Primary Maker: Jack Built Toy Company

Title: Snap train

Date: 1950-1960

Medium: Wood, cardboard, paper, metal

Dimensions: Overall: 1 5/8 × 12 1/2 × 6 1/2 in. (4.1 × 31.8 × 16.5 cm)

Credit Line: Acquired with generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Richard Gilder, and an anonymous donor

Object Number: 2014.31.1281a-z

Object Name: Train set

Classification: TOYS

Curatorial Remarks:
Contemporary Brio trains and Thomas the Tank Engine toys take their inspiration from the wooden train playsets of the 1930s. World War II (1939-45) furthered the popularity of small wood trains, when wartime rationing suspended the production of metal toys. This example dates to the 1950s but shares many features recognizable today.

Physical Description:
"Snap Train". 5 train pieces: 1 locomotive, 4 cars (a-e). 6 pieces of track (f-k). 14 wooden blocks (12 small, 2 large) (l-y). Box (z). All natural wood finish. Red and yellow cardboard box reading: "SNAP TRAIN // AND TRACKS" "WITH // BUILDING // BLOCKS" "SET No. 2. Includes instructions and examples of set ups for blocks."
Markings: Printed on side of box: "A TOY THAT [image of Jack in the Box] JACK BUILT; "JACK BUILT TOY MANUFACTURING CO. // 1401 WEST EIGHTH STREET LOS ANGELES 17, CALIF // OVERSEAS DIVISION -- MADE IN JAPAN // U.S. PATENT No. 2,847,798 JAPAN PATENT No. 467-475".

Related Objects: