

Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

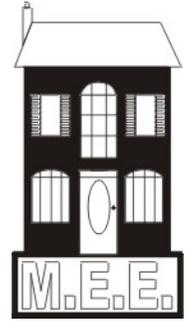
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General Meetings: Held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. (except July, August, and December). at McClure United Church, 13708-74 Street, Edmonton. Workshops are held every 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$2.00 Membership: \$20.00



NOTE: The club still needs a Treasurer!!! To volunteer, please contact Sunni at 459-5240.

Upcoming Club Activities

Christmas Party: The club's annual Christmas Party will be held on December 7, and will be a pot luck dinner. Everyone should try to start coming at 6 p.m., so we can start eating at a reasonable time. Please remember that we have to do the set-up and clean-up, so we should all plan to stay after the meal to share in the chores. If you bring a gift with a value of \$10, you will take part in the gift exchange. If you don't wish to participate that is fine, too. If you would like to be entered in the draw for a mini Christmas tree, please bring at least three (3) tiny ornaments to decorate one of the trees.

Workshops: There will be no workshops in December or January, so the next workshops are February 1, 2005 and February 8, 2005. The February 1st workshop with Bonnie will be a Mary Engelbreit project. Bring scissors and glue. The February 8th workshop will also be put on by Bonnie Maio, and we will build an aquarium. You will need to save your Tic-Tac boxes for this one, but everything else will be provided.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on January 18, 2005. Show and Tell for that night could have a Valentine's theme (and attached are some Victorian Valentine cards to get you started). But of course anything you want to display is always welcome. Food for the January General Meeting will be provided by Bonnie Maio, Pat Carl-Wiggin, and Shirly Parodowski. Cream will be brought by Holly Olds.

All-Day Workshop: will be held on Saturday, May 14 at McClure United Church. Put it on your calendar now, and don't forget to vote for the project you want to do!

Minis On-Line

- Haven't got time to decorate your own Christmas room box? Then decorate one online at: <http://smallstuff-digest.com/dnd/roombox.html>.
- For some Valentine printables, see <http://victorian.fortunecity.com/ferndale/686/vlntn.gif>, or check out <http://www.nutshell.com/nsn/objects/pdf/0102cutout.pdf>.
- For Valentine roombox inspiration, see http://www.gd1.nildram.co.uk/Ronnies_Pages/valentine.htm.

Hints and Tips

- **Tea Tables** -Thread spools make excellent bases for tea tables. Use the large size, paint to compliment the piece you are using for the table top. Kitchen & Bath centers and hardware stores offer Formica samples for choosing counter tops .These are excellent tops for mini tables! Trim off the end with the hole and glue to your base. There are hundreds of colors and patterns to choose from including simulated marble patterns.
- **Warming Fimo/Sculpey** - "When hubby is napping on the couch in front of the TV, slip some Fimo underneath his butt and leave it for about 20 minutes. When you come back, your Fimo will be warm and ready to work!" (This is from one of my on-line discussion groups).
- **Shopping at the Railway Hobby Store** – there are many items to be found in a railway supply store that can be purchased to fit into your dollhouse or roombox, especially if you are working in the smaller scales. In particular, check out the array of trees, foliage and plants. To help you select the right scale, here is a listing of the common railway scales.
 - 1/2" is G scale or 1/24
 - 1/4" is O scale or 1/48
 - S scale, 1/64
 - HO scale 1/87
 - N scale 1/160--close enough to 1:144 for some things to be useful
 - Z scale 1/220
- **Plates** -The cap liners of 2 litre pop bottles are a great source for plates. You can paint them or leave them white and paint on a small delicate pattern.

- **Thinking outside the “Box”** - Looking for inspiration for your next roombox or miniature scene? Want to build in something entirely unique? Can't find just the right container to build that scene you've planned in your head so long? The Miniatures Guide from <http://miniatures.about.com/> has compiled a list of fifty unique containers that can be hollowed out, emptied, transformed, turned upside-down or otherwise modified into roomboxes.

1. Gift bag - baby, birthday, wedding, etc
2. Food or household product boxes - kitchen, bakery, Sweet Shoppe
3. Rubber ducky - beach, bathroom or river/ocean scene
4. Book - just about anything, library, school room, child's room, depends on the theme of the book
5. Orange crate - market stall
6. Computer monitor (hollowed) - office, study, work cubicle
7. Computer base (emptied, back off) - office, study, work cubicle
8. Television – living room, theater
9. Cigar box - gentleman's study, bar
10. Sports helmet - bar scene, sports scene, school scene
11. Ballet shoe box - dance studio, recital, etc
12. Make-up case - hair salon, bathroom, etc
13. Tire - shop, garage, etc
14. Fire hydrant - fire station
15. Pencil box - schoolroom
16. Clay pot - flower shop or garden
17. Watering can - flower shop or garden
18. Ice cream container - sweet shop
19. Candy box - sweets shop, valentine's day scene
20. Cookie tin - birthday party, Christmas scene, sweets shop, kitchen
21. Brief case - business person, professional, office, etc
22. Old paint can - house in progress, workshop, etc.
23. Picnic basket - summer scene
24. Old BBQ grill - BBQ, summer scene or beach scene
25. Paper lanterns - Japanese tea room or sushi restaurant
26. Bird house or cage - pet store
27. Lunch pail or box - diner
28. Sewing basket - quilt shop
29. Bread box - bakery
30. Roach bait box - motel room, restaurant
31. Condom box - bedroom scene
32. Plastic apple - classroom scene
33. Trout creel - camping or fishing scene
34. 30's style wooden case radio - old fashioned living room scene
35. Nativity crèche - a church, horse stable, baptism scene
36. Terrarium - green house
37. Large tea cup - tea shop
38. Coffee cup - coffee shop
39. Baby wipes box - nursery
40. Stuffed animal - child's room, nursery, pet store
41. Hat box - men's study, clothing store, bedroom, etc
42. Old speaker - music studio, teen's room
43. Fish tank - pet store, ocean beach scene
44. Old clock fixtures - clock shop, livingroom, study, etc
45. Large or tall boots - fire station, shoe store, old woman who lives in the shoe, etc
46. Mailbox - mailman scene, neighborhood street
47. CD storage case - teen's room, music room
48. Old meat safe - butcher shop
49. Purse or handbag - women's bathroom or vanity, boutique, "everything but the kitchen sink"
50. Plastic piggy bank - child's room, shopping scene

- Early Valentine cards were rather elaborate affairs and would often contain hidden, passionate messages. Enter this secret world and add that 'hidden extra' to your miniatures. Here are some of the hidden messages in Valentine flowers:
 - Rose – true love
 - Pansy – in my thoughts
 - Daisy – innocence
 - Lilac – first dawning of the emotion of true love
 - Lily-of-the-valley – return to happiness
 - Fuchsia – taste or elegance
 - Tulip – beautiful eyes
 - White lily – purity, sweetness, and modesty
- How to steady your hand and brush while painting – Relax! That starts with your face and neck muscles. First loosen your lower jaw. No, you don't have to sit there with your mouth hanging open, just unclamp your teeth. Next, pry your tongue away from the roof of your mouth. Any time you concentrate, it is clamped up there behind your teeth and it does feel very odd if you just let it hang there in the middle of your mouth. But loosening your tongue muscles also loosens them in your neck, shoulder, arm and fingers and helps you paint that perfect delicate line. I have no idea why this works. (Denise Pritchett/D'Ileprechaun, Bowie, MD)

Upcoming Shows

- **January 28 – 30, 2005:** The Greater Southern California “Masters of the Miniature Arts” Show. Anaheim, California. <http://www.bishopshow.com/southerncal.htm>.
- **February 25 – 27, 2005: Gathering 2005** Theme: “Childhood Memories”. Sponsored by Miniature Enthusiasts of Winnipeg (MEOW). At the Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Join us for a fun filled weekend reliving "Childhood Memories". The registration fee includes Friday reception, Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday Brunch plus many more exciting surprises. During the weekend you'll learn from experienced artisans in a myriad of workshops; marvel at the creativity of our members in the exhibits room; shop til you drop in the sales room; and meet everyone at the public show on Sunday, February 27 from 10am to 4pm! For further info please contact: Betsy Keddie (204) 284-2123 e-mail: bkeddie@mts.net MEOW website: <http://members.shaw.ca/r.cayer/>. Click on “events” to find registration forms and a list of the workshops that will be held.
- **March 30 – April 4, 2005 - Chicago International Dollhouse Show:** Hyatt Regency – Woodfield, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173. For six days this spring, Schaumburg, IL will be a dollhouse and miniatures enthusiast mecca. There are three different shows and exhibitions going on simultaneously. Some will simply showcase and display the masterpieces of scale miniature art created by their members and artisans. Other shows will actually offer classes and workshops so you can learn to do some of these crafts yourself as well. They are each at separate hotels within Schaumburg - but all located near Woodfield Mall and in relatively close proximity to each other. Each of them requires a small fee to enter. The time that all three will overlap is the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd. <http://www.bishopshow.com/chiinfo.htm>.
- **April 9 – 10, 2005 - Miniature Enthusiasts of Montreal 25th Anniversary Show:** 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days, at the Holiday Inn Aeroport, 6500 Cote De Liesse Road, Montreal, Quebec. Contact: Patricia A. Nahorniak, 3610 St. Zotique St. E., Montreal Qc, H1X 1E4 (524-727-1431 evenings and weekends only please) p.nahorniak@sympatico.ca.
- **April 22 – 24, 2005 - London Gathering 2005:** At The Lamplighter Inn, London, Ontario. Theme: "Winter Fantasy". Sponsored by three London Clubs, MEL-B, MEL-A, and Mini Chicks. Check out the website at: <http://www.miniature.net/gathering/2005/>

Tool of the Month – Amati Nail Nailer

This is a great help for those who don't like fiddling around with tiny nails (like in miniature door hinges). This useful tool allows easy positioning of very thin nails. Insert a nail inside the tube; hold the tool near the piece you want to nail, push slightly and the nail is nailed! This tool can be purchased on-line from Stanbridge's Hobbies, <http://www.stanbridges.com.au/toolslist.asp> for \$19.95 US plus shipping.



