

Motivation to Get Out and About as Santa Barbara Returns to Normal

To give those in California a reason to get out of the house during the pandemic, the Susan Quinlan Museum offered free admission to senior citizens and 50% discounts to others (\$3.50 adults and \$2.00 children). This will remain in place for the near future. The museum is open to the public 11am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday, or you can call (805) 687-4623 to make an appointment for a private visit to the museum with exclusive access on Sunday through Thursday for you, family and friends. Santa Barbara County has lifted covid restrictions, so face masks are not required at the museum and most other indoor facilities.

Museum Online Store

The Susan Quinlan Museum recently established an online store at www.quinlanmuseum.com/store with the purpose of making doll and teddy bear related items that are hard to find at other online and brick-and-mortar stores readily available and at prices generally below market prices (assuming you can find them). **Nearly 50% of the items are \$30 or less.** So far there are over 200 items available in the online store and **only one of each is available.** Having been in storage all these years, 90% of the merchandise is over 20 years old and in new condition (often still in boxes). Some items like books date back to pre-1920s. The merchandise includes (approx. quantity in parentheses): books including pop-ups (35), doll clothing and accessories (40), dolls (60), holiday items (25), jewelry (10), miniatures (20), and teddy bears (20).

“Dr. Toy” Books Available for Donation

Dr. Stevanne Auerbach might be considered the first nationally recognized “toy expert” in American popular culture. You might recognize her as the early childhood expert known as “Dr. Toy,” famous for her many TV appearances, annual toy recommendation lists, and “Dr. Toy Awards” to toy companies.

Dr. Auerbach is seeking to **donate** new copies of her out of print seminal work *The Toy Chest: A Source Book of Toys for Children* and new copies of her revised edition of *Smart Play Smart Toys*. Dr. Auerbach hopes for these materials to be made available to parents, parent groups, educators, school children, and toy designers.

There are over 20 boxes (about the size of banker’s boxes). We cannot accommodate requests for individual copies. You would need to order whole box(es) and pay book rate postage or your preferred form of shipping.

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Miniature Books in the Susan Quinlan Collection

I recently added an unusual miniature book to the Library collection, and I realized that I would like to share this collection with you.

What is a miniature book? Collectors have decided that it must be 3 inches or smaller in height, width, and thickness. Some miniature books published in the 19th century or earlier are 4", and these are now designated as macrominiature books. Smaller books include microminiature books (less than 1 inch in all dimensions) and ultra-microminiature books (less than 1/4 inch in all dimensions).

Miniature books have a long history, ranging from cuneiform tablets from thousands of years ago through religious Books of Hours published in medieval times. After the introduction of printing, about 200 miniature books were printed in the 16th century. The 19th century was considered to be the golden age for miniature books that were published on a wide range of topics. There were Bibles and other religious works, almanacs, political propaganda, travel guides, Victorian etiquette (flirting, the meaning of flowers), Shakespeare's works, fiction such as Sherlock Holmes stories, children's books (both educational and fictional works), speeches, and poetry. Today some of the miniature books are produced by commercial publishers, and others are crafted by small presses as works of art.

Miniature books were a matter of convenience, especially when travelling. They were an early version of an e-book or the internet, providing information and amusement while requiring little space or weight in the luggage. One of the most famous examples is Napoleon's traveling library that fit in a small box that he carried with him. They could often be carried in a gentleman's pocket or a lady's reticule and would be available quickly when needed. In the case of children, it just seemed natural that the small books were better suited for small hands. And little girls could share their small books with their dolls, thus learning while teaching their pupils. They come not only in a variety of sizes, but also in various formats. In addition to regular books, there are cuneiform tablets, scrolls, shape books, and toy and movable books.

There are a number of large collections of miniature books. The University of Iowa has 4,000 miniature books. The University of North Texas has 3,000 items. The Quinlan Library has a much smaller collection, especially with its emphasis on the subject areas of dolls and teddy bears. But even so there are a number of fun and unusual books. A list of the books from the Quinlan Library that are covered in this article appears at the end of this article.

