

The Dollmaker's Dispatch

Published Monthly by

Michigan Doll Makers Guild

Oldest Doll Club in Michigan, Chartered in 1978

<http://michigandollmakersguild.com/>

APRIL 2011



MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

Michigan Doll Makers Guild will meet at 6:00 PM, Thursday, April 1, 2011 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp, MI. Barb Tornow will present the program—she will display and discuss her doll collection. Members and associate members who have not paid dues are urged to pay them at this meeting or send them to the address on the back page of this newsletter.

A Very Special Project

MEETING DATE

**Thursday,
APRIL 7, 2011
6:00 P.M.**

**Clinton-Macomb Public
Library
40900 Romeo Plank Road,
Clinton Twp, MI
(586) 226-5000.**

2010 Executive Board

**Diane Boatman—President
Linda McArthur—Vice President
Rita Paulus —Secretary
Beverly Loftis—Treasurer
Beverly Loftis—Membership
Jane Covington—
Newsletter Editor**



By Jane Covington

In the mid 1980's Karin Buttigieg (pronounced boot-i jay), a very talented dollmaker and instructor for Seeley's, was asked by Eric Ericson, owner of Seeleys, to write a book on French Bebes.

She chose the Long Face Jumeau doll (shown) as the star of the book.

For the first time, this world leading doll artist, describes in detail how to re-create the romantic, old look of the masterful French dolls. It details the greenware preparation all the way through china painting the Long Face Jumeau. Plus: very detailed instructions and patterns to design

and sew the costume and underwear of a French Bebe; sew and embellish a dream of a hat; crochet a perfect replica of an antique doll's handbag; work in leather to make classic leather shoes, handbag and gloves; construct and decorate stunning parasols, a lace fan and a lorgnette, all of which work beautifully. I have wanted to start this doll for years.

Our group decided to take on this project. Now, one year later we will show our progress and tell where we go from here. **Continued page 3.**

APRIL HOSTESSES - Ila Hoetger, Linda McArthur, and Karen Tracz

Submitted by Linda McArthur:

FROZEN SLIP: HOW TO FIX

By Teresa DeSantis

New York Doll Products, Inc.

When winter and the cold weather arrives in some parts of the world you may wonder how that will affect your New York Doll Products porcelain slip.

Have you ever gone to pour and found, to your dismay, that your porcelain container was frozen solid? Well, you need not worry! Many people throughout the ages have frozen slip and clay on purpose to improve its plasticity and working properties. Freezing helps to mechanically break down the clay particles and to loosen the particle bonds within the slip.

When the slip is thawed and thoroughly mixed, it becomes a much more resilient and plastic mix, with improved casting, release properties and green strength. When frozen porcelain slip thaws, it may seem gooey and stringy, like tapioca. To re-store the slip to its original vigor, here are some simple steps.

1. Thaw New York Doll Products porcelain slip; let it reach room temperature.
2. Then loosen it up by stirring with a wooden stick.
3. Empty the slip into a wide mouthed bucket
4. Mix slip with a drill mixer until there are no more lumps and strings
5. After mixing, check the slip by sticking your hand into it and letting it run off the ends of your fingers. If it seems a little thick at this point, add a little distilled water to bring it down to a pourable consistency. If you do add anything, be sure to remix thoroughly.
6. Screen the slip back into a cleaned container. If there are any lumps remaining, push them through with a rubber spatula. Give the slip a quick swish around and your ready to cast.

NOTE on mixers: Drill mounted mixers are preferable because they are flexible and mobile. Blades are available in nylon and stainless steel. (When you mix slip, don't let the blades touch the bottom or sides of your container, or plastic shavings may be introduced into the slip.) You can also obtain good results using a Slip Whiz. Happy mixing! Questions? Contact us!

New York Doll Products, Inc. *

www.newyorkdollproducts.com * Email:
info@newyorkdollproducts.com

Gems from the Internet !

Print Your own Fabric~

Very interesting website—you can make your own design and have it printed on fabric.



<http://www.spoonflower.com/>

Celluloid Dolls

With today's strong emphasis on toy safety, it is almost unimaginable that children were ever allowed to play with celluloid dolls. Why? Well, the strong myth about celluloid dolls is that they can spontaneously combust or easily burst into flames if they are hot.

<http://collectdolls.about.com/od/dollprofiles/p/celluloiddolls.htm?nl=1>

Doll Repair—A Dying Art

A recently posted nostalgic article and photo about a famed doll doctor in Doncaster, England, Charles Miller, who died in 1951.

http://www.thestar.co.uk/community/nostalgia/legend_of_the_doll_doctor_1_3212283

Ken is 50 !

