

**Finding Aid to the
Doll Oral History Project Collection, 1986-1994, 2019**

Summary Information

Title: Doll Oral History Project collection

Creator: Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum (primary)

ID: 1987.doll

Date: 1986-1994, 2019 (inclusive); 1987, 2019 (bulk)

Extent: 4.3 linear feet (physical); 700 MB (digital)

Language: The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract: The Doll Oral History Project collection is a compilation of oral history audio cassettes, transcripts, photographs, reports, and other documentation on this project from Summer/Fall 1987, administered by Dorothy Washburn for the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum. Oral history interview transcripts were digitized in 2019.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
One Manhattan Square
Rochester, New York 14607
585.263.2700
library@museumofplay.org

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use: This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives.

Conditions Governing Access: Grant-related files in Box 8 are restricted to staff members of The Strong only.

Custodial History: The Doll Oral History Project collection was developed by the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum (later, The Strong) in 1987.

Preferred citation for publication: Doll Oral History Project collection, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

Processed by: Doris C. Sturzenberger and Carol Sandler, c. 2000s; transcripts scanned by Cassidy Smith and Julia Novakovic, August 2019; arrangement and description of collection by Julia Novakovic, August 2019.

Revision Description: This collection was formally arranged and described in August 2019.

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Washburn, Dorothy

Corporate Names

- Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum
- The Strong

Subjects

- Baby dolls
- Dolls
- National Toy Hall of Fame inductee
- Oral history

Historical Note

Dorothy Washburn, an independent museum consultant, developed a “public involvement” project for the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in 1987. This oral history project selected the museum’s doll collection as stimuli to prompt memories from women who had played with dolls between 1900 and 1940. With funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, Washburn conducted a four-month series of interviews with 97 area women.

Participants were interviewed in front of a display containing a selection of dolls from the decade during which they played with dolls. They were asked to identify dolls that were similar or identical to their own playthings and asked how they played with them. Then, the women were asked to sort a series of photographs two ways: by the dolls which they preferred and disliked, and by the way they thought of the dolls during play. Many participants also brought their own dolls to the museum and were able to share family photographs for the museum’s reference. This public involvement program provided useful information for the museum, and the participants became aware of how the ordinary items which they possessed had much to tell about history.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Doll Oral History Project collection is a compilation of project documentation, audiocassettes of oral history interviews, associated transcripts, photographs, and reports on this project administered by Dorothy Washburn for the Strong Museum in 1987.

The Doll Oral History Project collection has been arranged into five series, one of which has been further divided into subseries. The physical materials are housed in 8 archival document boxes. Digital files (transcript scans) are accessible via the internal network at The Strong or by request.

System of Arrangement

- Series I: Project files, 1986-1994
- Series II: Oral histories, 1987-1988
 - Subseries A: Audiocassettes, 1987-1988
 - Subseries B: Transcripts, 1987
- Series III: Photographs, 1987
- Series IV: Restricted files, 1986-1989
- Series V: Digital files, 2019

Contents List

Series I: Project files, 1986-1994

Scope and Content Note: This series holds administrative information and other documentation of the Doll Oral History Project, including participant lists, project data, reports, and indexes that reference audiocassettes and associated transcripts.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Proposal for Doll Oral History Project, n.d. [c. 1986]
- Folder 2 Project information sheets, 1987
- Folder 3 Project questionnaires, 1987
- Folder 4 Participant lists and project data, 1987-1994
- Folder 5 Release forms, 1987
- Folder 6 Doll samples in exhibit cases list, 1987
- Folder 7 Preliminary results report draft, 1987
- Folder 8 Progress report, 1987
- Folder 9 Events with participants, 1987
- Folder 10 Final report, Dorothy Washburn, February 1988
- Folder 11 Final report, Judy Emerson, May 1988
- Folder 12 Publications and related correspondence, 1987-1988
- Folder 13 *Museum News* article draft and publication, 1988-1989
- Folder 14 Index – by Activities and Birthdates, 1994
- Folder 15 Index – by Birthdates and Activities, 1994
- Folder 16 Index – by Birthdate, Material, and Doll Type; 1994
- Folder 17 Index – by Doll Type, 1994
- Folder 18 Index – by Material and Doll Type, 1994
- Folder 19 Index – by Doll Type, Doll Title, Material, and Registration Number; 1994

Series II: Oral histories, 1987-1988

Scope and Content Note: This series contains 67 audiocassettes recorded during the Doll Oral History Project, as well as 61 folders of associated transcripts of these interviews.

