

A Quarterly Newsletter Published for Members of the We Love Lundby Club

**MERRY CHRISTMAS GOD JUL**  
FROM THE WE LOVE LUNDBY CLUB



On a recent visit to her childhood home in Minnesota, Julie found this image of her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday dollhouse. Julie remembers that her little brother, Daniel, couldn't wait to get his hands on that Lundby car!

### “The Best Birthday Present Ever!” A Lundby Stockholm

IT HAS BEEN SAID that persons with December birthdays come up short on their gifts because Christmas and Hanukkah holidays occur in the same month. However, this was not true for Julie Plovnick, VT, who received one of the best gifts of all, a Lundby Stockholm dollhouse, on her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“The demise of that dollhouse many years later is what prompted me to start collecting again,” reminisces Julie. See the Members in Focus article in the March 2009 issue of *The Lundby Letter* to discover how Julie replaced her lost dollhouse.

We are all beneficiaries of Julie’s new found obsession with Lundby. As a result of the process of finding her childhood Lundby dollhouse, Julie has created a super helpful site on Google’s Picasa, <http://sites.google.com/site/vintagelundby/Home>. Visit her site and take a look at all the departments, Welcome Lundby Fans, Lundby for Sale, Resources & Restoration, Lighting & Electricity, Contact Me, and Lundby Love. You’ll find so many fabulous tips that will help you with your own Lundby collection.

We are thrilled that Julie received “the best birthday present ever!” Her first dollhouse on her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday led her to help us learn more about Lundby. ♥

### Looking Back: Five Years Ago

- ♥ A Highlight of Christmas 2005—Nevada member Roy Specht’s greeting card showed his Lundby living room decorated for Christmas. For more than 15 years, Roy has been creating fantastic cards for his friends who collect dollhouses and miniatures.
- ♥ Beware of “Weeping” Sticky Vinyl. The Lundby Chesterfield sofa, #9528, shown in catalogs between 1986 and 1990, has a defect that annoys collectors. A breakdown in chemicals in the softer vinyls caused the sofa to turn sticky. See some possible solutions in the article on page 2 of the December 2005 issue.
- ♥ The first page of the December 2005 issue of *Crafting with Lundby* shows a rare Lundby Christmas tree. Revisit this issue for all the lovely Christmas craft instructions.



The set of Spanish dollhouse miniatures made by Mobistyl, which Roy found in Spain. Photo by Roy Specht.

### Seeking (and Finding) Spanish Miniatures

By Sue Morse

BEING ON SPANISH SOIL must bring out the desire to search for treasures. While I was touring Spain in September 2010 with my fellow Tauck Tour travelers, I too was on a quest. However, my search for miniatures made in Spain was an entirely different one from Cervantes’ Don Quixote, who imagined the windmills were giants 400 years ago.

After reading a magazine article, “A Doll’s Domain,” by Margaret Uhle, I wondered if I would ever find any miniatures in this historically Catholic

*Continued on page 2*



## SPANISH MINIATURES

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and southern European country. My sister, who lives in North Carolina, clipped the article for me and neither she nor I can determine when or where the article was published.

Nevertheless, I thought the author had something important to say about dollhouses. The article is about Elke Dröscher, the owner of a dollhouse museum in Hamburg, Germany, <http://www.elke-droescher.de/pages/englisch/museu1.html>.

I quote the author Uhle, who writes, “(Elke’s) oldest houses come from the early 1800s. Among them are examples from northern and southern Germany, with strikingly different appointments, as well as from France, the Netherlands, and England. One curious fact she (Elke) has discovered is that dollhouses are found only in northern Europe. On the other side of the Alps, in Spain and Italy, there are instead magnificent Christmas crèches, which has led researchers to speculate that dollhouses are perhaps a purely “Protestant phenomenon.”

**Indeed, a “purely Protestant phenomenon” is purely speculation.**

Although I had little free time to visit Spanish toy shops, I did spy several wooden dollhouses of various scales for sale (none of them were my favorite 1/16<sup>th</sup> scale and made by Lundby). The first miniature that interested me was a room box displayed in a Madrid restaurant,



Photo by Sue Morse

*A room box tableau in the famous Madrid restaurant, Antigua Casa Botin, founded in 1725.*

Botin. Madrid was the last stop of our tour, so I came home with no dollhouse pieces in my luggage.

Once I returned home, I mentioned to a California member, Sharon Barton Maggio, that I hadn’t been successful in my quest. She told me that the tenacious dollhouse collector, Roy Specht, NV, had recently been to Spain and had found a set of 1/12<sup>th</sup> plastic furniture made to look like wood. I quickly emailed him and he responded that he had found nothing exciting, just a few miniature shops with the same items available in the US and a few odd vintage pieces in the antique shops.

In addition, Carole Thall, whose Gothenburg cover was featured in the September 2010 issue, emailed me that she once had a miniature canopy bed purchased by her family who visited Spain years ago. Carole sees Spanish miniatures for sale occasionally on eBay. Recently, I noticed a Spanish seller had listed Lundby kitchen items.

