

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

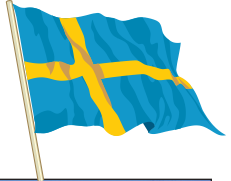
Lundby is for the Ages and the Future!



We Love Lundby Club Salutes Lundby's 65th Anniversary, 1947-2012

CELEBRATE WITH US on WLLC's trip to Småland in southern Sweden during September 5-9! It was only five years ago in 2007, when we first hoped to visit Sweden to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Lundby of Sweden. That trip didn't materialize, but in 2012, it is actually happening!

So far, ten Lundby collectors have committed to attending the conference in Växjö, Sweden. One of the highlights will be our visit to Micki Leksaker headquarters in nearby Gemla. Kristina Aronsson, Micki Product Development Manager, has planned a tour and lunch at the facilities, a visit to the factory outlet shop, where we'll be able to purchase Lundby items, and a trip to the Gemla Toy Museum.



Photos of the Micki Outlet and Gemla Toy Museum are by Peter Pehrsson. Read more about Peter in the March 2006 newsletter.

Attendees are encouraged to add days to their visit by touring other parts of Sweden either before or after the conference. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to join us on this exciting trip. Be sure to access all the updated information regarding the trip on the Members Only page on the website, <http://www.toysmiles.com>.

We give special thanks to **Peter Pehrsson**, Sweden, who has been extremely helpful with working out plans for the accommodations and travel arrangements. Peter made a special trip from his home in Nybro to visit Micki headquarters so he could photograph several locations that the group will be touring. ♥



Scandinavian Design in the Doll's House Ready for Distribution

GOOD NEWS! The long awaited North American release of the book, *Scandinavian Design in the Doll's House*, by member Yvette Wadsted, Sweden, and Ulf Beckman, is near. Don't miss the opportunity to add this excellent resource to your collection of information about Scandinavian dollhouse manufacturers, mainly Lundby, Lerro, and BRIO.

We are thrilled that two of our members worked so closely with the book's publishing by Arvinius Förlag AB in Stockholm—Yvette Wadsted, as the main author, and Elisabeth Lantz, Sweden, who loaned materials and dollhouses for pho-

Some of the images from *Scandinavian Design in the Doll's House*. Note that the dates, 1950-2000, have been omitted from the original title. Courtesy of Ram Publications.

NEW TITLE: SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN IN THE DOLL'S HOUSE



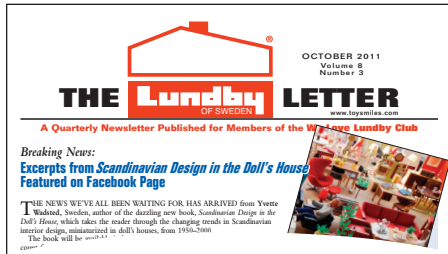
Continued on page 2

SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN

continued from page 1

topographing. Micki Leksaker AB also defrayed transport expenses for two pre-publication exhibitions, one at the Museum of Childhood in London, England, and the second at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. See Page 1 of newsletters from Autumn 2004 and March 2007.

Orders for the book are slated to be filled this month from its sole distributor in North America, Ram Publishing House, 2525 Michigan Ave., #A2, Santa Monica, CA 90404, telephone 310/453-0043, or email address, info@rampub.com. If you have an inquiry about the list of bookstores and museum stores where it will be available or any further questions, contact Ram Publications. The company will offer free shipping if you mention the newsletter or club with your order. ♥

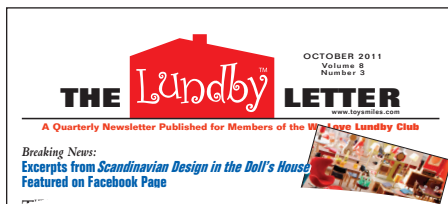


Vintage Lundby Logo vs. New Lundby Logo?

IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED that we change the logo on our newsletter banner during this significant anniversary year to honor the new Lundby logo and the future of the brand name. Before we take this action, however, we want to ask our members what they would like to see on the banner of their newsletter. A group decision is always for the best!

Please email your preference by May 31. Thanks for your help in making this decision. The choice will be revealed on the banner of the July 2012 newsletter. ♥

The vintage Lundby logo or the new Lundby logo on the newsletter banner. What shall it be for the future? Banner designs by Don Christian.



“But It Looks So Real!”

By Renee Ganim

IT LOOKS SO REAL OR DOES IT, and if not, *do we care?* Here we look at actual reality, as in history, of just two pieces of Scandinavian kitchen furniture.

Scandinavia is comprised of rather close countries, basically like the states in the USA, so there is bound to be a great deal of cultural overlap. I decided to look at what I consider to be two very vintage pieces of Lundby furniture--first, the blue steel sink with blue cabinets beneath, and second the cabinet that goes over it, with two sets of red drawers, which are both part of set #928 found in the 1947-1950 (probably late 50s?) catalog found at <http://www.peppesdollhousepage.com>.

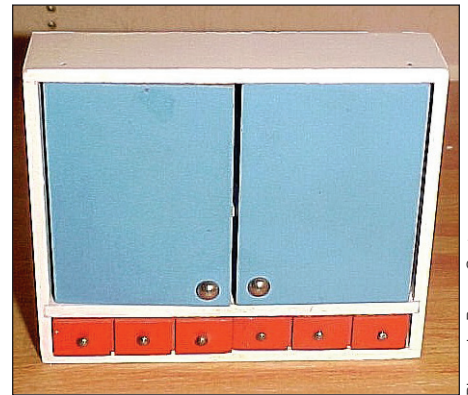
The sink design is extremely accurate, as it dates back to the Swedish farmhouse sink, when plumbing was first brought into the house. I actually saw one in my Swedish mother's uncle's home. But, unfortunately, Lundby's design flaw makes it about as far from real as you can get... it has *no drain!* The poor Scandinavian housewives must have had a lot of fun cleaning up *after* they cleaned up!

The cabinet is a Lundby piece and designed after Scandinavian cabinetry which existed at the time. Unfortunately, it was perfectly functional if you are six feet tall and can reach up that far to get something, not to mention, it must have been *real* fun trying to get something out of those tiny red drawers.

The main question remains: “*Do we care?*” I say, “No.” I have seen these classic pieces used in Lundby, Lisa, BRIO, Barton,



The very vintage kitchen sink above, with the overhead cabinet and drawers below.



Photos by Renee Ganim

and many other 1:16th inch scale homes, and they look beautiful!

Sometimes “reality” is open for questioning so style and love become more important. If you are just building a house for fun, go ahead and decorate your home any way you wish. Forget those catalog numbers and mix what you like from any maker or time period. Have fun! ♥

In Memoriam

WILLIAM E. MONTGOMERY, 78, beloved husband for 35 years of WLLC member and founding Associate Editor **Carolyn Frank**, passed away in Fairfax, VA, on January 3, of heart failure.

His witty humor and clever skills with miniatures are terribly missed by our club and all who knew him. Pictured here in 2007, William added so much sparkle to Carolyn's life by building five dollhouses for her and electrifying many more.



Photo by Sue Morse

Lundby Lovers Gather in Allentown

Photo by Bob Scott



WLLC convention attendees, left to right in back row: Gary Mosholder, PA; Diane Hogan, PA; Becky Norris, IN; George Mundorf, NY; Sharon Barton Maggio, CA; and Lisa Ferrontino, MA. Front row, left to right, Judy Mosholder, PA; Geraldine Scott, FL; Maria Cannizzaro, NC; and Sue Morse, VA.

MORE THAN A DOZEN WLLC members, spouses, and friends met in Allentown, PA, for the 7th annual WLLC convention held last November in conjunction with the Dollhouse Toys n' Us convention and the famous Allentown Toy Show. Maria Cannizzaro, NC, acted as note taker at the WLLC meeting, as well as the overall chairman of the four-day get together.

