Guide to the Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection, 1942-1947

NMAH.AC.1156
Hannah Rosen (intern); supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist

July 2009
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1156
Date: 1942-1947
Extent: 0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator: Popenoe, Helen
Language: English
Summary: In the 1940s, during Helen Popenoe's elementary school years, she collected and played with paper dolls. This collection consists of the dolls that she enjoyed as a child.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
This collection was donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, by Helen Popenoe in June, 2009.

Related Materials
Materials in the Archives Center
Caroline and Donald Grepke Paper Doll Collection, 1895-1991 (AC 0752)
Elinor S. Miller Paper Doll Collection, circa 1909-1940 (AC1110).

Processing Information
Processed by Hannah Rosen (intern), July, 2009 and Marisa Kritikson (intern), July, 2010; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation
Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions
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Biographical / Historical

This collection is comprised of Helen Popenoe's personal paper doll collection from her elementary school days, ages 5-10. The collection dates from 1942 to 1947. It is possible that some of these dolls were purchased at Kann's Department Store in Washington, D.C. Many of the paper dolls were discovered in a Kann's shopping bag.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of paper dolls of various types including female movie stars, "Blondie," comic strip characters, and several "Good Neighbor" dolls inspired by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy. Additionally there are paper dolls of young children and toddlers, as well as fictitious characters with clothes and accessories that represent the time period in American history in which they were produced. For example, several paper dolls have World War II military uniforms.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series and is organized by type of doll.

Series 1: "Blondie" Characters, undated
Series 2: Celebrities, undated
Series 3: Couples, undated
Series 4: Good Neighbor, undated
Series 5: Queens, undated
Series 6: Miscellaneous, undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Dolls
- Paper dolls
- Toys -- 20th century
Container Listing

Series 1: "Blondie" Characters, undated

Box 2, Folder 1  Alexander, undated
Box 2, Folder 2  Blondie, undated
Box 2, Folder 3  Cookie, undated
Box 2, Folder 4  Dagwood, undated
Box 2, Folder 5  Daisy Dog, undated
Series 2: Celebrities, undated

Box 2, Folder 6  Ann Gillis (Some items in Nagel), undated
Box 2, Folder 7  Ann Nagel (Some items in Gillis), undated
Box 1, Folder 1  Betty Davis, undated
Box 1, Folder 2  Betty Davis, undated
Box 2, Folder 8  Helen Parrish, undated
Box 1, Folder 3  Jane, undated
Box 2, Folder 9  Jane Frazee, undated
Box 2, Folder 10 Jane Glamour, undated
Box 1, Folder 4  Lucille Ball, undated
Box 1, Folder 5  Lucille Ball, undated
Box 2, Folder 11 Mary Glamour Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 6  Mary Martin, undated
Box 1, Folder 7  Mary Martin, undated
Box 2, Folder 12 Movie starlets, undated

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## Series 3: Couples, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
<th>Betty and Bill, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Dorothy and Bob, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Jack and Gloria, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>Janice and Lee, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Jean and Glenn, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Jerry and Judy, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>Lois and Robert, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
<td>Patsy and Jim, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
<td>Sue and Herb, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 4: Good Neighbor, undated

Box 1, Folder 17  Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 18  Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Image(s)

[Woman in a Mexican costume: color paper doll], 1944
1 Item (10" x 3-1/2").
Image(s): [Woman in a Mexican costume: color paper doll].
Popenoe, Helen, Collector
Box No. 1.
Unrestricted research access on site by appointment.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers
AC1156-0000009.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Costume -- Mexico
Place: Mexico
Genre/ Form: Paper dolls
Culture: Mexicans

Box 1, Folder 19  Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 20  Good Neighbor Doll, contains copy prints, undated
Image(s)

[Mexican bullfighter: color paper doll.]
1 Item (10-1/2" x 2-1/2").
Image(s)
Popenoe, Helen, Collector
1944.
Box No. 1.
Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers
AC1156-0000010.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Bullfiighters -- Mexico
Genre/ Form: Paper dolls

Box 1, Folder 21  Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 22  Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 23  Good Neighbor Doll cut-out form, copy print, undated

Image(s)

Good Neighbor Paper Dolls [color doll house]
1 Item (13" x 11").

Image(s): Good Neighbor Paper Dolls [color doll house].

Popenoe, Helen, Collector

Paper doll house, 1944. Cowboys or vaqueros in sombreros with guitar serenading young women.

Box No. 1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1156-0000011.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic:  Cowboys
        Good neighbor policy
        Guitar
        Sombreros

Place:  Mexico -- 20th century

Genre/ Form: Doll house  Paper dolls
Series 5: Queens, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 24</th>
<th>Cherry Queen, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
<td>Cotton Queen, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 26</td>
<td>Harvest Queen, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 27</td>
<td>Ice Queen, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 28</td>
<td>May Queen, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 29</td>
<td>Rose Queen, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 6: Miscellaneous, undated

Box 1, Folder 30   Ann, undated
Box 1, Folder 31   Dot, undated
Box 1, Folder 32   James, Ralph & Nancy, undated
Box 1, Folder 33   Jean, undated
Box 1, Folder 34   Joan, undated
Box 1, Folder 35   Joanne - Little Girl Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 36   June, undated
Box 2, Folder 13   Little Boy Doll, undated
Box 2, Folder 14   Little Boys' Nursery Set, undated
Box 1, Folder 37   [Liz?] (floral top is not Liz's), undated
Box 1, Folder 38   Pam, undated
Box 1, Folder 39   Pat, undated
Box 1, Folder 40   Patty, undated
Box 1, Folder 41   Sally - Little Girl Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 42   School nurse, undated
Box 1, Folder 43   Sue, undated
Box 1, Folder 44   Unidentified, undated
Box 2, Folder 15   Unidentified, undated