Finding Aid for the
Bonnie Erickson Collection
Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library
Center for Puppetry Arts
Created: Paulette Richards, 2016
Last Updated: Micah Walsh, 6/14/2023

Collection Summary
Title: Bonnie Erickson Collection
Span Dates: 1968 - 2013
Bulk Dates: 1968 - 1990
Creator: Bonnie and Wayde Erickson
Extent: 8 linear feet
Accession: 2017.003
Fonds Record: 2017.003.054
Languages: English, Spanish
Repository: Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library, Center for Puppetry Arts
Abstract: Contains style guides, style sheets, promotional materials, sketches and more related to Bonnie Erickson's career.

Administrative Information
Provenance: This collection contains materials donated to the Center for Puppetry Arts by Bonnie Erickson from her career with the Jim Henson Company and her company (Harrison/Erickson) with husband and business partner Wayde Harrison.

Processing History: This collection contains materials sent to CPA by Bonnie Erickson. Paulette Richards initially began processing the collection in 2016. About six years passed with changes to the department and the COVID-19 pandemic, the processing of the collection stopped. In 2022, Collections Manager, Yanique Hall, completed the processing of the collection by using preservation methods and rehousing the materials in archival boxes. In 2023, Collections Manager Micah Walsh created catalog records for this collection in the database.

Copyright Status: Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

Access and Restrictions: The records of the Nancy Lohman Staub Archives collection are open to research by appointment only. The library and archives are open Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 3:30, it is suggested that researchers call a week in advance to set up an appointment.

Preferred Citation: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information Folder Title, Series Title, Collection Title, Nancy Staub Puppetry Research Library, Center for Puppetry Arts.

Biographical/Historical Information
Bonnie Erickson grew up in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She moved to New York City in the 1960s and studied sculpture at the Art Students' League. While working for designer, Patricia Quinn Stuart, she created costumes and props for Broadway and off-Broadway shows. Jim Henson hired her in 1970 to create the costumes for "The Frog Prince," a television pilot. Erickson enjoyed working as a free-lance designer but Henson recruited her to join The Muppets and she became the head of the Muppets Workshop. In this capacity, she set up the workshop in London that built puppets for *The Muppet Show* and designed several iconic characters including Miss Piggy, Zoot, and Statler and Waldorf.

Erickson left The Muppets in1977 to start her own company but Henson remained an important client, hiring her to oversee the build for *Fraggle Rock* and referring her to clients like the Phillies MLB team. Starting in 1978 Erickson, with her husband Wade Harrison, secured contracts to design and manage licensing for 16 major league sports mascots. The Philly Phanatic remains the most popular. Erickson also worked as the Creative Director of the Product Division of Children's Television Workshop for 13 years.

Erickson worked with the Smithsonian to develop the traveling exhibit "Jim Henson's Fantastic World" which toured from 2007 – 2013. She became Executive Director of the Jim Henson Legacy in 2011.

Scope and Content Note
Materials in the collection include photographs dating from 1968 through 2016 with many production stills from *Sesame Street, Saturday Night Live, The Muppet Show, Fraggle Rock,* and *The Bunny Picnic;* greeting cards exchanged within the Children's Television Workshop and the Henson Company; newspaper and magazine clippings; oversized promotional materials from Harrison/Erickson creations and style guides for licensed Muppet characters. Additionally, there are puppet patterns from the Harrison/Erickson Company of characters in the Center for Puppetry Arts' permanent museum collection.

