

## Intriguing New Discovery: Gothenburg Covers Gather No Dust

By Sue Morse

**W**E THOUGHT WE HAD COVERED all bases when we provided information about the Stockholm front panel in previous issues. To our knowledge, no one had information about a Gothenburg cover. It turns out that two eBay sellers, one of them our own, Lis Garner, UK, have awakened a new search into the previously unknown Gothenburg front panels, which slip into the frames on the front of the house.

Even more information came out of Lis's auction of the Gothenburg shield. A Lundby collector from the US notified Lis that she owned a very different type of molded plastic cover for the Gothenburg.

### eBay Listing Presents Gothenburg Dust Shield

An eBay listing in late February of 2010 was the first occasion that I had ever seen plastic cover pieces on a Gothenburg. My curiosity led me to email the seller to ask her about whether this cover was manufactured or handmade. She not only confirmed that the covers came with the dollhouse when it was originally purchased in the UK, but also that panels were made for the original two-story section and the extension level. As a child, she was always encour-



*The see-through plastic cover is molded to fit perfectly into the front of the Gothenburg.*

aged to put the covers back on the front to keep the dust out.

Later in the spring Lis Garner also listed plastic covers on eBay. Lis stated in her description that the UK covers were believed to have been supplied by Lundby of Sweden to shops in order to display houses without gathering too much dust! It was during Lis's auction that Carole Thall, an interested watcher from the US, wrote to tell Lis that she also owned a Gothenburg cover, which she purchased in the 1970s.

This comment intrigued us so much that, with Lis's help, we tracked down Carole, who still has the Gothenburg dollhouse and cover from 1975. Carole tells the story that she purchased her Lundby dollhouse

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*Carole Thall's "poor worn-out dust protector shield" that she purchased with her original 1970s Lundby dollhouse.*



*The rare Gothenburg front cover pieces offered by the UK eBay seller. This shield, designed with bricks, windows, and doors painted under the plastic, differs from the transparent covers sold in the US.*

## Looking Back: Five Years Ago

- ♥ **Lundby at a Crossroads.** A stunning decision by the Micki Toy Company to discontinue exporting Lundby products to the US and Canada disappointed many collectors. However, the introduction of the new Stockholm house, due to be released in September 2005, raised US and Canadian collectors' hopes that they would be able to obtain Lundby somehow.
- ♥ **The Danish Competitors of Lundby.** Lisa of Denmark and Hanse dollhouses were very collectible during the 1960s. Australian member Anna-Maria Sviatko's Lisa house shows how the Lisa resembles Lundby except that the sunken room with balcony feature is flipped to the left side.
- ♥ **Calling all Children.** We sent a special drawing of a Lundby dollhouse, created by Carolyn Frank, VA, for the House Decoration contest. The winner was revealed in the December 2005 issue.
- ♥ **Falling in Love.** Judy Mosholder, PA, and Linda Hanlon, VA, tell how they first fell in love with Lundby. Judy owns a very rare Gothenburg with a hangtag.

COVERED LUNDBY  
GATHERS NO DUST

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for \$25 at the Lazarus Department Store in Columbus, Ohio. There was a huge stack of the molded plastic covers selling for \$5.00 apiece and Carole wonders whatever happened to them. Her cover is now cracked, brittle, and yellowed from age.

Carole would love to see the Micki Company produce these covers again. Shall we start a campaign for Gothenburg dust shields? If any members have more information on these dust shields, please email us. ♥

## An Awesome Dockskåp Exhibit at the Vänerborgs Museum

By Sue Morse

TEN YEARS AGO IN FALL 2000, perhaps the best exhibit ever of Lundby dollhouses was presented in the Ålvsborgs Lansmuseum in the Swedish city of Vänersborg. The Lundby gallery definitely grabbed the spotlight of a one-time exhibit of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Swedish dollhouses.

Visitors could view the dollhouses during a three-month period (September 3 to November 26, 2000). During the October weekend that I visited the exhibit, Micki Toy Company promoted the new Lundby line. Read more about this exhibit in the first issue (November 2004) of *The Lundby Letter*. ♥



Thirteen Lundby houses from 1963 to 1990 were shown in a framework resembling a Lundby dollhouse. Luckily, the Ålvsborgs Lansmuseum was able to acquire this valuable dollhouse collection for a mere symbolic sum of money, through the former branch manager in Lerum, Bo Johansson.



