

Langston University Libraries
Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center
Eva Freeman- Lewis Doll Collection

Collection Overview

Title: The Eva Freeman-Lewis Doll Collection: In Memory of Grant and Leona Freeman

Date Range: 1900 - 2000

Abstract: Doll Collection of Eva Freeman-Lewis, a 1976 graduate of Langston University. This collection is in memory of the Eva Freeman-Lewis's parents, Grant and Leona Freeman, who helped create the collection by obtaining the dolls from various places for a span of 38 years. The doll dates are the 19th century and unknown.

Creator: Various artists and manufacturers

Finding Aid: Melaine Campbell, Clarence Harkins, Sara Reid, Traci Pratt, Jada Burris, and Jameka Lewis

Extent: 4.88 cubic ft. (11 boxes)

Donor: Eva-Freeman Lewis, 2011-present

Access: On site at the Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center on the Langston University Campus in Langston, Oklahoma

Rights: Langston University Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center

Related Collections or Record Groups: None

Biographical Statement:

From early history, dolls have been used as an object of entertainment for children. In addition, some artisans have created dolls as collectibles and not for the purpose of play. The history of dolls is more complex for those of the African-Diaspora than other races and cultures. This is due to the cultural and racial significance of dolls for those peoples who share an African heritage due because of slavery and the colonization of the African continent and areas of the Caribbean islands. Dolls in pre-colonial Africa were used as representations, religious ceremonial pieces, and for children's recreation.¹ During the introduction of colonization, where dolls were more often used as a toy for children, dolls that were created to represent the African Diaspora populations were often made to look like a caricatured image with exaggerated features of people of African descent. In contrast, some "African" dolls were created by using the standard European doll features of the local country of manufacture (like France or Portugal) and simply darkening the skin. The most common dolls during the time of European colonization of Africa (1881 to 1914) were dolls made of cloth. Poor families of all racial backgrounds generally made cloth dolls due to the cheapness of the materials. The most common doll of this era, or at least until the 1960's, was the *topsy-turvy* doll. This was a two-headed cloth doll that shared one body, where the second torso and head replaced where the legs would normally be. The first head was that of a Caucasian female child made with white cloth and the second head was that of an African female child made with black cloth.² The child would change the head of the doll based on the race of the Adult in the room. If the child was with the Caucasian owner or worker of the business or home the doll would be on the white cloth side. If the child was with a worker or owner of the business that was a person of color, then the child would have the doll be on the black cloth side.

Families of a higher economic status would purchase dolls that were made by doll maker artisans. These dolls tended to reflect the ethnic features of the

¹"Black Doll," *Wikipedia*, last modified September 9, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_doll

²"Little Known Black History Facts: The Oldest Black Dolls," *Black America Web*, accessed September 28, 2016, <http://blackamericaweb.com/2012/07/29/little-known-black-history-fact-the-oldest-black-dolls/>

country in which the dolls were made in. For example, the dolls made to represent the African Diaspora by these artisans simply used the same ethnic features of the country of origin and made the skin coloring of a darker complexion. Depending on the country, many times the doll was significantly darker. On the other hand, France, for example, had choices in 1892, where Jumeau Dolls of Paris advertised Black and Mulatto dolls with bisque heads. Finally, in the 1960's the company Shindana Toys was credited as the first major doll company to mass-produce ethnically correct black dolls in the United States.³

Currently, there is a popular movement to preserve and collect these dolls. Several collections can be viewed throughout the United States. At this time, collectors are seeking out many styles of dolls, such as those made with cloth, papier-mâché, paper, china, wood, bisque, composition, hard plastic, vinyl, resin, porcelain, silicone, and polymer clay. Other popular dolls are one-of-a-kind dolls, reborn dolls, paper dolls, portrait dolls, and those representing historical figures.⁴ The Eva-Freeman Lewis Collection at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma contains dolls representing all of these styles.

Various artists and manufacturers created the dolls contained in this collection as children's toys, collectibles, and ceremonial pieces. The dolls are a reflection of various cultures in the African diaspora and represent different time periods reflective of the countries from which the dolls were collected. The dolls themselves were produced in the early part of the 1900's to 2000.

