



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

September, 2006 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 7 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. 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 September 12, 2006 and September 19, 2006. These workshops will be held by Luba Barnes. The October workshops will be held on October 3rd and October 10th and will be discussed at the September meeting.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on October 17th, 2006.

Fall Show Workshops: On Saturday, September 16, 2006 (the day before the fall show), there will be two workshops: Sue-Anne Thwaite will be doing two classes of 12 making a Dutch Baby House filled with shops. Also, Debbie Montague will be doing a Christmas village. There are 2 slots left for the Christmas Village, and one place left for the Baby Houses. Please register as soon as possible with Luba. Both workshops will be held at McClure United Church, our home base.

MEE Fall Show: Will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2005, at the Best Western Westwood Inn, 18035 Stony Plain Road. The club also needs volunteers to sell tickets and to man (woman???) the display room. We still 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 talk to Lil to sign up.

Karen's Korner – a Message from Your President

"As your newly elected president, I would like to welcome you all back to the Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton club, with a particularly warm hello to the new members that have joined us in the past year. I am hoping to become a contributing writer for the newsletter each month, to share ideas and thoughts about miniatures with you. The members of your new Executive are all looking forward to another great year, with lots of ideas and initiative! We're going to have fun!"
-- Karen Jones

Printable of the Month – Back to School

This month's "printie" celebrates back to school, with a number of things for your school room walls. Or, hang the two posters in your teenager's room, stick the children's art on your fridge, and put the map in your old man's study!

Lynn's Miniatures

Lynn's Miniatures now has wood trim boards, many accessories, and wallpaper and is now taking special orders on doors, windows etc. Phone number is 702-7463.

Lynn's Miniatures Calgary address is:
The Amaze Store,
#117, 565- 36st N.E.
Tel: 403-536-3491

Techniques – Marbling

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 marbling. In the months to come, there will be short articles on stencilling, bambooing, spatter painting, verdigris, rubber stamping, spongework, stippling, and crackle.

Marbling is a craft that has been practiced for many years. Much that we see is meant to represent marble rather than duplicate it exactly. This is probably due to the fact that there are so many varieties of marble and wide ranges of colours and patterns. Most of us have our own ideas of what marble should look like and that is what is important for this painting project. There are two methods explained here and one or the other can be used on almost any surface.

Method 1 (Painting): You will need: acrylic paints (two colours for the marble, and one more for the veining), a natural sponge, a pointed feather, and glaze (acrylic). The base colour of the piece you are painting should be lighter than or as light as the lightest colour in your finished marble colour scheme. These directions assume that you are making a greyish marble, but you can substitute the colours to make any combination you want. You just need reasonable contrast between the three shades you have chosen for your "marble". When making a greyish marble, the base colour should be white.

1. Make a wash using a medium grey colour. Pick up on a dry sponge and blot over the white surface in a random pattern. Let dry.
2. Make a wash of black and lightly blot over grey in a random pattern. Let dry.
3. Mix a bit of black acrylic with a bit of water and acrylic medium or paint extender/retarder. Dip the tip of the feather in mix and use to trail a wobbly vein of paint over the surface. Let dry.
4. Glaze dried surface.

Remember, this is an illusion of marble, so have fun and when it looks right to you, it is right. Try to keep the scale of the sponging and veining in proportion to the size of the piece you are marbling, for example, doing floor tiles. Marble usually comes in smaller pieces, so if you are doing a large area, such as a floor, it will look better to divide it into smaller squares, and paint each individually. Cutting a clear plastic stencil to the size of the square desired will help keep the paint off the other squares. Veining is usually done in black, white or tan. This technique is useful for doing floor tiles, table and bar tops, fireplaces and surrounds, garden urns, planters, etc.

Method 2 (Dipping): You will need a prepared surface (non-porous or sealed to be that way), acrylic paint, Testors oil-based enamel paint, a container large enough to submerge the piece to be painted, tweezers and wax paper.

1. Paint the piece to be marblized white or a color darker or lighter than the colour used for the marble. Let dry.
2. Fill container with water. Drop dots of enamel paint into the water using a toothpick. The oil paints will float on the surface, allowing you to swirl the colours to get a pleasing pattern.
3. Using tweezers, quickly dip the piece to be marblized into the water, and right back up again. The floating paint will instantly stick to the surface in a marble pattern. An easy technique, but you must work fast once the paint is in the water, as it will form a skin on top if it sits too long. It is best to practice with card stock scraps to get the hang of dipping before doing a good piece. You will find it fascinating.
4. Place item on waxed paper to dry.

This technique is most useful for graniteware dishes, enamel ware, or other small decorative items.

"Tool" of the Month – Three-scale Ruler

Designed by a miniaturist, the FigRule features a handy size; clear, flexible vinyl construction for measuring around curves; a convenient list of standard measures; and three scales--all in one rule! Work easily and precisely in one inch, half-inch, and quarter-inch scales. Whichever miniature scale you prefer, the FigRule is a useful addition to your tool box. With the FigRule you can easily scale down full sized or larger scale objects without calculators or complicated math conversions. Purchase for \$5 US on line at: <http://home.comcast.net/~figrule/wsb/html/view.cgi-home.html-.html>.



