

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

Plaque Presented to Micki Commemorates Lundby's 65th Anniversary

OUR MEMORIES of the September 2012 Gemla Gathering, even six months later, remain very strong and emotional. To celebrate the memory of both Lundby's 65th anniversary and our visit to Micki Leksaker, we designed a plaque for the event. Peter Pehrsson, who was an indispensable part of planning the trip, recently presented the club's gift at Micki Leksaker headquarters. ♥



Our Swedish friends (left, Per Aronsson, middle, Kristina Aronsson, holding the plaque, and right, Peter Pehrsson) stand in front of Micki's newly established historical dollhouse gallery, described by Kristina in Ola Aronsson's history of Micki on pages 2 and 3.

Photo by Anna Wiksten, Webmaster at Micki

Attend the 9th Annual WLLC Convention

June 19-23 in West Virginia

DID YOU PLAY WITH A MARX DOLLHOUSE IN your youth? Because you loved the 1/16th or 3/4" scale, did it lead you to Lundby dollhouses? Whether you have a Lundby dollhouse or a Marx dollhouse in your past or present, you'll be enchanted with plans for the 2013 Lundby convention in Wheeling, West Virginia.

The convention will be held Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23, and has been mapped out by WLLC member **Geraldine Scott, FL**, who is also the collector-in-chief for the Dollhouse Toys N' Us Club. Geraldine has graciously invited the We Love Lundby Club to join all her members at the meeting.

Activities, in addition to a gathering of WLLC members on Saturday, June 22, include the opportunity to attend the 15th annual Marx Toy and Train Convention at the Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum; a tour at the Marx Museum in nearby Moundsville, and shopping at local antique shops.

If you are interested in attending, please email Sue at toysmiles@aol.com as soon as possible to get more information about accommodations and a registration form. ♥



Photo courtesy of Micki Leksaker

The popular new Winter Garden accessories for the Småland dollhouse were introduced at the 2013 Nuremberg Toy Fair.

Småland is Coming to America and Canada

IT'S BEEN AN EIGHT-YEAR DROUGHT for Lundby distribution in the US and Canada. To get the specifics, refer to the front-page article, "Decision to Discontinue Lundby Products in US & Canada Stuns Avid Collectors," in the Sep-

Continued on page 3

History of Micki Presented during Lundby Club Visit to Headquarters

Transcription by Sue Morse,
with special thanks to Peter Pehrsson for video recording the session.

Aronsson Brothers Start Micki with One Good Idea for a New Toy

(Ola Aronsson, retired CEO of Micki, begins his talk) “My father, the man in glasses in the photo gallery, was born in 1900. Sometimes he worked in a toy factory, together with his four brothers. Other times he was a salesman traveling around Sweden and selling something.

One moment in 1944, he was sitting in a hotel and a man was sitting nearby. The man at the table said, “I have a good idea for a very good toy.” He wrote up his idea on the hotel restaurant notes. This picture shows the first toy. They were eating and also drinking, and I think they used these glasses to make these circles here. After two, three, or four glasses of Swedish aquavit, they could be very creative!

So when it was time to go to bed, Ola’s father said, “This drawing is not quite so good. Can you do it again a little better and send it to my home?” After a time, it came to the post office, and they had to pay 200 SEK to get it. My father was a salesman, not a businessman, and he had no money. He went to his siblings and told the story. His oldest brother said, “Please, please, Georg, don’t spend any money. I will pay.” And that was very lucky!

You must understand that the best toy we know today is Lego, and Lego didn’t exist in 1944. The brothers’ new toy design consisted of balls with holes that small pins could fit together to make a small toy. Many times I get the question about how the business became Micki Toy. What does Micki Toy mean? I suppose they were clever enough not to give the company the name of Mickey Mouse, so it became Micki Toy. This is a very special box with a poem written by my aunt. I’m sorry I cannot translate this one, and even if I could translate it into English, I cannot read it for you because I cry every time.”

First Toy Sample Catches On Big!

“My father went to a big effort to make a sample. In this small area of Gemla there were lots of toy factories, and the brothers had been working there, and they knew where to buy wooden balls and where to buy the packages. When he had a sample, my father traveled to Gothenburg, where

there was a department store with 100 stores in Sweden. My father went to the office and asked to talk to the buyer. The buyer was sick and in the hospital. In his office were three ladies and, being a salesman, he knew how to take care of women. He said to them, “Please, please, take this sample and show him this in his hospital bed. They cannot say no, and they came back with an order for my father for 10,000!