Miniature books became connected with the doll world when Queen Mary requested books for the library in her famous dollhouse in 1922, and many dollhouse enthusiasts began collecting miniature books for their dollhouses. It seems appropriate that the Queen's collection should be the subject of several miniature books.



The volume on the left used a stamp with a picture of the Queen as an illustration, while the volume on the right used a picture of the library room in the dollhouse.

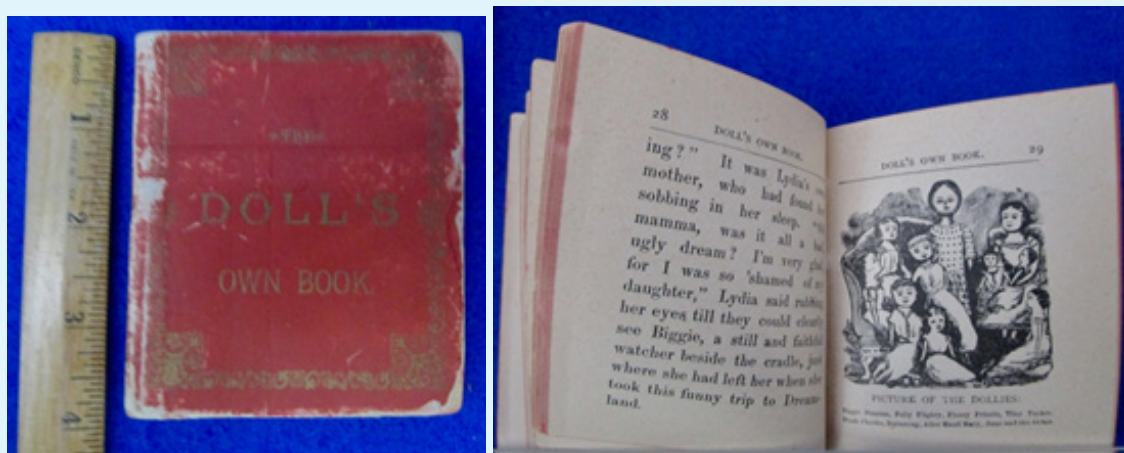
Miniature books that have been made for dollhouse libraries in the 1 inch to 1 foot scale consist mainly of a front and back cover without any printing or information on any of the pages. I have some examples of these but do not consider them to be actual miniature books since they cannot be read. However, I do have one set of dollhouse books that I find interesting. They are a set of tiny reproductions of 6 of the books authored by Florence Gill Jacobs, author and former owner of the Washington Toy and Doll Museum. The titles of the books are: *A History of Dolls' Houses*, *A World of Doll Houses*, *Dolls' Houses in America*, *The Toy Shop Mystery*, *The Doll House Mystery*, and *Victorian Dolls Houses and Their Furniture*. While these reproductions shown below all have blank pages, the author signed the first page in each book.



Another miniature book about dollhouses shown below is a book by Jean Nisbet on how to repair dollhouses.



There are several examples of the macrominiature book of the 19th century in my collection. This is *The Doll's Own Book* that was published in 1882.



Another is *Dolly's Picture Book* published in 1865. You can see the elaborate book cover and an example of the lovely tinted pictures.



A popular pastime in the 19th century was collecting scraps. Scraps are small paper images printed using lithographic techniques and produced in America, Scandinavia, England and especially Germany where printers were the finest and most prolific producers of scraps in Europe. Scrap sheets went through two other processes after printing: embossing that gave the sheet a raised 3D appearance and a punching process was used to cut away surplus areas of paper from the design. The most expensive scraps were finished with gold leaf. They were used originally to decorate cakes in bakeries, then to decoupage boxes and furniture. Scrapbooking was the earliest form of collecting any kind of memorabilia. It became widely popular as soon as people could buy or produce photographs as a favorite way to preserve important moments of their lives and the lives of members of their family. They were also used on Valentines. Scrapbooks today haven't changed much from the early days with photos arranged in an album with other kinds of ephemeral memorabilia such as newspaper clippings, letters, scraps or stamps, and sometimes even physical items attached. Here is an example of an early scrap book for dolls.



