

Miniature Mania



Image courtesy of Tim Hampton and Liza Antrim



Nº1 ONE ROYAL CRESCENT

small worlds

AN EXHIBITION OF DOLLS' HOUSES FROM THE 18TH & 19TH CENTURIES

Introduction



Miniature Mania: small worlds, BIG DISCOVERIES has been inspired by Liza Antrim's astonishing private collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century dolls' houses, many of which have been generously loaned to No 1, Royal Crescent for the *Small Worlds* exhibition.

Each and every house tells a unique story, taking us back in time, and into miniature worlds.

Here we introduce you to just some of the fascinating historic dolls' houses that are on public display around the country, and a few further afield.

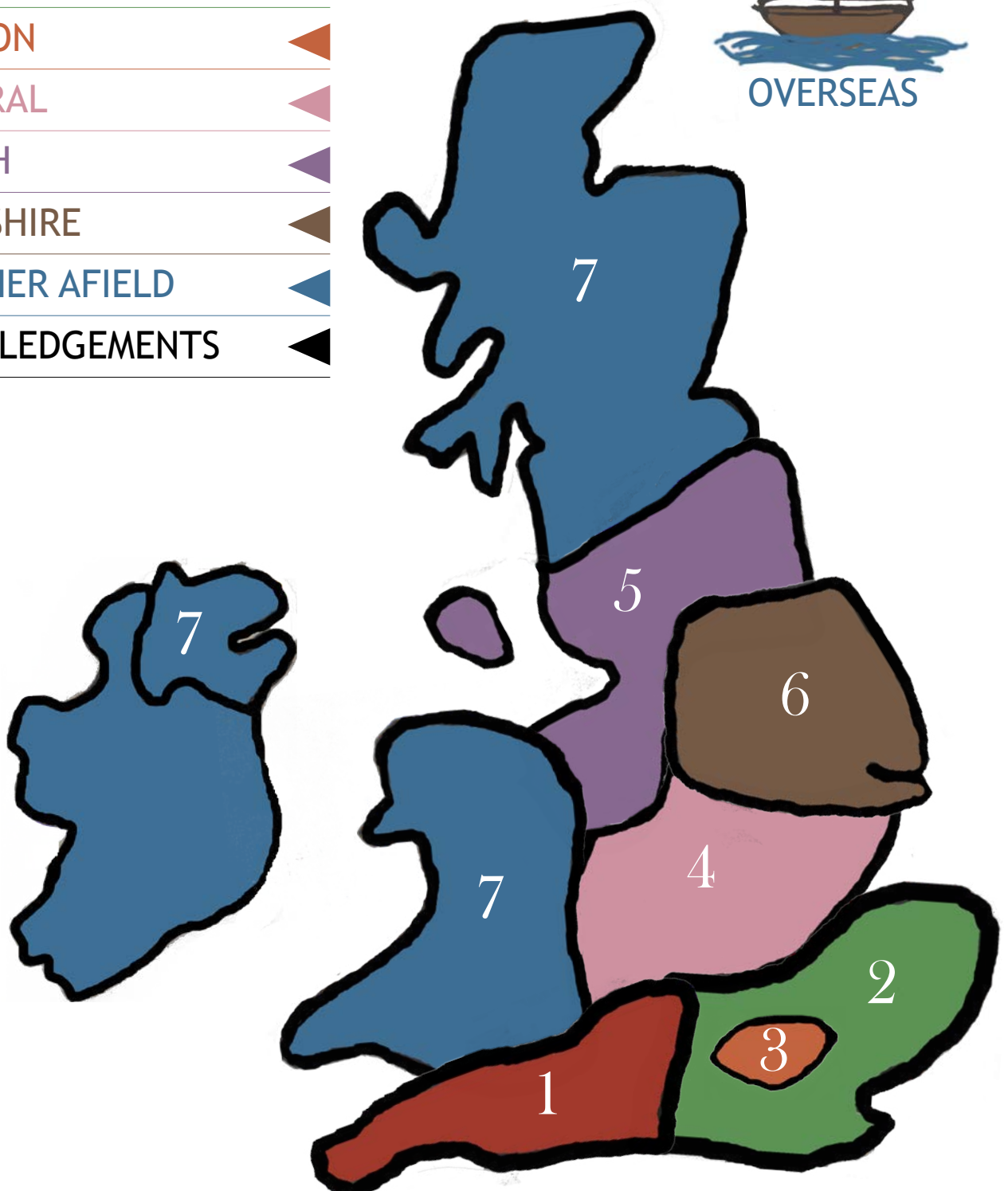
Miniature Mania is a collaborative project between final year Heritage students at Bath Spa University and No 1, Royal Crescent.