Subseries A: Audiocassettes, 1987-1988

Scope and Content Note: This subseries houses the original audio recordings captured by Dorothy Washburn while conducting the oral history interviews for this project.

Note: There is no tape numbered 19 or 50 in this collection.

Box 2

- Object 1 “Miriam Altman, Tape #1, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 2 “Lorraine Clancy, Tape #2, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 3 “Gladys Lamb interview, Tape #3, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 4 “Roberta Rugg interview, Tape #4, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 5 “Ruth Mauer interview, Tape #5, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 6 “Emily Heath interview, Tape #6, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987

- Object 7 “Jean Warner interview, Tape #7, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 8 “Virginia Dryer interview, Tape #8, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 9 “Noel Myers interview, Tape #9, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 10 “Helen Becker interview, Tape #10, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 11 “Mildred Mueller interview, Tape #11, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 12 “Jeanne Wenrich interview, Tape #12, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 13 “Blanche Hanna interview, Tape #13, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 14 “Rushia Brown interview, Tape #14, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 15 “Gladys Pickard interview, Tape #15, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 16 “Sue Liming interview, Tape #16, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 17 “Ellen Heidenreich interview, Tape #17, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 18 “Margaret Rohack interview, Tape #18, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 19 “Francis Fancy 8/3/87, Tape #20, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 20 “Mary Weber (mo), Tape #21, Side 1/ Mary Ellen Oakes (da), Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 21 “Edith Kane (mo), Tape #22, Side 1/ Janis Jones (da), Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 22 “Mae McSweeney 8/15/87, Tape #23, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 23 “Ann Klos, Tape #24, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 24 “Ruth Ashburn, Tape #25, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 25 “Dorothy Heberle, Tape #26, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 26 “Georgiana Apolant, Tape #27, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 27 “Jane Yuile, Tape #28, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 28 “Ione Mann, Alice Brizee, Hilde Bragenheim, Side 1/ Grand-Vie Nursing Home, Tape #29, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 29 “Ester Cohn, Tape #30, Side 1/ Shirley Fagenbaum, Tape #30, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 30 “Ruth McEntee, Tape #31, Side 1/ Catherine Jackson, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 31 “Winifred Stephens (mo), Janell Batzing (da), Tape #32, Side 1/ Beverly Schleich, Tape #32, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 32 “Millie Shelley, Tape #33, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987 [Note: no associated transcript]
- Object 33 “Paula Garland (mo), Ruth Warren (da), Tape #34, Side 1/ Ruth Warren (da), Doris Adamek (da), Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987

Box 3

- Object 1 “Jean Arbore Camelio, Tape #35, Side 1/ Esther Zannie, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 2 “Norma Tetamore, Tape #36, Side 1/ Anne Rehbach, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 3 “Marion Sargent, Tape #37, Side 1/ Helen Scholand, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 4 “Flora Kinsella (mo), Tape #38, Side 1/ Mary Hargrave (da), Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 5 “Joan Frenzel, Tape #39, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 6 “Margaret Foote (mo), Tape #40, Side 1/ Suzanne Ramsdell (da), 9/24/87, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987