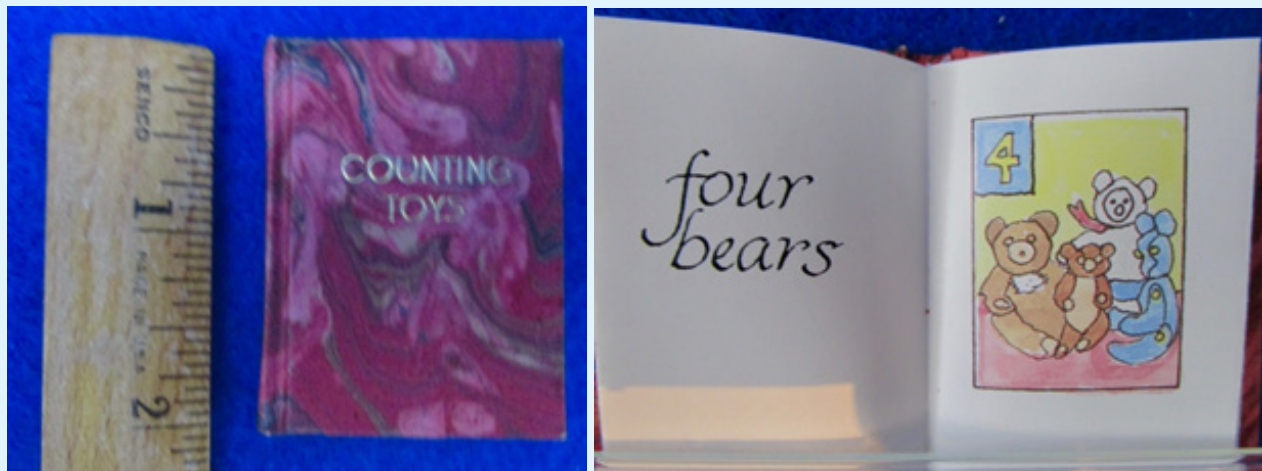
Another development in the 19th century was photography. In 1884 Eastman created the easy-to-use box camera using celluloid film. Because of its relative simplicity and its low cost, it became popular with consumers. This album appears to be a miniature edition showing sepia-tone photographs of thirteen dolls from the French store called *Au Paradis des Enfants*. There is no text.



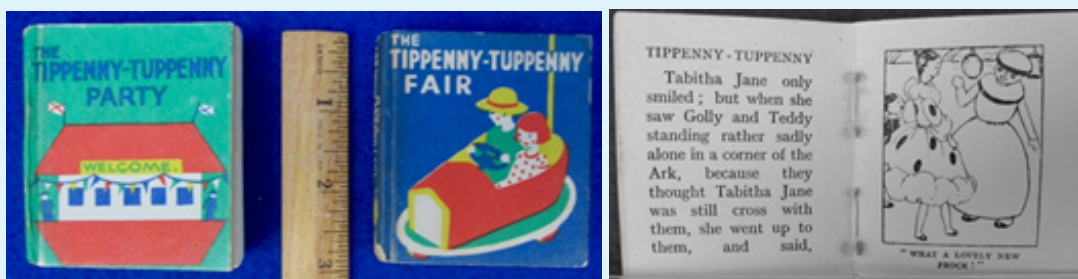
Miniatures can cover a wide range of subjects. This one represents an educational category that was very popular, the primer. It is titled *The Doll's Prymer: For a Litel Childe's Delyte*. This book was produced in 1939 by an American printer who tried to make it look like a book that might have been printed by Caxton, the famous 15th century printer who probably introduced the printing press in England. This 1939 book was created to look like what he might have published in 1439.



Another educational example for teaching numbers would be *Counting Toys*. This book shows three dolls and four teddy bears, but the other toys are not dolls or bears.



Other historical or antique miniatures include some books in the Tuppenny-Tuppenny series. These two books have stories about dolls, with a wooden doll named Tabitha Jane as the main character.



A similar title would be *Tim the Builder* that tells three stories about Tuppenny-Tuppenny Town that Tim builds. It looks like it might have been part of the Tuppenny-Tuppenny series, but I can't find any information to support this.