Now there is no question in my mind that dollhouses exist and apparently thrive in Spain, a southern European Catholic country. We will investigate whether dollhouses are sold in Italy in a future issue.



## Starter Sets Make Rooms “Feel Cozy”



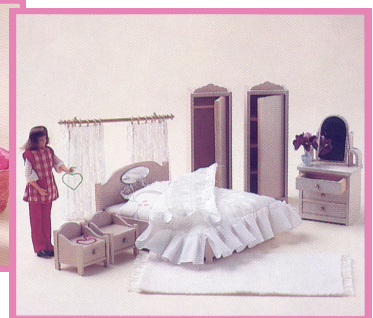
35 – Kitchen starter set



36 – Dining room starter set



37 – Living room starter set



38 – Bedroom starter set

**T**HE LUNDBY STARTER SETS are quite difficult to find, not only on the second-hand market, but in the catalogs as well. You almost need to know what you’re looking for to locate them. The Starter Sets were introduced in the 1987 catalog.

There are four Starter Sets, the kitchen, dining room, living room, and bedroom, and they are numbered from 35 to 38. The bathroom did not have its own Starter Set. The sets contain enough pieces to furnish

a cozy room and are very hard-to-find in the package. Two of the sets, the dining room and the bedroom, include furniture and accessories that are different than any other items shown in the catalogs.

The photos shown here are from the 1990 catalog. Let us know if you find any pieces! ♥



## “But It Looks So Real!”

**Editor's Note:** In the June issue of *The Lundby Letter* Renee Ganim wrote about the Lundby kitchen sofa and, more broadly, the Leksand furniture. Patricia Harrington, ME, has sent in some additional information and corrections to Renee's column. Patricia disagreed with Renee's references to the “deacon's bench” and my interpretations of the figure on the Dala horse image on the Leksand bench. Renee and I both appreciate knowing where we made our mistakes and are sharing portions of Patricia's comments with our readers.

**Comments from Patricia:** “The kitchen sofa (kökssoffa in Swedish) is still used in Sweden today, and Lundby continues to make it as a miniature. It IS a kitchen sofa, used to sit on during the day, and also can be slept on. In (my husband) Erik's home, he and his next brother slept there until he was 11.

Here are some more facts. All Swedes, even in 2010, take their outer shoes off when they come into the house. This behavior is NOT limited to itinerant pastors.

There is some misinformation about the Leksand furniture. The man in the decals is dressed in the folk costume from the Province of Dalarna. All the decals on the Lundby blue Leksand and the red rustic (almoge) furniture from the 1970s show the various folk costumes and folk dances from Dalarna. The man on the horse is NOT an itinerant pastor.

An additional error is about the horse: It is a Dalahäst--see the “kurbitsmålning” on it. Kurbitsmålning is a highly-decorated flo-

By Renee Ganim

ral motif in Dalacarian painting.”

Patricia consulted with Elisabeth Lantz, Sweden, to double-check the above information.

**Comments from Renee:** “My last article in the June 2010 newsletter about the Leksand bench has drawn more comment than all previous articles. As a result, extensive research is being done (on the Leksand furniture).

By now most of the world knows about the Swedish “kitchen bench” through Steig Larsson, the famous author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, in which he states in Chapter 17 the following: ‘Pernilla slept in his bed while he (Blomkvist) wrapped himself in blankets on the bench in the kitchen.’ Also a well-known expert in Swedish antiques describes the very same bench as a “maid's bench.” It is therefore well established that this bench was used extensively!

My thanks to Patricia for setting in motion the discovery of more history of this item.” ♥



Photo courtesy of Elisabeth Lantz

Swedish folk costumes used in the designs of the Leksand furniture.



### Lundby Collectors Gather for Fall Mini-Meeting

A BUSY, PRODUCTIVE TRIP EAST! Recently married Sharon Barton Maggio and her husband John traveled from their home in California to conduct some business in Maryland, attend a vintage toy show in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and then join Sharon's fellow Lundby collectors at a mini-meeting in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on November 9.

After antiquing and lunch, the group toured Kathy Garner's dollhouse collection, much of which was for sale. Sue delighted in her purchase from Kathy of three pieces of Spanish furniture (just like Roy Specht's) that she couldn't find while she was in Spain. ♥

Left to right: Four Lundby lovers, Sue Morse, VA, Kathy Garner, MD; Sharon Barton Maggio, CA; and Nan Cashour, MD, pose in the Golden Bull Restaurant. If you look closely, you can see that Sue is holding her recent Lundby acquisition, a blue Lundby Apartment frigo/sink, and Nan is displaying the Lundby rose painting, which she found while antiquing that day.

