

DOLL, CORNHUSK (3)

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Rita Chrisjohn Benson, Cairo, Greene County, NY
Title:	Doll, cornhusk (3)
Dates:	1989
Quantity:	3 dolls
Identification:	Folk Art & Artifacts

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rita Chrisjohn Benson learned traditional arts by growing up in an Iroquois household, and has actively presented Iroquois art and culture to children throughout New York state. Her father, Richard Chrisjohn, is a chief of the Oneida tribe, and many in her family are artists in the tradition. Chrisjohn artwork is found in museums around the country, including the American Indian Museum in New York City, the State Museum in Albany, the Children's Museum in Boston, and the United States Department of the Interior.

Rita Chrisjohn Benson participated in the Folklife Center's earliest programs, including *Iroquois Cornhusk Dolls*, as one of our first *Growing up in the North Country* children's workshops in 1989, where these dolls may have been made.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Cornhusk dolls have been made by the Iroquois for many generations. Though these cornhusk dolls are relatively simple, such dolls can be quite elaborate, dressed as warriors and women, and given accessories as needed. Traditionally the Iroquois have used cornhusks for many things, both useful and beautiful. Trays, baskets, and moccasins are woven entirely from cornhusks. Braided in long strands, they can be used as a clothesline. Fine braided ropes are coiled and sewn into ceremonial masks. Highly prized salt bottles were tightly woven and water tight, the husks absorbing any moisture, and keeping the salt dry.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Dolls Doll making
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Folk dolls
Folk art

Places: Cairo, Greene County, NY

Important People: Benson, Rita Chrisjohn

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Doll, cornhusk (3)
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Acquired 1989

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, July 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

There are 3 dolls, made of cornhusks and twine, approximately 4 inches long.