The next question was, “Where shall we produce it? The family home had a small farm building big enough for one cow, one pig, and five or six hens. At that time, almost everyone had a job in the factory and a small farm with buildings. They had only had one machine which made the holes in the balls. They painted the balls in the living room. “Oh,” Ola said, “I forgot something. When my father came home very happy with an order for 10,000, he was told, “Calm down. Can you believe,

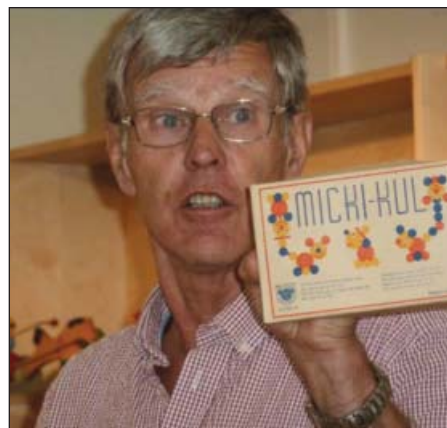


Photo courtesy of Julia Holloway, UK

Ola holds an early Micki box showing various ways to connect the balls and pins to create a Micki toy.

the department store sent a telegram, which has doubled the order!”

This happened in the spring of 1944. By the middle of August, they sent the first delivery to the department store. After five months, they checked their books and saw red figures. Oh, they were not happy, and so they went to bed. In the middle of the night, Per’s father woke up, looked at the ceiling and said, “We have not counted how much the department store has to give us. You understand? When they put in this figure also, they were happy again. They knew Micki could continue.”

(Per Aronsson, Export Sales Manager of Micki and cousin of Ola, adds) “The story of something developing from a barn, a farm, or a garage, that is not so unique. When you hear about the Apple story, Mattel and Barbie doll, we are in good company. Lundby was started by Grete and Axel Thomsen in their apartment making toy furniture for children. The founder of IKEA, who is very close to us, started off by selling pens.”

Micki Sold Dollhouses for 25 Years

(Ola resumes his talk) “That is the beginning of the Micki story. Let’s go forward a little bit and I’ll tell you about the period when Micki was manufacturing dollhouses. We had a very good business with a department store for many years, and in 1957, a buyer from the store came to my father and asked Micki to make a dollhouse. They said Lundby would not sell to their store and they sold only to the private market. Micki said, “OK, we’ll try and we’ll make a dollhouse.”

In the 25 years that Micki made the dollhouses, the stores bought the furniture from the Far East. Micki never made any furniture. The reason that Micki stopped producing dollhouses is that Lundby, at the end of the 1960s, cut the prices of their dollhouses and upped the price of the furniture. Micki had no furniture to finance the low price of the dollhouse, so in 1973 Micki stopped making dollhouses. Thank you for your attention.”

(Ola’s response to questions from audience about the Micki dollhouse on display) “The dollhouse in Micki’s display is a special model for NK, the very famous department store in Stockholm. People wanted an NK bag to stroll around in Stockholm and impress people by spending money at NK!”

Purchase of Lundby in 1997 Called a Perfect Match

(Per resumes his comments about the purchase of Lundby’s name) “Customers were always complaining about not getting Lundby products. Many people came to us and said Micki and Lundby could make a happy marriage. Everyone said that Lundby would be a perfect match. In 1997 Lundby dollhouses were produced at a Danish government-owned business for disabled workers in Gothenburg. So Micki ordered samples of Lundby from this gov-

ernment-owned assembly company. Ola went to Denmark with Micki's first mobile phone and all the rest of the staff went to the Nuremberg Fair. We had built up the full Lundby display, but had to put a curtain in front because we weren't allowed to show it. The fair started at 9:00 a.m. Ola called at five minutes until the opening and said, "We have a deal!" And we ripped off the curtain and Lundby was there!"

"We had three difficult years. We had losses from selling off so much stock in

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Rosskamp, GA



This 50th anniversary painting from 1994 depicts Micki's growth by the buildings it has occupied, starting in the upper right corner in a clockwise direction. The artwork was created by Niklas Aronsson, son of Lars Aronsson, Ola's brother, who was the CEO of Micki prior to Ola.

lection before, so we are now happy to have a good start." ♥

Editor's note: For further information, read Micki's History Page on their website, <http://www.micki.se>.

