



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.1156

Hannah Rosen (intern); supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection
Date:	1942-1947
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1156
Creator:	Popenoe, Helen (Creator)
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
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

Carolyn 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

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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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

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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

Box 1, Folder 8	Betty and Bill, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Dorothy and Bob, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Jack and Gloria, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Janice and Lee, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Jean and Glenn, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Jerry and Judy, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Lois and Robert, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Patsy and Jim, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Sue and Herb, undated

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Series 4: Good Neighbor, undated

Box 1, Folder 17	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Box 1	<p>[Woman in a Mexican costume : color paper doll], 1944 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 10" x 3-1/2".) Collector: Popenoe, Helen Language: English. Notes: AC1156-0000009.tif (AC Scan No.) Topic: Costume -- Mexico Place: Mexico Genre/Form: Paper dolls Culture: Mexicans</p>
Box 1, Folder 19	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Good Neighbor Doll, contains copy prints, undated
Box 1	<p>[Mexican bullfighter : color paper doll.] 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 10-1/2" x 2-1/2".) Collector: Popenoe, Helen Language: English. Notes: AC1156-0000010.tif (AC Scan No.) Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs. 1944. Topic: Bullfighters -- Mexico Genre/Form: Paper dolls</p>
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
Box 1	<p>Good Neighbor Paper Dolls [color doll house] 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 13" x 11".) Collector: Popenoe, Helen Language: English. Notes: AC1156-0000011.tif (AC Scan No.) Paper doll house, 1944. Cowboys or vaqueros in sombreros with guitar serenading young women. Topic: Sombreros Guitar Good neighbor policy</p>

Cowboys
Place: Mexico -- 20th century
Genre/Form: Doll house
Paper dolls

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Series 5: Queens, undated

Box 1, Folder 24 Cherry Queen, undated

Box 1, Folder 25 Cotton Queen, undated

Box 1, Folder 26 Harvest Queen, undated

Box 1, Folder 27 Ice Queen, undated

Box 1, Folder 28 May Queen, undated

Box 1, Folder 29 Rose Queen, undated

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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

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