If you are able to view this as an interactive pdf the ◀ will help you move around, or take you to websites for more information on the dolls' houses that we have discovered. Also, a click on our home icon will take you back to the contents page. Enjoy big discoveries in miniature!



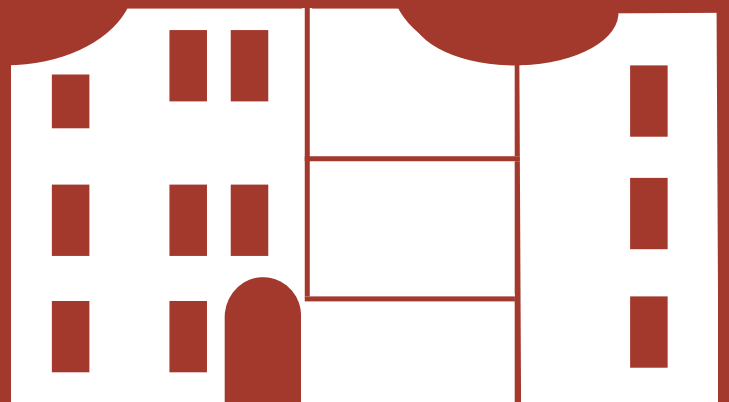
Contents

INTRODUCTION	◀
1. SOUTH WEST	◀
2. SOUTH EAST	◀
3. LONDON	◀
4. CENTRAL	◀
5. NORTH	◀
6. YORKSHIRE	◀
7. FURTHER AFIELD	◀
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	◀



1.