SMÅLAND

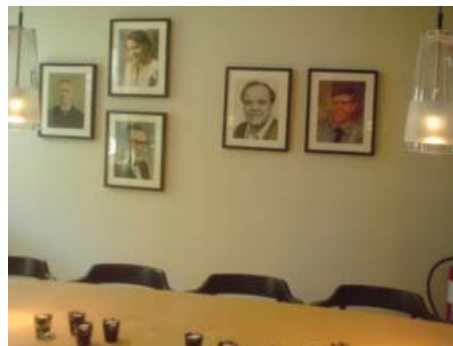
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tember 2005 issue of *The Lundby Letter*.

That scarcity of Lundby is soon to change, according to **Kristina Aronsson**, Micki Product Development Manager. "We will launch the Lundby Småland line in the US and Canada this year, starting in August," wrote Kristina in a recent email. The Småland is the new name for the Gothenburg, mainstay of Lundby dollhouse design. More details will be unveiled soon about how the new launch will be conducted.

Kristina also reported in her email that the Nuremberg Toy Fair held in February was very successful for Micki. All their new Lundby items for the Småland and Stockholm were very well received. Among the favorites were the new Småland Winter Garden accessories. She chuckles, "We were very happy about that!" Photos of the new items can be viewed on the Members Only page at <http://www.toysmiles.com>. New also for summer 2013 is the launch of a new Lundby website with a lot of decoration inspiration for big and small. ♥

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Rosskamp, GA



The Micki Leksaker photo gallery honors officials from the Aronsson family.

China. We started with our first revamp and now Lundby has been a success story for Micki for 12 or 13 years. After five years, we decided that customers were different and we needed a more modern house. We introduced the new Stockholm, which was a modernized dollhouse and it was accepted by the customers. The Stockholm is now one-third of our business. The market is different everywhere in Sweden. The secret of our success was not to employ home workers. We had to go to more efficient production in the Orient. That is why we are still married with Lundby. Today we own the brand."

(Ola bids his farewell to the group) "We are very fortunate that you are here today and for your interest in Lundby. Please go out and tell the world about Lundby!" APPLAUSE!!

(Kristina Aronsson, Product Development Manager, and Per's daughter, comments about their new historical display of dollhouses) "We thank Ola and Per for the history. Before we look to the future and move into the showroom, I can tell you a little bit about this collection. A few months ago, Yvette Wadsted, a member of the club, asked Micki if we were interested in buying her collection. And yes, we were, and this is a start for us to show the history of Lundby furniture. It's not complete right now. We haven't had a col-

Guess Who Bid the Highest!?

LUNDBY LOVERS of the renamed Gothenburg, now the Småland dollhouse, are very familiar with the winsome images, mostly of children and animals, which have been created by artist Lisa Rinnevou. A Lundby Småland dollhouse, designed and decorated by Lisa, was sold to the highest bidder last November at the Stockholms Auktionsverk, established in 1674. Proceeds from the dollhouse were donated to the charity, SOS Children's Villages. Meet the artist in two articles in the June 2006 issue of *The Lundby Letter*.

Did you spy the Lisa Rinnevou-decorated Småland in Micki's dollhouse gallery? Several photos of the dollhouse and Lisa's whimsical designs are shown accompanying an article only in Swedish on the Micki website, at <http://micki.se/sv/nyheter/lisa-rinnevo-designar-lundbyhus-till-forman-for-sos-barnbyar>.



Photo of decorated dollhouse courtesy of www.stadsauktion.se.



Lisa Rinnevou



SPECIAL: Inside the Lundby Newspaper

By Julie Plovnick

Editor's Note: Once you read this article, which appears on Julie Plovnick's blog, you'll learn that reading a miniature newspaper will require a powerful magnifying glass! Julie spent hours and hours researching and translating the Swedish into English. We appreciate that she has given us permission to reprint the information in The Lundby Letter. Visit Julie's website and blog at <https://sites.google.com/site/vintagelundby/> and <http://vintagelundby.blogspot.com/>

THE MINI LUNDBY NEWSPAPER is a great little piece of history—a window into life at the time. That tiny, folded newspaper is normally glued inside the Lundby newspaper rack (Item 6855 in the 1977 Lundby catalogue). I was curious but had never actually tried to read the Lundby paper until I came across a loose one without the rack.

