



The Scrapbook History Podcast

Episode 2: Collecting scrapbooks

Cherish Watton:

Hello, and welcome to the Scrapbook History podcast with me, your host, Cherish Watton. This series explores how people like you and me recorded their daily lives in 20th century Britain with the help of scrapbooks. Together, we'll look at why people created scrapbooks, how they made them and what topics inspire them. We'll talk to people who made scrapbooks, archivists who now care for them and historians like me who study them.

Cherish Watton:

It's not just archivists and strange researchers like me who are interested in scrapbooks. There are other groups of people who purchase vintage scrapbooks on eBay, bid on them in physical auction houses, or seek them out in flea markets and charity shops. Collectors with a passion for social and cultural history are keen to hunt down historic scrapbooks and own a piece of that history, touching the items deemed worthwhile enough to be saved by the scrapbooker. In the early days of my research, another helpful archivist recommended I take a look at the Instagram page, paper of the past. Upon finding the page, I was greeted with a dazzling array of scrapbooks in the 19th and 20th centuries, carefully photographed and filmed for over 40,000 followers.

Cherish Watton:

I felt like I'd found my community of people and naturally had to track down the person behind such an impressive endeavor who turned out to be Mandy Ross. In the interview which follows, I ask Mandy how she has accumulated hundreds of scrapbooks and why she so generously shares them with people like you and me. I'm so excited to be talking to you today after discovering your Instagram page; paper of the past. Could you tell us a little bit about your journey into setting up your Instagram account and your broader interest in scrapbooks?

Mandy Ross: Yeah, like you said, my name's Mandy and I collect scrapbooks made by other people; usually made between 1840 and 1940. And over time I've just gathered a very large collection of unique and interesting books. And in 2015, I started sharing those books online. And I wasn't really sure, will people be interested, but I thought there's got to be more people out there like me who think these stories are worth seeing. And so I started sharing them online in 2015.

Cherish Watton: That's amazing, man. So what sparked it off? What was the first scrapbook that started your collection?

Mandy Ross: I found my first scrapbook in 2007. At that time, I was a student in undergrad and I was visiting my mom in San Diego, California. And we were doing our usual rounds of different antique shops, and I came across this book that was so interesting to me. At that time, I didn't even know that old scrapbooks existed. And both me and my mom looked through the book and it was a 1930s scrapbook made out of a wallpaper sample book. So each page was actually a big piece of wallpaper, and the person had glued newspaper articles and things like that over the wallpaper. And that was my first introduction to scrapbooks in general. And what I like to say at that time, I did not have the money to buy the book, but I really wanted it, and I had to ask my mom like, mom, please, I really want this book. Will you get it for me? And she said, yes. And so that was my first book all the way back then.

Cherish Watton: Well, we are really glad that she said yes to that first scrapbook.

Mandy Ross: Me too. Yeah. Yeah. And then from that point on, it was just in my mind that those books were out there and it was probably a few years before I bought another one. So it wasn't like an instant, like I'm a collector now. Instead it was more like that planted the seed and as time went on, I was able to buy more, find more and start collecting more seriously.

Cherish Watton: As you say, it always starts with these one off things that you come across and then it snowballs into something; a much bigger collection. And in your case, not only a collection that you keep for yourself, but also one which you really generously share with people all over the world.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. Yeah. And I had started out collecting old postcards. So what I like to do is go through and flip through old postcards and try to find ones with really interesting handwritten messages. And so I would say, oh, there's so many clues in a postcard. You can see the postmark, the stamp, the

handwriting, the image on the card. And for me, that was really exciting. So when I saw scrapbook, I thought this has a lot more clues and a lot more information than one postcard. So, that's what really shifted me on to the books.

Cherish Watton:

Absolutely. And you don't always find out necessarily who created the scrapbook. It's not necessarily on the front cover. So you have to really piece together all those different elements, look at addresses and letters and things like that in order to try and move a bit closer to the person who created them.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah, exactly. It really bothers me if I have a scrapbook and I don't know who made it. I really, I just I'll keep looking with the hope that there's something in there that's going to unlock the mystery, but usually most of my books, I do know who made them, but I've had a couple where I really had to dig and put a lot together to try to figure it out. And then I have a few where I just will never probably never know who made them, unfortunately.

Cherish Watton:

When you buy them, are the people that you're buying them from, do they know much about the person who's put them together or are you buying it blind in a way without knowing much information about the scrapbooker?

