



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

February, 2007 **VOLUME 22** **NUMBER 2** est. 1982
Box 70045, Londonderry Post Office, Edmonton, AB T5C 3R6

General Meetings: Held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at McClure United Church, 13708-74 Street, Edmonton.

Workshops: Held every 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There are no meetings or workshops during July, August, and December. Meeting only (no workshops) in January (assuming temperatures of over minus 25C)

Admission: \$2.00 Membership: \$20.00



Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: The next workshops are March 6, 2007 and March 13, 2007. The first one will finish the building of the first three pieces of shelving for our millinery shop. The March 13th workshop may continue with a fourth piece of furniture for the shop.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on March 20, 2007. You are invited to bring your "latest and greatest", or one of your "tried and true" miniature displays or collections to Show and Tell. Although St. Patrick Day or Easter/Spring themes would be timely, anything goes, and everything is welcome.

Open Letter to All Members – From Karen Jones

This is our 25th year as a club and as such, a celebration is in order.

At our October and November meetings, a few members volunteered to look into the basics of such a celebration and costs. During our January meeting a venue, date and a cost, plus a program was presented. Additional choices of venue, date or cost were not offered, and it was clear from the heated discussion that this was unacceptable to some members. The program that was planned was widely accepted. It sounds exciting and seems like it would be a great deal of fun.

A vote was taken on the venue, date and the monies needed and was narrowly passed (only 20 members were present with 11 voting in favour of the proposal). In retrospect, the vote should not have been allowed, since we did not have a quorum of members present (the number of members required to be present for business to be legally transacted). More than ½ the membership (currently 43 members) must be present to conduct a legal vote, particularly on money matters. The vote should have been deferred to the February meeting when a possible quorum would have been available. So with this in mind, we will begin again.

Our club has lasted for 25 years, thanks to every member who has supported it through sharing their expertise, attending workshops, participating in the conventions and the annual show and sale, attending meetings, etc. Whether you've been a member for 25 years or 2 days, this is YOUR club and every member has a right to vote and to voice an opinion, so let's pull together and move forward towards another exciting 25 years.

Printable of the Month – Celebration Banners

Attached is a set of letters that can be used to make miniature banners for a special occasion roombox. Cut out each word as a block, including the blank square above each letter. Fold the block in half and cut off each individual letter. Cut a piece of embroidery silk or sewing thread (the length you want your banner to be, plus some "tails to hang down). Fasten the thread between two push pins. Slip each folded letter over the thread and arrange as desired with appropriate spacing. Using a glue stick, sparingly add glue to the inside of each letter, and press to glue together.

The extra black and white letters can be coloured to match your décor by using Hi-Lighter pens or any other pens with transparent ink.

Minis On-Line

- Go to <http://www.tarbenaminiatures.co.uk/> for a wide range of exquisite, British-made furniture, which is in 1/12 scale. Each piece is correctly scaled down from the original and has a very specialised antique finish, which is a characteristic of our work. Great care is taken to produce a piece of miniature furniture which really does resemble a full-size antique piece with the ageing effects shown throughout, including the inside of drawers, backs, tops and undersides.
- See <http://www.coldporcelaincreations.com/> for exquisite cold porcelain flowers and butterflies, as well as cold porcelain glue, pre-mix and paste.
- At <http://www.oaktreedollshouseminiatures.com/>, you'll find Oak Tree Dolls House Miniatures UK for handmade miniature food and selected accessories in 1:12 scale.
- Go to <http://www.thecraftpackcompany.co.uk/> for an originally designed beautiful range of craft kits for dolls house enthusiasts, as well as offering a range of Craft Supplies for your mini projects.
- Finally Found Miniatures at <http://www.ffminiatures.com/> offer miniature puzzles, ready made or in kit form.
- At <http://www.miniature.ca/securestore/>, Country Classic Miniatures who carry thousands of Dollhouse and Miniature Items, from many manufacturers all over the world.
- Visit <http://www.epdolls.com/> to see a wonderful selection of Ellen Poitras's wonderful one-of-a kind artisan dolls.
- Or, for a different style, go to <http://www.ellepiccolodolls.com/> to see Elle Piccolo's doll art.
- Visit <http://www.inminiature.com/>, for Handcrafted Miniature Furniture Kits and Finished Dollhouse Furniture with quality construction techniques. Kit and Furniture styles are Shaker, Colonial and Country. They also carry Clare-Bell Brass Lamps; MiniGraphics Upholstered Furniture; Finished Dollhouse Furniture; Ceramic Dinnerware and Lamps; Miniature Rugs and Carpets; Miniature Food items and Cookware, Framed Artwork, along with Decorating and Building Supplies.
- Bonnie Lavish, of Lavish Miniatures at <http://www.bonnielavish.com/>, offers a wide variety of kits and finished miniatures including ½ and ¼ scale miniatures. Check out the glove kits!
- Roomboxes, etc. is an interesting site at <http://www.roomboxes.com/> for great pictures to give you ideas.
- Acclaim Miniatures at <http://www.acclaimminiatures.com/> offers fine gold and silver miniatures for the discerning collector, in 1", ½" and ¼" scales.