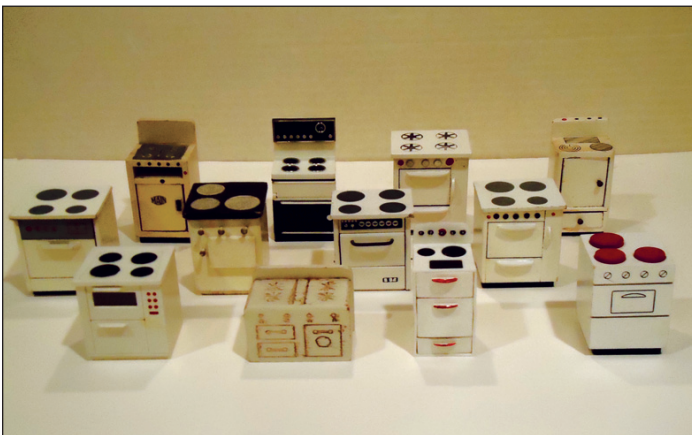
Highlights of the meeting were the updates on our trip to Sweden, discussion of member Yvette Wadsted's fabulous book, *Scandinavian Design in the Doll's House*, our sharing time, and the Guessing Game Contest with 1/16th vintage stoves to identify. George Mundorf won the prize by correctly identifying 6 of the 12 miniature stoves.

To help you distinguish the 1/16th stoves that were pictured in the October newsletter, here are the solutions to the Guessing Game Contest. Both the manufacturer and the country of origin are shown:

Back row, left to right: Dol-Toi; UK; Caroline's Home; UK; Shackman, Japan; Dol-Toi, UK.

Middle row, left to right: Lundby, Sweden; Lerro, Sweden; Lisa, Denmark; Lundby, Sweden.

Front row, left to right: BRIO, Sweden; Nancy Forbes, USA; Barton, UK; Tofa, Czechoslovakia. ♥



Guessing Game Contest at the 7th annual WLLC mini-convention—1/16th scale vintage stoves. From the Morse collection.



What's Next in Preserving Lundby's History?

By Sue Morse

IN THE JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER, we appealed to members to help us uncover more information about Lundby's founders, Axel and Grete Thomsen. We have high hopes that the Electronic Age will reveal more about them and other aspects of the company's rich 65 year-old history. This will help us prepare our vision for Lundby's future.

In the July 2012 newsletter, we will feature some of the findings that Peter Pehrsson has discovered through his access to the Swedish Death Index. We hope others will also step forward with information.

What ideas do you have about how we should preserve Lundby's history? Are there any more club members who would like to take on the challenges of researching and/or being the human depository of such information? Please contact me at toysmiles@aol.com.



Generations of Queens to Come!

SWEDISH CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA gave birth to a daughter, Estelle Silvia Ewa Mary, on February 23. Little baby Estelle is the first royal baby in three decades. Sweden changed its Constitution in 1980, three years after Victoria was born, to allow the eldest heir to inherit the throne, regardless of gender.



A Toast to Tofa Furniture

By Marion Osborne

IT IS A WEIRD NAME, which sounds rather like the vegetarian item Tofu, but, believe me, it is a maker of dollhouse furniture. The first mention that I have found of this firm was in “Toys International” March 1964, an advertisement for the Pragoexport 64, a fair being held in Brno in Czechoslovakia. Amongst the exhibitors was Tofa, manufacturer of wooden toys.

The exact date of when the dollhouse furniture came on sale in the UK is a grey area, but probably after 1964 to late 1970’s. There are no catalogues, so there is no help as to the range; however, in a page of FAO Schwarz of USA for 1977/1978 there were four sets, so I have used these as a guide for the following photographs.



The Tofa kitchen pieces.

blocks of wood.

The dining room set is a bit sparse, with four chairs, a round table and sideboard. The sitting room set consists of settee, two easy chairs, coffee table and a TV on legs, whilst the bedroom has the bed, bedside cabinet, dressing table and wardrobe. It is interesting to note that the girl’s head that appears on the boxed sitting room set also appears on all the larger boxed sets.



The Tofa sitting room.

All the Tofa furniture is made from wood that is either stained or left natural (except for the cooker and washing machine) and the finish is very smooth. Items are quite easy to find in auctions on the Internet at the moment and are not expensive. However, I should like to mention that a similar set of the captain chairs in plain wood with coloured backs are not by Tofa, but a seller on eBay recently stated that a set was marked GDR – Eastern Germany. ♥



The Tofa bedroom set.

The kitchen shown in the photograph is not quite correct. The table in this set should be square with natural top and not the round one. I have just noticed that it is two chairs not four. Actually it seems a bit surprising that though most of Tofa cupboards and wardrobes have opening doors, the cooker and washing machine are solid



The Tofa dining room set.