### Restorations by Jennifer Roskamp

OUR ARTICLE ABOUT THE LUNDBY DUST PROTECTOR in the September 2010 issue definitely struck a chord with Jennifer Roskamp, GA. She thoroughly agrees with Carole Thall that Lundby should make a new dust cover for the Gothenburg. But until they do, Jennifer is happy to share her custom-made pattern with all of you.

Quite coincidentally, when Jennifer was restoring her Gothenburg, she decided to create a pattern for a dust cover, totally

unaware that Lundby had once manufactured dust shields.

Jennifer's pattern for the dust protector will be on the Members Only page, along with the December issue. You can also visit Jennifer's site to view her restoration photos and two photos of the dust cover at [http://picasaweb.google.com/jds\\_collections/RestorationByJD?authkey=Gv1sRgCMAEu5yxw7PP8AE#](http://picasaweb.google.com/jds_collections/RestorationByJD?authkey=Gv1sRgCMAEu5yxw7PP8AE#).

Thanks so much, Jennifer, for sharing this pattern with us! ♥

### December 2010 Membership Update

IT HAS BEEN ONE YEAR since the fifth anniversary of the We Love Lundby Club. Congratulations to our 27 Charter Members (those who joined the first year and are still members) and all of you who have joined since. At the end of 2010, we have 63 members.

Here are our nine new members since March 2010: Lisa Muggeo, FL; Nicola Schenk, Germany; Rosalia Mendoza, CA; Marjie Brown, UT; Tina Jones, Germany; Teresa Zygala, PA; Carol Miller, GA; Charlotte Stykes, GA; and Vickie West, IL. Welcome to all!

A Membership Directory Update will be emailed or mailed to all members. ♥

# Members in Focus

TWENTY-FOUR IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Sue Morse

**T**HE LUNDBY STOCKHOLM DOLLHOUSE was the only one that attracted **Martha Stern's** attention when she bought it for her 10-year-old daughter in Israel during the late 1980s. That purchase launched a familiar story of loss and recovery of a family treasure.

Martha later gave the dollhouse away to friends, who returned it to her in a trashed condition, minus most of the furniture. When she went on eBay looking for replacements, she realized that the house was still a great toy and Lundby was considered a collector's item. Who knew? She should have never given it away!

The story continues in Martha's own words, "I was really depressed. I just stuck the dollhouse in an out-of-the-way space, threw the bag of wrecked furniture in a drawer and forgot about it. Months later, when I was looking in a closet for something, I discovered two shoe boxes of Lundby kitchen furniture and a lot of the little stuff that I hadn't passed on to our friends.

Meanwhile, my grandchildren had found the dollhouse and had started playing with it, using Fisher-Price little animals. I went to a toy store and purchased a plastic dollhouse family in sort of the right size, so they could have people to play with.

Soon after, I found our old Lundby catalogue, and when I showed it to my daughter Miriam, my grandson Dael got really excited and said, 'Grandma, we should buy these things!' I retrieved the bag of broken furniture in the drawer, got it out and started looking to see what was still good and realized I had more than I had earlier thought.

That's when I Googled Lundby to replace the furniture that had gotten lost or damaged, and I found the We Love Lundby Club. After buying Lundby from

WLLC members and other sellers on eBay, I've refurnished the dollhouse and then some! The grandkids and I are having a great time playing with the dollhouse, especially decorating it for the holidays."

## A Momentous Move from Michigan to Israel

How Martha came to live in Israel is another interesting part of her story. She was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Always into the creative arts when she was a child, she went on to study art and major in print making at the University of Michigan.

In 1975 Martha met her future husband, David, at a conference of Messianic Jews, her religion. She had wanted to move to Israel ever since she read the book, *Exodus*, the summer she was 10 years old. She also knew that if she married somebody, he too would have to want to live there. Happily for both of them, David already did want to, so in 1979 they immigrated to Israel.

### Coming Up in the March 2011 Issue




-  Chronological Listing of Lundby Factories & Distributors
-  The Shackman Story
-  Member Profile



Photo by Sue Morse

*It's easy to see how Martha's life revolves around her grandchildren's enjoyment of the Lundby dollhouse she lovingly restored.*

Martha and David believe strongly that Israel is the land that God gave the Jewish people. They are glad to live there, and glad they could raise their children and now their grandchildren there. They also found the Lundby dollhouse in Israel, and it has become a treasure which links the generations of their family.

One of Martha's dreams is to attend an international conference of the club in Sweden. She first joined the WLLC in 2009 when she happened to be in Michigan for a wedding during the same period of time that our fifth annual conference was being held nearby. What a wonderful coincidence! It is very clear that Martha's life has been full of coincidences made even better by dedication and perseverance! ♥



Photo by Martha Stern

*Lundby electric light up the decorated Stockholm during Sukkah, a joyous celebration of the autumnal harvest.*



Photo by Martha Stern

*The Jewish religious holidays are celebrated not only in real life, but also in the dollhouse. Here the Lundby family observes Rosh Hashanah.*



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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