- Object 7 “Genevieve Wing (mo), Tape #41, Side 1/ 2 da. Lois Bulterman, Radah Wacenske, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 8 “Adelia Kempf, Tape #42, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 9 “Elisabeth Mangerian, Tape #43, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 10 “Rita Blum, Tape #44, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 11 “Lily May Wagner, Tape #45, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 12 “Jeanne Gray, Tape #46, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 13 “Joan Wasenske, Tape #47, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 14 “Vivian Cohen, Betty Rose, Jewish Home, Tape #48, Side 1/ Janet Holstein, Ethel Merchey, Jewish Home, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 15 “Violet Dutton, Genevieve Damon, Tape #49, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 16 “Virginia Littman, Tape #51, Side 1,” audiocassette, 1987 [Note: no associated transcript]
- Object 17 “Gertrude Halfrish, #52,” audiocassette, 1987 [Note: no associated transcript]
- Object 18 “Lois Stone, Tape #53, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 19 “Mary Hassett, Carol Ann Hassett, Tape #54, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 20 “Ruth Rest, Tape #55, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 21 “Mary Remington Weis, Tape #56, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 22 “Virginia Weis, Tape #57, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 23 “Jane Wolting, Marion Decker, Tape #58, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 24 “Monica McCarthy, Martha Bixby, Tape #59, Side 1/ Frances Rowntree, Grace Montinarello, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 25 “Betty Dooley, Tape #60, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 26 “Susan Carson, Clarice Standing, Tape #61, Side 1/ Mary Weis, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 27 “Lillian Rider (mo), Louise Deller (da), Tape #62, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 28 “Winona Duris, Tape #63, Side 1/ Estella Angstadt, Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 29 “Margery Delahanty, Tape #64, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 30 “Elizabeth O’Neill, Tape #65, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 31 “Shirley Donaher, Tape #66, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987
- Object 32 “Florence Kohen, Doris Wright, Tape #67, Side 1/Side 2,” audiocassette, 1987

Subseries B: Transcripts, 1987

Scope and Content Note: Within this subseries are transcripts created from the recorded oral history interviews from this series.

Note: There is no associated transcript in this collection for tapes 33, 51, or 52. (The collection does not contain tapes numbered 19 or 50.)

Box 4

- Folder 1 Tape #1 – Miriam Altman transcript, 1987
- Folder 2 Tape #2 – Lorraine Clancy transcript, 1987
- Folder 3 Tape #3 – Gladys Lamb transcript, 1987
- Folder 4 Tape #4 – Roberta Rugg transcript, 1987
- Folder 5 Tape #5 – Ruth Mauer transcript, 1987
- Folder 6 Tape #6 – Emily Heath transcript, 1987

- Folder 7 Tape #7 – Jean Warner transcript, 1987
- Folder 8 Tape #8 – Virginia Smith Dryer transcript, 1987
- Folder 9 Tape #9 – Noel Myers transcript, 1987
- Folder 10 Tape #10 – Helen Becker transcript, 1987
- Folder 11 Tape #11 – Mildred Mueller transcript, 1987
- Folder 12 Tape #12 – Jeanne Wenrich transcript, 1987
- Folder 13 Tape #13 – Blanche Hanna transcript, 1987
- Folder 14 Tape #14 – Rushia Brown transcript, 1987
- Folder 15 Tape #15 – Gladys Pickard transcript, 1987
- Folder 16 Tape #16 – Susan Liming transcript, 1987
- Folder 17 Tape #17 – Ellen Heidenreich transcript, 1987
- Folder 18 Tape #18 – Margaret Rohack transcript, 1987
- Folder 19 Tape #20 – Francis Fancy (mother) and Julie Mendes (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 20 Tape #21 – Mary Weber (mother) and Mary Ellen Oakes (daughter) transcripts, 1987
- Folder 21 Tape #22 – Edith Kane (mother) and Janice Jones (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 22 Tape #23 – Mae McSweeney (mother) transcript, 1987
- Folder 23 Tape #24 – Ann Klos (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 24 Tape #25 – Ruth Ashburn transcript, 1987
- Folder 25 Tape #26 – Dorothy Heberle (mother) transcript, 1987
- Folder 26 Tape #27 – Georgiana Apolant (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 27 Tape #28 – Jane Yuile transcript, 1987
- Folder 28 Tape #29 – Ione Mann, Alice Brizee, and Hilde Bragenheim transcripts, 1987
- Folder 29 Tape #30 – Ester Cohn (mother) and Shirley Fagenbaum (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 30 Tape #31 – Ruth McEntee (mother) and Catherine Jackson (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 31 Tape #32 – Winifred Stephens (mother), Janell Batzing (daughter), and Beverly Schleich transcript, 1987
- Folder 32 Tape #34 – Paula Garland (mother), Doris Adamek and Ruth Warren (daughters) transcript, 1987
- Folder 33 Tape #35 – Jean Arbore Camelio (mother) and Esther Zannie (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 34 Tape #36 – Norma Tetamore (mother) and Anne Rehbach (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 35 Tape #37 – Marion Sargent and Helen Scholand transcript, 1987
- Folder 36 Tape #38 – Flora Kinsella (mother) and Mary Hargrave (daughter) transcripts, 1987
- Folder 37 Tape #39 – Joan Frenzel transcript, 1987