South West





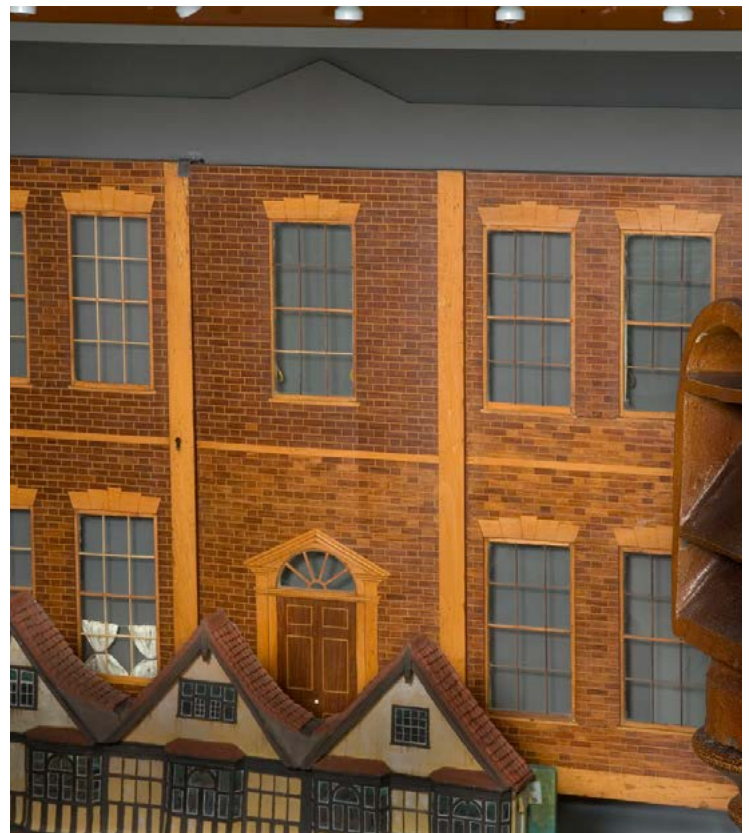
© National Trust Images / Lynda Aiano

Dolls' House, c.1700s
Lanhydrock
Cornwall ◀

This four-storey dolls' house was brought to Lanhydrock in 1995 from Berrington Hall. It contains eight rooms, including an attic bedroom. It was designed by the famous Liners Brothers, who were known for their intricate miniature furniture. Although not originally from Lanhydrock, it has a Cornish link to Liza Antrim's 'Norfolk Lodge', which was produced for Penzance's Burlton House.

Dolls' House, c.1800s
Blaise Castle House Museum
Somerset ◀

This is a collection of nineteenth-century dolls' houses, which includes replicas of its owners' house. George Webb Hall and his wife, Maria, commissioned the house for their ten children to play with and it was then passed down through generations until it was donated to the museum in 2001. This house reflects the production methods and aesthetics of Liza Antrim's 'Museum' and 'The Vickerman House'.



© Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives



© National Trust / Overbecks

Dolls' House Collection Overbecks

Devon ◀

Otto Overbeck (1860-1937), was the inventor of the 'Overbeck Rejuvenator', a 1920s electrotherapy machine designed for use by the general public. His dolls' houses are kept in a secret room at what was his seaside home. There are many elements in the collection that resemble the Victorian houses in the *Small Worlds* exhibition, like 'The Fry House'. If you visit Overbecks see if you can find Fred the friendly ghost on your way around.

Whiteway Dolls' House, c.1850 Saltram

Devon ◀

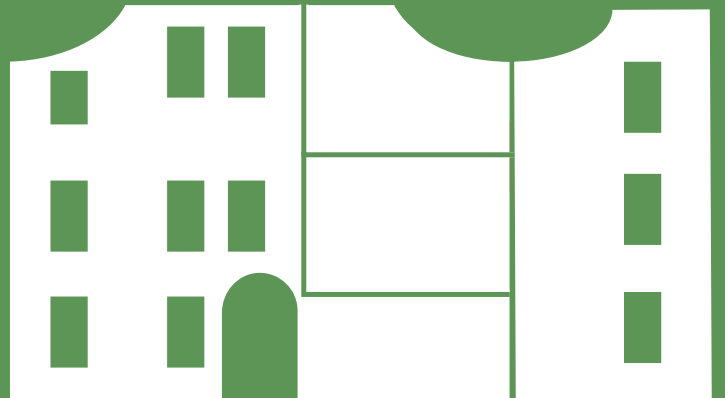
This house was donated to Saltram by Vivien Greene, wife of the novelist Graham Greene. Like Liza Antrim, she had a long-term passion for dolls' houses and she partly inspired Antrim to collect. 'Whiteway' features a functional snow-globe, as well as a miniature Bible so intricately designed that it is legible with a magnifying glass.



© National Trust / Sofia Farley & Denis Madge

2.

South East





© Norfolk Museum Service, Strangers' Hall collections

Dolls' House Collection Strangers' Hall

Norfolk ◀

Strangers' Hall contains a collection of dolls' houses, their most popular being the 'Norwich Baby House'. The Palladian-style Georgian exterior houses three rooms, one of which contains forty pieces of Staffordshire blue and white kitchenware. The museum is involved in a programme to improve the display, storage and conservation of the houses for the spring of 2017.

