

Small Wonders



Vol XVIII, No 4

Fall 2009

Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art
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from the director

Isn't every new day a blessing? I hope you have had time this past summer to truly step back and review your life as a spectator looking in as well as stepping forward and enjoying it as a participant. It would have been difficult to not count our blessings in the "sunny" Pacific Northwest this summer. Our beautiful days continue and, being a sun person, I am relishing each one. At the Museum, we have been busy, busy, busy- doing several special exhibits and events, one celebrating 17 years of operation!

So much effort goes into running the Museum that I'm sure most visitors don't think about. It is accomplished by a special group of people with a broad range of talents and interests – our Staff- and another group that complements them – our volunteers.

We employ seven full-time employees and five part-time who care for the collection, do changing and special exhibits, care for the building, inside and out, deal with contractual work, do our bookkeeping, run the Museum Store and our satellite

Continued on Page 2...

CURATOR'S
CORNER

MINT IN BOX

October 31, 2009 - February 21, 2010

The well-loved doll, dressed and re-dressed, at times possessing wardrobes sewn for them by little owners over the years, and with hair styled and re-styled, played with and past down through generations of little girls, exude such charm and personality. They allow us a window into the world of the children who cherished them. Although they may no longer qualify as "pristine", so often they were clearly handled with love and care, remaining in remarkable condition for their many years of age and enjoyment.

Yet, when we come upon a doll or other plaything from the past still preserved in new or almost new condition within an original presentation box, oh, be still the collector's heart! We call these rare and lovely treasures

"Mint in Box" (MIB) and they, too, offer insight into the dolls and how they would have appeared in new condition with hair still preserved in original set, original clothing, and original "packaging".

Many early dolls, toys, doll and children's clothing, accessories, and more will fill the Changing Gallery for a very timely holiday season exhibit. To account for limited space, the focus has been narrowed to antiques, up through about 1960. There will be something

for everyone! MIB model cars, games and other toys for boys (of all ages) will be shown, along with tea sets, vintage clothing, and so much more. Not everything will be "minty mint" but, all well worth inclusion in this first-ever exhibit devoted exclusively to the special doll

Continued on Page 2...



Glass-eyed Fashion Lady in original box
c1860 Bru France
Bisque, kid leather, wood
Doll-size Nécessaire in original box, c1870

from the director

...Continued From Page 1
store, Rosie's Too, man the admissions desk and care for our visitors, do event planning and handle rentals of our premises, develop marketing, create advertising, promotional, and newsletters, procure both antique and new inventory, respond to correspondence, do repairs and maintenance, do sales and programs away from the Museum, plan and develop special events, and continually review and maintain all technical support... and that's just off the top of my head. Within each of these categories are a few to many different facets.

Obviously, a big job for so few employees; and that is where our invaluable volunteers come in- ten to fifteen active volunteers give varying amounts of time consistently throughout the year. Some of them have been with us since we opened, others are as new as of this week. We depend on them greatly and appreciate them wholeheartedly. It is they who often do the tedious work that keeps the wheels rolling around here.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff and volunteers for the wonderful work they do and the professional way they do it. I know they are appreciated by so many of you who have taken the time to let me know the wonderful service you have received from them or answers to your questions about dolls or

collecting or repairs or for communications about our exhibits and events. Many of you have had the doll of your dreams found by one of our store staff or had dolls identified or appraised. Others have enjoyed events that went perfectly because of the efforts of our staff or had access to our library to aid you in research.



MIB "The Elephant Ride" Zoo Series
Mid 20th C England Metal

Each year on our anniversary we honor and thank you, our members and visitors, for your support and kindness to us. Please know how hard these great people work to provide you with a wonderful place to visit, meet, celebrate, shop, and enjoy your leisure time with the dolls and toys and each other.

"A Few of My Favorite Things" was so much fun to plan, install, and enjoy through the eyes of others, too. Now the dolls and toys and other special items that were found, miraculously, Mint in Box (or nearly so) will exhibit another of my favorite things. While I am one who loves a well-loved doll or bear because I know it has spent time with a special



...Continued From
Page 1

and toy treasures, which defied odds, to remain intact in their factory packaging.

I would also like to remind you of another temporary exhibit in the Museum's atrium: Dolls for Democracy, on loan from the Washington State Jewish Historical Society. The dolls, made by Cecil Weeks in the 1950s, were educational tools by design, helping to promote diversity, and highlight the contributions of many famous minority philanthropists who made positive contributions to society. If you haven't already done so, we hope you will carve out some time to take in this wonderful exhibit, before it moves on from the Museum on November 8th, 2009.

Wishing you the very best this holiday season.

Jill Gorman
Curator

child providing them an opportunity to learn so many things from nurturing to socialization, I also love the originality of something never touched or clearly well-cared for by another type of child. It is knowing "this is exactly how a toy came from its period" and can be so educational to us as collectors. Here often is a manufacturer, a country of origin, a date, and with that the contents divulging correct attire, hairdo, body style, or painting of features,

Continued on Page 3...



From the Museum Store...

Madame Alexander has a wonderful new line of 18" dolls! Cute and affordable, these dolls are fully jointed with sleep eyes. \$40 and \$20 for additional clothes.

