

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Rhode Island Collections**

**002-05-01**

Collection of Tynietoy and LeClerc dollhouse furniture  
circa 1920s-1930s

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 002-05-01

Title: Collection of Tynietoy and LeClerc dollhouse furniture

Creator: LeClerc, George  
Tynietoy Furniture Shop

Dates: circa 1930

Quantity: 2 record cartons (total 2 linear feet)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown.

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2017 by Kate Wells.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format: *[item number], [item title], Dollhouse Furniture Collection, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library*

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**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material	None.
Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Doll furniture. Dollhouses. LeClerc, George. Perkins, Marion I. Vernon, Amey.

**SEE ALSO**

RISD Archives, Tynietoy Collection.  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, George H. LeClerc miniature furniture design records, 1930s, MC 56.

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Tynietoy Company was founded by Marion I. Perkins (1872-1947) and Amey Vernon (1876-1940) in Providence, Rhode Island. Marion Perkins was born in Providence and attended Miss Abbott's School, Mary C. Wheeler School and Rhode Island School of Design. After graduating, she worked as an interior decorator and began making miniature furniture in 1917. Perkins engaged her close friend Amey Vernon as a partner in the business and they worked out of a small studio in the Handicraft Club of which they were both members. The furniture was notable for its historically accurate designs including examples of Hepplewhite, Chippendale, Sheraton and Queen Anne styles.

In 1920, the business, then called The Toy Furniture Shop, moved to 227 Benefit Street. In 1923, the artist Sydney Burleigh joined the firm and standardized the scale of the pieces and assisted in designs for furniture and dollhouses. They moved again in 1928 to 31 Market Street. Amey Vernon retired in 1933, Marion Perkins retired in 1941 and the company closed in 1953 after several management changes.

George Henri LeClerc (1894-1972) was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts and attended Rhode Island School of Design in 1921. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1915 and served until 1919. He was employed as a draftsman and production manager by the Tynietoy Company from 1920- 1938 after which he continued designing and making miniature furniture in New Bedford. In the 1940s, he exhibited a group of twenty miniature rooms at the Jordan Marsh department store in Boston, Massachusetts.

Tynietoy pieces were marked with paper labels until 1925 at which point they began using a rubber stamp. In 1930, pieces were marked with a branding iron. Tynietoy did not trademark their designs until 1938. LeClerc continued using many of the pre-1938 Tynietoy designs in his private work after he left the company. Because of these factors, it can be difficult to definitively attribute some of the items in the collection to either Tynietoy or LeClerc.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection includes 32 pieces of dollhouse furniture attributed to either Tynietoy Company or George LeClerc. Also included is one photograph album of LeClerc dollhouse room displays and a newspaper clipping.

Attribution of the creator was assigned using additional research materials including furniture design sketches and sales catalogs available in the Tynietoy Collection at RISD Archives.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection is organized into a three series: materials and photograph album attributed to George LeClerc, materials attributed to Tynietoy and unattributed items.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION****Series 1: George LeClerc**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
002-05-01-01	George LeClerc Photograph Album	20 photographs of dollhouse room displays created by George LeClerc, including newspaper clipping.
002-05-01-02	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, red seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered red fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-03	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, red seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered red fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-04	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, red seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered red fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-05	Chippendale style dining chair, brocade seat	Chippendale style dining chair, stained mahogany, with red and gold brocade fabric seat. Likely by George LeClerc.
002-05-01-06	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, gold seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered gold fabric seats. Stained mahogany. Missing stretcher and seat is loose.
002-05-01-07	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, gold seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered gold fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-08	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, gold seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered gold fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-09	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, gold seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered gold fabric seats. Stained mahogany. Missing stretcher.
002-05-01-10	Hepplewhite Style Dining Chair, gold seat	Hepplewhite style dining chair with upholstered gold fabric seats. Stained mahogany.
002-05-01-11	Chippendale style dining chair, purple seat	1:6 Play scale. Chippendale style dining chair with upholstered, striped, purple seat cushion. 5.75" height.
002-05-01-12	Foot stool	Footstool in maple with purple fabric top. Scroll decoration on legs and brace.
002-05-01-13	Books	Books for bookshelves. Total of 14. One set broken.
002-05-01-14	Side table	Mahogany side table with six straight carved legs. One leg broken off.
002-05-01-15	Fireplace with mantle	Brick fireplace & chimney with wood mantle. Includes

		hanging fireplace tongs.
002-05-01-16	Hepplewhite style Sideboard	Mahogany sideboard in Hepplewhite style with tapered legs. Includes 2 large drawers, 1 small drawer with felt liner, 2 hinged cabinet doors. Brass knobs.
002-05-01-17	Round table	Mahogany round table with tapered legs.
002-05-01-18	Demi Lune table	Mahogany half round table with three tapered legs. Scratched top

**Series 2: Tynietoy**

Item Number	Item	Description
002-05-01-19	Brace back Windsor Chair	Black chair with molded seat. V braced back.
002-05-01-20	Sack back Windsor Chair	Red chair with molded seat. Windsor sack back armchair.
002-05-01-21	Fan back Windsor Chair	Red chair with minimally molded seat (almost flat). Fan back style chair.
002-05-01-22	Rush seat ladder back chair	Rush seat ladder back chair in maple.
002-05-01-23	Rush seat rocking ladder back rocking chair	Rush seat rocking ladder back rocking chair in maple.
002-05-01-24	Gov. Winthrop desk	Mahogany slant top desk with table open. Includes one small drawer and three large drawers. Includes papers in drawer, ink blotter and ink pot.
002-05-01-25	Spanish style trestle table	Dark stain wood trestle table with decorative spindles. Matches bench seat. Includes Tynietoy stamp under table top.
002-05-01-29	Spanish style bench seat	Dark stain wood bench style seat with decorative spindles along the back. Fabric covering on seat. Includes velvet pillow. Matches trestle table.
002-05-01-26	Trestle table	Mahogany trestle table. Legs have scrolled detail and includes three braces.
002-05-01-30	Canopy bed	Maple four-poster canopy bed with rounded headboard. Includes mattress, floral bedcover, pillow & canopy

002-05-01-27	Bureau	Maple 4 drawer bureau. Includes two small drawers and two large drawers. Simple scroll detail on side at legs. Brass knobs.
002-05-01-28	Washstand	Maple washstand with tapered legs.

**Series 3: Unattributed pieces**

Item Number	Item	Description
002-05-01-31	Trestle table	Mahogany trestle table with highly decorative brace and legs.
002-05-01-32	Blanket chest	Mahogany blanket chest. Hinged top with blankets and lace stored inside. Drawer doesn't open.
002-05-01-33a & b	Throw rugs	Two oriental styled throw rugs with tassels.