Mandy Ross:

Usually I do buy the scrapbooks online. And in most cases, the seller does not provide a lot of information about what's in the book. Usually they're selling it because they're not too interested in it. And so because of that, they're not sitting down with the book and trying to figure things out. So instead, the online listing will say something like old scrapbook found at a garage sale, seems to be 1930s, some blank pages, the end. So based on that description and maybe three to 10 images, then I have to make a decision, is this something I want to try to buy or not? But the short answer is usually the people don't describe them in great detail.

Cherish Watton:

And it sounds like they're massively underselling them as well, because they're not appreciating all that rich social, cultural history that are stored within its pages.

Mandy Ross:

Definitely. In many cases, I'll buy a book that seems to be undervalued or people aren't interested in it, but I get it home and I spend some time with it. And then I'm finding or unlocking these great stories that are in the pages, but it just takes time to get those out.

Cherish Watton: Absolutely. I wondered if you could talk to listeners quite generally about some of the places where you find these scrapbook. So you said you found your very first one in an antique store and some online. But yeah, I think probably listeners are wondering where are all these scrapbooks being sold and found.

Mandy Ross: So my main source would be eBay. And so what I do is I look on eBay almost every day, and I think a lot of my success is really looking very often and just being patient, looking and looking and looking and waiting for the right thing to come up. And with that process, I see so many scrapbooks. I couldn't possibly buy everything that I see. I feel like there's a wave of options out there mostly on eBay, but it's just more about digging and looking because eBay has that auction element of bidding and bidding against different people. I'm really trying to find the ones that aren't described that well, that maybe aren't listed with a lot of detail. So they are maybe under the radar and not a lot of people see those listings. And if that's the case, that increases my chances of being able to buy the book for a lower price, which is my goal.

Cherish Watton: Obviously from your Instagram page, you have a huge number of scrapbooks. Have you counted them up? Do you know how many you have?

Mandy Ross: My go-to number is 500.

Cherish Watton: 500! Oh my goodness.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. Yeah.

Cherish Watton: Wow.

Mandy Ross: A few years ago, I pulled everything out and it was, I got to around 360 and I stopped counting at that point, but I do have a lot. And as you can imagine with books in general, they're all different shapes and sizes. So I have small books and large books and little tiny scrapbooks. I have a lot.

Cherish Watton: That is a colossal collection. That must really be better than some archives in terms of their collection of scrapbooks. That is incredible. Tell us a bit more about, if you have a favorite scrapbook or favorite scrapbooks, because I imagine with 500, there are a few that are competing with that top spot.

Mandy Ross: Yeah, it is difficult for me to pick a favorite because I tend to, I have a list of maybe 30 favorites, but for the sake of picking one, I do have a book, it's from 1899. It was made by a young girl named Rene Dozier and she made the scrapbook using an old school notebook. So it's just a simple lined notebook that you would use for schoolwork. And instead she created a scrapbook with it and she called it her memor. So she spelled it M-E-M-O-R. And she said my memor. And she refers to it in the pages where she saved all kinds of items from daily life. So anything from a button that her dad found in the garden, she saved cherry stems that she tied together with a little bow and said, we went cherry picking and here's some stems.

Mandy Ross: She saved twigs that she picked up on her walk from school, and everything has a handwritten description and a date. And the reason it's one of my favorite books is I like it when simple books are used as scrapbooks. I just like that she took something that wasn't going to be a scrapbook and she made it that, and turned it into something special, turned it into a family heirloom basically. For that time period, it's a little bit rare for people to include those handwritten descriptions and include items from daily life because usually in that 1890s time period, we see a lot of just scraps, like trade cards and little dye cuts and things like that. I like the time that she spent on it and what she saved.

Cherish Watton: Definitely. And I think the tactile element of those items as well, the fact that she's preserved different objects so carefully into the pages, there's something I think quite intimate about the fact that you can touch something that she touched. And it obviously meant so much to her that she collated it together as part of recording her life; a kind of museum of her family.

Mandy Ross: Yeah, and she makes notes in there where she'll say, her friend gave her this item specifically to put in her book, so you could know that her friends around her and her family were part of the process too. They knew how much she enjoyed the book and were like, here, put this in your memoir. I thought that was a cute detail as well.