Perfection- Naturally 18" "Littlest Angel" by Jeanne Gross. Blonde human hair, blue glass eyes & real feather wings. Porcelain jointed head on a shoulderplate. Weighted cloth body with jointed porcelain limbs. Gorgeous costuming. One-of-a-kind made in 1994. Featured in Ho Phi Le's "Angels" book. Beautiful molding and detail. \$3495



Corolle Dolls for every age. We carry a wide variety and you can't beat the quality! \$15-\$60

from the director

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or with toys, the proper pieces, directions, original colors, and so much more. Satisfying is what it is. This is the norm to which all others should be held. This is how a child first gazed on it on a Christmas morning or upon opening a well-wrapped birthday gift, or through the frosty window of a toy store with fingers crossed behind her back.

Come, gaze beneath our Christmas trees, press your nose against our glass, open your hearts to these wonderful treasures. Come and delight in "Mint In Box, Dolls and Toys".

Rosalie Whyel
Director

A Few of Our Favorite Stories...!

Some years ago, my daughter, her friend and I visited your fabulous museum. I'd been there before when my husband and I, driving our 1930 Model A sedan, had attended the World Meet of Model A's in Tacoma, Washington. Therefore, I knew exactly what to expect when I went again.

But my daughter and Kathy did NOT. They went into the foyer with me and I said I'd see them later. They planned to drive around Bellevue and do their own thing. When I came back a couple of hours later, to wait for them to return, I was told they had never even left. They, neither one into dolls, had gotten so interested they were still roaming around the museum. And I waited patiently for them.

Such is the charm of your museum! A joy to those of us who collect and a joy to those of us who do not!
-Billie Aye, Tonganoxie, Kansas

I had relatives visiting from Virginia a few weeks ago who decided to go to the doll museum as one of their outings of must see sights while in [the] Pacific Northwest. My aunt had been a doll collector who mainly collected Peggy Nisbet dolls and Madame Alexander dolls so she was really looking forward to going to the museum. She took her daughter (my cousin) and her 2 granddaughters who are 9 year old autistic twins. I was not able to go with them because I was in a meeting at the time they went. I called them and asked the little girls what their favorite dolls were. They exclaimed in unison that the "old" Barbies were one of their favorites, but the most favorite of all the dolls they saw were the Groovy Girl dolls for sale in the museum store. My aunt bought them each a Groovy Girl doll and they were so delighted with their dolls that when I saw them later on in the day, they were making their new dolls dance and sing for me. To me, it brings out how much joy a doll can bring to an individual of any age.

-Vicki Johnson

Thank You For Sharing Ladies!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GALLERY



Our "Before"- come see our "After" of the French Fashion Exhibit!

Over our history we have added seven new exhibits, installed and opened many new drawer displays, and added to many exhibits but, we have never almost completely changed one of the Permanent Exhibits- until now!

We hope you will delight in the new

The Museum was honored with an invitation to participate in Museum Day on Saturday, September 26th, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute. A day to acknowledge the importance of museums and encourage attendance to places preserving history. Anyone who visited the Smithsonian Museum Day website could print a voucher for two free admissions to any participating museum (over 500 to choose from). We hope you were able to join in this fantastic day of celebrating knowledge, and thank you to the line out the door of the Museum from visitors, many first-timers. Be sure to watch out for this annual event!

FRENCH FASHIONS EXHIBIT on the second floor, main gallery. It was prompted by the many new and wonderful fashion doll acquisitions over the last few years and the hard time we had putting away the dolls after our "Fashions, Fashions, Glorious Fashions" exhibit a few years ago.

A couple of the original dolls were retained because we feel they are still so worthy, but many wonderful, rare, and period perfect ladies, gentlemen, and a child or two have come out of storage and are interacting within the case. Won't you come and interact with them soon? And don't forget to read the labels relating the reasons these particular dolls were chosen.

Area Doll Show Dates

ANTIQUA DOLL & TOY MARKET*

Bellevue Inn Red Lion
Bellevue WA

Sunday November 8, 2009
11am - 4pm

ROSIE'S TOO SALE*

Rosie's Too
Bellevue WA

Saturday January 9, 2010
11am - 4pm



CROSSROADS DOLL, TEDDY BEAR & ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE*

Nat'l Guard Armory
Portland OR

Saturday February 13, 2010
8:30am - 4pm

SEATTLE DOLLHOUSE MINIATURE SHOW

Seattle Center Northwest Rooms
Seattle WA

Saturday March 6, 2010
10am - 5pm
Sunday March 7, 2010
11am - 4pm

NEWS



DOLLS FOR DEMOCRACY

ROSIE'S TOO

Rosie's Too Sale
Saturday 11 to 4
January 9th, 2010

ROSIE'S TOO APPRAISAL CLINIC!

Saturday November 7th

During our open hours. These are complimentary, verbal appraisals, limit three dolls per person please.



DOLLS FOR DEMOCRACY
Wraps Up November 8th!



