

WINTERTHUR



Maxine Waldron Collection of Children's Books and Paper Toys



Mrs. Waldron
From *The Class
Book of 1921*.
New York:
Teacher's College,
Columbia
University, 1921

Below: *Parlor
Amusement for
Little Girls:
Paper Furniture;
No. 2 Parlor Set*.
McLoughlin Bros.,
New York,
ca. 1870s

Throughout her long life, Maxine Maxson Waldron (1898–1982) assembled a vast collection of paper ephemera, books, and memorabilia about childhoods of years past. She collected a variety of materials, including paper dolls, children's books, and other youthful amusements and educational materials.

A native of Iowa, Mrs. Waldron graduated from high school in Utah and attended Teacher's College at Columbia University. She worked in the Education Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, taught art at private schools, and specialized in ceramics at the Greenwich House Pottery Shop. All the while, she pursued her interests in art, fashion, and interior decoration and became an avid and well-known collector of items associated with childhood.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Mrs. Waldron gave much of her collection to Winterthur; today it is one of the largest archival holdings in the Winterthur Library. Thanks to grant support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the collection is now housed in state-of-the-art enclosures, fully described in its own database, and catalogued in WinterCat, the library's online catalogue.



The paper dolls in the Waldron Collection range from one with an ornate 17th-century chenille dress to sheets of paper dolls extracted from *The Ladies Home Journal*, *McCall's*, and other 20th-century women's magazines. Handmade and cut dolls show the work of such American artists as Sarah Goodridge, Martha Appleton, and Lillie Gardiner. Printed paper dolls depict popular figures, including Jenny Lind and Tom Thumb, and magazine cut-out dolls portray Dolly Dingle, Lettie Lane, Betty Bonnet, and Betsy McCall. Some of the paper dolls were designed and illustrated by Mrs. Waldron herself.

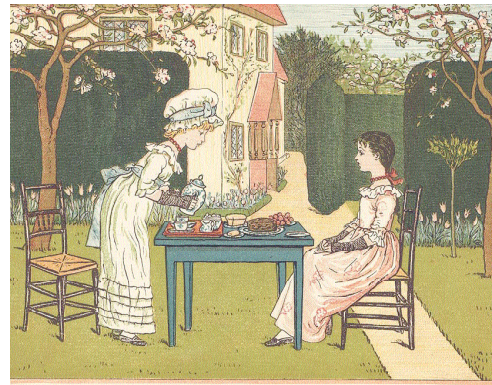
In addition to paper dolls, the collection includes a variety of related paper toys, including peepshows depicting such things as garden parties, model villages, a dairy yard, exotic places, and the holy family; Victorian theater sets complete with stages, props, characters, and dialogue sheets; a roll panorama, made by Milton Bradley in the late 19th century, which gave children a chance to operate a small theater; and movable pop-up books issued by the English firms Tuck, Nister, and Dean. Board games round out the collection: *The Circle of Knowledge*, published by J. Passmore; *Newton's New Game of Virtue Rewarded and Vice Punished*, printed by W. Darton in 1818; an illustrated geography lottery game, consisting of 18 cards of places and cities and one sheet of numbers, made in Germany around 1840; and *Historioscope, a Panorama of American History*, published by Milton Bradley.



Paper Doll. McLoughlin Bros.,
New York, ca. 1870s–1880s

Mrs. Waldron's personal archives reflect her studies and teaching of art as well as her work in design and her interest in the history of dolls, toys, and greeting cards. Her papers feature correspondence about her collection purchases and doll-collecting club activities, and many of her earlier letters to family members are decorated with her original illustrations. Thankfully, Mrs. Waldron kept her research notes and articles about collecting, and she created lists of makers, illustrators, and artists of the items that she collected.

An inveterate collector of books and magazines, Mrs. Waldron assembled an impressive collection of about 550 titles. Such well-known authors as Kate Greenaway, Charles Dickens, Daniel Defoe, Lewis Carroll, Mark Twain, and L. Frank Baum are represented alongside lesser-known writers Bertha Upton, Jane Taylor, Frederick Starr, and Geraldine Glasgow. Periodicals include *The Infant's Magazine* from mid 19th-century London, and history books feature *The Story of Prehistoric and Roman Britain Told in Pictures*, by C. W. Airne, one of six books by the author contained in the collection. Children's classics from decades past—*Yankee Doodle*, *Mother Goose*, and *Humpty Dumpty*—sit on shelves next to more modern books—*Captain Big Bill*, *the Pelican*, *Adventures of TV Tim*, and *Holiday for Edith and the Bears*. Noted publishers



You see, merry Phillis, that dear little maid,
Has invited Binda to tea;
Her nice little garden is shaded by trees,—
What pleasanter place could there be?
There's a cake full of plums, there are strawberries too,
And the table is set on the green;
I'm fond of a carpet all daisies and grass,—
Could a prettier picture be seen?
A blackbird (yes, blackbirds delight in warm weather,)
Is flitting from yonder high spray;
He sees the two little ones talking together,—
No wonder the blackbird is gay!



**Under the Window:
Pictures and Rhymes for Children.**

Kate Greenaway.
George Routledge & Sons, London, 1879.

Below (left):
Advertisement for Acme Soap,
ca. 1875

(right):
The Round Game of Tiddledy Winks
McLoughlin Bros.,
New York,
ca. 1880s



Raphael Tuck and Son, McLoughlin Brothers, Louis Prang, and the American Sunday-School Union garnered Mrs. Waldron's attention as well.



**Linen ABC Book:
First Steps.**
McLoughlin Bros.
New York,
ca. 1890.

The imprints and periodicals are part of Winterthur Library's Printed Book and Periodical Collection. The remainder of the Waldron Collection is located in the Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera and has been divided into eight series:

- I. Research materials
- II. Paper dolls
- III. Christmas items other than cards
- IV. Greeting cards
- V. Scraps and scrapbooks
- VI. Games
- VII. Fabric objects
- VIII. Trade cards and miscellaneous illustrations

Right: **Three Santas Figures (Gigantic Relief No. 842).**
Raphael Tuck.
London, ca.
1880–1909



Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur, An American Country Estate.

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