Techniques – Spatter Painting

Over the next few months, this newsletter will be presenting a series of articles taken from the November 1995 *Nutshell News* on decorative painting techniques for miniatures. This month's topic is spatter painting. In the months to come, there will be short articles on rubber stamping, spongework, stippling, and crackle.

Spattering is a quick way to add colour, interest, and texture to a surface. It can cover flaws on a wall or floor. It has been used extensively over the years to rejuvenate tired and worn linoleum. This was once called spatterdash painting.

You will need:

- Several colors of acrylic paint
 - Old toothbrush
 - Glaze
1. Base coat surface of object to be spattered.
 2. Slightly water down other colours. Dip toothbrush in paint. Blot off excess. Using fingernail or craft stick, pull back on bristles causing spatters of paint to fall on surface of object. You can control the size of the spatters to a certain degree by the amount of paint that is on the brush and the pressure of your finger as it passes over the brush. Obviously, this is quite a messy job so make sure you protect your work surface and anything that surrounds it. It is not necessary to dry paint between coats, but let dry before adding a finishing glaze. Experiment with colours for interesting results.

Suggestions:

Paint a vase, crock, pitcher, etc. with a base coat of white or cream and spatter lightly with clear nail polish for a glaze.

Member Profile – Carol Kokotylo



Carol Kokotylo

Carol has been involved in various crafts since she was a little girl, especially the needle arts, including petit point. More recently, Carol has started making fabulous quilts, including incredible embroidered works of art, that she quilts herself.

Her involvement in miniatures started in the 1980's. She was working at Edmonton Creative Crafts, when they brought in the first batch of miniatures to the

Edmonton scene. She fell in love with the tiny objects, but didn't start to get involved in miniatures as a hobby until 1987. As a teacher, Carol always treated herself to a new craft kit to work on during the Christmas holidays. In 1987, she took the plunge and bought herself a dollhouse kit for Christmas, as well as two old issues of Nutshell News to start to learn about miniatures. There she spotted an advertisement about the opening of the Toy Factory in Edmonton. As she puts it, "I was there within 15 minutes of reading the ad!" The Toy Factory in turn led her to MEE, and she joined the club in 1988.



Carol's First House

That first meeting that Carol attended turned out to be a workshop on making Liquorice Allsorts from Fimo, and Carol has never looked back. Carol believes that she would not be where she is today without her involvement in MEE. First, the pleasure of being with people with similar interests is wonderful. In addition, Carol says that nearly everything she knows about miniatures (which is considerable) she learned from other club members. Although she has taken a few workshops from professionals, the knowledge, expertise and skills she has learned



Carol's Sunflower House

by being part of MEE have been invaluable. Another source of useful information is the eleven miniature magazines she subscribes to (her favourite being Dolls House World from the UK). She also typifies herself as a "major lurker" in several Yahoo on-line miniature groups. Carol's husband and family support her in her miniature obsession. As her husband, John, said, "Miniatures give her an outlet for her creativity, and the camaraderie is very important to her." Carol enjoys exhibiting her work at the MEE shows, and has won awards for her finely detailed creations. For example, the "Sunflower House" illustrated to the left won the People's Choice Award at the show a few years ago.

Carol's collection of roomboxes and dollhouses can best be described as contemporary eclectic. Although primarily in 1:12 scale, she has recently begun making in 1:48 or ¼ inch scale. Carol sees herself as a miniature maker rather than a collector. Although she owns some fine artisan made miniatures, Carol has made the majority of her extensive collection of

miniatures and accessories. She pours, fires, paints, wigs and dresses her own porcelain dolls (which populate and bring life to her room settings), stitches fine petit point rugs, carves wood and upholsters furniture, and finishes everything from floors to stonework. She has little interest in antique miniatures, and looks forward to making "anything I might use someday", since she aims to buy as little as she possibly can. Carol says that her only real problem with miniatures is the number of unfinished project littering her workroom!

Although Carol primarily makes room boxes for her own enjoyment, she sometimes makes them as gifts. One year, she made matching Christmas breakaway boxes for her mother, her two sisters and herself, each one with a personalized mailbox in the front yard.

Carol's most recent project is a five story Victorian she acquired from Paul at the Toy Factory. Although still in its original "naked" state, she will soon be embarking on the myriad of tasks and challenges involved in bringing it to life. She says her original intent was to make it an authentic Victorian, but not being overly interested in historical accuracy, has decided to make it what she calls "contemporary Victorian", with a modern family living in an older home that has Victorian touches. "But how will I ever move it to display it?" she worried. The main house lifts off the base, but it is nearly as tall as she is!

Carol has only one word of advice for new miniaturists, "**Just dive in and go for it!**"



Christmas Room Boxes

Additional member profiles will be appearing in each future issue of your newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Georgia and Walter Prockiw January 4, 1947 Congratulations on your 60th Wedding Anniversary With love always, Chuck and Helena, Elaine and Kevin, Ashley, Andy, Carolyn and Dennis, Alea, Justine, Ryan.

Published in the Edmonton Journal on 1/7/2007.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON-LINE AT: <http://www.camacdonald.com/MEE/>

Contact Tina (487-8943) if you have something you want to sell, or to place an ad or an announcement.