

Letter From The Editor

A doll is a storyteller, woven with memories of playtime and cherished moments.

The Doll (Louise Boulanger, 2015)

Dear Readers,

Recently I attended one of Stuart Holbrook's *Table Talk Doll Club Tour* events. As usual, Stuart, the President of Theriault's, was charming, hilarious, and full of fun stories. One of the takeaways for me was: *tell the stories of the dolls in your collection*. If someone shudders when he or she sees your collection (resulting from the negative impact of the *Chuckie* and *Annabelle* films), try to connect with them by telling them something relatable about the dolls. *Tell them the doll's story*.

Stuart brings us our cover article for this, our annual double issue of *ADC*, where he tells the story of legendary doll collector, Gail Cook. For years Gail has generously shared her dolls at national conventions, regional conferences, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Dallas Arboretum, as well as graciously granting in-home tours of her museum-quality collection.

In addition to his recurring *Paper Doll Stories* column, Samy Odin honors Bécassine, the beloved French character that began as a comic strip and became a doll in 1905. *ADC* paid a special visit to Marion Maus, who opened her beautiful historic Maryland home, allowing us to photograph her superb collection of dolls and dollhouses. Marion's lifelong love of dolls will surely touch your heart.

Vickie Hannig takes us on a journey to Japan where we learn the art of Awaji Puppetry. Linda Holderbaum draws us back to the days of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the W.P.A. program, spotlighting the composition, papier-mâché, and composition-covered-with-cloth dolls. Joy Harrington gives us a creative and descriptive pictorial of two incredibly special papier-mâché boy dolls dressed for different seasons of the year. Jane Foster discusses the Ideal Plassie doll vs. the Ideal Baby Coos doll. And, our talented pattern designer, Nicki Burley, has created a tennis outfit for Bleuette, the "always elegant, always stylish" French doll and friend of Bécassine.

We look forward to seeing you in Norfolk, Virginia this summer for the 76th Annual UFDC Convention. Look for us at Publisher's Preview on Friday, July 25.

Every doll has a story to tell, waiting to be discovered by an attentive observer.

The Doll (Louise Boulanger, 2015)

Laurie

Laurie McGill
Editor-in-Chief

