



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

May, 2005 VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5 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 are 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.
Admission: \$2.00 Membership: \$20.00



Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: The next workshops are June 7, 2005 and June 14, 2005. The June 7th workshop will be a teacup with Luba Barnes and Donna Tamling. The June 14th workshop will be put on by Barb Striethorst who will be doing a flower.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on June 21, 2005. This is our Annual General Meeting and so elections will be held. We are in need of a Treasurer – all other positions have one year to go before expiry. The Treasurer position can be held by either an individual or a team. The Treasurer (or Treasurer “team”) must attend every general meeting but attendance at the workshops is not required. Please consider whether you (or you and a friend) would be willing to take on this position. We REALLY need you!!! Food for the June General Meeting will be provided by Donna Tamling, Luba Barnes, and Karen Duke. Monica LaVoie will bring the cream.

Annual Garage Sale: The June General Meeting is also the time for our annual garage sale, so bring all of those minis that you will not need or no longer want, and let someone else buy and enjoy them. We will still have Show and Tell, so perhaps you have finished your roombox from the all-day workshop and want to show it off. Also, summer and Canada Day are coming fast, so you could also show off your summer-themed work to the club. Collections are fascinating as well. But, as always, anything you want to display is very welcome.

THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER WORKSHOPS OR GENERAL MEETINGS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER!

However, ideas for summer activities are always welcome... how about volunteering to host an open house to show off your whole mini collection? Please share your ideas with the group at the meeting!

Special General Meeting: Because of the way the calendar works, we do not normally have a general meeting in September prior to the Fall Show. However, this year it is proposed that we hold a general meeting on September 13 to deal with any last minute items regarding the Fall Show.

Fall Show Workshops: On Saturday, September 17, 2005 (the day before the fall show), there will be three workshops: Margaret Jarratt (Large Wedding Bouquet – maximum class size is 6 and the price is \$90); Jeanine Shore (Painting Easel – maximum size 12 for \$35); and tentatively with Laurie Saunders (Mailbox with Landscaping – no price yet). Please register as soon as possible with Luba.

MEE Fall Show: will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2005. Please register any items you wish to display with Laurie Saunders (459-6533) before the end of June. Forms are available on the table to register your displays. The club also needs volunteers to sell tickets and to man (woman???) the display room. We need lots of people willing to take on one-hour time slots for every hour from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please check out the Sign-up Sheet on the flip-chart stand for available jobs. Extra registration forms are available from Lil if you need a table at the show.

Brooke Tucker Workshops: will be held on May 2, 3, and 4, 2006 (Soft Victorian for \$650 US) and May 6 and 7, 2006 (Things My Teacher Taught Me for \$475 US). Put these on your calendar now and register with Luba. Half of the payment is required by the third week of September, in US dollars, and the remainder must be paid in full by December Christmas Party. You will receive your pre-workshop kit approximately a month before the workshop. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a master before she retires!

Report on the May 14 All-Day Workshop

The all-day workshop was another very successful event. Lots of people attended, and if you weren't there, you missed a lot of fun! A good time was had by all and the food was great! The consensus was that using one workshop per month to "work up to" the annual all-day workshop was an effective approach and should be repeated in the future.

Many thanks go to Karen Jones for showing us how to electrify the roomboxes, and to Bonnie Lau and Luba Barnes for all the work they undertook to put this wonderful workshop together. You are very much appreciated, guys!

For Sale!

A brand new Greenleaf Dollhouse kit, called Glen Croft, is available for sale. The kit has never been out of its box, and is ready for you to assemble. This cozy Tudor cottage reflects the designers' research into authentic English architecture. With its picket fence and half-timbered exterior, the house is a visual delight; it has silk-screened windows to simulate leaded glass, and a flower box too. Interior features are equally charming. There are four spacious rooms, beamed ceiling, built-in bookcases, two window seats and two fireplaces. A winding staircase completes the mood of this wonderful English Tudor. The finished size is 25 ¼" W x 17 ¾" D x 24 ¼" H. Call Sheila in St. Albert at 458-1785 for more information.



Printable of the Month – Retail Signs

This month's "printie" is a set of signs that may come in useful in your mini-retail establishment. What retail or business establishments are YOU working on – Millinery Shop? Flower Shop? General Store? Antiques and Junque? Doctor's Office???? Let Tina know (487-8943) what other signs would be useful and more retail signs can be prepared for another newsletter next year.