*Look for the Museum Sales Table

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations during the last quarter:

Mary Baugasser Becker

Skookum family, Madame Alexander, ethnic dolls

Lucinda Briggs

Swiss, Dutch, French, & Austrian dolls, troll doll, "Palomino foal", doll clothing, 1950s hard plastic dolls

Doris Dean

Madame Alexander doll parts

Alice, Carol & Mary-Jo Horner

Toddler dresses, Korean doll clothing, shoes, stockings, 1960s

**Laura Eckels Allen estate,
c/o Michael M Allen, Executor**

Terri Lee dolls and wardrobe, doll trunk with Ginette & Muffy dolls and clothing, accessories, furniture, doll clothing patterns

Kathy Eglet

Asian doll "Kyubetsu", "Vanessa" porcelain doll, 1998

Jerry Johnston

Alma doll, Magic Skin doll, two Miss-Revlon types

Helen Jona

1940s compo baby doll

Marsha Lash, for Catharine Lash

Tiny Terri Lee doll, doll furniture set, Saucy Walker doll, 1950s hard plastic dolls & clothes

Jennifer Moore

Two porcelain dolls

Emoke Rock

Heubach doll with provenance

Welcome To Our New & Returning Members:

Joyce Bueling	Diana Boettger
Sally Brunsmann	Connie Burleigh
Michael Canadas	Vanetta Cash
Hap Crawford	Mary Crittendon
Laurae Dunning	
Frances Ann Edmonston	Gena Gorasht
Jerri Hill	Sophia Jellinghaus
Janet Johnson	Rose Kiel
Lisa Kransler	Judy Lloyd
Judy Lofall	Eva Mader
Marsha Marquardt	Amy & Curtis Mathis
Kathy Miller	Pearl Miller
Chinmay Nagarkar & Rita Jain	
Nona Ruth Nelson	Margaret Pierce
Geri Quam	Diane Robbeloth
Jeanne Rognlie	Lina Shemet
Barbara Smith	Christopher Toncray
Annie Tyvand	Sheryl Varon
Virginia Vinton	Laurie Wirthlin

ATTENTION DOLL CLUBS

It's been so much fun welcoming the many groups that have visited the Museum this Fall. The Town and Country Doll Club held their first meeting of the Fall in the Rose Room and the laughter and good times still ring in our rafters!

Barbara and Jack Hilliker's Alaskan Bleuette Cruise ended their tour at the Museum on our 17th Anniversary Celebration with participants from all over the West Coast.

Then came Patti Urlich's Fashion Group from their 3-day fun-filled seminar at Sea-Tac!

If you are planning a doll event, our dolls would love to be included in your plans. Give us a call and we will do anything we can to accommodate your group, no matter the size, for your meeting, tea, or luncheon. Our package deals include admission to all exhibits. Call Abby to reserve your date 425-455-1116.

We knew it, we just confused our Mcs, and we apologize to our docent LEONE MCMULLEN for misspelling her name in our last newsletter. (We have a new McMillan in our family....)



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MUSEUM HOURS:
 Mon-Sat 10 to 5
 Sun 1 to 5

ROSIE'S TOO HOURS:
 221 106th Ave. NE Bellevue
 (425) 455-0363
 Thurs 11 to 8
 Sat 11 to 4
 Or by Appointment



A Celebration of 17 Years!

We had a wonderful Caricaturist, Steve, entertain us with his whimsical impressions of ourselves, yummy cake to satisfy our tummies, a sale to please the collector in us all, door prizes to test our luck, friends to discuss the exhibits with, and even family visiting our docents. Thank you for another great year!



HAVE YOU HEARD? We have a new and revised **SCAVENGER HUNT!**

For all of you who have done our popular Scavenger Hunt maybe more than once, we have a new and challenging one for all ages. School groups, Scouts, home schoolers, doll clubs, anyone or group will find this to be a useful and fun tool for further enjoying the exhibits. And, if you still don't know who "WALDO" is, you soon will as there is a movie of him coming out this summer. Watch for it and "Where Is He?" in the museum.

Coming Events at the Museum

MAY 30 - OCTOBER 25 2009
"A Few of My Favorite Things"
 Changing Gallery Exhibit

**OCTOBER 31 2009-
 FEBRUARY 21, 2010**
**"Mint In Box:
 Dolls and Toys"**
 Changing Gallery Exhibit

**AUGUST 18 - NOVEMBER 8
 2009**
Dolls For Democracy
 Special Exhibit

NOVEMBER 7 2009
**Doll Appraisal Clinic
 at Rosie's Too**
 During Regular Hours, 11 to 4

NOVEMBER 26 2009
Thanksgiving Day
 Museum CLOSED

DECEMBER 24 2009
Christmas Eve Day
 Museum OPEN
 Special Hours 10am to 3pm
Rosie's Too OPEN
 Special Hours 11am to 3pm

DECEMBER 25 2009
Christmas Day
 Museum CLOSED

DECEMBER 31 2009
New Year's Eve Day
 Museum OPEN
 Special Hours 10am to 3pm
Rosie's Too OPEN
 Special Hours 11am to 3pm

JANUARY 1 2010
New Year's Day
 Museum CLOSED

JANUARY 9 2010
Rosie's Too Sidewalk Sale
 Saturday 11 to 4