

# Letter From The Editor

*Nobody cries on Christmas Day,  
But the old rag dolly did;  
Everyone laughs, so happy and gay,  
But the old rag dolly hid...*

Dear Readers,

When I was a little girl, I loved this poem, "The Old Rag Dolly," by Esther Kem Thomas. It appeared in a 1961 book called *Happy Christmas Story Book* published by Ideals. I would take the book down from the shelf and read it and reread it each December.

*For someone had left her under a chair,  
And she was ashamed and lay still there  
Looking out at the Christmas tree  
And a brand new doll, pretty as could be...*

Did you have a favorite doll when you were a child? Mine was a 15-inch hard plastic Sweet Sue by American Character. She came in a puffy-sleeved pink satin dress with brocade trim around the hem and a straw hat adorned with tiny flowers. My mother, grandmother, and aunt made a complete wardrobe for her, including a wedding gown.

*With a pink silk dress and curled up hair  
And a dimpled face; but the rag doll there  
Was so unhappy—her dress was torn  
And her face was soiled and her shoes were worn.*

This month's issue of *Antique DOLL Collector* embraces a range of topics. Florence Theriault, author of our cover story, tells us of Rosalie Whyel's love of the doll as art as well as her devotion to protect the history behind the doll. Susan Foreman reintroduces us to those naughty boys from Germany, Max and Moritz. Jennifer Craft-Hurst shares her fine collection of Slit Head Wax Doll daguerreotypes. Samy Odin enchants us with paper dolls that reflect French Poupées. And Donna Brown takes us back to the mid-20th century with memories of Betsy McCall, the paper doll that jumped off the pages of our mothers' *McCall's* magazines and into our arms as a doll to love and dress.

*Then, at the end of this Christmas Day,  
Or so the story goes,  
The old rag dolly was happy and gay  
Now, what do you suppose?*

*...Little sleepy Mary climbed out of bed  
And hunted, oh, almost everywhere  
Till she found her rag doll, under the chair...  
Oh, she loved her new doll so beautifully dressed,  
But somehow the rag dolly slept the best!*

*So after all, Christmas was happy as ever  
And old dollies shouldn't be sad, should they? ... Never!*

We at *Antique DOLL Collector* wish each of you the happiest of holidays.

*Laurie*

Laurie McGill  
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. Be sure to see pages 54 and 56 of this issue  
for our special holiday subscription offer!

