Primary Maker: McLoughlin Brothers
Title: The Game of Playing Department Store
Date: 1898
Medium: Cardboard, wood, paper
Dimensions: Overall: 1 1/2 x 22 1/2 x 15 in. (3.8 x 57.2 x 38.1 cm)
Credit Line: The Liman Collection
Object Number: 2000.715

Object Name: Board game
Classification: TOYS

Curatorial Remarks:
The box cover and gameboard of The Game of Playing Department Store demonstrate the bold, vivid chromolithography characteristic of the best 19th-century board games. Inspired by a recent American innovation -- shopping emporiums selling a wide variety of goods under one roof -- the game encouraged players to accumulate the greatest quantity of goods while spending their money as economically as possible.

Physical Description:
"The Game of Playing Department Store" board game with fifty-two circular counters yellow on one side and black on the other and forty-two round cards representing money with denominations between ten cents and five dollars stored under a flap on the right side of the paper covered cardboard game board; board applied to the top of the bottom half of the paper covered cardboard and wood box; board chromolithographed with fourteen store
departments divided as triangles around a star in the center meant to hold an indicator, each department, including China, Grocery, Toys, candy, etc., has examples of the goods they sell and their prices; box cover chromolithographed with nine children playing department store, with used boots, fabric and jars of food set up on crates and a barrel; box cover lithographed, "THE GAME OF/ PLAYING/ DEPARTMENT/ STORE/ COPYRIGHT 1898 BY/ McLoughlin Bros./ NEW YORK"; instructions printed on the underside of the box cover.

Related Objects: