

Finding Aid to the Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends Product Design Documents, 2010-2011

Summary Information

Title: Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends product design documents

Creator: Fisher-Price (primary)

ID: 112.6095

Date: 2010-2011

Extent: 0.1 cubic feet

Language: The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract: The Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends product design documents contain drawings and notes corresponding to three Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends products. These materials are dated between 2010 and 2011.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
One Manhattan Square
Rochester, New York 14607
585.263.2700
library@thstrong.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. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, he has given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

Custodial History: The Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends product design documents were donated to The Strong in September 2012 as a gift from Thomas Maguire. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 112.6095 [Activity ID 11455], as part of a donation of completed Thomas the Tank Engine products and prototypes.

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Processed by: Julia Novakovic, December 2013

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Awdry, Rev. W. V.
- Maguire, Thomas

Corporate Names

- Fisher-Price (Firm)
- Mattel, Inc.

Subjects

- Playsets (Toys)
- Thomas & Friends (Television program)
- Thomas the Tank Engine (Fictitious character)
- Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends
- Toy trains
- Toys--Design and construction

Historical Note

Thomas the Tank Engine made his literary debut in 1946 in Reverend W. V. Awdry's *The Railway Series*. Awdry, an Anglican clergyman, created the series (and a wooden toy) to entertain his son, Christopher. The long-running success of the books resulted in a television adaptation entitled *Thomas & Friends*, which premiered in the U.K. in 1984. (An American show called *Shining Time Station*, began in 1989 with borrowed sequences from the British *Thomas & Friends*.) The first seasons were filmed using live action models of toy trains; later seasons were animated. Thomas, a tank engine painted blue with red lining, has been featured in additional books, movies, television programs, licensed toys, and other merchandise, along with his many transportation-focused friends from the Island of Sodor.

In 2010, Mattel acquired the license for Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends-related toys, now distributed under the Fisher-Price line. Fisher-Price also renamed the old Ertl "Take Along" line of die-cast train models to "Take-n-Play." This toy series re-released old character train models with improved appearances, in addition to introducing new train play sets.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends product design documents contain archival materials which accompanied a donation of prototypes and completed Fisher-Price Thomas the Tank Engine toys, created in 2010 and 2011. Additional scope and content information can be found in the "Contents List" section of this finding aid.

The Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends product design documents are arranged into one series. These materials are housed in one archival document box.

System of Arrangement

Series I: Thomas & Friends product design documents, 2010-2011

Contents List

Series I: Thomas & Friends product design documents, 2010-2011

Scope and Content Note: This series contains design documents which accompanied prototypes and production examples of Fisher-Price toys donated by Thomas Maguire, a character-related product designer at Fisher-Price. The toys represented in these materials include the Blue Mountain Quarry Play Set, Luke (a locomotive), and the Engine Lift Repair Shop.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends - Take-n-Play Blue Mountain Quarry Play Set design documents, 2010-2011
- Folder 2 Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends - Take-n-Play Locomotive Luke design documents, n.d. [c. 2011]
- Folder 3 Fisher-Price Thomas & Friends - Engine Lift Repair Shop design documents, 2010