Miniature books have been published in many formats. These include fanfolds, pop-ups, pull-tabs, scrolls, tunnel books and shape books.

Shape books were very popular in the 19th century and have become a staple of current publishing. Antique doll books published by Raphael Tuck and Ernest Nister were reproduced more recently in miniature by the Merrimack Publishing Company.



And some old Santa Claus books have also been reproduced.



Pop-ups, a term first applied in the 1940s by Blue Ribbon Publishing, have consistently been popular ever since. This example comes with an additional piece that acts as the dollhouse floor. The book opens carousel style and the covers are tied together at the back.



Fanfolds have also proven to be popular. The Quinlan Library contains several examples. These are two books by Helmut Spanner.



This lovely book about visiting teddy bears in Oxford came in a slip case.



This commercial Winnie the Pooh book comes in an oversized case, but the book section is just over 2" high. One side of the fanfold has the illustrations, and the other side the text. It contains an extra surprise of a tunnel picture in the case behind the fanfold.





The book titles also illustrate two different types of miniature books – the artistic and the commercial. In the 20th century it became popular for small presses to put out the work of artists. These were carefully made in small editions. Miniature titles can include both non-fiction and fiction titles. Sometimes antique books were reproduced in miniature form.

The Catherine Susan books by Kathleen Ainslie were published from 1905 to 1910. This is a recent publication drawn from those books by Barbara Raheb.



Emily Dow published *The Diary of a Birthday Doll* in 1908. Mosaic Press published a miniature version of the book in 1979.



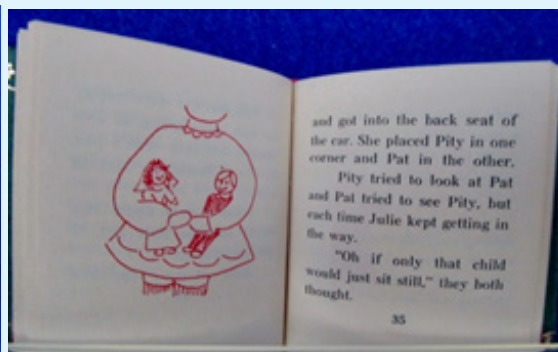
This book covers the subject of kachinas.



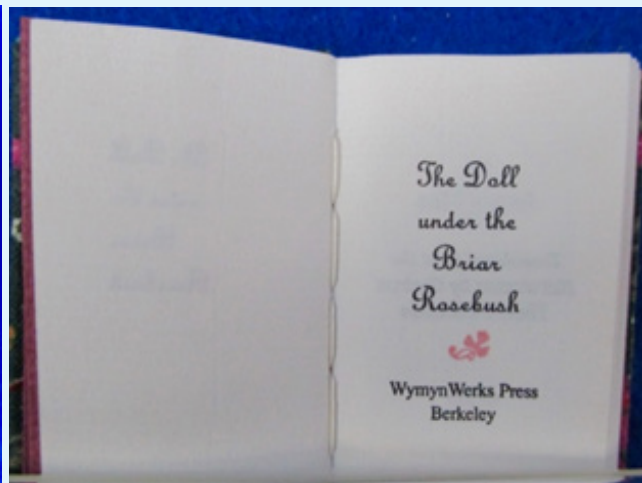
In Kathryn Rickard's *Dolls that Never Were Mine*, the author remembers three dolls that she wanted very badly when growing up. She never obtained them but had no regrets as the experience led her to her eventual career as a collector of miniature books.