The dolls in this collection were collected from different cultural areas of Africa, Afro-Centric Island countries and communities, and finally regional areas of the United States of America. Eva Freeman-Lewis and her family, including Grant and Leona Freeman, collected these dolls over a span of 38 years. The family has donated the dolls that are in this finding aid as well as other dolls not in this aid. The family will continue to give dolls and other African and African American memorabilia to the Black Heritage Center at Langston University. The collection is for aesthetic and cultural significance value only. Further research is needed to establish the authenticity of the time period which each doll represents, as well as the true purpose and historical significance of the items in the collection.

³"What is the History of African-American Dolls?" *Reference*, accessed September 28, 2016, <https://www.reference.com/history/history-african-american-dolls-a2e92aa4b78a6837#>

⁴ Lynell George, "Collecting Controversy," *Los Angeles Times*, last modified October 19, 1994, http://articles.latimes.com/1994-10-19/news/ls-52043_1_african-americans

Eva Freeman-Lewis is a 1976 graduate of Langston University and a long-time donor to the Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center at Langston University.

Scope & Content:

This collection of dolls contains items that were created by mass production of toy and other small companies, as well as unknown and known specialty artisans and craftsmen.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged by series and box order. The order represents the date in which they were donated and added to the collection of the Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center at the Historical Black College of Langston University, in Langston Oklahoma. The collection is not arranged by age, type, date, or cultural significance.

Series List:

I. Series – Toy Dolls - Box 1

A. Subseries - Play

1. 1995 Plastic Serena Doll 17½” high 7” wide EFL 001
2. 1960 Plastic English Golliwog Doll 16” high 6½” wide EFL002
3. Unknown Date Cloth Jamaican Doll 13½ ” high 5” wide EFL 003

B. Subseries - Display

1. 1920 Papier-mâché Jointed Doll 7” high and 5” wide EFL 004
2. 1995 Pair of Bahamas Wood Path Dolls 5” high and 2” wide, 5½” high and 2½” wide. EFL 005
3. 1950 Porcelain Mammy Doll 16½” high and 7½” wide. EFL 006

II. Series - Special Collection Dolls - Box 2

A. Subseries - Dandee Collection

1. 1980 Porcelain Doll Collectors Choice Series 16½” high 11” wide EFL 007

B. Subseries - 1920 collectible

1. 1920 Vinyl Face and cloth doll 18” high 7” wide EFL 008

C. Subseries - Cameo Collections

1. [Unknown] Kewpie 90th Anniversary doll 12” high 7” wide EFL 009

III. Series - Artist Collection Dolls – Box 3

A. Subseries - Island Dolls

1. 1990 Barbados Mammy Doll 15” high 11½” wide EFL 010
2. [Unknown] No Name Island Doll 10½” high 10½” wide EFL 011

B. Subseries - Shampoo Doll Dispenser

1. 1989 Doll Shampoo Dispenser 11½” high 3” wide EFL 012

C. Subseries - Yolanda Collection

1. 1992 “David” Yolanda Bello’s Precious Playmates Doll 10” high 8” wide EFL 013
2. 1992 “Danielle” Yolanda Bello’s Picture Perfect Babies Doll Collection 10” high 6½” wide EFL014

D. Subseries - Holcombe Collection

1. 1981 Blossom Doll M. Holcombe 12" high 7" wide EFL 015

IV. Series - Unique Style Collection Box - 4

A. Subseries - Jointed Dolls

1. 1980 Plastic Jointed Doll 5" high 2½" wide EFL016
2. [1920] Porcelain Jointed Doll 4½" high 3" wide EFL 018
3. [Unknown] Porcelain Jointed Doll 6" high 3½" wide EFL 020

B. Subseries - Cultural Dolls

1. 1988 Cheer Baby Doll 3" high 1½" wide EFL 017
2. [Unknown] Plastic New Orleans Doll 9½" high 6" wide EFL 025
3. 1990 June's Original Collection Plastic New Orleans Doll 10½" high 5" wide EFL 026
4. 1970 African Doll Gourd 7½" high 5½" wide EFL 027

C. Subseries - Tropical Dolls

1. [Unknown] No name Island Doll 4" high 2½" wide EFL 019
2. 1980 Plastic Martinique Doll 9" high 7" wide EFL 023
3. [Unknown] Aruba Dance Doll 12" high 6" wide EFL 024

D. Subseries - Doll Hangers

1. [Unknown] Cloth Doll Hanger 9½" high 5" wide EFL021
2. 1990 Cloth Doll Hanger 11" high 4½" wide

