

Letter From The Editor

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

- Christina Rossetti -

Dear Readers,

The holidays are over for another year, and we hope you had a happy season.

Our first issue of 2025 brings a cover story inspired by the Special Exhibit honoring The Wizard of Oz from last summer's UFDC convention. Author, Jane Albright, past president of the International Wizard of Oz Club, was a guest speaker during the convention. She shares the story behind the early dolls and toys inspired by L. Frank Baum's Oz series of books as well as those inspired by the 1939 MGM film.

Elizabeth Ann Coleman relates the fascinating background of early doll collector, Laura Starr, author of *The Doll Book*, 1908.

Rhoda Seidenberg shares the connection that linked J. H. Hoffheimer—Lilli Baitz—Ethel Traphagen using information she found in the Lilli Baitz archives located in Voralsburg, Austria.

Samy Odin writes Part 1 of a two-part column on paper dolls depicting babies, and Nicki Burley offers a pattern for a cape set fit for a fashion doll—perfect for the month of January.

We wanted to share with you an important research source. The Strong National Museum of Play has acquired several significant archives of interest to doll collectors: the Coleman Family Papers, the Gruelle Family Collection, the Flora Gill Jacobs Papers, Andrew Tabbat Correspondence, and the Doll Collectors of America (DCA), Inc. records.

The Strong's site is easily searchable: archives.museumofplay.org/. We wish each of you a Happy New Year!

Laurie

Laurie McGill
Editor-in-Chief

