

Basic Detail Report



Title Puppet

Date 1950-1979

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Primary Maker Phyllis Fenn Cunningham

Medium Papier-mâché, synthetic, wool, cotton, cardboard, paint, sequins

Description Rod puppet of St. Nicholas composed of a cardboard tube body and

a papier-mâché head with painted features (probably using watercolor)

including red cheeks and nose, and blue eyes. His hair is made of white cotton

batting. His left arm is also made of a cardboard tube and his hands consist of

white wool felt. He wears a grey cotton alb, or robe, with a red wool felt cross

applied to the chest and a gold emblem of an "x" enclosed in a circle sewn at its

center. Over the robe he wears a red wool cappa, or cape, with a gold braided

boarder and a red ribbon tie. He holds a crosier, or staff, composed of a silver

synthetic fabric in his right hand. Attached to his head is a mitre, or headdress,

made of gold synthetic fabric with gold trimming and a red wool interior. A gold

and red sequined cross is attached to the front of the headdress. The sleeve that

conceals the cardboard tube rod and covers the puppeteer's wrist and arm is

made of a black cotton fabric. Probably used with Christmas Angel puppet

(2013.182.7) in a play, "The Legends of St. Nicholas," written at the request of

the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where it was performed.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth): 35 x 13 x 6 1/4in. (88.9

x 33 x 15.9cm)