V. Series - Themed Dolls - Box 5

A. Subseries - Clown Doll

1. [Unknown] Thailand Q-Tee-Clown 8" high 6" wide EFL 028

B. Subseries - Celebrity Doll

1. 1984 Michael Jackson L.J.N. Toys 12" high 4½" wide

C. Figure. B and C. Cards D. Video E. Doll Stand EFL029

D. Subseries - Banana Leaf Dolls

1. [Unknown] Plastic Bahamas Banana Leaf Doll 8" high 5" wide EFL 030 A
2. [Unknown] Plastic Bahamas Banana Leaf Doll 9" high 4½" wide EFL 030 B

E. Subseries - Ethnic Toy Dolls

1. [1980] Plastic vinyl Toy Doll with head wrap 12" high 5" wide
EFL 031
2. 1985 Porcelain Christmas Doll Made in China 12½" high 4½" wide
EFL032

F. Subseries - Cloth Hanger Dolls

1. 1980 Cloth and Metal Cloth Hanger Doll 13½" high 8½" wide EFL
033
2. 1980 Cloth and Plastic Cloth Hanger Doll 13" high 4" wide EFL034

VI. Series - Specialty Dolls - Box 6

A. Subseries - Unknown Islands

1. 1990 Unknown Island Plastic Doll 12½" high 6" wide EFL 035
2. 1990 Unknown Island Plastic Doll 8" high 4" wide EFL 036
3. 1984 Unknown Island Cloth Doll 12" high 4½" wide EFL 040
4. [Unknown] Malaysia Mattel Kenyan Special Edition Barbie 12"
high 5" wide EFL 041
5. 1995 McDonalds Plastic Island Doll 4½" high and 2½" wide EFL
042

B. Subseries - Hamilton Collection

1. [Unknown] "Stymie" Little Rascals Doll Hamilton Collection 15"
high 6½" wide EFL 037
2. [Unknown] "Buckwheat" Little Rascals Doll Hamilton Collection
16½" high and 7 wide EFL 038

C. Subseries - Entertainment Doll

1. [Unknown] "Louis Armstrong" Effanbee, NY Plastic Doll 16" high
8" wide EFL 039

VII. Series – Collector Dolls - Box 7

A. Subseries - Baby Dolls

1. [Unknown] A. Female Baby Doll dressed in pink outfit EFL043 A
2. [Unknown] B. Female Baby Doll dressed in blue outfit EFL 043 B

B. Subseries - Jennifer Honeymoon Collection

1. [Unknown] A. Female Doll of Fashion 11" high and 4" wide
EFL044 A.

2. [Unknown] B. Fashion outfit EFL 044 B
3. [Unknown] C. Fashion outfit EFL 044 C
4. [Unknown] D. Fashion outfit EFL 044 D
5. [Unknown] E. Fashion outfit EFL 044 E

C. Subseries - Parent Dolls

1. 1992 Father-to-be-Doll 11½” high and 4½” EFL045
2. Mommy-to-be-Doll 12” high and 3” wide with cover EFL 046
046A-Doll. 046B-Baby in doll Stomach 046C-Cover for Doll

VIII. Series - Baby Dolls - Box 8

A. Subseries - Amandla Collection

1. 1991Female Yellow outfitted Doll 16” high and 8½” EFL047
2. 1991 Female Kente Cloth Cover Jumpsuit Doll 16” high and 8½”
wide EFL 048

IX. Series Cultural Theme Dolls – Box 9

A. Subseries - Victorian

1. [Unknown] Female 16” high and 8” wide Victoria style dress EFL
049

B. Subseries - Company Brand Name Doll

1. [Unknown] “Old Crow” mammy doll bust 9” high and 11½” wide
EFL050

C. Subseries - Island Doll

1. [Unknown] Island Doll with mixed medium 18” high and 13” wide
EFL051

D. Subseries - Tribal Doll

1. [Unknown] A. Tribal Doll 13½” high and 5” wide EFL 052A.B.C.
A. Doll B. Outfit Part C. Outfit Part

E. Subseries - Mammy Dolls

1. [Unknown] Handmade Doll Mammy mop body doll 19” high and
15” wide EFL 053 A
2. [Unknown] Handmade Mammy Doll 19” high and 10” wide EFL
053 B