Organization of the Papers (Series): The collection is arranged in seven series. The first series is organized into three boxes where the information focuses on *Sesame Street*. The second, third, fourth and seventh series are organized in boxes; the individual folders in each box are organized chronologically. The fifth and sixth series follow the original organization put in place by the creator; the organization appears to be alphabetical by the full title. The series are:

Series 1: Sesame Street
Series 2: The Muppet Show
Series 3: Harrison/Erickson
Series 4: Jim Henson/Jim Henson Company
Series 5: Photos
Series 6: Puppet Patterns
Series 7: Oversized

Container List

Series 1: Sesame Street

Box 1

Folder 1- Miscellaneous (1974)
Folder 2- Sesame Workshop / CTW (1976)
Folder 3- Holiday Cards (1980)
Folder 4- Obituaries (1992-1998)
Folder 5- Sesame Street Babies (1992)
Folder 6- Anniversaries (1998)
Folder 7- Sesame Street Parents (1998)
Folder 8- The Characters (Undated)

Box 2

Sesame Street Style Books (1988-Undated)
Sesame Street Style Guide (undated)
Elmo's World of Style Guide (2000)
Sesame Street Architecture Guide (2000)
123 Sesame Street Muppet Drawing Guide (2000)
The Official Muppetizer's Guide to Drawing Sesame Street Muppets (undated)

Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland Style Guide
Ernies Rubber Duckie Beach & Bath Club Style Guide

Box 3

Archival Binder: Sesame Street-Character Reference 1 of 2 (1978-1997)

Box 4

Archival Binder: Sesame Street-Character Reference 2 of 2 (1978-1997)

Box 5

Archival Binder: Sesame Street-Sesame Street Graphics-Undated

Stacked / Loose

Sesame Street Artist Style Book (1988)
Sesame Street Baby Time (1998)
Sesame Street Baby Time (1998)
Bonnie Erickson Corrections to Style Guide

Series 2: The Muppet Show

Box 1

Folder 1- In the News (1974-1996)
Folder 2- Miscellaneous (Undated)
Folder 3- The Muppet Movie (1979)
Folder 4- The Great Muppet Caper (1981)
Folder 5- Muppet Babies (1985-1986)
Folder 6- In Advertisements (1988-2011)

Box 2

Archival Binder: The Muppet Show- U.K. Muppet Babies Style Book vol.1- 1986

Series 3: Harrison/Erickson

Box 1

Folder 1- Various Commercials, 1977-1996, Undated
Folder 2- Miscellaneous, 1978, Undated
Folder 3- Warrior Ant, 1985-1988
Folder 4- Eureeka's Castle, 1988, Undated
Folder 5- Flik Flak, 1994, Undated
Folder 6- Swiss Cheese Board, Undated
Folder 7- Deloitte, 1979-1988
Folder 8- American Dairy Association, 1980-1981, Undated
Folder 9- Bette Midler's 1999 Millennium Tour
Folder 10- Guidelines for Construction, Undated

Series 4: Jim Henson/Jim Henson Company

Box 1

Folder 1: Miscellaneous (1972-2012)
Folder 2: Interviews (1975-1989)
Folder 3: Muppets Christmas Cards (1976- Undated)
Folder 4: Legal Endeavors (1989- Undated)
Folder 5: Obituaries/Tributes (1990)
Folder 6: Succession (1990-Undated)
Folder 7: Exhibits (1990- Undated)
Folder 8: Jim Henson Foundation (1994-1998)
Folder 9: Jim Henson Company (1995- Undated)

Box 2

Folder 1: Tales from Muppetland: The Muppet Musicians of Bremen (1970)
Folder 2: The Great Santa Claus Switch (1970)
Folder 3: Fraggle Rock (1981 - Undated)
Folder 4: Storyteller (1987)
Folder 5: The Jim Henson Hour (1989)
Folder 6: Dinosaurs (1991- Undated)
Folder 7: Muppets Tonight! (1996)
Folder 8: The Christmas Toy (Undated)

Series 5: Photos

Box 1

Folder 1: Hey Cinderella! (1969)
Folder 2: The Great Santa Claus Switch (1970)
Folder 3: The Muppet Show (1972- Undated)
Folder 4: Saturday Night Live (1975)
Folder 5: Harrison/Erickson (1978-Undated)
Folder 6: Jim Henson and Kermit (1979-Undated)
Folder 7: Fraggle Rock (1982)
Folder 8: Muppet Babies (1983)
Folder 9: The Tale of the Bunny Picnic (1986)
Folder 10: Jim Henson Hour (1988)
Folder 11: Sesame Street (Undated)
Folder 12: Miscellaneous (Undated)