The name, “Tofa,” does not appear anywhere on the box, only the word, “Foreign,” and on at least one item the word, “Czechoslovakia.” The smaller individual items are in a box, on which the name, “Tofa,” is shown as part of the pattern and in lower case print, no capitals. The TV on a small table with drawer flap is not in the Schwarz page and I wonder what else was available. Has any reader any items in these colours, but not shown?



Unique Lundby Doll on eBay

By Sue Morse

A Lundby baby sister doll never seen before recently sold on eBay for \$27. A bidder other than myself won it. Does anyone in the club own this doll or know anything about the period when it was originally sold? ♥

A Conversation about the Book between Yvette and Sue

By Sue Morse

YVETTE WAS VERY KIND to send me an advance copy of her book, *Scandinavian Design in the Doll’s House*. I soon happily lost myself in its pages filled with photographs of vintage Scandinavian dollhouse furniture. Below I’m sharing my initial reaction while previewing the book:

Yvette, I’m just blown away by your book. The excellent photographs and the efficient organization of the history of how Scandinavian style evolved and was replicated through dollhouse design are the backbone of this book. I know it will have great historical interest and impact.

One of the best features of the book to me is the use of the picture guide in the back of the book because it adds so much more information than a simple caption. I have a question about the Electrolux-style refrigerator on page 32, described on page 246 of the picture guide. What does it mean to be fit-in? Also the stove showing the raised burners—isn’t that also BRIO /Lerro?

Yvette responds,

On pages 15–16 you can read about the Swedish standard for kitchen units. “Fitted-in” or “In-built” is a bad translation and should read “built-in.” Although the translator is an Englishman, you will probably find other bizarre translations. About the stove with raised burners—the whole kitchen is BRIO/Lerro. I so appreciate your comments and questions and I hope you will continue. This is what I expect from readers. Thank you.

Yvette adds that comments on the book are welcome on the Facebook page, <http://tinyurl.com/68cry89>, and the book’s photographer, Michel Hjorth, would gladly receive interactions on his home page, http://www.booxencounters.com/the_dolls_house/, where he is showing pictures that were not included in the book. Be sure to visit this beautiful site! ♥

Editor’s Note: Member Marion Osborne, UK, wrote the following article in 2004 for *Dolls House World*, a popular miniatures magazine published in the UK.

The Evolution of the Lundby Logo



AB. Lundby Leksaksfabrik

Lundby

1966

Lundby

1970

Lundby
OF SWEDEN

1974

Lundby
OF SWEDEN

1984

Lundby

1999

LundbyTM

2005

IN 65 YEARS OF PRODUCTION, Lundby of Sweden has had only a smattering of known logos, the most famous one being the use of large Lundby letters. The first known Lundby catalog, most likely from the late 1950s, does not show a Lundby logo per se, just a little creature with the accompanying words AB Lundby Leksaksfabrik.

In 1966, after the merger with Lerro, the logo that is so meaningful in our minds appeared in a catalog. This original Lundby logo used simply the letters with no background. In 1970, the name Lundby is shown in white emblazoned on a red flag.

In 1974, "of Sweden" was added to the red rectangle with white Lundby letters. This style was used throughout the 1970s and early 1980s.

Then, ten years later, in 1984 the image with the upper roof over the house came on the scene. This same logo with the asymmetrical design of the Gothenburg dollhouse was used until the end of the Lundby era in the mid-1990s when in 1996 Micki Leksaker purchased the Lundby name.

At the time of the launch of the new Lundby line in 1999, Micki revealed a new

font for the name Lundby inside the same house design. Later in 2005, the company introduced the first significant change in the Lundby logo design in 39 years by creating the current stylized font in a red house design.

Lundby is for the ages and the future!



Where in the World are our Members?

OF OUR 65 TOTAL MEMBERS living in 12 countries around the world, 20 reside in 11 countries. The remaining 45 members live in the USA in 18 different states. The We Love Lundby Club is truly an international group because Lundby was exported all over the world.

Lundby of Sweden has brought our world closer together!