X. Series - African American Themed Dolls - Box 10

A. Subseries - Avon Dolls

1. 1994 Plastic Avon African American Prince Doll Menelik dressed in kente 12" high and 3½" high EFL 054
2. 1994 Plastic Avon African American Princess Imani dress in Kente 12" high and 2½" wide EFL 055
3. 1990 Plastic Avon Fashion Kenzie Doll 11½" high and 3" wide EFL056

B. Subseries - House Hold Products Dolls

1. 1950's Aunt Jemima statue doll 15" high and 6" wide EFL058
2. 1950's Metal Island Doll 18" high and 6" wide EFL 059
3. 1950's Coconut Dolls made from round coconuts A and B A is 4½" high and 5½" wide B is 4½" high and 4½" wide EFL 060 A & B.
4. 1960's Coconut Bank Coconut made into round doll bank 5" high and 5" wide EFL 061
5. 1950's hand-made topsy-turvy red dress. 7" high and 6" wide EFL062

XI. Series - Specialty Dolls - Box 11

A. Subseries-Marionette Dolls

1. 1940's. Marionette Dolls EFL 063 A&B
 - A. 13" high and 5" wide
 - B. 14" high and 4½" wide EFL 063

B. Subseries-Country Doll

1. 1990's Cloth toy doll in blue overalls 7" high and 4½" wide EFL 064

C. Subseries-Christmas Decoration Dolls

1. 1980's Country Christmas Doll in red and flowered dress Stringed Christmas Ornament 3½" high and 3" wide EFL 065
2. 1970 Star Crowned Angel Christmas Ornament Doll 5" high 4" wide EFL066
3. 1980's Black Faceless Christmas Ornament Dolls

D. Overalls wearing doll 7" high 5½" wide EFL 068A

**E. Top Skirt Dress and Head Wrap Scarf 7" high and 5½" wide
EFL068B/EFL 068A&B**

**F. Cloth Mother and Child Doll in check outfit 4½" high and 4½" wide
EFL 068C**

4. 1980's Hand Made bonnet wearing baby 3½" high and 3" wide
EFL071
5. 1960's Cloth Toy Doll Old fashioned check dressed Christmas
Ornament 4½" high and 3½" wide EFL 076

G. Subseries - Vinyl Ethnic Toy Dolls

1. 1980's Plastic vinyl Toy Dolls EFL 076 A & B 5½" high and 2½"
wide A dressed in yellow suit B. unclothed (naked) EFL 076 A & B
2. 1998 Burger King Vinyl Plastic Nickelodeon Kids Club Doll 5½"
high 4½" wide EFL 069
3. 1980's Vinyl Baby Doll 7½" high and 5½" wide EFL 070
4. 1960's Vinyl Cloth Team Dolls in African Patterned outfits 075 A
& B A. female 13" high 7" wide B. Male 13" high 7" wide
EFL075A&B
5. 1970's Vinyl and Cloth baby doll blue dress 13" high 9" wide
EFL079

H. Subseries - Nick Knack Dolls

1. 1970's Bean Bag red and white female doll 8" high and 5" wide
EFL 072
2. 1930's Hand-made Topsy Two Race Doll White and Black, White
in blue and white polka dots and Black in red and white polka dots.
12" high and 9" wide EFL073
3. 1980's a Shadow Doll made of sheared material 15" high and 10½"
wide EFL 074
4. 1985 Aruba Cloth Doll Aruba Tourist Gift Doll 11½" high 8½"
wide EFL077
5. 1950's Vinyl baby Doll 12" high 8" wide EFL078A
6. 1950's Toaster cover Doll 15" high 13" wide 078B
7. 1950's Porcelain and Cloth Special Red Ribbon Baby Doll 4½"
high and 2½" Wide EFL 080

Series Description:

I. Series - Toy Dolls - Box 1

The dolls that are in this series represent items that were toys for children to play with. Occasionally, these dolls would be used for display purposes, though sometimes people would desire to use them for both. The series consists of Serena, a 1995 Ashton-Drake Passport Doll. Ashton Drake dolls are known for their fine craftsmanship and their commitment to authenticity. Serena is an African doll representing Kenya.⁵