The Old Rectory, c.1800s

Diss Museum

Norfolk ◀

'The Old Rectory' was professionally-crafted for the local Manning family and formed a treasured part of 24 children's upbringing. This dolls' house arrived at Diss Museum in 1994 after living for a short while in America. Similarly, 'The Vickerman House' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition also once spent time across the Atlantic Ocean.



© Diss Museum



© Image used courtesy of Colchester and Ipswich Museums.

Miss Worrin's Dolls' House c.1860-1890

Hollytrees Museum, Essex ◀

This house was originally a two-storey property with a small attic, but had side extensions, a garden and a conservatory added later. Donated to the museum in 1938, this house highlights an affluent lifestyle with tennis and croquet lawns. Liza Antrim's 'Stamford Cottage' offers a contrast to Miss Worrin's house by demonstrating another use of outdoor space.

Melton Constable Hall, c.1660s Gressenhall farm and Workhouse, Norfolk ◀

This is the earliest surviving internally-divided dolls' house in Britain, dating back over 350 years. It was built prior to the real Melton Constable Hall and is thought to have been an architectural model for its rebuild. Later it came to be used as a toy, this is in contrast to 'Stamford Cottage' at the *Small Worlds* exhibition, which supposedly stayed as a model.



© From the collections of Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Norfolk Museums Service



© Image courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery

‘Rigg Dolls’ House’, c.1840s
 Tunbridge Wells
 Museum & Art Gallery, Kent ◀
 The ‘Rigg Dolls’ House’ was a gift from a stockbroker to his two young girls. Donated to the museum in 1957, this house has been maintained with the majority of its original features still intact. Similarly, the *Small Worlds* ‘The Fry House’ also dates from the 1840s and was a gift for his daughter, Priscilla Fry. The museum also has a later Victorian house (c.1890s) and a large toy collection.

Dolls’ House, c.1730s
 Uppark House
 West Sussex ◀

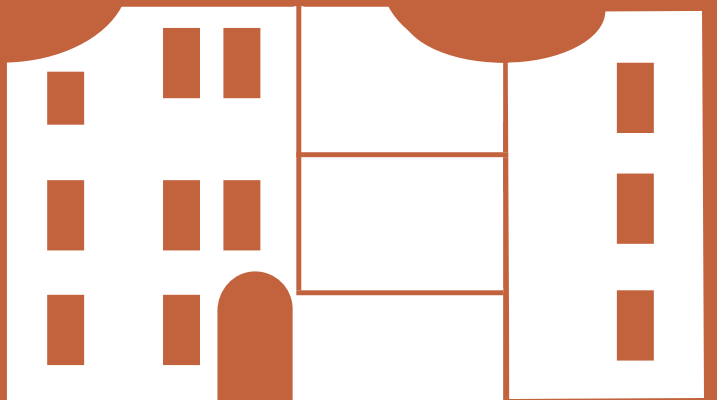
Brought to Uppark House in 1746 when Lady Sarah Lethieullier married Sir Matthew Fethersonhaugh, this house contains furnishings from all over Europe that were collected on the ‘Grand Tour’. It was made around 30 years earlier than the oldest house within the *Small Worlds* collection, therefore making it an interesting comparison.



© National Trust Images / Nadia Mackenzie

3.

London





© Historic Royal Palaces 2014

'Baby House'