AUSTRALIA	1
CANADA	1
FINLAND	1
GERMANY	3
ISRAEL	1
THE NETHERLANDS	2
SAUDI ARABIA	1
SPAIN	1
SWEDEN	4
SWITZERLAND	1
UNITED KINGDOM	4

Total members outside USA-20

Total members in the USA-45 in 18 states

Arizona	1
California	7
Florida	5
Georgia	3
Illinois	2
Kansas	1
Maryland	5
Michigan	1
Minnesota	2
Nevada	1
New York	3
North Carolina	1
Ohio	2
Pennsylvania	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	1
Utah	1
Virginia	7

Photos from the Morse collection



Earthquake damage in Sue's Gothenburg and Stockholm houses. Thankfully, all survived their injuries!



A Funny Thing Happened in my Lundby Dollhouse

By Sue Morse

AN ACTUAL NATURAL DISASTER hit my dollhouse collection last August. The earthquake on the East coast of 5.8 intensity seemed to be about 8.0 in my dollhouses! Furniture was strewn all over, dolls were knocked face down on the floor (there must have been some casualties!). But all has been recovered and there was no damage of any consequences to report!

Please send stories and photos of funny things or tiny disasters that have happened in your Lundby dollhouse. ♥



Children's Birthdays Keep Adding Up

By Sue Morse

Second in a Series:

Caitlin Butchart,
daughter of Lis Garner, UK

Born December 20, 1994 (17 years old)

WE REMEMBER Caitlin Butchart by her charming messages to the membership from "The Children's Corner." Caitlin sums up her writing activities for *The Lundby Letter* as a great opportunity to add another type of creative writing to her other experiences with writing poems, songs, and stories.

Since writing for The Children's Corner, Caitlin has concentrated on studying for her exams, which she's happy to report that she passed. She has also been producing, writing, singing, and acting in various productions by an amateur dramatic group. She now is studying for A levels with a view to University. Once her advanced study is over, she aspires to being an author or a university lecturer in fine arts or English literature.

In her younger days, Caitlin used to play historical games in her Lundby dollhouses by pretending they were fortresses with trapped princesses and giant action men (knights) would come to rescue them! Caitlin loves the Lundby white rococo grand piano, and all of the really old Lerro/Lundby.

Caitlin admits, "I may not collect dollhouses in the future, but I will definitely give my daughter (if I have one) a dollhouse though, as I remember them with love."

Our "Children's Corner" has grown up!



The Butchart sisters, Brodie, left and Caitlin, right.

Brodie Butchart,
daughter of Lis Garner, UK

Born Sept. 24, 2000 (11½ years old)

YOUNGER SISTER, Brodie, keeps very busy and happy by studying hard and passing her 11+ year-old exams. She earned a place at Plymouth High School for Girls (a very good grammar school) and will matriculate there in September.

Brodie adds, "In Devon, we live very close to both the Moors and the sea so we spend a lot of time there. We are planning a fishing trip by boat this summer, and I have just learned to gut and cook fish. I love reading and am currently obsessed with "Warrior Cats," a massive series of books about cats living in the wild."

Brodie wants to collect Lundby dollhouses when she is older because she remembers always having dollhouses around since her Mum loves Lundby. Her earliest memories are of making houses

for fairies out in the garden. She still has eight dollhouses, including a Toyworks, Caroline's Home Claremont chalet with extension, as well as a Lundby Gothenburg with extension.

Brodie's favorite Lundby pieces are the balcony that clips onto the Gothenburg and all of the little accessories that make the houses so real. Her very favorite bit has to be the exercise room furniture (#9440). That favorite piece of dollhouse furniture must explain why she loves the out of doors and to exercise with her bike!



Editor's Note: Mum Lis Garner explains that the school system in England may be different from other countries. After primary school starts at 5 years, children progress at 11 years to secondary school, where they stay until age 16. Testing is required to stay on until age 18 for A levels, after which they can go on to university courses.

Lundby

PASSA PÅ PRIS 1. 298:--

PASSA PÅ PRIS 3. 198:--

Lundbys berömda dockhus finns i flera varianter. Alla är gjorda i hög kvalitet med en mycket genomtänkt och smakfull design. Inbyggd system för belysning. Det är bara att koppla in den barnsäkra Lundby-transformatorn (4 volt).