This series also has an English Golliwog doll, which come from a Nineteenth century children's book, Florence Kate Upton's *The Adventures of Two Dutch Dolls and a Golliwogg*. The 1895 book included a character named the Golliwogg, who was first described as "a horrid sight, the blackest gnome." However, Golliwogg quickly turned out to be a friendly character, which is later described as having a "kind face." A product of the blackface minstrel tradition, the Golliwogg had jet black skin; bright red lips; and wild woolly hair. He wore red trousers, a shirt with a stiff collar, red bow-tie, and a blue jacket with tails — all traditional minstrel attire. This doll has been produced for many years and has negative stereotypical depictions of people from the African Diaspora. In February 2009 in an off-air conversation at the BBC, Carol Thatcher, daughter of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, referred to the black French tennis player Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who was competing in the Australian Open, as looking like a golliwog.⁶

This doll influenced the appearance of another doll in the series: the Mammy Doll. The Mammy doll derives from the legacy of slavery in the United States. Historically, African American female slaves who were tasked with the duties of domestic workers in white American households were often referred to as "Mammy." Their duties included preparing meals, cleaning homes, and nursing and rearing their owners' children. Out of these circumstances arose the image of the mammy. The mammy was usually portrayed as an older woman, overweight, and dark skinned. She was an idealized figure of a caregiver: amiable, loyal,

⁵"Kijiji," *Kijiji*, accessed September 28, 2016, <http://www.kijiji.ca/v-art-collectibles/ottawa/serena-porcelain-doll-ashton-drake/1114629969>

⁶"Golliwog," *Wikipedia*, last modified September 12, 2016, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golliwog>

maternal, non-threatening, obedient, and submissive.⁷ This figure is still present in modern times in the form of the Mrs. Butterworth syrup bottle. In addition, Aunt Jemima of pancake-mix fame is dressed in the stereotypical outfit with a kerchief on her head, representing the slave image of a mammy.⁸

This series also has souvenir dolls from the islands. Similar to the experiences of African Americans, many African diaspora islanders experienced colonization and slavery. The most common doll type in this area is dolls which have the Mammy look of the African American mammy. However, this version of mammy is not always displayed as heavy set or hard working. Often, island mammy is created as an island woman in colorful clothes with a basket on her head or a type of head covering. The dolls are made from mediums available to the artist, which can be wood, plastic, cloth, porcelain, and papier-mâché.

Additionally, this series has a doll from the 1920's. This doll is for play, and represents the type of doll that was originally created as white to be sold to white families. However, this is a white-featured doll given a dark complexion, to be sold to black families. These types of dolls were usually made of porcelain or papier-mâché. This particular doll is papier-mâché.

II. Series - Special Collection Dolls - Box 2

The mass-produced doll industry exploded in the years after World War II, thanks to innovations in plastics. In the 1940's, well-established doll companies — originally known for their composition, bisque, or china dolls--began making their beloved products in hard plastics. The new plastic, vinyl, tended to be less well-defined than composition or hard plastic dolls, but they could be produced more quickly and in tremendous numbers. The dolls of this series are the mass produced dolls made up of porcelain, vinyl, and plastic from the companies of Cameo and Dandee. Due to the nature of mass production, these dolls can be categorized as the types of dolls that were made in molds with European features, where skin tone colorings were added based upon what ethnic background the company was trying to reach.⁹

⁷“Mammy Archetype,” *Wikipedia*, last modified September 27, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammy_archetype

⁸“Estate item 1145-1960 to 1971 Aunt Jemima or Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup Bottles,” *100 Tons of Stuff to Sell*, last modified November 23, 2015, http://www.100tonsofstuff.com/aunt_jemima_syrup.htm

⁹“Vinyl Dolls,” *CW Collectors Weekly*, accessed October 3, 2016, <http://www.collectorsweekly.com/dolls/vinyl>

III. Series - Artist Collection Dolls - Box 3

The dolls in this series are from artists who created dolls for specialized commercial doll companies. The dolls include a Doll Shampoo Dispenser, Ashton Drake dolls from the Yolanda Bello's Precious Playmate and the Picture Perfect babies' collections, as well as two Island dolls that follow the stereotypical traditions of mammy and Island girl with things on her head. Finally, this series has a doll from the Holcombe Collection from the artist Martha Holcombe and is an All God's Children collection doll.¹⁰

IV. Series - Unique Style Cultural Collection - Box 4

This series has dolls that relate specifically to cultures that come from the African diaspora and are either mass produced items or specially created items. Some of the dolls represented are Island dolls, plastic dolls, porcelain dolls, and an African gourd doll. In addition, the series has pieces that may have been used as ceremonial dolls from voodoo culture. Another cultural doll present is the cloth doll hanger, which was commonly created in the islands. Some of the cloth doll hangers would be open where herbs could be placed inside the dolls for certain ceremonies.¹¹

V. Series - Themed Dolls - Box 5

This series has dolls that reflect certain aspects of cultures. One such doll in this series is the banana leaf doll. Though these dolls were usually found in the islands among the African diaspora peoples, the dolls in this series come from the indigenous peoples who already occupied the islands before they were controlled by the English. These populations included Indian populations in the Islands and Indian people from the New England area of the United States. The Pequots were one tribe sold into slavery in the Bahamas and Bermuda. This series has hanger dolls as well as banana leaf dolls from the Bahamas.¹²

¹⁰"Collectibles Today," *Ashton- Drake Galleries Online*, accessed October 4, 2016, <http://www.ashtondrake.com/service/about-collectibles-today.html>

¹¹Dr. E. Gutierrez, "Doll Babies, Voodoo Dolls, Poppets or Whatever You Want To Call Them," *Dr. E Conjure Blog Hoodoo At Its Best*, January 19, 2010, <http://conjuredoctor.blogspot.com/2010/01/doll-babies-voodoo-dolls-poppets-or.html>

¹²Ronnie Chameau, "Banana Leaf Doll," *Google Arts & Culture*, last modified 2002, <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/asset/banana-leaf-doll/uQFswCjayL-BYQ>

In addition, the themed dolls series includes a Q-tee clown doll from Thailand. Thailand dolls were rarely used for playing, but instead reflect cultural mores of their spiritual belief systems where dolls have the power to protect or take on the spirits of people.¹³

When mass production was introduced, dolls and doll history became a great part of American culture. Many times, certain dolls were produced to be collectors' items instead of toys. This series has specialty dolls with cultural, holiday, and celebrity-based themes.¹⁴

VI. Series - Specialty Dolls - Box 6

This series is focused on specialty dolls similar to the series V collection, but differentiated by its concentration on the entertainment industry in the areas of music, art, television, and film. The series includes mass-produced ethnic dolls from such commercial manufacturers such as McDonalds and Mattel.

The series has characters from the 1930's era television comedy the "Little Rascals," where children were cast in roles of stereotyped ethnicities. Though there were some Italian and Irish stereotypes, the most famous stereotypes were of "Buckwheat," as the Pickaninny, and "Stymie" as the jazzman and hustler.¹⁵

Also, this series has a Louis Armstrong doll, a musician who made his fortune from portraying these types of characters in the 1930's to the 1950's--including being in black face.¹⁶

Lastly, this series has island dolls and mass commercial ethnic dolls that follow the traditional dress and garments of the peoples that they are representing. They represent the muñecas, or spirit dolls, of the islands and the African continent. Muñecas are given to young ladies in the family in hopes that the doll has the spirit of a person that the family loves and respects. The family hopes that the doll's spirit will share its' spirit with the owner of the doll and that the child

¹³ "Thailand Dolls" *Thailand*, last modified 2011, http://www.thailand-th.net/Thailand_dolls.html

¹⁴ Suzanne Prochaska, "A Guide to Vintage Barbie Dolls, Clothing Accessories, and other Fashion Dolls," *Fashion-Doll-Guide*, last modified 2006-2015, <http://fashion-doll-guide.com>

¹⁵ "Our Gang," *Wikipedia*, last modified September 19, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Gang

¹⁶ "List of Entertainers Who Performed in Blackface," *Wikipedia*, last modified October 4, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entertainers_who_performed_in_blackface

can obtain the spirit and personality traits of the doll and the person that the doll shares its likeness with.¹⁷

VII. Series - Collector Dolls - Box 7

This series has specific purpose dolls that could be used for collecting and teaching through play items. The Mommy- and Daddy-to-be dolls were designed to promote family values by having the couple wearing wedding rings so that the expectant mother was not single.¹⁸ The Jennifer Honeymoon collection doll had a number of extra outfits, promoting a message of financial security by hinting that one should marry someone with enough money to take you on at least a week-long honeymoon in order for you to wear your outfits (as well as promoting the family value of marriage). The Jennifer Honeymoon doll shared her looks from the black Barbies of the 1960's: Francine, Christie, and Julia. The Jennifer Honeymoon doll was mostly based on the Julia character from the first television show to feature an African-American actress and character. Julia was a widowed, single African-American mother who worked as a nurse, breaking some of the stereotypes of single African American mothers. However, the doll companies promoted that Julia had been married and that she would get married again in the future. This was reflected in her friend Jennifer.¹⁹ Finally, this series also has two baby dolls that followed the tradition of European features/darker skin.