c.1780s

Kew Palace ◀

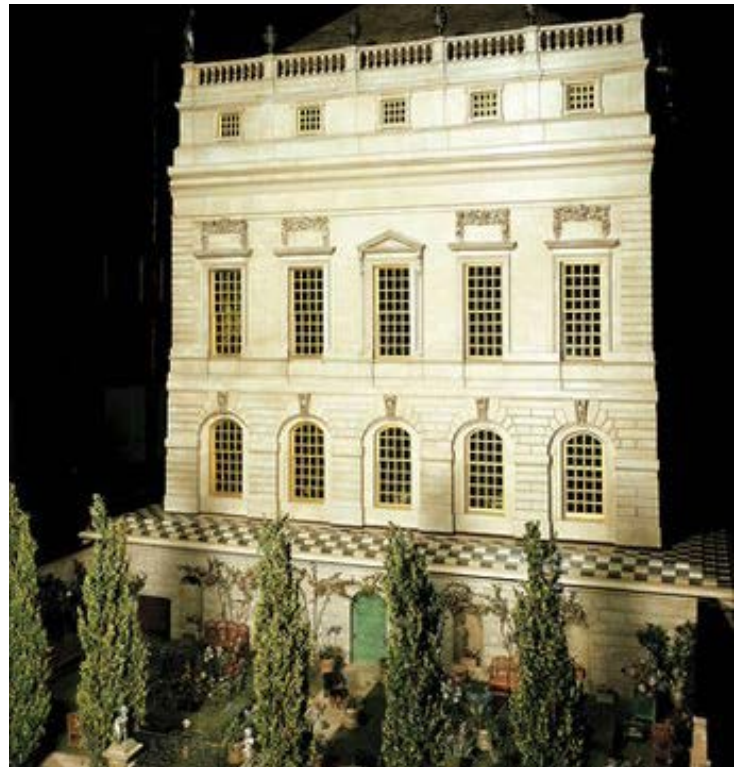
The historic Royal property of Kew Palace has a dolls' house that was built for the princesses of King George III. While it has experienced many changes in ownership, most of its original features and furnishings remain. Like many of its contemporary 'baby houses,' as they were known, it epitomised the notion of dolls' houses being the preserve of the elite.

Queen Mary's Dolls' House

c.1921

Windsor Castle ◀

Presented as a gift to the Royal Family, this three-storey mansion exemplifies the Edwardian household and is the world's largest dolls' house. It shows the same dedication to architectural accuracy as Liza Antrim's 'Stamford Cottage', but on a much grander scale; including a flushing toilet, an elevator, and cars in the garage.



© Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2015, <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/>



© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Nuremberg House, c.1673 Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood ◀

The Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood's *Small Stories* exhibition (running until 6th September 2015) is an addition to the dolls' houses on permanent display at the museum. The 'Nuremberg house', dated 1673, shows German features that are similar to the 'Grocer's Shop' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition, reflecting an international theme in dollhouse production and collecting.

'Baby House'

c.1760

Museum of London ◀

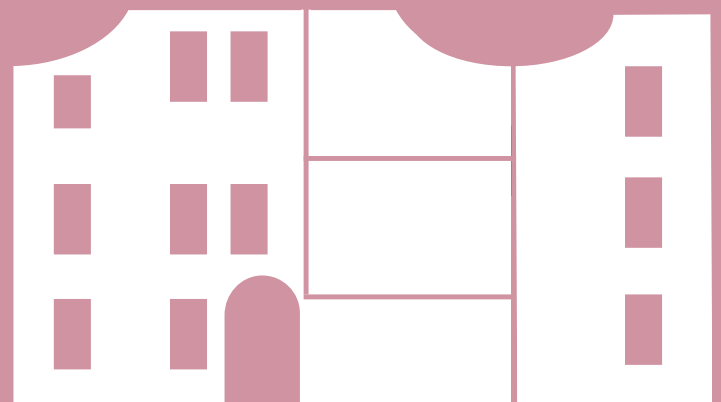
This house was originally owned by Lady Anne Blackett, wife of Sir Edward the 4th Baronet, a Northumberland MP in the mid-to-late-eighteenth century. Like Liza Antrim's 'Norfolk Lodge', it was an ornament rather than a toy, and demonstrated the owner's social status.



© Museum of London

4.

Central



Dolls' House Collection

Sudbury Hall and The National Trust Museum of Childhood

Derbyshire ◀



© National Trust / Tankerdale Ltd



© National Trust / Tankerdale Ltd

This museum hosts a vast collection of dolls' houses from a range of periods, with models from the nineteenth to late-twentieth century. Viewing this collection is a journey through both time and changing ideas of childhood. Many of the houses are displayed in the centre of the rooms so that they are viewable from many angles. Alongside the eighteenth and nineteenth-century focus of the *Small Worlds* exhibition, the two collections give an insight into how the design and use of dolls' houses has changed over three centuries.