It appears to be a miniature copy of *Svenska Dagbladet* (meaning “Swedish daily paper”). This is a real Swedish newspaper that has been published since 1884 and is distributed throughout Sweden. *Svenska Dagbladet* is online, and some of its recent content is available in English.

I can't make out the date of the mini Lundby paper, but the headlines provide some clues. Read on for a translation of some of these headlines (thanks to Google Translate). Swedish speakers, please feel free to correct me!

Here are the (legible!) front page headlines:



Wilson sends tanks to Ulster after massacre (*Wilson sänder pansar till Ulster efter massaker*). This is likely referring to UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who held office from 1964 to 1970 and from 1974 to 1976, during the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Winter after 5 years (*Vinter efter 5 år*)

Brawl at Kumla Two isolated (*Bråk på Kumla Två isolerade*). Kumla is one of Sweden's

biggest prisons.

Dog days for Helmer Bryd (*Hunddags för Helmer Bryd*). Helmer Bryd was the alter ego of Gunnar Svensson, who was a leading Swedish jazz musician and singer. Helmer Bryd hailed from Mosebacke Monarki, a fictional state in the middle of Stockholm created for a satire series on Swedish radio.

The inside left page is part of the sports section, and headlines may be referring to the Olympic Games:



Counter-attacks not enough to bring down Sweden world marksmen (*Kontringar fällde Sverige Världsskytt räcker inte*)

Match hero dissatisfied: "I pushed too much" (*Matchhjälten missnöjd "Jag sköt för mycket"*)

ALONE AGAINST ITALY (*ENSAM MOT ITALIEN*)

Series leaders in trouble (*Serieledarna illa ute*)

The inside right page has political and health stories (the real newspaper undoubtedly contained a whole center section, but more pages would have made the mini version too thick for the wooden rack)

CIA channeling money to Italian parties (*CIA slussade pengar till italienska partier*)

"Competition for funding threatening researcher security" (*Konkurrensen om anslag hotar forskarnas trygghet*)

Socialists' refusal led to new crisis (*Socialisternas vägran ledde till ny kris*)

Doctors want to abolish medical certificate



"so we'll have time for healthcare" (*Läkare vill slopa sjukintyg "Då får vi tid för sjukvård"*)

New emergency conferences: Murder leaders hunted (*Nya kriskonferenser Mordledare jagas*)

Environmental alerts on asthma attacks due to tire retreading (*Miljöalarm om astmaanfall vid regummering av däck*)

Seatbelts reduce serious injuries (*Bilbälte minskar svåra skadorna*). Perhaps this is what prompted designers of the Lundby family car to include seatbelts (in the front, anyway)! ♥

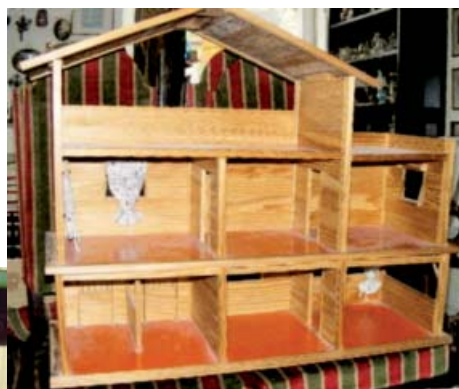


April 2013 Membership Update

WELCOME to our three new club members, **Colleen Armstrong**, Ontario, Canada; **Janine Benton**, Virginia; and **Helen Guest**, Virginia. An updated 2013 Membership Directory, including address and email changes, 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. ♥

A Rare Lundby Made in Germany



Julia's Lundbynette with furniture at left and unfurnished Lundbynette with stable extension above.

Photos courtesy of Julia Holloway

PERHAPS BECAUSE IT'S SO RARE, the Lundbynette dollhouse, introduced in 1981-82, whets our appetites for more info on yet another Lundby dollhouse design. The Lundby stable, only made one year, fits under the plain wood Lundbynette, which was actually made for Lundby by an unknown company in Germany.

One of our Gemla meeting attendees, **Julia Holloway**, UK, sent some photos of her Lundbynette, and gives us some insight into the origins of this rare dollhouse:

"I bought the two storey house with the furniture (in 2008) and the extension (in 2011) from eBay—both came from Germany. I have seen the one storey and two storey houses in my 1984 catalogue which is in German, Dutch and French, but not in the English one, so maybe it was only available in Europe. I have not seen a picture of the basement/stable in a catalogue at all.

