

Miniature Shoes

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION



Miniature shoes have been popular collectibles for centuries. Highly ornate examples were once exchanged as symbols of love and prosperity.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many potteries and glass houses were producing these “whimseys” as examples of their artistry.



Houston Museum
of Decorative Arts

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With the rapid growth of rail travel from the mid-1840s on, travelers often purchased miniature shoes as souvenirs of their journeys.



Anna Safley Houston collected many examples of miniature shoes and boots, including a shoe-shaped inkwell.



Anna Safley Houston, pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.