Cherish Watton: Definitely, because you don't sometimes get that sense of who is seeing the scrapbook, because sometimes we think they're just private volumes, but actually you get a sense of the networks and the relationships that are culminating in the creation of the scrapbook itself.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. And I'm glad that the book lasted as long as it did. And when I bought it, it came in a little packaging and there was a

sticker on the packaging that said mother's memoir. So you could tell at some point it was passed down to the children and they saw it as mother's book. And it was, I'm just guessing, that it was... They enjoyed having it and cherished it, but it'd been long time since 1899. So at some point it came up for sale and I was lucky enough to find it.

Cherish Watton:

It's interesting to think as well what happens when you lose that connection with the original scrapbooker and their family. I think you said before, that moment of loss potentially can basically lead to the scrapbook being put in the rubbish or it can lead to then going into a home such as yours. But is that the umbilical cord that connects it with the family is so important to trying to unpack that meaning?

Mandy Ross:

Yeah. It's a lot can happen over time. And what I see pretty often is the scrapbook will stay in the family maybe for one generation because oftentimes people will write little notes like your grandpa made this book or something like that. Or it'll say, grandpa George gave this to Alice in 1921 or something like that. So there is a little bit of clues of like where it was passed down, but at some point, it loses that connection. Yeah. And there's a lot of outcomes for the book that could happen.

Cherish Watton:

This seems a very natural point then to perhaps think about any advice you would give to people who have scrapbooks in their collections, or scrapbooks they maybe have inherited. What advice would you give to them in terms of looking after the scrapbook in the longer term?

Mandy Ross:

The first piece of advice would always be to store them as carefully as possible and keep them safe in a box, not exposed to the elements or to air or to changing temperatures, to just try to store it as best as possible. And even if they aren't super interested in the book, storing it for the future is just going to be a good move because there might be somebody down the road in the family who wants it. I think if the book has lasted as long as it has, it's nice to keep it going for as long as possible. So storage is going to play a big role in that. And then just I would say for people who maybe aren't interested in the book is just to see if there's someone in the family who might want it. And beyond that, if they can't find anybody, then to try to get it to somebody who does appreciate it, and to know that those people are out there, even if it's not within the family.

Cherish Watton:

So it could be collectors such as you, it could be archives as well as another home for scrapbooks, if people are looking to move them onto their next home.

Mandy Ross: Exactly. They can look into selling the books, they can donate the books. There's a lot of options for moving it along to the next person.

Cherish Watton: So you've given us a flavor of some of the objects that have been put into scrapbooks. So, buttons and cherry twigs. What's the most unusual item that you found in a scrapbook?

Mandy Ross: Well, scrapbooks are full of surprises. That's part of the thing that I like about them, but I have a category in my mind and it's called animal parts. Okay, animal part. And so what I have in that category would be a turkey wish bone. So, turkey bone, okay, from 1923.

Cherish Watton: Wow.

Mandy Ross: Yes. Very special and unique. I have a puppy's tooth. So this is from the 1950s and there's a photo of the dog looking very cute. And right next to that photo under some tape is a little tiny puppy tooth that says, Jerry's last tooth or something like that. And then I have one from the 1860s, which is a flying fish wing. So it's basically a fish parts, fish bones. Looks like a bat wing actually. And two of those are glued down to the page and it says where they came from, which was a very... I don't want to say disturbing, but it was a scary... That was a scary turn of the page to see that because I wasn't expecting it. And when you see what it looks like; bat wings and bones on a page is shocking.

Cherish Watton: I can imagine.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. Yeah, I'm like who's putting animal parts in their scrapbooks. It happens. And then the last, it was in a 1930s scrapbook and there's a handwritten caption that says Benny and I skinned a snake, and there's a little bit of snake skin on the page.

Cherish Watton: My goodness. So a real eclectic array of items then that scrapbookers over time have very carefully preserved much to your surprise, and it sounds like occasionally horror as well.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. Yeah. That would be the most rare, unique option of things to include.

Cherish Watton: Really incredible to think about just the range of items. Kind of like a mini museum really stored between two covers.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. I often think that the scrapbooks are more like little suitcases full of stuff instead of book pages, because there's so much in there. Sometimes the books don't even close. They haven't been able to close all the way since 1918 or something because there's so much in there; so many layers and a lot to look through and see.