Fall Show Directory

6th Annual Show and Sale - September 15-16, 2006. 100 W. 86th St. Indianapolis IN. Sponsored by The Museum of Miniature Houses, Carmel, IN. Hours: Fri. 5 to 8 pm, Sat. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission: Adults \$6, Members \$5, Children 6 to 12 \$3. Admission good both days. Proceeds benefit The Museum of Miniature Houses. Free parking. Information: 317-575-9466 or mmhaoc@aol.com

Columbus Miniature Society Show – October 7, 2006. 2425 Bethel Rd Columbus Ohio. Dollhouse Show & Sale 10 AM to 4 PM featuring dealers, raffles, food, and make-it take-it workshops. Email: Colsminis@yahoo.com Website: http://www.columbus_miniatures.tripod.com.

Showcase of Miniatures –October 14-15, 2006. Parkside Hall, 180 Park Avenue, San Jose CA. Showcase of Miniatures (Good Sam Show) October 14 from 10 am to 5 pm, & October 15 from 11 am to 4 pm, 2006. Workshops: October 13, 2006. 31st annual show. Largest miniature show west of the Mississippi. Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors (62+) \$5, Children 5-12 are \$3, under 5 are free No strollers or rolling backpacks Over 100 dealers, 5 from other countries Over 75 displays to see Free Tools & Techniques Program Sunday 9:30-11 am Doorprizes, drawings, children's workshops. Benefits local PlaneTree Health Library. Further info: Barbara Jones (408)257-9385 or northbaj@att.net, or <http://goodsamshowcase.miniature.net>.

Miniature Enthusiasts of Toronto – October 14-15, 2006. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada. The Miniature Enthusiasts of Toronto (MET) present their annual show and sale of fine miniatures. The show will be held on October 14 & 15 from 10AM to 5PM daily. Admission is \$8.00 and parking is free. Workshops will be held on the 13th of October. Website <http://www.miniature.net/met>. Event organizer; Carmen Paterson Carmen.Paterson@rogers.com.

A Grand Affair in Miniature – October 20-21, 2006. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2345 Robinson Road East, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA 49506. Friday, Oct. 20, 3pm-8pm; Saturday, Oct. 21, 10am-4pm. Admission: \$5 Adults; \$3. Students and children (children under 5 free). Wonderful exhibits in the church's beautiful atrium; no strollers; free parking; handicapped accessible. Check web site for future information on workshops. Information: Joyce Torrey, JTorrey1@netzero.com, (616)866-1610. Website: <http://www.Mayflowerchurch.org>.

Dollhouse and Miniatures Show and Sale – November 12, 2006. Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA. The Miniature Enthusiasts of Winnipeg are pleased to host their annual "Dollhouse and Miniatures Show and Sale" on Sunday, November 12, 2006. Show Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Adults=\$3; Seniors and Children (12 and under)=\$2. Lots of exciting displays, door prizes, raffles, and miniature treasures for sale! Wheelchair accessible. No strollers please. Plenty of parking. For information: Website: <http://members.shaw.ca/r.cayer> E-mail: linsminis@shaw.ca. Phone: (204)257-9547 (Dianna).

Tips and Hints - Miscellaneous

- If your dog happens to have a run in with a porcupine, save the quills. When cut down to a suitable length, they closely resemble wax candles. Inserted into formal candle holders or the Wee Willie Winky type of holder, they are quite convincing.
- For purchases in your mini-store you need equally small credit cards. Cut the small reproductions from letterheads, advertising, etc. Laminate them, between two small pieces of clear adhesive tape, then trim to size.
- If you need window boxes for your dollhouse, the molded plastic covers from disposable razors work very well. Fill with tiny flowers and greenery, then use small brads or straight pins to attach them to the sills or balcony rails. The clear plastic boxes can be painted with acrylics or model enamels.
- Edge trim, which is normally used on full sized paneling, comes in a variety of colours and wood grain finishes. Cut with sharp shears or a mini saw and use it to neatly finish off the exposed edges of your roombox floors and walls. Also, when heated with a hair dryer, it becomes quite flexible and can readily be bent around curves. An 8 foot length is quite inexpensive and will trim many rooms.

Since I am retiring at the end of this month, this little article rang a bell for me. Hope you enjoy it. – Tina

A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE ON RETIREMENT

A teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their vacation. One child wrote the following:

"We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Victoria and now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people.

They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear nametags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed, because it is all right now.

They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool, too, but they all jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

At their gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts.

My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night: Early Birds. Some of the people can't get past the man in the dollhouse to go out. So the ones who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it potluck.

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded some day, too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. But I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren."



**You spent the past 60 years collecting
miniatures! I, for one, thank God
you can't take it with you!**

Let's Enjoy Our Show!

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.