Teena's Challenge

At the March meeting, Teena challenged us to find everyday objects that are useful for minis. Here's a few more ideas:

- Seeds from common flowers and plants can often look like something in the miniature world. For example, dried papaya seeds look like miniature grenades (in ½ or ¼ scale), or overlap flat pumpkin seeds to roof a fairytale cottage.
- Large sewing thread reels, when emptied, make a great base for a table covered with a flowing cloth to the floor.
- Ground pepper from a pepper mill (using red, black, white and green pepper – often called Gourmet Pepper Blend in the spice department) does an excellent imitation of mixed birdseed to add to your mini-feeders.
- Cigarette ash held in place with hairspray adds a realistic touch to fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. I have a friend who needed some ash to add realism to her roombox, so she forced her non-smoking husband to smoke a cigarette so she could purloin the ashes. Then she spent the rest of the night dealing with a cranky (and nauseous) husband. Goodness, what we do for miniatures! If you are surrounded by non-smokers, and need unlimited supplies of the stuff, contact your smoky newsletter editor.

Hints and Tips – Working in Smaller Scales

If you are rapidly running out of room for all those 1:12 dollhouses and roomboxes, you only really have two choices: reduce the size of your collection or investigate the possibility of working in 1:24 or 1:48 scale, other wise known as ½ and ¼ scale. The following table shows the comparative sizes commonly used today.

Comparative Scales (courtesy of the American Miniaturist, March 2005)

Scale	Inches to the Foot	Alternate Name	Ceiling Height: Colonial to Victorian	Height of a 6 foot person	Table Height	Chair Height to Seat
1/6 th	2 inches	Fashion Doll, Barbie, or Play Scale	14" – 24"	12"	5"	2 ½"
1/12 th	One inch	One Inch Scale	7" – 13"	6"	2 ½"	1 ¼"
1/16 th	Three-quarter inch		5" – 9"	4 ½"	2"	1"
1/24 th	Half inch	Half Inch Scale	3" – 7"	3"	1 ¼"	5/8"
1/48 th	Quarter inch	Quarter Inch Scale	5/8"	1 ½"	5/8"	5/16"
1/144 th	One-twelfth inch	Dollhouse's Dollhouse	1/4"	½"	¼"	1/8"

There are increasing numbers of artisans working in the smaller scales, as the following links show.

Minis On-Line

Since the Hints and Tips section of this month's newsletter is about smaller scales, here is a collection of links that you might find interesting to explore:

- http://www.miniatures.com/hbs/global/index2.asp?D=4813&T=shopping&I=aa_ProductsDirIntro.asp – miniatures.com offers a wide variety of kits, furniture, accessories, and other items for 1/144 scale, ¼ inch scale, ½ inch scale, HO Scale (railways) and Play Scale.
- http://www.oakridgehobbies.com/g_scale/half_scale_dollhouses.html - Oakridge Hobbies provides a number of ½ scale dollhouses in fully finished or kit form.
- http://www.oakridgehobbies.com/g_scale/g_136-137.html - Also from Oakridge Hobbies, a selection of ½ scale wallpaper.
- <http://andrewsmini.com/> - Suzanne and Andrew design and create our own line of quarter and half scale house kits. Suzanne also creates quarter scale furniture that she then casts in resin to make an easily accomplished kit for you! They also bring other artisan's quarter and half scale accessories to you so you can easily accessorize your small scale projects.
- <http://scaledesigns.com/store/index.php> - Scale Designs specializes in only 1/2" (1:24) and 1/4" (1:48) dollhouse miniatures from around the world, many artisan-made and one of a kind. Click on the links in the top left hand corner to see pictures of their products.
- http://www.bjminis.com/electrical_tips.html - look here for quarter scale electrification tips.
- http://www.bjminis.com/sf_v6/enter.html - Quarter scale furniture and accessories from BJ Miniatures.

“Buy” of the Month – Wardian Case

Here I go, shopping at Lee Valley Tools again! But look what I found this time.... Sure, the Lee Valley gardeners think that this is a “Wardian Case” for growing delicate or hard-to-grow plants that need high humidity. But it sure looks like a mini-greenhouse to me! Decorate with wicker work and a pretty tea setting, or make it a working greenhouse, with trowels, dirt, bugs, seedlings and plants. Just think, using this case, you could even have real plants growing inside... bonsai anyone?

The powder-coat finish on the metal frame is both durable and attractive, holding tempered glass panels that are easy to clean and, unlike plastic, will not yellow over time. It comes complete with instructions and securely packaged glass pieces that quickly and easily slide into place.

Measures 11" x 19" x 17" high (sides are about 12" high, so you may consider this to be slightly out of scale....). Available at Lee Valley Tools, 18403-104 Avenue, for \$74.95.



FINALLY, in the “What Else Can Go Wrong” Department...

Godzilla Kitten on the Prowl



Is that kitten really rubbing her paws together in anticipation of getting into that mini-breakfront cabinet?
Or maybe she's spotted some mini-mice?

Enjoy your May long weekend!

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.