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Playful Past: North Carolina Museum of History Wants 1950s Toys

Your attic, basement or storage unit could hold nostalgic treasures perfect for display at the museum!

The North Carolina Museum of History is calling for donations to its permanent collection and loans for an upcoming exhibit. To expand its toy collection, the museum is seeking toys especially from the 1950s to the 1990s — and particularly those with a North Carolina connection.

From dolls to vintage board games, American toys of yesteryear have special charm and were often saved in good condition and handed down from generation to generation.

The Curation Department is interested in the following toys:

1950s: Slinky, Mr. Potato Head (the model that used actual potatoes), Piston Action Robot, Silly Putty, Betsy Wetsy Doll, Tiny Tears Doll, Gumby, Play-Doh, Saralee Doll

1960s: Easy-Bake Oven, space-related toys, Rock'em Sock'em Robots, G.I. Joe (original), Operation (game), Mystery Date (game)

1970s: Pet Rock, Intellivision, Stretch Armstrong, Big Wheel

1970s and 1980s: Star Wars toys, electronic toys like Speak & Spell and Simon

1980s: My Little Pony (in good condition)

1990s: Tickle Me Elmo

Miscellaneous: Nintendo Game Boy (in good condition), Lite-Brite, Lincoln Logs, Hungry Hungry Hippos (game), Twister, Mouse Trap (game), army men (green plastic soldiers)

A webform for submitting donation and/or loan information is available at www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/Museum-Is-Collecting-Toys.

Anyone seeking more information is encouraged to contact Katie Edwards in the Curation Department at 919-807-7894 or katie.edwards@ncdcr.gov.

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to

see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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