Cherish Watton: You've obviously been very generous in sharing the experience of turning the pages of your scrapbooks online. What made you make that decision? You bought your first scrapbook and then a few years later you accumulated this massive collection. What sparked you to be like, I think other people might be interested in this? I'll put some pictures online and now obviously you videoing you turning the pages of them for the first time.

Mandy Ross: Well, in 2015, I had a really big transitional time. 2015, I got married. I moved to San Francisco. I switched careers. So that's when I first started teaching at the university. And there was just so much going on. And I had just finished my first year of teaching in the summer of 2015. And because I was a new teacher, I didn't have summer classes. So I was like, wait, here I am. I'm 30 years old. I'm on summer vacation now, which is a great amount of time to do something. And I really wanted a creative project to fill that time. And so along with that, I had always thought in my mind, there's got to be more people who want to see this.

Mandy Ross: I just have to find them because I was so excited myself. And up until that point, sometimes I would try to carry things around with me in my purse or something. Something small like a letter or a postcard and like I'm going to show people that I see; my friends or whatever. And that just was a very inefficient way to share because half the time people weren't that interested; maybe more than half the time, but if not, yeah. I'm like a little walking museum. Like who wants to see a postcard and, well, if you do that in real life, most people don't want to see the postcard.

Cherish Watton: I absolutely would want to see the postcard. I would be the rare minority that would.

Mandy Ross: That's my test for like, should we be friends? It's like, look, I have an old postcard, do you want to see it? Yes. Well, we're friends now. So I thought Instagram seemed like one option to try. And I was late to the game. I hadn't really used Instagram that much, but I just thought, hey, I'll learn how to use Instagram. I'll learn how to take photos. I'll share, see what happens, and that's really where it started. And it did take off

pretty quickly in terms of people being interested and getting comments and interacting with people. So it really took off from there, from that summer.

Cherish Watton:

And now you have nearly 41,000 followers on Instagram, which is a huge amount of people who are interested in scrapbooks and hopefully would pass the have a look at my postcard test.

Mandy Ross:

Exactly. Yeah. It was a surprise to me because like I said in daily life, I'm like, ah, I think I'm the only one who likes these things, but I'm not sure. And now I know that the interest is out there. It's just, it maybe takes the internet to bring us together from different parts of the world, different cities.

Cherish Watton:

And I think it's interesting as well that you're using Instagram, which some people have conceptualized now as actually a digital scrapbook, sharing in its creative histories with that early forms of scrapbooking and things like Pinterest. So it's interesting how you are using perhaps a form of a digital scrapbook to then share your physical scrapbook collection with people all over the world.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah, it is. It is interesting to take something that is tactile, made of paper, not digital at all, and putting it into that digital sphere and sharing it in that way. And another thing that comes up that I think is interesting is often people will say, they'll see the picture of the person's scrapbook and they'll say, oh, that person would've had a great Instagram account and that person would make a great Pinterest board because we just can know aesthetically or whatever that it's interesting to look at. And I think that's pretty cool.

Cherish Watton:

And I think what's really wonderful about your videos in particular is you keep the sound on. So it is just quiet, but as you are lifting the cover of the scrapbook or the page, you can hear the weight of the paper turning, which as someone who obviously spends a lot of time looking at scrapbooks, I love the fact that you're able to actually hear what it's like to feel and engage with those scrapbooks.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah, I do like the sound and it's interesting because when I first started making videos on Instagram, I wanted to take that sound off. There wasn't really a clear option for how to do that. So I was like, oh, I'll just be really quiet and I'll leave the sound of the pages in there. And it turned out that a lot of people said that they enjoyed that. So I was like, okay, well good. Now it'll stay. And you get that experience too, of hearing the pages turning and the layers lifting and things like that.

Cherish Watton: That's brilliant. So you've obviously collected scrapbooks made by people living in America and Britain. Do you have any scrapbooks in your collection that you think our listeners might be interested in knowing a bit more about?

Mandy Ross: I do have one that is from the early 1920s and it seems like it was made by a young girl in school. And what it has is all the packaging from different food items. So there's mustard, raisins, sugar, stewed tomatoes, candy wrappers, things like that. And it's full of so much color and so much different topography and things like that. And to me, it's such a neat collection because you get a peek into what their kitchen might have held, a lot of daily items. And on one of the pages she saved, there's a little bit of rice. So she put a little bit of glue, like a circle of glue on the page and then sprinkled different items on the glue so it would hold it. So there's rice, cocoa powder, sugar. I think there's one more, a couple things which then you not only get the packaging, but you get to see the little kernels of food as well. And it's just such a neat book full of a lot of cool things.