- Lundbys stora moderna dockhus. En dröm för varje heminredningsintresserad.
- Bottenvåning och garage till stora dockhuset med ställ för Lundby-hästar.
- Lundbys klassiker. Alltid lika populärt dockhus.
- Bottenvåning.
- Garage med tvättstuga.
- Barncykel.
- Plafond. Lampa för tak eller väggmontering.
- Bordslampa.
- Soffgrupp Elegance.
- Gångstol med flockad dyma i mjuka fibrer.
- Kök med ferulakör. Spis och kylskåp är skuggmålad. Spisens diskbänken och kylskåpet kan Du även köpa separat.
- Matsal i rokokomodell (bord, 4 stolar, skåp). Stoldynorna är flockade i mjuka härliga fibrer.

6 | 12:90

7 | 11:--

8 | 17:50

9 | 73:--

10 | 15:75

11 | 93:--

12 | 61:--

14

DET HÄR ÄR SÄRDLIGT SÅ ATT DÅM VUXNA VILL VARA MED.

Can You Spot the Problem?

Take a look at page 20 of the Leksakslandet catalog (Sweden,, 1960–1970) at <http://www.peppesdollhousepage.com> and tell us what's wrong.

Lundby Connections

DEXTER CHOW, our contact at Cheeky Monkey Toys, <http://www.cheekymonkeytoys.com>, reports that the Lundby shipment expected in February arrived in late March. Good news! Included in that shipment were some Australian transformers for Lundby with the US converter. Cheeky Monkey Toys has the enviable position as the sole Lundby seller in the USA.



Amy Waddell, IL, wants to share her blog with WLLC members at <http://amysminiatuesandsmall.blogspot.com/>. Welcome to Amy's Lundby Lane which chronicles the life and times on Lundby Lane.



Are you a member of Face Book? Member Mervi Pirinen, Finland, has sent the URL for a Lundby Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/33596892200/>. Try it out!



LOOK INTO the dollhouse world of Maggie Martos, CA, on her website, <http://web.me.com/inkwellpro>. Be sure to visit her fascinating blog.



The gold-framed picture of the Queen and Prince Philip. Lis Garner's father was in London that summer in 1977 and he presented the Lundby picture to Lis as a gift on his return.



Photos from the Morse collection

Lundby's ultra rare Queen's Silver Jubilee set from 1977, which honored the 25th anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 1952.



Photo courtesy of eBay seller

Mystery kitchen on eBay.

A Mystery Kitchen— Can You Identify?

MINIATURE KITCHENS are always fascinating to dollhouse collectors. Since we seem to be concentrating this issue on items in kitchens, we're wondering if any of our members can identify the maker of this kitchen that was pictured on eBay recently? ♥

TEN YEARS AGO I wrote a piece for the Dollhouse Toys n' Us newsletter to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee of her accession to the throne in 1952. This year in 2012, I'm reprising that article to note the Diamond Jubilee, the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign, to be celebrated in early June.

The purpose of the article was to highlight an exquisite Lundby creation, the 1977 Silver Jubilee set, which honored the 25th anniversary of the Queen's coronation. This beautiful commemorative, an exclusive item that must have been produced only that year, was a version of the popular Royal lounge set. The pieces consisted of a settee, two arm chairs, and cocktail table, all embellished with the British Royal Crest, and a gold-framed picture of the Queen and Prince Philip.

I was very fortunate to find this ultra rare set at an Atlantique City show in 2001. At the time, I was very excited to acquire the set, even though the picture wasn't included. However, I was thrilled to later find the picture on eBay.

Lundby realized back in 1977 that their dollhouses and furniture were as ageless as the Royal family. ♥

Queen for a Day? Try 60 Years!

By Sue Morse

April 2012 Membership Update

WELCOME to our seven new club members, Lisa Sturm, MI; Mariken Koning, The Netherlands; Jessie Ong, CA; Vicki Nelson, TX; Tarji and Maliya Martin, NY; Christina and Grace Taylor, CA, and DeAnn Shaffer, VA. A 2012 Membership Directory will be emailed or mailed to all members.

