This year, your donations helped to raise money for new exhibits and programs.

Upcoming Museum Events

October

- 12 Local Authors Book Fair:
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 20 *Attire to Inspire: Hats Off to Fashion Fundraiser*: 1:00 pm
- 26 Local History Expo: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Hosted by the St. Louis County Library Headquarters)

November

- 9 Kids Corner: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 21 History Happy Hour: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Step Right Up! *At the Maplewood Public Library*

The Field House Museum is excited to announce that we will be partnering once again with the Maplewood Public Library this holiday season! Following last year's toy theme in *Toys from the '50s, '60s, and '70s*, this year's exhibit *Step Right Up!* will feature a number of wonderful toys from the



Field House Museum's collection that convey the adventure and excitement of the circus. From mechanical aerial acrobats to royal circus land wagons, the spirit of the circus will be at the Maplewood Public Library from November 25, 2019 to January 3, 2020. Much like the circus itself, *Step Right Up!* is sure to draw attention.

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Field House Museum thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations:

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April - August 2019

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April - August 2019

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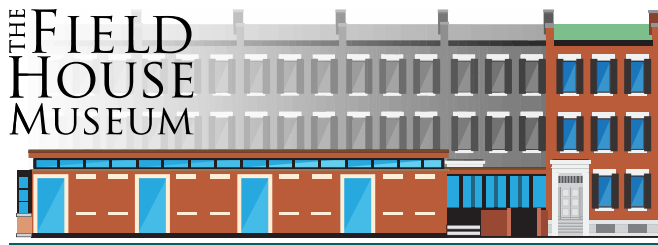
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Shop The Field House Museum

Summer has gone and before you know it the holidays will soon be upon us. To make this year truly special for your friends and family, we recommend visiting the Shop at the Field House Museum for unique gift ideas and a personalized shopping experience. New items and restocks of your favorites are beginning to arrive! From

Votivo's artisan fall and winter scented candles and reed diffusers to our wonderful selection of windups, our staff can help you find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Not only are you bringing happiness to the special people in your life, but you can feel good knowing that your purchase helps support the Field House Museum. Stop by today and let us help you make this holiday season the best yet!



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