Be an “Organized” Miniaturist!

If your mini-workshop has reached the point where you can't find a thing, try some of these tips to unclutter your life.

- Try the “10 Minute Toss” - Each day set aside 10 minutes to unclutter a drawer, cupboard, shelf or area that needs attention. Doing that daily keeps clutter under control.
- "Corkboards Cause Clutter" - Instead, buy a mounting strip and hooks (like the kind for hanging kitchen utensils). Mount the strip above the desk in your home office (sounds professional, doesn't it?) and hang BIG bull-nose clips from the hooks. The strip holds a ton. (Sunni tells me that her clips would be so full of papers and stuff that they would look like a rack of ballerina tutus.)
- The plastic containers that come from the store containing organic salad greens make perfect containers for unfinished projects, supplies, etc., and they stack well on a shelf. Or, buy the Zip-lock or Glad-ware food savers. They are cheap enough to buy a lot of them, and clear enough that you can see what is inside. Stackable sweater boxes made by Rubbermaid are also clear and work well when you need more space.
- Visit your local kitchen supply store to buy drawer inserts that can be cut to size to exactly fit your drawer. The inserts designed for spice bottles fit the standard sized acrylic paint bottles perfectly, while the cutlery organizers keep your various X-Acto knives, files, paint brushes, styluses, etc. organized neatly. If your drawer is deep enough, you can even get two layer inserts, with a sliding section on the top.

Editorial Note

As your new editor, I am still looking for any suggestions, comments and mini-gossip for items you might want to see in your newsletter. Please give Tina a call at 487-8943 (or e-mail to tina@camacdonald.com) with any announcements, hints, items of interest or anything else you want included in your newsletter.

Buy in the LOCAL Market!

<p style="text-align: center;">Lynn's Miniatures</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Store, West Edmonton Mall</p> <p>Just introduced - 15 new Heidi Ott dolls just in time for Christmas. Lynn's Christmas shipment of four models of dollhouses has also arrived. Three of the models of dollhouses are fully decorated and on display.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monica's Miniatures</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Artisan Monica Lavoie</p> <p>For your Christmas or Valentines floral fantasy, contact Monica at (780) 924-2349 for floral displays, individual flowers, or flower and plant kits.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PM Hobbycraft (Faye Warthe)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2020J-32 Avenue NE Calgary, Alberta T2E 6T4 Telephone:(403) 291-2733; Fax: (403) 291-5324</p> <p>Sunni recently visited this store, and they have pre-finished dollhouses on display which were reasonably priced (4 rooms for \$330.00) and a nice selection of furniture and accessories made in Spain that were very reasonably priced. There were also dollhouse kits available that were different from things Sunni had seen before. Besides, it was a beautiful store with all kinds of different craft supplies, railroad, airplane, cake, models, etc.</p>	
<p>You can purchase Acid Free Matte Board at Colours Art Supplies, at Stony Plain Road and 149th Street.</p>	<p>Canada Post is now offering an in-scale Canada Post letter box for putting outside your contemporary store.</p>

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

Small is Beautiful???? – by Sunni

The other night while I was watching something on TV, I was putting some books and magazines in the bookshelf, and while I was re-reading them all, I was looking at my "The Dollhouse Book" that is shaped like a house and was reading about Beatrix Potter's dollhouse. When she was writing the story about Lucinda and Jane the two dolls and their foes, Hunca Munca and Tom Thumb, a pair of rogue rodents, she sat down and created doll-sized fruits, vegetables and meats upon which to base her illustrations. After the book was published, she didn't want to throw away her props, so she bought this dollhouse to put all the food into. In "The Tale of Two Bad Mice", Tom Thumb, a husband mouse, and his wife Hunca Munca set out to raid a vacant dollhouse's pantry. Upon discovering that the tempting foodstuffs were just brilliant pieces of painted plaster, the marauding mice throw a fit and smash all of the shiny hams, faux fish and tempting puddings to bits. They then proceeded to loot the dollhouse's contents, dragging off whatever could be crammed through their mouse hole. When the recalcitrant rodents realize that they have wrecked the living quarters of Lucinda and Jane, the two walking, talking dolls of a very real human owner, they realize an unsavory fate awaited them--arrest by a policeman doll or a far darker punishment: the mousetrap. They quickly made financial compensation for their spiteful destruction with a crooked sixpence found beneath the carpet. CUTE OR WHAT! (My mother, Betty, would not think so after seeing a mouse run across her living room under the patio door a few weeks ago. Mom thought she had all the spaces around the water pipes that bring in the heat plugged. She was in a panic for a few days after setting out some poison. She thought she could smell something under the couch where she sits and called her neighbour down the hall to come look. Mom said there was no x@%*# way she was going to look or touch. After all, the other woman had lived on a farm and was much more used to these things. There was the dead mouse and the lucky neighbour proceeded to put it in a bag and it was hastily taken to the dumpster. It could have been a relative of Hunca Munca!. See, not all things small are delightful.)"

Happy Holidays!

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