

# All Things Great And Small

Discoveries and Essays about Antique Miniatures  
by Ann Meehan

Volume 7, Issue 7

<http://www.meehanantiqueminiatures.com/>

July 2012

Page 1 of 4

## Georgian English Dolls' House The Sitting Room



The Sitting Room has a number of fine antique pieces of furniture and accessories. In order to photograph the room properly, I had to remove two chairs and a wonderful doll with extraordinary clothing which I will include in this segment.

Against the wall to the left was this most unusual Recamier with four matching chairs which I had never seen before.

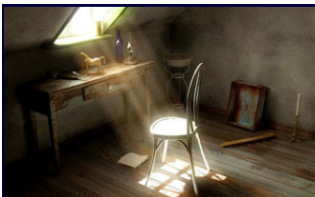


In studying the form and the gold transfer work, one would probably say this furniture is of the Gothic style which includes the spirals, quadrefoil shapes, crosses and arches. (Most of the Boulle furniture that I have seen has silk upholstery in the blue, aqua, rose, burgundy, purple, and green. This was the only group of furniture I had in the gold silk)

The next piece of furniture one observes near the Recamier is the lovely ivory étagère. I had purchased this at a general auction that had full scale Victorian furniture back in New England. I was not present at the auction, so I decided not to have it mailed as I thought these intricate little pieces would never survive the trip. I picked it up in person and gently brought it back in a box that I had prepared for the trip home. All the tiny pieces were there, but it was really very dusty and dirty. It took a very long time to clean this with q-tips and warm soap and water. The étagère had a mirror on the back behind all the ivory goblets, pitchers, vases, and saucers. There is a little house on the middle shelf that has a fence around it. On the top shelf one can see a clock behind a vase. Notice the turned double posts connecting the shelves, the fancy curved shelves, the intricate lattice on top and most of all see how the mirror just reflects everything back to you! *(Photo on next page)*

"All Things Great and Small" is a monthly publication for collectors of antique miniatures and their history. Previous issues are yours for the asking; send a message to Ann at [antiquedh@comcast.net](mailto:antiquedh@comcast.net).





# All Things Great And Small

Discoveries and Essays about Antique Miniatures  
by Ann Meehan

Volume 7, Issue 7

<http://www.meehanantiqueminiatures.com/>

July 2012

Page 2 of 4



**This ivory étagère stands 5 1/4 inches tall!**

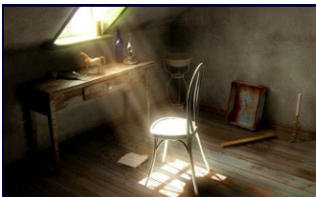
This doll is not shown in the main photo that shows the full room as she was removed due to her bustle on the back of her gown. It just blocked the view of so many pieces in the room. I put her back in the house after the photo was taken. She is a Simon-Halbig lady with small inset glass eyes with molded curly blond hair and rosy red cheeks. Her original beige gown is so finely detailed with layers of fabric and lace. The bustle on her gown extends several inches behind her. The bustle was popular during the 1870's and 1880's. It was a type of framework that supported the drapery of the back of a woman's dress.

This doll also has some starched fabric bracing her, so she is able to stand. In the next column, we can see how the gown drapes so beautifully in the front with the bustle in the back! It is amazing to see all of this detail on a doll that is only 5-3/4" tall!



*"All Things Great and Small" is a monthly publication for collectors of antique miniatures and their history. Previous issues are yours for the asking; send a message to Ann at [antiquedh@comcast.net](mailto:antiquedh@comcast.net).*





## All Things Great And Small

Discoveries and Essays about Antique Miniatures  
by Ann Meehan

Volume 7, Issue 7

<http://www.meehanantiqueminiatures.com/>

July 2012

Page 3 of 4

In the two photos below we see a lithophane\* on a stand. The frame or stand of a lithophane can be made of ormolu, tin, or a pot metal. This one is made of pot metal which is painted black. The wonderful carved porcelain shows a young girl holding a cat. There must be some sort of illumination, like a candle or light to show the image.

\* In depth lithophanes discussion - May 2007 newsletter

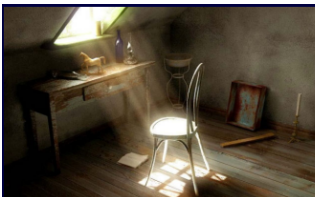


A pair of French prints hangs on the back wall, one on each side of the fireplace. The floral decoration with bows are exceptional, especially with the bows at the top that are used for hanging.

Above the fireplace is a lovely ormolu Rococo mirror mounted on the wall. It is embellished with leaves that encircle the top half and then a bouquet of flowers on each side.



"All Things Great and Small" is a monthly publication for collectors of antique miniatures and their history. Previous issues are yours for the asking; send a message to Ann at [antiquedh@comcast.net](mailto:antiquedh@comcast.net).



## All Things Great And Small

Discoveries and Essays about Antique Miniatures  
by Ann Meehan

Volume 7, Issue 7

<http://www.meehanantiqueminiatures.com/>

July 2012

Page 4 of 4

If you look closely on top of the mantle, you will notice a pair of ivory vases with flowers and two Staffordshire dogs which measure only 3/4" h x 1"w.



During the early Victorian period, gas chandeliers became very popular during the 1840's. The cost of installation and inflexibility of gas pipes were the main objections to using gas. Here we have a six globe ormolu chandelier that burned gas and was known as a gasolier.



For centuries, mirrors have been considered as prized possessions. Gilt frames were very popular for the interiors of Europe's finest homes. Dark and dreary rooms would often have a pier mirror placed between windows to give the illusion of more space as the reflection of the mirror created more depth in the room. When glass blowing revolutionized the production of mirrors, it was the Venetians who invented a way of making flat glass. Then the French improved methods to make large sheets of glass. But it was the Germans who discovered a new method of backing sheets of glass with real silver, thereby replacing toxic mercury and thus removing the dangerous task of making mirrors.

**Next Month's Newsletter:**  
**Georgian English Dolls' House**  
**The Sitting Room- Part 2**

*"All Things Great and Small" is a monthly publication for collectors of antique miniatures and their history. Previous issues are yours for the asking; send a message to Ann at [antiquedh@comcast.net](mailto:antiquedh@comcast.net).*