Cherish Watton: Definitely. And it sounds like it gives you such an insight into her domestic life as well. And the food items that were of interest to her as she was interacting with them in the kitchen herself.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. And it seems like the book that she used was a directory for the town. So it seems like they took the covers of the directory and put in their own paper. The paper seems to be made out of a butcher paper, like a really thick, brown paper bag kind of material. So it's also a homemade book, using repurposed book of the directory. So I thought that was a neat detail as well. I think the downside of the book is I do have her name, but I don't really have anything else. I don't have an address or even a town. Her name was Doris [Too Good 00:23:28], and it seems like she was a young school girl at that time.

Cherish Watton: Oh. How fascinating. And I think that's one of the things we scrap books as well, that they're basically a place where people can personalize them and make them their own in whatever way they like, whether it is putting in the newspaper clippings or photographs or in this specific case, a really detailed chronicling of what's in her kitchen, and as well as repurposing books and making the covers exactly your own. There's just so many opportunities for really giving something of yourself to them.

Mandy Ross: Yeah. You can really customize what you want and you can also save whatever you want. That book made me think, okay, do we

have this nice packaging now? Is there packaging for my kitchen that I would save if I was thinking of it in that way? It just got me thinking about, I don't know, what's in my kitchen and should I be saving some of this stuff for later because it's just boring packaging to me today, but maybe down the road, it would be interesting to see what it looked like and what I had.

Cherish Watton:

Food historians of the future, I think would be incredibly interested in your food collection and what items were of importance to you. One of the things that you highlight in your collection online is the fact that you're sometimes able to give the scrapbooks back to family members or actually connect with people who have a connection with the scrapbooks. So I wonder if you could tell us a little bit more about that.

Mandy Ross:

Well, in one example, I had bought a very interesting scrapbook on eBay and I got it mailed to me. And when I got it home and started doing research on it, I found a comment on a message board or on a website from somebody looking for that book specifically. So they had seen an old listing from, I don't know what it was maybe five years prior that that book had gone for sale in some other auction house. And so they could see that the book existed, see a photo of it, but not know who it was sold to. And so obviously me coming across that comment, I think, oh my gosh, this is the book that the person is looking for. So I ended up getting in contact with him, with Mark and we became friends. He had scrapbooks made by the same family. He was related to the people who made the scrapbook.

Mandy Ross:

We shared photos and scans and images of the books that we had. And then ultimately, I ended up selling the book to him and now he has it. That specific scrapbook was made in Sheffield, England around 1901. And somehow it made it to America and was sold a couple times, ended up with me, it's back with Mark and Mark is in Wales. So the scrapbook has had a very interesting and robust life, moving around different countries.

Cherish Watton:

It's been quite nice as well that you were able to play that role in actually reuniting it with a family member.

Mandy Ross:

It was really cool, because sometimes a lot of people ask, have you tried to find any family members? And really what I see is it's a little bit more complicated because sometimes it's the family that sells the book. So it's like, yeah, I know. I am in contact with the family. They sold the book for some reason. It benefits me, but I don't know why they don't want to keep it, but they don't. Sometimes it's the family that sells it. Or sometimes I send a message to somebody and I just don't get a

response back. In the times where it does work out and it does get back to a family member, that's really, really cool to see.

Cherish Watton:

Absolutely. And I think as well, both of us here today really enjoy looking at scrapbooks and see a great deal of value in them. But I think sometimes those objects that we inherit potentially can be seen more as a burden sometimes, and they can an opportunity. And I think it's about remembering perhaps those other memories. And if they're associated with someone who you don't get on well with, or you have unpleasant family memories and actually the best thing for yourself is to sell on the scrapbook or to give it to someone else to have that sense of distance from it. Whilst we can get a bit seduced by how intimate these scrapbooks are and those stories that is as much remembering that they can mean very different things to different people and can represent lots of different things about families and friendships.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah. And what I've seen is not everybody connects with paper material and so maybe they would cherish a piece of furniture from a family member, but the scrapbook is just like, well, I don't know, it's just paper. Right? So it just depends what people value and see interesting. I try not to be too judgmental even though I'm like, why wouldn't you love scrapbooks? But most people or a lot of people don't really have a big interest in them and that's okay too.

