Guide to the Accoutrements/
Archie McPhee Catalogs

NMAH.AC.0837
Vanessa Broussard-Simmons
2005
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Accoutrements/Archie McPhee Catalogs
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0837
Date: 1985-2008, undated
Extent: 1 Cubic foot
Creator: Accoutrements, Seattle, Washington
         Archie McPhee Co. (Seattle, Washington)
         National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
Language: English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Collection donated in 2002.

Provenance
The collection was transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Cultural History (now Division of Cultural and Community Life) in 2003.

Related Materials
Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Warshaw Collection of Business Americana NMAH.AC.0060
Gladys Reid Holton Ephemera Collection NMAH.AC.0466
Mortimer Spiller Company Records NMAH.AC.1387

Processing Information
Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2005.

Preferred Citation
Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment.

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Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

Accoutrements began as a mail order business in Los Angeles, California in the 1970s. The company's creator, Mark Pahlow, started the business from his home offering rubber lizards and other collectible items for sale. In 1983, Pahlow moved his business to Seattle, Washington and established it as the retail outlet, Archie McPhee, named after his wife's great-uncle. Pahlow hired two employees and expanded the product line to include rubber chickens and a host of other novelty items. In 2018, Archie McPhee opened the Rubber Chicken Museum inside its Seattle store. The business currently offers retail, wholesale, and online services.

Source: archiemcpheeseattle.com

Scope and Contents

Collection consists of almost a complete run of Accoutrements and Archie McPhee product catalogs dating from 1985-2008. It documents the advertising and promotion of the wide range of products during that period. Materials reflect the interests of the consumer market and what was paid for novelty and gift items. Collection is arranged into two series. Series 1, Catalogs, 1985-2008 and Series 2: Other Materials, undated.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Catalogs, 1985-2008

Series 2: Other Materials, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Mail-order business
Novelties
Popular culture  
Toy industry  
Toys

Types of Materials:

- Catalogs
- Legal records
- Photographs -- 1950-2000
- Photographs -- 2000-2010

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
Container Listing

Series 1: Catalogs, 1985-2008
Include catalogs created by Accoutrements and Archie McPhee for their product lines of gift, novelty, and specialty items. Catalogs include product images, descriptions, prices, dimensions, and item numbers. Materials document the evolution of the catalogs from black and white to color pages and the inclusion of more products. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1985

Box 1, Folder 2  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1986

Box 1, Folder 3  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1988

Box 1, Folder 4  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1989

Box 1, Folder 5  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1990

Box 1, Folder 6  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1991

Box 1, Folder 7  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1992

Box 1, Folder 8  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1993

Box 1, Folder 9  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1994

Box 1, Folder 10  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1995

Box 1, Folder 11  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1996

Box 2, Folder 1  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1996

Box 2, Folder 2  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1997

Box 2, Folder 3  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1998

Box 2, Folder 4  
Archie McPhee & Company, 1999

Box 2, Folder 5  
Archie McPhee & Company, 2000

Box 2, Folder 6  
Archie McPhee & Company, 2001
Box 2, Folder 7  
*Archie McPhee & Company, 2002*

Box 2, Folder 8  
*Accoutrements, 1986*

Box 2, Folder 9  
*Accoutrements, 1994*

Box 2, Folder 10  
*Accoutrements, 1995*

Box 2, Folder 11  
*Accoutrements, 1996*

Box 2, Folder 12  
*Accoutrements, 1997*

Box 2, Folder 13  
*Accoutrements, 1999*

Box 3, Folder 1  
*Accoutrements, 2001*

Box 3, Folder 2  
*Accoutrements, 2002*

Box 3, Folder 3  
*Accoutrements, 2002*

Box 3, Folder 4  
*Accoutrements, 2003*

Box 3, Folder 5  
*Accoutrements, 2008*
Series 2: Other Materials, undated
Includes one article relating to a Jesus action figure.

Box 3, Folder 6 Article, undated

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