Box 5

- Folder 1 Tape #40 – Margaret Foote (mother) and Suzanne Ramsdell (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 2 Tape #41 – Genevieve Wing (mother), Radah Wacenske and Lois Bulterman (daughters) transcript, 1987
- Folder 3 Tape #42 – Adelia Kempf transcript, 1987
- Folder 4 Tape #43 – Elisabeth Mangerian transcript, 1987
- Folder 5 Tape #44 – Rita Blum transcript, 1987
- Folder 6 Tape #45 – Lily May Wagner transcript, 1987
- Folder 7 Tape #46 – Jeanne Gray transcript, 1987
- Folder 8 Tape #47 – Joan Monteith Wasenske transcript, 1987
- Folder 9 Tape #48 – Vivian Cohen, Betty Rose, Janet Holstein, and Ethel Merchey transcript, 1987
- Folder 10 Tape #49 – Violet Dutton and Genevieve Damon transcript, 1987
- Folder 11 Tape #53 – Lois Greene-Stone transcript, 1987
- Folder 12 Tape #54 – Mary Hassett (mother-in-law) and Carol Ann Hassett (daughter-in-law) transcript, 1987
- Folder 13 Tape #55 – Ruth Rest transcript, 1987
- Folder 14 Tapes #56-57 – Mary Remington Weis (mother) and Virginia Weis (daughter) transcripts, 1987
- Folder 15 Tape #58 – Jane Wolting and Marion Decker transcript, 1987
- Folder 16 Tape #59 – Monica McCarthy, Martha Bixby, Frances Rowntree, and Grace Montinarello transcript, 1987
- Folder 17 Tape #60 – Betty Dooley transcript, 1987
- Folder 18 Tape #61 – Susan Carson and Clarice Standing transcript, 1987
- Folder 19 Tape #62 – Lillian Rider (mother) and Louise Deller (daughter) transcript, 1987
- Folder 20 Tape #63 – Winona Duris and Estella Angstadt transcript, 1987
- Folder 21 Tape #64 – Margery Delahanty transcript, 1987
- Folder 22 Tape #65 – Elizabeth O’Neill transcript, 1987
- Folder 23 Tape #66 – Shirley Donaher transcript, 1987
- Folder 24 Tape #67 – Florence Kohen (mother) and Doris Wright (daughter) transcript, 1987

Series III: Photographs, 1987

Scope and Content Note: Photographs in this series marked “doll photographs” or “stimuli photographs” were utilized during the course of the oral history project. Box 6, Folder 7 also holds images of participants captured during interviews in 1987.

In addition, this series houses reproductions of photographs shared by project participants depicting themselves as children with playthings; while these copies were produced in 1987, they portray play during the early 20th century.

Box 6

- Folder 1 Doll photographs, 1900-1910; 1987
- Folder 2 Doll photographs, 1910-1920; 1987

- Folder 3 Doll photographs, 1920-1930; 1987
- Folder 4 Doll photographs, 1930-1940; 1987
- Folder 5 Stimuli photographs shown to volunteers, 1987
- Folder 6 Stimuli postcards shown to volunteers, 1987
- Folder 7 Photographs of participants during interviews, 1987
- Folder 8 Photographs of participants and dolls, April and September 1987
- Folder 9 Photographs of participants as children, c. 1900s-1940s; 1987

Box 7

- Photographs of dolls from Strong Museum collections, 1987
- Photographs of participants as children, c. 1900s-1940s; 1987

Series IV: Restricted files, 1986-1989

Scope and Content Note: The files in this series are restricted to access by staff members of The Strong only. Materials include internal correspondence, grant application information, and project budget details.

Box 8

-RESTRICTED-

- Folder 1 Administrative correspondence, 1986-1989
- Folder 2 NEH grant proposal application and correspondence, 1986-1987
- Folder 3 NYSCA grant applications, 1987-1989
- Folder 4 Contact information, 1987

Series V: Digital files, 2019

Scope and Content Note: This series hold scanned PDF files of the project final report by Dorothy Washburn (Box 1, Folder 10), indexes (Box 1, Folders 14-19), and transcripts (Box 4, Folders 1-37; Box 5, Folders 1-24).