Cherish Watton:

Yeah. And I think it also comes back to the name itself, scrapbook. It suggests that it's full of scraps of items that have little value and not very worthwhile. So in some ways, you can see how just being called a scrapbook can manifest in not necessarily appreciating the value that it does have for some people.

Mandy Ross:

One of the things I do like about sharing them is I do see sometimes the discarded nature of the books or the undervalued features of the books. And I like to elevate them and share them and be able to show. Not everybody's interested, but a lot of people follow my account or enjoy the account and want to know more. I like seeing that.

Cherish Watton:

You're doing a great service highlighting the variety of ways to which people scrapbooked over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. I wondered if you'd noticed any differences in the style of scrapbooking, as you moved from 1840 to 1940, do you get a sense of changes in what people are archiving and how they're representing their different collecting habits?

Mandy Ross:

The biggest difference for me happens from the difference between what I'd consider a Victorian scrapbook. So anything up until the 1890s, those books tend to be impersonal. So they're containing really pretty scraps and the pages are arranged in really nice ways, but you don't really see a lot of handwriting or personal details in the book. But once we get to the 1900s, maybe 1905, 1910, that's when I start to notice a lot more personalization in the books. The book is about their life and what they do on a day to day basis. People started to save those items from everyday life and also write about where they came from. And that's the biggest change for me is just like we go from this book that is really not about the person, but I don't know. And something happens. And now the books are 100% about those people and what they experience.

Cherish Watton:

That's really interesting that you've noticed that then. Because I think that chimes with some of the ways that historians understand the growth of subjectivity and the ways in which people understand the self. And there is that big transition then from the 19th to the 20th century. So it's fascinating then that you're seeing that coming through quite tangibly in the scrapbooks that you're collecting.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah. And I have a couple books from around, I would say between maybe 1905 and 1915, a few books where I see the combination of both styles, where maybe a book is made in a traditional, fancy Victorian scrapbook, but it has photos and handwritten captions and items from daily life. And for me being such a big fan of scrapbooks, I just look at that and I go, oh, the transition it's happening. It's right in this book, we get the best of both worlds. And by 1920, I haven't really seen a 1920 scrapbook made in a Victorian style, if that makes sense. Goes back to the old way. There's a lot to see there and talk about, but I really like that.

Cherish Watton:

Yeah. And also the sense potentially within families that perhaps one family member starts a book and then perhaps their daughter or their son then carries it on. And you've got that intergenerational conversation being played out on the pages of the scrapbooks, which can be hard for us to know. And we are looking at them now in the 21st century, but that sense of tradition and generation, I think definitely plays a part in the creating and passing down of scrapbooks.

Mandy Ross:

Yeah. Yeah. I see that as well. And I do see some examples of a scrapbook that was partially made by one person and then maybe picked up and finished by somebody else. And the other maybe example of that is just when the scrapbook is passed on,

if it's passed on to somebody new, sometimes that's noted in the inside front cover. And that's a piece of the history to know when it changed hands, what date and who did it go to? But one thing that, I don't know if I can say it bothers me, but it kind of bothers me. They'll usually say, grandpa gave you this book. It's like, who's grandpa? I know it's weird, but please use the first and last names. Can I get an address? Can I get more information? Because grandpa gave you this book in 1915, it's like, I still don't know who those people are. There's a family context that can be lost sometimes.

Cherish Watton:

And when you're looking at these scrapbooks, it's those silences which can be the most frustrating at the same time that you are really excited to look at these, but sometimes you can never know where they come from. You can never know that providence, which can be hard to deal with.

Thank you so much, Mandy, for talking to me today about your wonderful scrapbook collection. Just as we end, could you tell our listeners where they can go to find out more about your scrapbook collection?

Mandy Ross:

The best place to go, I do have a website and that is paperofthepast.com, and that will link to an about page, an email list. It links to my Instagram account. If you want to go straight to the Instagram account, that is paper of the past on Instagram. And those are the two best ways to learn more or contact me.

Cherish Watton:

The size of Mandy's collection is certainly exceptional. With the number of volumes she has rivaling collections held by many museums and archives. However, Mandy is clearly not alone in her fascination with these objects as her huge following shows. Like me, people enjoy reading and touching these visual tactile sources, which give a tantalizing window into the past.