Photo courtesy of Paul Schreiner

## We Love Lundby Club Greets ScanFest Attendees

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HAVE A SWEDISH CHILDHOOD! While Sue and Peter Kopperman maintained the Swedish tradition at their outdoor marketplace at the 26<sup>th</sup> ScanFest over Labor Day weekend, WLLC members Sue Morse, VA, left, and Maria Cannizzaro, NC, right, pose next to the Exhibitors sign. They were almost blinded by the bright September sun in Budd Lake, NJ.

Inside the tent behind them was the We Love Lundby Club table which drew many admirers of the Lundby Gothenburg dollhouse, the center of attention of the exhibit! We welcomed many visitors who expressed their love of Lundby and their desire to get back in touch with their Swedish childhoods.

## Lundby's Leksand Furniture

WE ALL LOVE THE LEKSAND furniture, the rustic painted pieces which were introduced by Lundby in 1971. The first items shown in the catalog were the rocking chair in blue, the corner cupboard in both red and blue, the Mora grandfather clock in blue, and the hope chest or trunk in blue. According to **Elisabeth Lantz**, all items from 1971 were painted with the flower pattern. The motif with the dalahorses and folk dancers took over in 1972, so the Leksand pieces from 1971 are extremely rare.

Shown at right are Leksand items from two German members, **Heike Krohn** and **Nicola Schenk**. Heike owns many pieces of Lundby manufactured in the Hohenwestedt factory. To learn a bit more about new member Nicola's Lundby obsession, take a look at her wonderful Lundby photos at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/32082400@N00/sets/72157622800428474>. ♥



One of Nicola's Flickr photos is the painted Leksand red dining room with the rare Mora clock.



Heike shares an image of her red Rustic dining room set from the Hohenwestedt factory. Note that this set of red furniture is unpainted.

## Third International Lundby Festival Held in Stockholm

FOR A WEEK THIS SUMMER, **Elisabeth Lantz** hosted Lundby collectors **Stella Goodman**, UK, and **Sieglinde Nedomansky**, Austria, along with member **Linda Bancroft**, UK, in her Stockholm home. The group had great fun sightseeing by boat, browsing through the miniature stores, purchasing at the flea markets, and renovating their finds.

The festival photographer, **Sieglinde**, invites you to view the festival pictures on her fantastic website, <http://nedomansky.aon.at>. Click first on the spinning globe and then click on events, which will take you to the International Lundby Festival



Left to right, **Elisabeth Lantz**, **Linda Bancroft**, and **Stella Goodman** check out the new miniatures shop in Stockholm.

Stockholm, Sweden (July 2010). You'll love your tour through Stockholm and environs. Special thanks to **Sieglinde** for the great photos. ♥

### Correction from an Interested Reader

**OLLE OLSSON** from Kista, Sweden, wrote in July that he noticed a mismatch in values of the Swedish Kronor and US Dollar in a sentence on the History Page on the WLLC website. The detail he questioned is below:

*"Before Lundby folded, however, the museum in Vänersborg succeeded in buying a set of dollhouses from the entire producing period for a symbolic amount of SEK 1250 or USD 850!"*

Olle explained that, in the year 1993, the official exchange rates varied between 7.24 and 8.35. So if we approximate the exchange rate at 8 SEK/USD, we get the sum of \$156 USD, instead of \$850. Thanks to you, Olle, for setting us straight. The incorrect information either was due to a typo or a math moron (moi). It will be corrected on the website. ♥

## Lundby Connections

OUR CURRENT LUNDBY CONTACT at **Micki Toy**, **Annelie Baert**, reports that **Kristina Aronsson's** baby was born the beginning of April. Her name is **Signe** and both mom and baby are doing well. We're sure that **Signe** will have her pick of Lundby dollhouses when she's old enough! **Kristina** will resume her duties as the **Micki** Product Manager next spring, and we wish her great fun taking care of her little girl.



Member **Sharon Barton, CA**, married **John Maggio** on August 7 at the historic **Mission Inn** in **Riverside, CA**. Congratulations to the newlyweds! We hope they will enjoy the gift of the miniature Lundby bride and groom from 2000 to commemorate their special day.



**Because of the WLLC**, some eBayers know more about the Lundby laundry sink doors. The eBay seller wanted to know when the color of the cabinet doors changed from brown to white. A quick check of the catalogs revealed that the laundry sink, first offered in 1979, had a brown door and the 1985 Lundby catalog shows the cabinet with a white door. Now you all know too!



Our Swiss member, **Sonja Spahn-Willy**, tell us that when she was in Paris early in the summer, she found three doll shops with the new line of Lundby items. She notes that **Micki Toy** seems to be continuing the wide marketing of Lundby.