Now that Ken's mid-life crisis is over (he broke up with Barbie in 2004 and had a make-over in 2006), Barbie and Ken have reunited! Ken is celebrating a big birthday this year--Ken is 50, as he was introduced by Mattel in 1961, and is actually two years younger than Barbie, who was introduced in 1959. See more about Ken through the ages in our Ken Slide Show:

<http://collectdolls.about.com/library/blken.htm>

Look What We Did !

"Long Face Jumeau"



This page is available for members to share Photos, Stories, etc. Items may be mailed to me or e-mailed. Both addresses (snail & e-mail) are available on page 4. Photos will be returned, if requested.

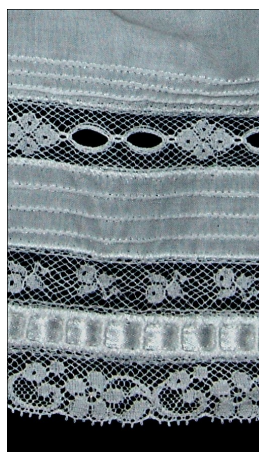
SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE WORKING ON!

At the left is Ila Hoetger's petticoat for her doll. She has added entre-deaux (the ladder-like insertion between the cloth and lace at the neckline.) Only French seams are used for the underwear. The lacework is done by hand. The sleeve lace is identical to the neck lace. The left photo shows a close-up of the front panel and the neck. In this type of work the insertion lace must have the outer thread pulled to make the neck closure smaller to make the neck closure fit.

The Jumeau doll is 25" tall. The head is a number 13 (Seeley mold S179) on a French jointed 18 inch composition body (Seeley's). One of the advantages of a comp body is that one can start the clothing while the head is being painted—since the body is intact and the head will be added when the china painting is done. At the beginning of chapter 4, the underwear—petticoat and underpants, there is a rather long list of materials required for all sewn garments. Among Ms. Buttigieg's demands: a Bernina sewing machine (she does admit that "you might have your own favorite.") Schmetz sewing machine needles #60 ("if they are unavailable, ask to have them ordered or change your sewing machine shop.") Size 12 hand sewing needles. GET WHERE WE ARE GOING?

For the underwear—the finest cotton lawn or batiste, cotton Valencia insertion lace, cotton Valencia edge lace, and Swiss embroidery insertion lace. Continue at top right.

The Delicate Underwear



Linda McArthur's Jumeau underclothing, petticoat and drawers are shown in the far left photo. The drawers have the same method of structure as the petticoat except the waist has a casing and ribbon closure.

The other photo shows a close-up of the edge of the petticoat skirt. The bottom rows of lace are separated by a row of faggoting with white satin ribbon drawn through.

From the Editor...

Happy Easter !



As I think of spring and gaze out the window at the huge snowflakes coming down, my wish right now is to be able to walk outside without a coat. Maybe next week.

I hope everyone will enjoy our progress on our journey through the instructions of Madame Buttigieg and her demanding level of work. It is enjoyable to achieve each level and look back on what has been accomplished, but the patterns, etc. are very demanding. For example, the pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowances. In order to be exact—the pieces must be drawn around—and the seam allowance added. The drawn line is the seam, not the allowance. It makes everything much more precise—but it sure hurts to have to recut a piece of expensive fabric.

Ila and Linda are following the rules EXACTLY.

Rita Paulus is making the same underwear and the same size doll, but her doll is the German Mien Liebling, so her outer clothes will be a bit different.

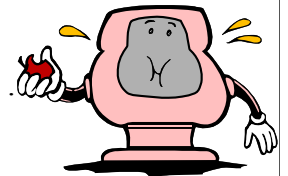
I am doing the Long Face Jumeau, but I am doing a larger one. The story is that my china painting instructor in Texas ordered me a French comp body for a 25" doll. But she ordered a 25" body which makes a 31" doll or more. I kept the large body all these years and decided to use it. (The body cost \$75 back then—now it costs \$206). So, it was cheaper to buy the mold for the larger head. Of course, this presented the problem of making the patterns and everything else larger. I finally did the math and figured out that if I multiplied the pattern pieces and everything by 1.47, it worked and everything fit. I'm OK as long as I can keep up with the calculator!!!

We, as a group have our work for the next year—but we have paused for a short while to make Easter bunnies. The Imsco rabbit mold for the Alice in Wonderland set, makes the cutest bunny.

Keep those cards and photos coming—I need them for the next newsletter!!

See you at the meeting!

Jane Covington, Editor
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