

# Letter From The Editor

“Mary was bigger than Laura, and she had a rag doll named Nettie. Laura had only a corncob wrapped in a handkerchief, but it was a good doll. It was named Susan. It wasn’t Susan’s fault that she was only a corncob. Sometimes Mary let Laura hold Nettie, but she did it only when Susan couldn’t see.”

Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House in the Big Woods*

Dear Readers,

There is something special about rag dolls. Often sewn by mothers or little girls learning to wield a needle and thread, they might be made up of scraps left over from homemade dresses. Some might be fashioned from socks, or some might spring from a farmer’s worn feed sack. Some cloth dolls—such as the Izannah Walker dolls, the Maggie-Bessie dolls, the Columbian dolls, the Martha Chase dolls—were made by female entrepreneurs from the comfort of their homes. Rag dolls have stories to tell, as does the special doll on the cover of this issue of *Antique DOLL Collector*.

Donelle Denery and Anne Timpson share the well-researched history behind the rare Lancaster Rag dolls. Although long familiar to collectors, the backstory of these dolls was not published until now.

“Jointed Paper Dolls, Part 2” comes to us from Samy Odin. Sharon Weintraub delights us with the mischievous German bisque male beach figurines.

Bradley Justice covers The Barry Art Museum’s special exhibit—Out of the Box, a Barbie Doll Retrospective—on view now through July 31—in Norfolk, Virginia.

And Rebekah Kaufman discusses the Fred and Nancy Schumacher Steiff Bear Collection soon to be auctioned at Ladenburger Spielzeugauktion, Germany on June 28.

Check out the Table of Contents page for a link to an online pattern from our ADC archives—a summer tunique by Sylvia MacNeil from our October 2007 issue.

We at *Antique DOLL Collector* wish each of you a happy summer!

*Laurie*

Laurie McGill  
Editor-in-Chief