© Image courtesy of Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

Dolls' House, c.1932 Museum of Nottingham Life Nottinghamshire ◀

One of the most notable exhibits in this museum is a dolls' house donated in 2003 by local resident Elizabeth Farr. This house was originally given to Elizabeth by her godmother, and contains dolls that represent members of her family. This echoes the approach of personalising houses which is evident in the 'The Fry House' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition.

Tolsey Museum Dolls' House c.1939, Tolsey Museum West Oxfordshire ◀

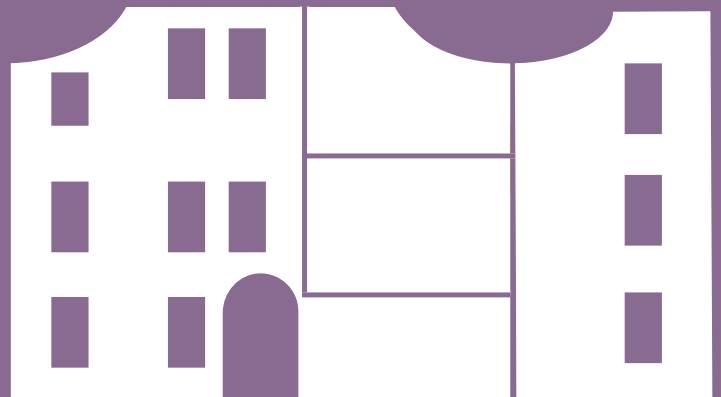
The Tolsey Museum dolls' house was created by 90 of Burford's local residents, and is modelled on 'The Great House' of Witney Street in the nineteenth century. Like 'Elkington' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition, it replicates upper class domestic life.



© Burford Tolsey Museum / Jo Dickson

5.

North



Dolls' House Collection
Hoghton Tower
Preston ◀



From the collection at Hoghton Tower ©T de Hoghton



From the collection at Hoghton Tower ©T de Hoghton

The 27 dolls' houses at Hoghton Tower present a social history of nineteenth and twentieth-century Britain from both sides of the class divide. Like Liza Antrim's 'The Vickerman House,' some of the collection, such as 'Pippa's Cottage,' has undergone restoration. Discovered in Sherbourne in a poor condition, the dolls' house was restored by former owner Mrs King, who initially unwrapped the house from 50-year-old newspapers. The name 'Pippa,' written on the walls, hinted towards its original owner's identity.



© National Trust Images / Andreas von Einsiedel

Dolls' House Collection Wallington

Northumberland ◀

Wallington Hall contains eighteen dolls' houses from various time periods, with the oldest dating back to 1835. Like 'Stamford Cottage' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition, the 'Hammond House' at Wallington boasts contemporary nineteenth-century mod-cons within 36 fully-furnished rooms, 1,500 pieces of furniture and electrical fittings. At one point it even had running water.

Beatrix Potter's Dolls' House c.1904

Hill Top, Cumbria ◀

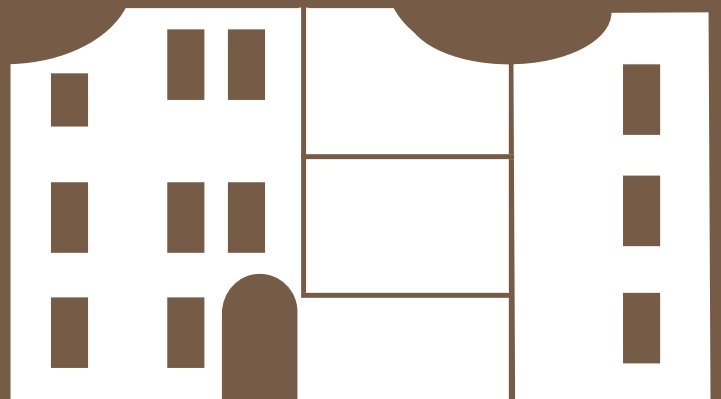
Beatrix Potter's dolls' house provided the inspiration for *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*. Visitors are recommended to bring a copy when they visit it. This dolls' house contains tiny detailed utensils, just like 'Norfolk Lodge' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition.