Annual dues for an electronic newsletter membership are \$15.00 USD. Annual dues for a printed and mailed newsletter membership are \$25.00 USD in the U.S.; \$28.00 USD in Canada; and \$30.00 USD in all other countries. Email Sue Morse at toysmiles@aol.com for further details about paying dues. ♥

Members in Focus

TWENTY-EIGHTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Sue Morse

IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT **Claudia Kreda**, New York City, holds as much devotion for B. Altman & Co. Department Store, as she does for Lundby. No wonder, because B. Altman was the place where her parents, first generation Italian Americans and owners of a neighborhood delicatessen, purchased her first Lundby Gothenburg dollhouse circa 1973-1974, when Claudia was 9 or 10.

Well known for its high quality and excellent customer service, B. Altman was located across the street from the Empire State Building on 34th Street and 5th Avenue. Unfortunately, Claudia's revered store went out of business in 1989, only a few years before Lundby faced its final bankruptcy in the early 1990s. Thankfully, the building, erected in 1906, was designated a NYC Landmark in 1985 and is now used by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), the NY Public Library and Oxford University Press.

And equally as thankfully, the admired Lundby name was acquired and preserved by the Micki Toy Company in 1996, enabling all of us to celebrate its 65th anniversary this year.

On one of her shopping trips to B. Altman's, Claudia's mom told the clerk that she wanted a Lundby dollhouse for a Christmas gift for Claudia. They had only the floor model which was not for sale, so the store placed an order and had it delivered to their house in Manhattan. The box arrived the day before Christmas all wrapped in red paper. Claudia remembers



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia



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

We Love Lundby Club
6347 Waterway Drive
Falls Church, VA 22044

www.toysmiles.com Email: toysmiles@aol.com

Editor: Sue Morse
Advisory Members: Kristina Aronsson
Carolyn Frank
Sue Kopperman
Elisabeth Lantz
Marion Osborne
Peter Pehrsson
Yvette Wadsted

Design: Don Christian
Website Design: Cheryl Miller Web Design

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Photo courtesy of Claudia's mother, Therese C. Pizzi

Claudia found her childhood Stockholm house from 1976 in excellent condition, stored in a closet in her mom's house in the same boxes that were shipped to B. Altman.

that none of her little friends owned a Lundby dollhouse so she felt very special.

Claudia's sad story of "losing" her original Gothenburg Dollhouse

Years later, after Claudia was married to her husband Allan, her mom begged her to clean up some of her old toys that were stored at her house. Claudia tells the story like this: "My original Gothenburg was in sad shape. The extension and garage levels were falling apart, and the floors and borders were all coming unglued. The two-floor original house was still in pretty good condition but some wallpaper spots were torn from previous picture-hangings, the door handles were all broken off, and the roof was loose at the corners from years of lifting it by the eaves."

"Trying to be an adult, I decided to finally part with my old toys in really bad condition. Sadly, not realizing what a mistake I was making, I tore up the bottom floors, keeping the etched window from the extension level and the garage parts from the ground level, and threw the house out."

"Soon after, I discovered that the Lundby company was no longer producing houses and my heart sank. It wasn't until I discovered eBay and began searching for original Lundby items that my hopes were raised that I could find another Lundby dollhouse."

Yes, Claudia did find a replacement for the original Gothenburg doll house that she had as a child. Over the years she has also purchased many other Lundby dollhouses and items.

Claudia, who was educated in New York parochial schools grades K-12, sang





for Pope John Paul II's visit to Madison Square Garden in 1979. She went on to study voice, piano and music education at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY, where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree, after which she received an M.A. in musical theatre performance at New York University.

With dreams of becoming a singer/actress on Broadway, she found that life was leading her down a different path. She has worked for the Disney/ABC Television Group for the past 17 years as a business analyst in the IT support area, where she puts her teaching skills into practice by training new users on the various scheduling and tracking systems she supports.

While Claudia was photographing her Lundby items for this article, she found that it brought back so many happy childhood memories and a renewed interest in all things Lundby. She was so inspired that she went online to Cheeky Monkey Toys recently and bought the 2010 Stockholm House!

Times have changed! No longer does Claudia purchase Lundby from B. Altman, but how lucky she is to be able still to purchase new Lundby items from Cheeky Monkey Toys in California. ♥

Coming Up in the July 2012 Issue

-  Discoveries about Axel and Grete Thomsen
-  Children's Birthdays Keep Adding Up
-  Our Advisory Members
-  Member Profile