

HOLIDAY Traditions

What's Old Is What's New: Lincoln Logs, America's Beloved Holiday Toy

(NAPSA)—Japan's Imperial Hotel: the inspiration for one of America's long-time favorite holiday gift toys? Surprising—but true.

It's a little-known historical fact that architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed the famed hotel using a newly conceived building technique—floating cantilever construction—in which projecting beams are joined or locked into beams extending from opposite piers. Not long after, in 1916, the architect's son, John Lloyd Wright, was inspired to adapt the technique to create Lincoln Logs, an educational children's construction toy.

The first simple Lincoln Logs building set consisted of miniature hardwood logs notched on the side to fit into each other. With the toy's elements shaped like unfinished logs, the miniature buildings mimicked the log cabins emblematic of the American frontier. As the years passed, more complex Lincoln Logs sets were developed, incorporating items such as action figures and trains.

Since their 1916 introduction, Lincoln Logs has sold more than 100 million construction sets globally. Recently, three brand-new building sets were introduced that seem likewise destined to become classic favorites:

- The Lincoln Logs Conestoga Ranch (\$19.99) lets youngsters build a frontier log-styled homestead and covered wagon. Also included are Ma Mayberry, Pa Mayberry, two horses and colorful accessories. The homestead is uniquely designed with a covered porch and open back to allow little hands to play with the figures inside the model.



Three new Lincoln Logs building sets may become classic favorites for holiday gift-giving.

- The Lincoln Logs Big Valley Barn (\$24.99) building set enables kids to construct a log barn and farm-themed play land, which includes five figures—Farmer Tom, Miss May, Bessie the Cow, Link the Dog and Piggy. Colorful plastic accessories and a green barn roof that doubles as the packaging lid are also included.

- Lincoln Logs Fort Abraham Lincoln (\$39.99) is a new limited-edition collector-quality set that includes the classic all-wood Lincoln Logs for building Fort Abraham Lincoln, the legendary blockhouse that was once the home base for Lt. Colonel George Custer. Featured in this 97-piece set are the classic richly-stained logs; red roof slats; three 2¼" die-cast figurines—Native American, a Soldier from the 1870s, and a Frontiersman—just like the classic Lincoln Logs sets from the 1940s; and a Certificate of Authenticity that validates the set as a limited edition status.

Lincoln Logs are manufactured by K'NEX Industries under a licensing agreement with Hasbro Toys. For more information on the complete line of Lincoln Logs products, visit www.knex.com.