Series 6: Puppet Patterns

Box 1

Folder 1: American Dairy Association - Henrietta (Evelyn) - undated
Folder 2: American Dairy Association - Malcolm (Dwight) - undated
Folder 3: American Dairy Association - Mavis (Sylvia) - undated
Folder 4: American Dairy Association - Miscellaneous – undated
Folder 5: Canada Bentley - Bear - 1979
Folder 6: H.O Oats - Mama Bear - 1977
Folder 7: H.O Oats - Papa Bear - 1977
Folder 8: H.O Oats - Baby Bear - 1977
Folder 9: H-24 Commercial- Dog - 1981
Folder 10: Alaska 1984, Radio City - Crab “Louis”- 1981
Folder 11: Alaska 1984, Radio City - Moose - 1981
Folder 12: Alaska 1984, Radio City – Puffin “Mr. Bert HuffinPuff” - 1981
Folder 13: Alaska 1984, Radio City – Sheep “Miss Dolly” - 1981
Folder 14: Alaska 1984, Radio City – Walrus “Uncle Mortimer” - 1981
Folder 15: Alaska 1984, Radio City – Whale “Dr. Borealus” - 1981
Folder 16: Monkey - 2019
Folder 17: General Motors Photographic- Milt and May – 1981 (1 of 2)
Folder 18: General Motors Photographic - Milt and May – 1981 (2 of 2)
Folder 19: Rabbits - Undated
Folder 20: Axlon Hand Puppets - 1985
Folder 21: Charmin - Undated
Folder 22: Fossil B. Fool - Undated
Folder 23: Old Man (Dirt Monger) - Undated

Folder 24: The Maestro (Paul Blitzblau) - Undated
Folder 25: Sidney Floodstone - 1982
Folder 26: Sunny Saver - undated
Folder 27: Catviar - 1984
Folder 28: BSSM (Switzerland) Nutella, 1979-1980 (1 of 2)
Folder 29: BSSM (Switzerland) Nutella, 1979-1980 (2 of 2)

Box 2

Folder 1: Hasbro "Potato Head" Head (Undated)
Folder 2: Burger Thing (1979)
Folder 3: Lysol "Pine Trio" (1982)
Folder 4: Pie Qui Chant (Undated)
Folder 5: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" (1983)
Folder 6: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" Bass Face (1983)
Folder 7: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" Fingers (1983)
Folder 8: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" Incredible Crispy (1983)
Folder 9: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" Jaws (1983)
Folder 10: Quaker Oats "Rockin Crisp" Ms. Sweetbeat (1983)

Box 3

Folder 1: MacDonalds – "Happy Meal" (Undated)
Folder 2: Caribiner – "Big Billie Bosco" (1977)
Folder 3: Servomation (1983)
Folder 4: Space Dust Orbs (Undated)
Folder 5: Flik and Flak (2019)
Folder 6: Bull Blitzer (1988)
Folder 7: Twill Foxworth (1988)
Folder 8: Walt Wiseman (1988)
Folder 9: Woody Pupman (1988)
Folder 10: Xavier Shell (1988)

Box 4

Folder 1: Dwayne Drano (Undated)
Folder 2: Evelyn's Dress (Undated)
Folder 3: Sid's Velvet Jacket (Undated)
Folder 4: Generic Patterns (Undated)
Folder 5: Generic Puppet Arm (Undated)
Folder 6: H-24- Mosquito (1980)
Folder 7: H-24- Cockroach (1980)
Folder 8: H-24- Fly (1981)
Folder 9: Reagan Puppet (Undated)
Folder 10: Spanish Puppets (1988)
Folder 11: Warrior Ant (Undated)

Series 7: Oversized

- Sketches and Designs (1980 – Undated)
- Philly Phanatic poster (1983)
- Flik Flak Promotional Materials (1995)
- VICTORY Journal (Winter 2015)