

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection

Collection Date(s): 1942-1947

Extent and Forms of Material: 0.5 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Creator: Helen Popenoe

Abstract: 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.

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. archivescenter@si.edu 202-633-3270
www.americanhistory.si.edu/archives

Collection Number: AC1156

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

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

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IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History: 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 Content: 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.

System of 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

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

Related Archival Materials: Additional Archives Center paper doll collections include: Carolyn and Donald Grepke Paper Doll Collection, 1895-1991 (AC 0752) and the Elinor S. Miller Paper Doll Collection, circa 1909-1940 (AC1110).

Access Points:

Subject/Names:

Ball, Lucille
Davis, Betty
Frazee, Jane
Gillis, Ann
Martin, Mary
Nagel, Ann
Parrish, Helen

Subject/Topical:

“Blondie” (Comic Strip)
Good Neighbor Policy

Form/Genre:

Paper Dolls

Occupations:

Actors

CONTAINER LISTING

Helen Popenoe Paper Doll Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Series 1, "Blondie" Characters, undated
2	1	Alexander, undated
	2	Blondie, undated
	3	Cookie, undated
	4	Dagwood, undated
	5	Daisy Dog, undated
		Series 2, Celebrities, undated
2	6	Ann Gillis (Some items in Nagel), undated
	7	Ann Nagel (Some items in Gillis), undated
1	1	Betty Davis, undated
	2	Betty Davis, undated
2	8	Helen Parrish, undated
1	3	Jane, undated
2	9	Jane Frazee, undated
	10	Jane Glamour, undated
1	4	Lucille Ball, undated
	5	Lucille Ball, undated
2	11	Mary Glamour Doll, undated
1	6	Mary Martin, undated
	7	Mary Martin, undated
2	12	Movie starlets, undated
		Series 3, Couples, undated
1	8	Betty and Bill, undated
	9	Dorothy and Bob, undated
	10	Jack and Gloria, undated
	11	Janice and Lee, undated
	12	Jean and Glenn, undated
	13	Jerry and Judy, undated
	14	Lois and Robert, undated
	15	Patsy and Jim, undated
	16	Sue and Herb, undated
		Series 4, Good Neighbor, undated
	17	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
	18	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
	19	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
	20	Good Neighbor Doll, contains copy prints, undated
	21	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
	22	Good Neighbor Doll, undated
	23	Good Neighbor Doll cut-out form, copy print, undated
		Series 5, Queens, undated
	24	Cherry Queen, undated
	25	Cotton Queen, undated
	26	Harvest Queen, undated

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	27	Ice Queen, undated
	28	May Queen, undated
	29	Rose Queen, undated
		Series 6, Miscellaneous, undated
1	30	Ann, undated
	31	Dot, undated
	32	James, Ralph & Nancy, undated
	33	Jean, undated
	34	Joan, undated
	35	Joanne – Little Girl Doll, undated
	36	June, undated
2	13	Little Boy Doll, undated
	14	Little Boys' Nursery Set, undated
1	37	[Liz?], undated (floral top is not Liz's)
	38	Pam, undated
	39	Pat, undated
	40	Patty, undated
	41	Sally – Little Girl Doll, undated
	42	School nurse, undated
	43	Sue, undated
	44	Unidentified, undated
2	15	Unidentified, undated