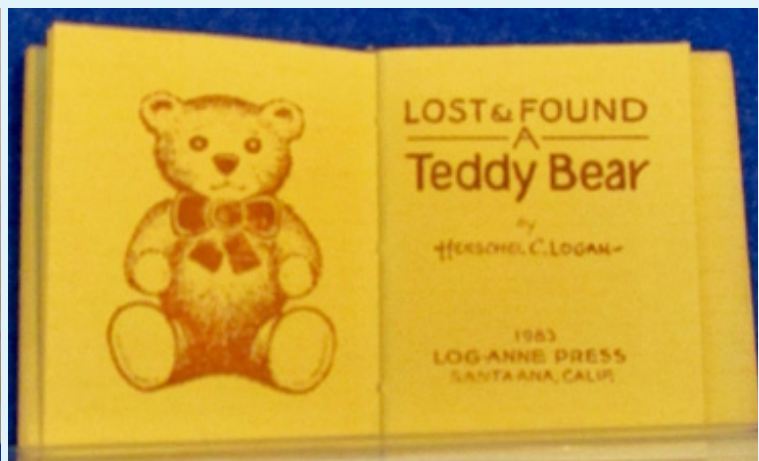
Some books, like *Two Stories*, had multiple stories in a small volume.



Doll Under the Briar Rosebush was published by a small press in Berkeley.



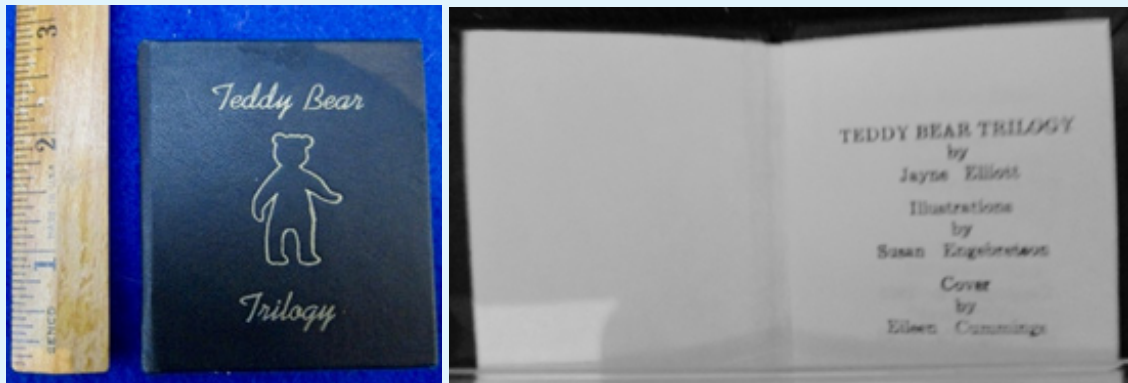
The Log Anne Press of Santa Ana California published Herschel C. Logan's *Lost & Found A Teddy Bear...*



...and Anne S. Logan's *Dolls I Have Made*.



Jayne Elliott's *Teddy Bear Trilogy* was published in 1988 by the E. C. Press of San Diego.



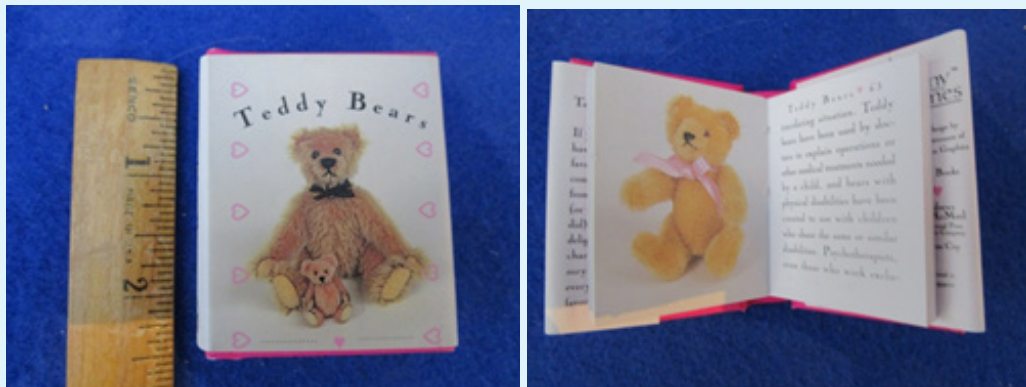
Ash Ranch Press published Don Hildreth's *Tiny Tome* in 1989 (on the right in the first picture). Then in 1991 they published a bilingual version *Tiny Tome/Tomo Miniscula* in English and Spanish that was slightly larger and was published in a slipcase (on the left in the first picture). The bilingual edition includes a pop-up in the middle.