"As you can see in the pictures, the house is made of solid pine, including the inner walls though the floors are hardboard. It is 80cm wide, in between the Gothenburg and the old Stockholm in size. There is no 'glass' in the windows though the ones in the downstairs have supports for curtains.

"The furniture is chunky solid pine. Most is similar in scale to the regular

Lundby furniture but the bedroom wardrobe unit measures H 13cm x W 14cm. I would love to find the dolls and I am lacking the bedside tables too."

If any of our members know more about the Lundbynette and/or the stable, please let us hear about your research.



Constructing Lundby's Historical Timeline

IN THE JUNE 2010 ISSUE of *The Lundby Letter*, we admitted that, although our club has made some progress in discovering information about early Lundby, many gaps remain in our history. We have made little progress in nearly three years since then to find documented evidence which accurately dates items prior to 1960.

We have promised for many years to create a compendium, "A Timeline of Dating Lundby Dollhouses and Furniture." Because of other recent projects requiring our attention, we've put the project on hold for awhile. We are not, however, shelving the endeavor without giving it the "good old college try."

Are there any members who want to help create a comprehensive timeline of Lundby history? ♥

Per Börnfelt Revisited

THANKS TO Peter Pehrsson and Elisabeth Lantz, we have learned more information about Per Börnfelt, the legendary designer of Lundby houses and furniture. His work for Lundby began when his company Lerro merged with Lundby in 1960.

Our first article about Per's contributions to Lerro and Lundby was reprinted in the March 2005 issue of *The Lundby Letter*. Unknown to us, Per Börnfelt died during the production of that issue, so the next issue, June 2005, published his memoriam: "Per Börnfelt, 79, was born April 21, 1926, in Skaraborg, Västergötland, and died in Äkersberga on February 20, 2005. His funeral was held March 15 at the Vallentuna Church in Vallentuna, Sweden."

According to Elisabeth Lantz, who spoke with his companion, the last dollhouse he designed for Lundby was the Manor dollhouse, produced and sold only from 1980 to 1982. During the last 20 years of his life, Per lived in Äkersberga, and was a well known local artist who had several exhibitions of his work. ♥



The tall, handsome Per Börnfelt appears in this photo from an exhibition at the Stockholm Miniature Museum. Peter Pehrsson discovered the image on the museum website, <http://www.miniworldstockholm.se>. The museum has recently moved to Helsingborg in southern Sweden and has been renamed the Toy World Sweden Museum.

Per Börnfelt opened the miniature museum's exhibition in Stockholm in 2001. See the photo on Peter Pehrsson's website,

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



Lundby Connections

Photo courtesy of Martha Stern



Photo courtesy of Peter Pehrsson



REMEMBER THE WONDERFUL story of the connection between **Martha Stern**, Israel, and **Lisa Sturm**, who lives in the same neighborhood in Michigan where Martha also grew up? Last summer Martha visited her family, still residing near Detroit, and stopped to see Lisa and her daughter, Briana. Says Lisa, "It's amazing what joining the Lundby Club can do!"



ANOTHER MYSTERY FOR OUR MEMBERS! **Reina Olthof** from The Netherlands sends this surprising photo from a German eBay listing of a "Lundby owl." It looks like a Gund stuffed toy, but why the Lundby label?

Photo courtesy of Reina Olthof



THERE'S NO DOUBT that Cheeky Monkey Toys is a handy friend of Lundby collectors. **Maria Cannizzaro**, NC, praises the California company, which helped her obtain some highly desired Lundby furniture and accessories. It was a thrill for Maria to light up her new Stockholm

with the Cheeky Monkey Australian transformer and a voltage converter from Radio Shack.



The Mystery of the Rare Dome Clock by Lundby

IT BOGGLES THE MIND to realize that so many variations of the Lundby dome clock, #6621, shown first in the 1979 catalog, are out there, confusing the Lundby collector. A Lundby expert once told me on good authority that the original Lundby dome clock is easily recognized by three mold tabs and several cut marks on the underside of the base. Other dome clocks have these same mold tabs and cut marks.

