

The Dollmaker's Dispatch

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Michigan Doll Makers Guild

Oldest Doll Club in Michigan, Chartered in 1978

<http://michigandollmakersguild.com/>

MAY 2011



MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011

Michigan Doll Makers Guild will meet at 6:00 PM, Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp, MI. The program will be "Worry Dolls" presented by Diane Boatman and Alesia Ruffin. Read the legend of the Worry Dolls on page 2.

Frozen Charlottes

Former Guild president Barb Tornow presented the April 2011 program featuring her collection of vintage dolls. Many of her dolls are known as Frozen Charlottes. The photo on this page shows a collection of similar sized Charlottes.

Frozen Charlotte is a name used to describe a specific form of china doll made from ca. 1850 to ca. 1920. It is made in the form of a standing, usually naked figure molded all in one piece. The dolls ranged in size from under an inch to 18 inches plus. The smallest dolls were sometimes used as charms; smaller sizes were very popular for putting in doll's houses. Occasionally versions are seen with a glazed china front and an unglazed stoneware back. This enabled the doll to float on its back when placed in a bath. They are also made in bisque, and can come in white, pink-tinted, or, more rarely, painted black. Some rare examples have molded chemises. Male dolls (identified by their boyish hairstyles) are called Frozen Charlies.



Most Frozen Charlottes ranged in height from one to four inches. The one-inch-sized dolls were commonly known as "penny dolls" because they generally sold for one cent. The popularity of Frozen Charlottes can be attributed, in part, to the fact that their relatively low price allowed children to accumulate a collection of dolls with which to play. More of Barb's dolls may be seen on page 3.

MEETING DATE
Thursday,
MAY 5, 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
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Beverly Loftis—Membership
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Newsletter Editor

The Legend of the Worry Dolls

Worry Dolls are tiny, hand-crafted dolls from Guatemala. The dolls are clothed in traditional Mayan costumes and stand one-half to one inch tall.

Guatemalan artisans bind pieces of wood together or twist together short lengths of wire to create a frame and fashion a torso, legs, arms, and head. By winding cloth and yarn around the frame, the artisans give the doll shape.

They use scraps of traditional woven fabric to make the doll costumes and wind more yarn to create the head, hair, feet and hands. Sometimes, they add a tiny woven basket or other traditional implements. Finally, they place a set of 6-8 dolls in tiny wooden boxes or cloth pouches for sale.

The indigenous people from the Highlands in Guatemala created Worry Dolls many generations ago as a remedy for worrying.

According to the Mayan legend, when worrying keeps a person awake, he or she tells a worry to as many dolls as necessary. Then the worrier places the dolls under his or her pillow. The dolls take over the worrying for the person who then sleeps peacefully through the night. When morning breaks, the person awakens without the worries that the dolls took away during the night.

A variation of the legend instructs a person to tell the dolls her worries then place them in their cloth



pouch or wooden box before going to bed.

Gems from the Internet !

Kate Middleton Doll ~



<http://www.franklinmint.com/Kate-Middleton-Royal-Engagement-Vinyl-Doll-P11284.aspx>

New Doll Magazine

From Karen on the Doll List:

You may have heard the scuttlebutt about a **new doll magazine, International Doll Artist**, on the market. This magazine has been started by Karen Martinez, Joyce Murch, and Terrie Strohecker in hopes of using it to draw all of us dollmakers together, rather than just concentrating on one particular group. This magazine is totally independent of any group, and no membership is required in any organization for subscription privileges, contrary to some of the recent speculation. It is true that the founders of this new publication are no longer affiliated with the Doll Artisan Guild, which is a direct result of their decision to develop this new quarterly magazine. I'm really excited about it and can't wait to see it. You can click on this link for a preview:

<http://www.internationaldollartist.com/index.html>.

Mohair for Sale

Am offering washed, dyed, combed mohair for dolls and crafts at \$15 per oz. plus \$2.50 shipping. You can choose from the following colors:

Natural colors: sandy blond brown, light brown, medium brown, auburn, dark brown, and black.

Exotic colors: pink, purple, yellow, pearl blue-green, blue. You can order a sampler pack (five colors, adding up to one ounce) for the same price. Thanks,

Jeanette Roberts See photos at:

<http://naturalfiberandyarn.blogspot.com/2011/04/mohair-samples.html>

Look What We Did !

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!

Barb Tornow:

“This is a part of my many years of collecting small dolls - Compo, Porcelain, Wood, Steel, and Plastic.

Some of these dolls are from my Grandmother's collection. The Pontiac, Michigan news paper called her the “Doll lady of Pontiac” back in the late 40 s . She had over 1000 dolls in her collection of all sizes . Her name was Minnie Wood.

My Mom didn't collect dolls but loved to dress them. She would come up with Crochet outfits for them. She made the Mrs. Santa ,and the Snowman out of Leggs eggs.

Howdy Doody ,and Mr. Bluster were given to me for Christmas by my Mom ,and Dad when they first came out. They were played with a lot . Others were played with but I took very good care of them. “



From the Editor...

Spring, Spring, Spring!

I have to admit my goof... As everyone knows I complain at every meeting because I haven't received anything from members to put in the newsletter. Well, I received a letter and a picture with a terrific tip from Bev Loftis and promptly misplaced the photo. I will find it about 5 minutes after this has gone to the internet. But Bev has a great idea and explains it very well:

"At our last meeting we were talking about how we stored our doll magazines. I store mine in boxes that I have covered in contact paper. These are Tide detergent boxes. They had a handle that went side to side over the top. (They have stopped making them like this anymore.)

I can store 2 years of books in one box. I have about 8 or 10 boxes. This has worked out really good for me. They are stored out of my way, up on top of my craft cabinet and they are real easy to get to. I have put a label on the handle so I can go right

to the year that I am looking for. I think that they look kind of pretty up there."

They really did look pretty, Bev, and thanks for the great idea!

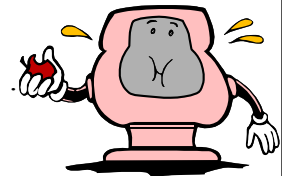
Also, thanks to Karen Hayes for sending me information about longtime former member Roberta Goll who passed away April 2, 2011. Her husband, Bernard, passed away a month earlier, March 7, 2011. Her obituary noted that she made porcelain dolls and won awards at Guild shows. Thanks, Karen.

Diane Boatman brought the raffle Santa to me - costuming will be finished the first of June. She, Linda McArthur, Ila Hoetger poured the molds, painted the porcelain, and made and stuffed the body. This is a large Santa and the raffle tickets will be sold after costuming. Diane will have tickets for the collector's plates with the antique doll portraits that will be auctioned.

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

See you at the meeting!

Jane Covington, Editor
covington2@aol.com



Michigan Doll Makers Guild
Jane Covington
707 Covington Lane
Marysville, MI 48040