Another tiny teddy bear book is *The Magic of the Teddy Bear*. This book is so tightly bound that it wasn't possible to get a picture of an interior page.



Commercial publishers have continued to publish miniatures. Here is a recent teddy bear book.



Golden books have been an integral part of childhood for many of us, as have the books illustrated by Richard Scarry. In the 1960's Scarry illustrated a set of 16 miniature shape books for the publisher that included *Mary's Doll House* (volume 9 in the series).



There have also been several examples of board books in miniature that have been published recently. These publishers found a way to combine thick pages with a flexible binding, creating fun board books for small fingers. Here are two board books by Sara Ball...



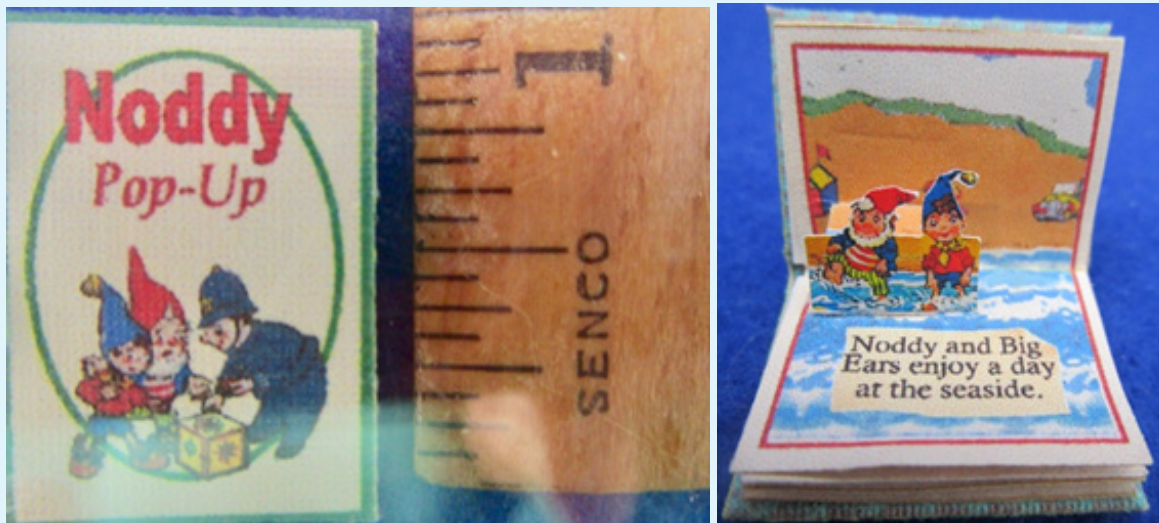
and two board books by Paul Strickland.



Can one find recently-made miniature books? Of course. I purchased the following set of books just last year. The author based them on a back story of a friendship between two of her own dolls, a small Betsy McCall and a Hitty doll. Each book also comes with accessories that match the story. Valentine's Day book includes 10 valentines and a frog. The *Pennies From Heaven* book is based on stories by Florence Upton.



I would like to conclude with two of my favorites. First is my 1" Noddy pop-up. There are five pictures taken from Noddy books that have been turned into simple pop-ups in this tiny book. Text accompanying each picture describes the activity, such as Noddy's washday, Noddy in his yellow car, a picnic, Noddy and Big Ears at the beach, and at home with his friends and neighbors.



My History of Russian Nesting Dolls is one of my most unusual books. I love the way that these books mimic the dolls themselves with one fitting inside another in graduated sizes. I think that it is a perfect way to let the reader understand what a matryoshka doll is like.



I would like to close with a miniature that does not deal with dolls or teddy bears. However I heard that in 2022 this publication is celebrating its 100th anniversary. I think that the Reader's Digest has been an important part of American life, and congratulations are in order.



List of Books In the Article

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---Kris Kringle. [NY: Merrimack, n.d.]

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Dolly Dear

Dolly In Town

Little Red Riding Hood

Only a Doll

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