Pictures in the Lundby catalogs show the hands of the Lundby clock set at 3:00; however, the MIP Timeless Minis dome clock also has its hands set at 3:00. These similarities with off brands only leave the impression that Lundby did not make its own clock, but that it purchased the miniature from an unknown accessories maker.

WLLC member **Nan Cashour**, MD, reports that she found five dome clocks within a year. Throughout her years of collecting, Nan had never been able to provide any time pieces for her dolls. Then suddenly there was a house full. Out of Nan's five clocks, just three have the attached dome. One, interestingly, of the three domed clocks doesn't have the time set at 3:00. Nan adds that a similar clock to hers appears in *Yvette Wadsted's* book,

DID YOU KNOW that Swedish lore features a witch for Easter rather than Halloween? According to *Ingemar Liman* in his book, *Traditional Festivities in Sweden*, superstitious people believed that witches and their black magic were especially powerful during Easter week, and they did everything they could to protect themselves from the perceived evil powers. **Peter Pehrsson** and his mother created this very cunning rendition of the Easter Witch about a decade ago. Note the kettle she carries!



IT CAN BE VERY HELPFUL when the WLLC has both a friend and a member living in the same town in the Netherlands! When I experienced a glitch trying to contact member **Mariken Koning**, I emailed a collecting friend, **Gerda Westerink**, who also is from Enschede. Gerda came to the rescue and located **Mariken** for me. Not only did two Lundby advocates make contact, Gerda has some vintage Lundby furniture that **Mariken** might like!



Photo by Sue Morse

Dome clocks by unknown makers, except the Lundby clock on the far right.

Scandinavian Design in the Doll's House. In the caption section on page 266, it is described as a golden bracket clock, but the maker wasn't identified. All the more to add to our confusion! Can anyone help us out of this quagmire?

A very nice dome clock was manufactured by *Timeless Minis*, similar to the Lundby dome clock.



Photo courtesy of eBay seller

Spring Cleanup

By Julie Plovnick

YOU SURELY KNOW HOW RARE (and thrilling!) it is to find vintage Lundby dollhouses, furnishings, or dolls in pristine or like-new condition. Most bear the marks of time and use—from tiny tears, chips, and scuffs to heavy dirt and grime.

For me, part of the fun of collecting is fixing vintage items and attempting to return them to their former glory. As spring finally sprouts (here in the northern hemisphere, at least), I thought I'd share a few mini cleaning and restoration techniques I have found useful.

Yellowed or scuffed plastic

Use a slightly damp “magic eraser” type sponge on white plastic railings, dollhouse frames, and even plastic fencing and furniture. Scour well, being careful not to get floor or wall papers wet. This may not remove yellowing entirely but it does help, especially on scuff marks and dirt.



Yellowed plastic railings can become white again.



Give stained fabrics a denture-tablet bath!

Soiled or dull fabrics

To brighten dingy or stained curtains, bedding, and rugs without bleaching, soak them in warm water with a denture tablet for about 15 minutes. Then rinse and let dry. Do not soak upholstered furniture. Instead, wipe it gently with a damp soapy sponge and dry with a hairdryer. Rather than remove clothing from dolls (as it's often glued on), put the dolls in for a bath, fully clothed!

Chipped paint

Hide blemishes on painted wood with grease/wax pencils of a matching color, then buff up. A good match for touchups to ivory-colored furniture is Plaid's “FolkArt” series of acrylic paint in Tapioca (color 903). Plaid's also makes a metallic paint that can be used for gold detailing.

I hope you find these techniques helpful for your Lundby restoration projects! For more tips and resources, please visit my website and blog: <https://sites.google.com/site/vintagelundby/> and <http://vintagelundby.blogspot.com/>. ♥



The Kennedy Center was artfully illuminated each night during the festival from February 19-March 17 to replicate the lights of the aurora borealis.

“Nordic Cool” Delights in Washington, DC

BY ALL REPORTS, *Nordic Cool*, a month-long international festival of theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, design, and film at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, will be long remembered as a tribute to the performing arts of represented Scandinavian countries.

