



[View as web page](#)

# INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS ADVISOR

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

[LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES](#) | [INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY](#) | [PAST ISSUES](#) | FOLLOW LHS ON:  

Issue 99 | January 2020

## STORING THE HOLIDAYS

By Karen DePauw, manager, IHS Local History Services

As we look ahead to the New Year we also look back on all of the wonderful time we spent during the holiday season. And now, it is time to pack up and store away all the lovely things until next holiday season.



[Santa Claus at Block's](#). (Indiana Historical Society)

### SANTA'S RED SUIT

Make sure to vacuum the suit before storing it away. Remove as much soot as possible so it does not settle into the fibers and leave stains. If it is still in good condition, hang it on a padded hanger, but if it is too heavy or a little worn for that, simply pack it away in an acid free box using unbuffered acid free tissue paper. If the suit is lined with real fur to keep Santa warm, make sure to keep it in a cool storage area and check intermittently for pests often attracted to fur in collections

(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 52](#) and [Issue 63](#))

### HOLIDAY CARDS

One of the important decisions to make with holiday cards is whether to keep the envelope. Consider if the envelope carries any information that is not evident inside the card, such as the sender's or recipient's names. Cards should be carefully inspected for any soot that may have

### ONLINE RESOURCES

[Collections Advisor](#)  
(Indiana Historical Society)

### FROM OUR LENDING RESOURCE CENTER

[Collection Care: An Illustrated Handbook for the Care and Handling of Cultural Objects](#)  
(Brent A. Powell)

[Collection Care and Stewardship: Innovative Approaches for Museums](#)  
(Juilee Decker)

### UPCOMING TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

[Celebrate with Collections! Utilizing Collections in Your Community's Anniversary Celebration](#)

Jan. 9 -  
Northeast Document Conservation Center webinar.

[Neurodiversity in Museums: Crafting Community for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Jan. 15 -  
Texas Historical Commission webinar.

[Tick Tock Care for Your Clock](#)

Jan. 22 -  
Connecting to Collections Care webinar.

come out of the chimney with Santa. If the card is dirty, make sure to clean it before storing it away properly in an acid free box.  
(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 97](#))



[Christmas Card Display in Living Room.](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

### FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

If any of the holiday cards came with the gift of a holiday photo, consider storing the photo separately but numbering it to clearly connect to the card and sender/recipient. Place it in a protective sleeve if needed and make sure to handle it with gloves on so as not to leave finger prints behind.

(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 35](#))

### DECORATIONS

Take care in packing up decorations. Make sure glass and other fragile items are wrapped carefully in acid free tissue and stored safely in boxes. Items made from plastic should be stored in a way that lets them "breathe." This means avoid closing them into airtight containers and packing them in too closely with other plastic items. As plastic degrades it lets off chemical gasses and enclosing them can jump start deterioration in other items. Also, be careful never to store plastic items in warm storage areas as leads to prime conditions for deterioration.

(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 17](#) and [Issue 18](#))



[Mrs. Corean Hawkins](#). (Indiana Historical Society)

### BOOKS

If on *The Night Before Christmas*, *Alfie the Christmas Tree* read *A Christmas Carol* make sure Alfie put the book back safely. If not, a great way to store books until next year is upright, just like they were made to be stored. Placing books on metal or glass shelves helps to protect them from the acidic compounds in wood. They should also be stored with enough of them on a shelf to prevent falling or shifting, but not so many that the spines are under pressure from being crammed together. Next year, make sure Alfie holds the book carefully with clean hands in order to keep it a Christmas classic for years to come.

(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 22](#))

### RED RIDER BB GUN

Weapons, whether real or toys, should always be treated with great care. Make sure the BB gun is fully discharged of its ammunition and is stored separately from it. Never store loaded weapons. It might even be good to consider if keeping ammunition for the BB gun is even necessary, as it is now in a museum collection and will no longer be used to shoot tin cans. If ammunition is kept, make sure it is no longer live. Safely store the Red Rider away from heat sources and remember... be careful or you'll shoot your eye out!

(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 15](#) and [Issue 98](#))



[Christmas Eve at the Rutlidges.](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

Finally, make sure any items received over the holiday season have Deeds of Gifts properly signed. This will save many a headache in coming years.  
(See: Collections Advisor [Issue 87](#))

Have a great start to the New Year!

---

This is a free publication. Anyone may subscribe.

[Local History Services](#)  
Indiana Historical Society, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 232-1882 | [localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org](mailto:localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org)

**WE DO  
HISTORY.**  
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Smithsonian  
*Affiliate*



PROUD MEMBER OF THE  
International Coalition of  
**SITES of CONSCIENCE**

Indiana's Storyteller™, Connecting People to the Past