



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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
Date:	1985-2008, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0837
Creator:	Accoutrements, Seattle, Washington Archie McPhee (Retail store)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Cultural History
Extent:	1 Cubic foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	Accoutrements and Archie McPhee product catalogs dating from 1983-2008.

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

Warsaw 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

Accoutrements/Archie McPhee Catalogs, 1985-2003, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

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: archiemcpheseattle.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

Scope and Contents: 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

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Series 2: Other Materials, undated

Scope and Contents: Includes one article relating to a Jesus action figure.

Box 3, Folder 6 Article, undated

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