Dance turned out to be the most popular genre. My husband, Hal, and I were thrilled to be among ballet lovers at one of the most popular programs by Sweden's GöteborgsOperans Danskompani. ♥



Summer is coming and the 2013 Lundby catalog is ready with a large selection of great new items. Check out the patio features. Can you smell the corn, tomatoes, and steaks cooking on the grill? ♥

Photos courtesy of Julie Plovnick, MN

Photo by Sue Morse

Coming Up in the July 2013 Issue

- Report on West Virginia Convention
- More on New Småland and Stockholm Designs
- Early Lundby Pots & Pans
- Early Lundby Dolls
- Member Profile

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE to our Advisory Members for their continued and devoted service to the We Love Lundby Club: Kristina Aronson, Carolyn Frank, Sue Kopperman, Elisabeth Lantz, Marion Osborne, Peter Pehrsson, and Yvette Wadsted. We depend upon all of these members for research and information that is invaluable to the club.

Members in Focus

THIRTY-FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Sue Morse

ONE NEVER KNOWS where childhood experiences may take us. In the case of Swedish member **Birgitta (Bibi) Akerud**, her steps along the way to adulthood clearly set the stage for her blossoming into a pioneer, not only in her career, but in her hobbies as well.

Birgitta, who is known to her friends as Bibi, an endearing Swedish nickname, was born in a small seaside town in Sweden. She spent hours by the sea imaginatively constructing toys out of chestnuts, matchsticks, and seashells. The natural talents possessed by her mother, an artist, and her father, an engineer and inventor, inspired Bibi to gravitate toward studying graphic design, art, and languages; and she received a Bachelor of Science degree in library and information studies.

Bibi's father always made things with his hands, so Bibi inherited that trait. Bibi adds, "My sister and I, we have this saying: 'Why buy things you want when you can make them yourself?' And so we do. We paint and make miniature furniture and lots of other hobby activities with all sorts of materials."

Later, Bibi moved to Lund, married, had children, and began her career as a research librarian at Lund University. The next pioneering step in her life came in 1994 when she created a web site for her department at the university. Now she runs five different sites—three at her work and two private ones, one about miniatures and one containing domestic information. In her free time, she returns to nature and tends the garden in the country where she and her husband own a small cottage by a lake.



Photo by Sue Morse

Bibi Makes Frequent Visits to the US to Visit Family

One of Bibi's children, a daughter, lives in Hillsdale, NJ, a small town with a railroad and a library, which reminds her of Swedish towns like Lund! While in New Jersey, she dotes on her grandchildren, hunts for Lundby furniture at garage sales every weekend, and shops at the Michael's hobby store.

When Bibi was asked about her first exposure to Lundby, she answered, "In the seventies when my daughter got an old, shabby Gothenburg. I repaired it and started to make small things for it. I loved the scale. Of course, she was never interested, but I was hooked. It must have been about 1974." Bibi is not only fond of Lundby, but she also likes BRIO, Lerro, and Lisa, because those miniature makers are all part of the Scandinavian style in furniture and scale. Her favorite Lundby pieces are the really old ones from the fifties, but not the Rococo pieces.

Bibi's commitment to the We Love Lundby Club happened very quickly. About a year ago, she was searching the web for Lundby information and happily found the WLLC website, decided to join, and then signed up for the September gathering in Gemla. That decision gave us a gift—the unique opportunity to get to know Bibi!

Six months after the gathering, Bibi says this in response to a question about the impact that the exposure to other WLLC members made on her Lundby experience: "Enormous! You are so

Bibi was truly "in heaven" while visiting Peter Pehrsson's collection last September.

full of knowledge that I have to admire you all. You have collected for a long time and learned a lot in the process. It's the little things I love about Lundby, the differences in furniture styles, wall paper, and design."

As I'm certain our members will remember, Bibi is the translator of the article about our visit to Gemla. We thank Bibi, who created the PDF which captures the text of the article about our visit to Micki in the *Smålandsposten*, written by Margitta Lennartsson, plus most of the original images by Filip Sjöfors. The PDF is posted on the Members Only page of the website for exclusive use by WLLC members.

Be sure to check out Bibi's talents for creating miniatures which are displayed on her website, <http://goto.glocalnet.net/miniaturer/eng/index.htm>. ♥

A curious miniaturist like Bibi is always looking for a unique story. She found one when she came upon the history of Bild Lilli, the German doll that inspired Mattel's

Barbie doll. Bibi's photo of several Bild Lilli dolls displayed in the BRIO Leko-seum shows the resemblance. Collectors will pay dearly for a real Bild Lilli doll. She must have the little curl on her forehead!

For further info, a good portion of Wikipedia's information about Bild Lilli is available on the Members Only page.

Photo by Bibi Akerud.





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