



President's Message

Thoughts from the Doll Room

All in all, it was a never-to-be-forgotten summer — one of those summers which come seldom into any life, but leave a rich heritage of beautiful memories in their going — one of those summers which, in a fortunate combination of delightful weather, delightful friends and delightful doing, come as near to perfection as anything can come in this world.

— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne's House of Dreams*



In my early days of being a member of the UFDC, Inc., I was very close to a former president of our organization who lived near my home in Canada. I remember whenever I visited her house (and her magnificent collection) I was always amazed at the number of telephone calls she received from the United States and Europe (this was before email). At that time, I must confess, I had no American friends and had only travelled to the United States a few times. I found it most peculiar that it was possible to have your closest ties with people who lived thousands of miles away!

As a new member I poured over every issue of DOLL NEWS and read with envy about all the various doll happenings going on. My then president friend encouraged me to attend my first convention, which happened ironically to be in Washington, and from that point on there was no turning back. I was hooked!

Today I continue to be friends with that past president, Lynn Murray, but I have had the good fortune to work with and come to know so many others who have served the UFDC in that role and many others. Now, like my friend, many of my closest friends are also in the United States and Europe. We all share in one unifying passion, our love of dolls and our love for this organization. Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with and become close to many extraordinary individuals who have been instrumental in the growth and development of the UFDC and whom I have great respect for. Nowhere else than in the doll world is it possible to find such intelligent and creative people.

Not long ago a dedicated group of people came to Kansas City to work on various aspects of the museum. Members of the Collections Oversight Committee included Chair Bradley Justice and committee members Billye Harris, Rosalie Whyel, and Ursula Mertz. Laurie McGill and Ann Leis spent time working on the DeWees Cochran collection. Lynn Murray and Susan Sirkis photographed items from the collection for the convention journal and Susan also worked on a DVD showcasing the museum. These individuals volunteered their time, paid all their own expenses and worked diligently day and night while they were there.

Recently Elizabeth Ann Coleman and Sue Nile spent time together at Sue's home to continue their work on the competitive classifications. Ann and Sue are working together to create a document that will not only serve our competitive room but will also become an in-depth reference guide for the many different types of dolls that can be found. The scope and magnitude of this work cannot be overstated. I thank them, and all our members who work so hard to keep our organization strong through their own personal and financial sacrifices. Bravo!

Through the UFDC I have had the opportunity to travel to cities all over the United States. Summer, for me now, is synonymous with one thing and one thing only, convention! Doll people are hardworking and inventive, but they also know how to have fun. Gather a thousand or so and a good time is guaranteed. When I read the quote above written by Lucy Maud Montgomery my immediate reaction was that she must have been writing about convention.

Of course convention only lasts a few days. The rest of the year there are doll club meetings, shows, our magazine, and so much more to fill the doll lover's heart. Sometimes I try to imagine what my life would be like without being so involved in my hobby. The answer is that it would be so much less interesting, less rewarding and less fulfilling. More importantly it would have a lot less friends in it. That is something I truly can't imagine! I thank you for sharing in this journey with me.

I wish you all a glorious summer!

Until the next time,
Your President,

Janet