© National Trust Images / Simon Upton

6.

Yorkshire



Dolls' House Collection
Ilkley Toy Museum
West Yorkshire ◀



© Ilkley Toy Museum / Gemma Spall

There is a huge variety of dolls' houses and room settings on display at this museum. Included in this collection of dolls' houses are rooms similar to the 'Grocer's Shop' in the *Small Worlds* exhibition, such as the 'Original Swan Pub' and hotel. The Ilkley collection also features houses with intriguing domestic settings filled with eighteenth and nineteenth-century pieces in an Italian baroque style, such as the Egyptian dolls' house, and 'Count Mertielli's Drawing Room'.



© York Castle Museum / Gemma Spall

Heslington Baby House, c.1700s York Castle Museum

Yorkshire ◀

Dating from the early-eighteenth century, this house is often described as one of the oldest in the country. Like the ‘The Fry House’ and ‘Swallowcliffe’ houses at the *Small Worlds* exhibition, Heslington Baby House was made for a wealthy family, the Yarburghs. The pieces inside the dolls’ house span over 160 years, from 1695 to 1860.

Winn Family’s Dolls’ House c.1730-40

Nostell Priory, West Yorkshire ◀

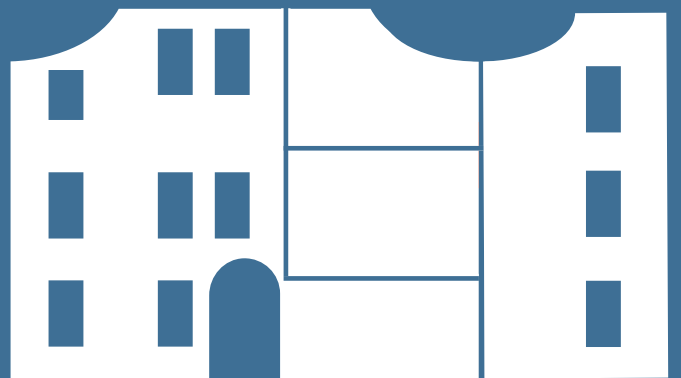
Nostell Priory was designed to reflect grandeur. The fireplace designs were taken from James Gibbs’ *Book of Architecture*, and the furniture and decorations reflected contemporary trends. This mirrors the distinctive attention to detail which underpins the houses in the *Small Worlds* exhibition. Children are encouraged to search the rooms for a hidden white mouse.



© National Trust Images / Mark Fiennes

7.

Further Afield





© Littletreasures.uk.com / Emily Innes

Dolls' House Collection Grampian Toy Museum Aberdeenshire ◀

This museum holds a private collection of 350 dolls' houses, dating from 1865 to the present day. The museum was opened by Emily Innes in 1990 and has been converted from a barn and today houses the collection and a shop. The Grampian Toy Museum recreates everyday life with its inclusion of a butcher's shop and a greengrocers.

Stanbrig Eorls dolls' house c.1897, Museum of Childhood Edinburgh ◀

This dolls' house is the largest in the Edinburgh Museum of Childhood's collection. It was built for Miss Graham Montgomery when she was only four years old and includes over 2,000 pieces of furniture. Notable features of this house are its electric lighting and hot and cold running water.



