

TOY: SOCK MONKEY

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: Unknown artist

Title: Toy: Sock Monkey

Dates: unknown

Quantity: 1 item

Identification: Folk Art

HISTORICAL NOTE

A sock monkey is a stuffed animal toy made from a sock, fashioned in the likeness of a monkey. The typical sock monkey is grey and white with extra-long limbs, a long tail and bright red lips. The iconic sock monkeys made from red-heeled socks, known today as the *Rockford Red Heel*, emerged at the earliest in 1932, the year the Nelson Knitting Company in Rockford, Illinois, added the trademark red heel to its product. Homemade red-heel sock monkey dolls usually have unique faces and body characteristics and are considered one-of-a-kind. Sock monkey dolls are also mass-manufactured in the marketplace. Most vintage red-heel sock monkeys found today are no older than the late 1950s, and many date from the 1970s. A number of methods exist for dating red-heel sock monkeys, including the colors, shape of the red heel (elongated oval or swing), the amount of cream color in the red-heel and toe areas, sock seams, and interior sock content.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Toys
Folk Art
Toys, stuffed

Places: Rockford, Illinois

Important People: Nelson Knitting Company

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Toy: Sock Monkey
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Acquired 2003

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Stuffed cloth body with beaded eyes and red ribbon around its neck; 19 inches long.