VIII. Series - Baby Doll Special Collection Dolls - Box 8

This series has two of the Amandla Collection baby dolls from the 1990's, when there was a push to promote dolls of African Heritage to African Americans. The clothes were in a generic Kente Cloth style so that there was no specific

¹⁷Eileen M. Condon, "Spirit Dolls (Muñiquitas) in New York Puerto Rican Homes: Engaging with Saints and Ancestors." *The Journal of New York Folklore*, 39, last modified Spring-Summer 2013, <http://www.nyfolklore.org/pubs/voic39-1-2/spiritdolls.html>

¹⁸"Online Collections Dolls," *The Strong National Museum of Play*, accessed October 4, 2016, <http://www.museumofplay.org/online-collections/2/34/114.2568>

¹⁹"Identifying Vintage Julia Dolls & Clothes 1969-1972," *Doll Reference*, accessed October 4, 2016, http://www.dollreference.com/julia_doll.html

country since many African Americans do not know their original African roots. The dolls did have more ethnically African features, skin colors, hairstyles, and hair textures.²⁰

IX. Series - Cultural Theme Dolls - Box 9

This series is a mixed theme of cultural dolls that are both mass production pieces and hand-made pieces. Some pieces are tribal, island, and timepiece replicas that have Europeans features but dark-pigmented skin. Some pieces are replicas of the Jim Crow era negative stereotypical portrayals of African-Americans.²¹

X. Series - African American and Themed Dolls - Box 10

This series has themed dolls from segregation-era America. These 1950's pieces represent some of what people of the African diaspora went through in that period. One is a topsy-turvy doll where one side is a white child and the other side is a black child. This doll is from the slavery period, so that whoever was in the room, the black child would know which doll would be acceptable to play with. Also in the series, an Aunt Jemima statue doll portrays those who took care of white children. Finally, the series contains island dolls created from metal and coconuts, the materials available to poorer natives.²²

XI. Series - Specialty Dolls from Corporate Mass Production - Box 11

All the dolls in this series date from the 20th Century.

A 1980s shadow doll comes from the traditions of African spirit dolls like voodoo.

On doll depicts a traditionally dressed lady with her hair wrapped, a tourist island doll.

The series includes a variety of Christmas ornaments dating from 1960's to the 1990's. These items were created in the style of enslaved blacks, showing them in farming clothes, head wraps, with the children as pickaninnies.

²⁰“A Celebration of Black Identity Toys,” *Ebony* (December 1991): 23-26, accessed October 4, 2016 <https://books.google.com/books?id=A9QDAAAMBAJ&pg=PA23&lpg#v=onepage&q&f=false>

²¹ “Pickaninny,” *Wikipedia*, last modified September 27, 2016, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickaninny>

²² Henry Louis Gates Jr., “Should Blacks Collect Racist Memorabilia?” *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates Jr and PBS*, last modified 2013, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/should-blacks-collect-racist-memorabilia/>

Older still, the series contains a 1930's topsy-turvy doll, and 1940's black marionette dolls that follow the blackface and clown entertainment traditions.

Finally, the series includes porcelain and vinyl dolls made in a variety of styles, with a wide-ranging features to show that blacks, like all races of peoples, are different in shape, size, color, and facial features.

These pieces were made by a variety of corporations. One toy from Burger King and Nickelodeon in 1998 illustrates the movement to create African American dolls as part of an equal mainstream culture of the United States.²³

Box and Shelf List

| SERIES | BOX | SHELF |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| I | 1 | 1 |
| II - V | 2, 3, 4, 5 | 2 |
| VI - VII | 6, 7 | 3 |
| VIII - IV | 8, 9 | 4 |
| X - XI | 10, 11 | 5 |

²³"In Search of African America: One Collector's Experience," *Hoover Archives, James Hick Collection*, last modified March 21, 2004, <https://hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/africanamerican/introduction/hicks2.html>