© Museum of Childhood, City of Edinburgh Council



© Tŷ Twt Dolls' House and Toy Museum, Newport, Pembrokeshire

Dolls' House Collection Tŷ Twt Dolls' House and Toy Museum, Newport ◀

The collection includes an original 'Gables' house from the early 1930s. This house still has its original contents, which include dolls and toys kept together for over 100 years. The collection has been built by two sisters, Pam and Val Ripley, and represents every period from 1840 with historically-accurate furniture and decorations.

Dolls' House, c.1600s Springhill, County Londonderry ◀

In the attic of Springhill, there is a small dolls' house which boasts two storeys and an attic, and can be dated back to the seventeenth century. In the grounds of Springhill there is also a life-size dolls' house where you can walk around each room and climb the staircase, giving you a chance to actually step into the world of the dolls' house.



© National Trust / Peter Muhly



© Olga's Lyst Museum

Villa Olga, c.1890 Olga's Lyst Museum Copenhagen ◀

This museum holds one of Denmark's greatest dolls' house collections. Its main feature is 'Villa Olga,' a replica of a house in the National Museum. The original house inspired the owner to open the museum in the first place. Villa Olga's has an international style, combining German, French, and Danish features.

Dolls' house of Petronella Oortman, c.1686 - 1710 Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam ◀

Produced by an unknown craftsman, this dolls' house epitomises the notion of miniature reality. Jacob Appel painted a picture of the dolls' house circa 1710. It has been at the Rijksmuseum since 1875, and has simple cabinet doors on the front, echoing 'Cabinets of Curiosities' popular amongst the elite in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



© Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Acknowledgements

Miniature Mania: small worlds, BIG DISCOVERIES is a Heritage at Bath Spa University final year student project in collaboration with the *Small Worlds* exhibition of eighteenth and nineteenth century dolls' houses at No 1, Royal Crescent.

The *Small Worlds* project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and *Miniature Mania* was made possible through the assistance of the School of Humanities and Cultural Industries at Bath Spa University.

Our thanks also go to:

Kristin Doern (Heritage Subject Leader) and Gavin Wilshen (Publishing Lab Technical Demonstrator) at BSU;

The team at No 1, Royal Crescent and the Bath Preservation Trust, but in particular Polly Andrews (Education Officer), Kate Rogers (Exhibitions and Events Officer), and Janey Abbot (Communications Officer).



The following organisations who have been of great help throughout project:

Bristol Museums Galleries Archives: Blaise Castle House Museum
Diss Museum, Norfolk
Edinburgh Museum and Galleries: Museum of Childhood
Historic Royal Palaces: Kew Palace
Hollytrees Museum
Houghton Hall
Ilkley Toy Museum
Little Treasures, The Grampian Toy Museum and Shop
Museum of Nottingham Life at Brewhouse Yard
National Trust: Hill Top House, Lanhydrock House, Nostell Priory, Overbeck's, Saltram, Springhill House, Sudbury Hall & National Trust Museum of Childhood, Uppark House, Wallington
Norfolk Museum Service: Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Strangers' Hall and with thanks to Jan Roberts of the Dolls' House Society
Olga's Lyst Toy Museum
Ralph Allen Press
Rijksmuseum
Royal Collection Trust and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England, Windsor Castle
Tolsey Museum Burford
Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery
Tŷ Twt Dolls' House and Toy Museum
V&A Museum of Childhood
York Castle Museum



Finally, we would particularly like to thank Liza Antrim for the generous loan of her dolls' houses to No 1, Royal Crescent, without which there would be no exhibition to inspire our research into *Miniature Mania*.

Miniature Mania: small worlds, BIG DISCOVERIES



Student Project Team:

Natalie Ashford, Jenny Brown, Kate Burden, Zoe Burlton, Abigail Dickson, Emma Hildesley, Benny Larkin, Nathan Levy, Rosie McVey, Christian Sæbø Gemma Spall, Alice Wilkinson, Victoria Woods; with thanks to Frances Bircher and Elisa Da Silva.

May 2015

Heritage at BSU