If any British member could use a free Lundby transformer, **Karin Schrey**, Germany, has one that she can't use. Contact her at [SchreyJournal@aol.com](mailto:SchreyJournal@aol.com).



A Flickr page with the **Das Puppenhaus** cards? Our new member **Nicola Schenk**, Germany, sent us this collection which shows pictures of nearly all the cards in the deck. You too can see them at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/diepuuppenstubensammlerin/sets/72157622968965976/>. ♥

# Members in Focus

TWENTY-THIRD IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Sue Morse

IMAGINE A CELEBRATION for Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria's June 19 wedding set here in the US. If you had been at Klaradal Swedish Antiques and Furnishings, owned by Sue Kopperman and her husband Peter, you could have watched on Sue's computer the entire wedding streaming live as it ran on Swedish TV. To add to the festivities, Sue served homemade Princess Cake and champagne punch.

How did a woman born in Philadelphia become such a Swedish entrepreneur? Her story is a fascinating one! Life events and earning a BA degree in business management from Franklin and Marshall College helped prepare her for the opening of Klaradal in Olney, Maryland, almost seven years ago.

Klaradal got its name from a country house located in Bjornlunda, Sweden, near Gnesta, about 90 miles south of Stockholm. The house with the same name is owned by Peter's cousin, Epp. The word, Klaradal, means Clear Valley, and is the original name of Epp's 1850 stuga.

Peter's father and mother were Estonian immigrants to the US who met and married in Philadelphia. Epp's parents lived in Tallinn, the capitol of Estonia until the Soviets arrived. Epp's mother and grandmother were arrested and sent to Siberia and, when they did not return after a year's absence, her father escaped to Sweden with Epp and her brother.

Sue and Peter became very close to Epp when they adopted their son, David, in Estonia in 1995. Epp came over from her home in Gamla Stan, the old town of Stockholm, to help them during the 30 days they lived in Tallinn finalizing the adoption. When David was about 5 years old, Sue and Peter began traveling from their home in Bethesda, Maryland, to



The Swedish flag colors of yellow and blue are proudly and prominently displayed at Klaradal.

Photo by Sue Morse



Photo by Sue Morse

Sue doesn't think she has Scandinavian heritage, but she was told by someone at ScanFest that her mother's maiden name, DeLany, traces back to the Vikings. Peter is, of course, 100% Estonian!

visit Epp frequently at Klaradal, her summer home.

It was about that time that Sue decided it would be great fun to sell Swedish furniture in America. The dollar was strong and it seemed like an opportune time. Sue wanted to buy a building, rather than rent a storefront. When they found the perfect house, it was zoned for antiques, so they included these in the mix of their Swedish items. The house, built in 1870, required extensive renovation before they could open shop in November of 2003.

Ever since opening day, Sue has

immersed herself into Swedish life so she could educate her customers about Swedish culture. Every year Klaradal features events to celebrate midsummer and Christmas at which traditional Swedish food is served and live fiddle music is played.

## Klaradal is a Family Affair

Sue's husband Peter and son David help out on special event days. They also deliver some of the smaller pieces of furniture. Sue sells at the Swedish holiday bazaars so people become aware of the shop and what they have to offer. The off-site selling, such as at ScanFest, is quite time and energy consuming, but, from a marketing stand-point, is quite worth it.

Although Sue is aware that Lundby has created miniatures of many of the pieces of furniture she has in her shop, she likes the accessories the best, such as the Mora clock and the adorable portrait of the King and Queen of Sweden. She wonders, "Might we see one of Crown Princess Victoria and her Daniel?"

On her trips to Sweden, Sue doesn't find Lundby items often. When she does, it is usually in charity shops and always at rather steep prices. Sue tells travelers to Sweden who want to find vintage Swedish items that they should ask at the front desk of their hotel if there is a "Loppis," which is the Swedish word for flea market. They also could search out second hand shops such as Stadsmission and Myrona.

Some final wise words from Sue: "Owning a shop like this is a labor of love-not a money maker. I love being surrounded by all things Swedish. I adore having the chance to travel a few times a year to Stockholm and I never tire of meetings other 'svenskophiles' who wander into my shop." You too can visit Klaradal at [www.klaradal.com](http://www.klaradal.com). ♥



The Lundby Letter is published quarterly for members of the **We Love Lundby Club**.

If you have any inquiries about an article, or if you are interested in submitting a story or project of your own, please do not hesitate to write or email us.

### THE LUNDBY LETTER

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## Coming Up in the December 2010 Issue

- Member Profile
- Starter Sets
- But It Looks So Real!
- Guess Who Got a Stockholm Dollhouse on Her 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday?