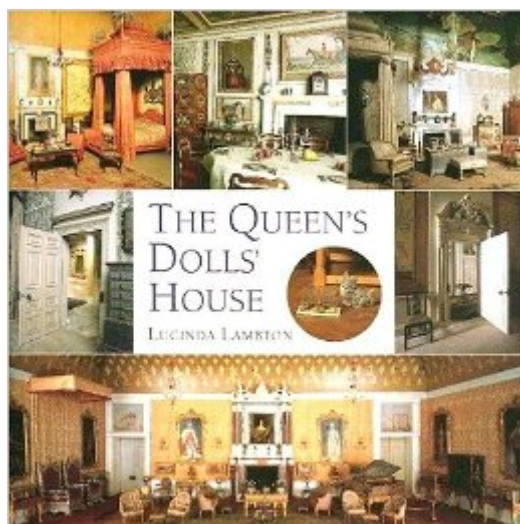


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The Queen's Dolls' House: A Dollhouse Made For Queen Mary



Synopsis

From simple one-room cottages to multilevel castles, dollhouses have long been treasured by children and adults alike. In an ever-expanding array of sizes and styles, they may be closely modeled on reality or wildly whimsical. Few, however, approach the splendor of the royal dollhouse on display at Windsor Castle. With running water, electricity, two working elevators, and many other delights, there can be no question that this is a dollhouse fit for a queen. This lavishly illustrated volume offers a detailed history of the creation, decoration, and furnishing of this extraordinary dollhouse. Commissioned in the 1920s for Queen Mary and designed by renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the house is a perfect scale replica of an Edwardian residence, complete in every detail. Its library boasts original works by the likes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Thomas Hardy, and Edith Wharton. Its wine cellar is replete with tiny bottles containing thimblefuls of real vintage wine. And, naturally, its tiny residents eschew pink convertibles in favor of the fleet of elegant Rolls Royce limousines housed in the miniature garage. These and hundreds of other charming features are lovingly detailed in color, with extensive use of material from the royal archives, detailing for the first time the contributions of the artists, craftspeople, and donors involved in its creation. An imaginative tour of this smallest and grandest of aristocratic residences, which receives thousands of full-sized visitors each year, The Queen's Dolls' House is full of surprises that will captivate toy collectors, miniaturists, and fans of the royal family alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am absolutely delighted by this book. After opening to a random page, I called my 11 yr old son over, and said, "What do you think of this house?" He was interested, then flabbergasted, when I told him it is a miniature made nearly 100 years ago! We couldn't put the book down and looked at every page together. He was amazed at the detail and the fact that it has lights, water, and working elevators. As I expected, this more modern book about the dolls' house is a great improvement over Everybody's book of the queen's dolls' house, which I wrote a review for earlier. It begins with the story of how Princess Marie Louise got the idea to build the house, and about Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect who planned and organized the work. He also designed many pieces of furniture and other items in the house. There are photographs of these persons, Queen Mary, and others involved. Lutyens had the dolls' house in his home parlor for two full years. A door and part of a wall were demolished to get the shell inside! There's a picture of workers beginning to pack it up upon completion. It tells about where and when the house has been exhibited to the public, souvenirs sold, and why the house was a particularly special gift for this queen. The house is not meant to be a castle. It is meant to be a more personal royal residence which would accurately portray modern life in the 1920's. You know, modern items like rubber hot water bottles! The house is presented in sections based on floor plan; each portion begins with the plan and moves on to descriptions of the rooms, accompanied by gorgeous photographs in full color. Many items are described in detail, and their size in inches is given. A few items are photographed alongside full size objects, like a cricket ball, a match, or a dinner plate. The difficulties of manufacture are explained: how does one fill tiny wine bottles with the real wine? How did they get the bed drapery, a thick fabric, to hang properly? How do the elevators work? What are the trees in the garden made of? How long did it take to hand embroider all the linens? Lists are given for the contents of the wine cellar, library books, place settings, etc., but they are not all complete lists. The author points out that comprehensive lists are in the two-volume set, The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House, and Book of the Queen's Dolls' House Library [2 Volumes], but seeing as that set is a 1924 limited edition of 1500, it seems unlikely most of us will ever see, much less own one. Perhaps a careful online search will reveal the facts for those interested. This book is a must for doll house fans, and would also be fun for history buffs and those who can appreciate the fine workmanship. I think it would also be a great gift for children, boys or girls. Time and again I pored over the older book as a child, and this book is much more fascinating!

I've just end reading the book in just one afternoon. Mrs. Lambton is obviously in love with the subject and it shows in her delightful text. The photos are also a plus as you won't be able to see

such detail when you see the house in person (I saw it at Windsor and wished for a book or guide that day, so many surprises!) The book is contagious and you may be tempted to start a doll house by yourself!

Well written, enjoyable, and while I have several books on Queen Mary's doll house this one covered some ground...and rooms...I hadn't learned much about before, so it covered new ground. It is informative and has a lot of little details. I kept it on the coffee table for quite a while because I enjoyed picking it up and going through it again and again.

This is a very nice book about Queen Mary's Dolls House, and does a good job of describing the history behind it. If you are not familiar with the Queen's Dolls House, you will find this book very informative. I must add, though, that I found the font in the book to be very difficult to read, as it is not printed in true black type, but gray. While it might be a bit more difficult to locate, I would more highly recommend Mary Stewart-Wilson's "Queen Mary's Dolls' House" to anyone interested in the subject, as it is much richer in detail and illustration.

I was able to see the display at Windsor Castle 20 years ago (I don't remember it being in the nicely lit up room this book shows it in) and really appreciate finding this book at . It's probably better (it is longer) than the official guidebook also sells. You don't really get a guide book, (like another reviewer remarked this book could've been larger in size), no "to your left is the " text here- but more of a history of the dolls' house origins and development. I didn't like some of the author's text as much as I did the quotes from original period materials. The photography- all of it- is beautiful, even the original 1920's pictures are interesting, but mostly consists of room shots or detail images within those rooms. The work those people put out, amazing even now! There are even a few silhouettes of some items done to actual size, metric measurements- but not inch- scaled. Also included are inventories of the wine cellar (the real stuff- in miniature bottles) and a full chapter on the library and art collection - I knew that the house had these collections but hadn't seen detailed listings before. One reviewer complained of "nudes writhing on the ceilings" and didn't want her children seeing such things. I never noticed them 20 years ago and if you don't tell little Johnny, and give him a magnifying glass, he won't notice anything in this book either. Only two(?) pictures anyway and not shown up close- don't let the nudes keep you from buying the book, you'll never notice them. This book makes me want to go back and see the dolls' house again!

This book wonderfully details the famous doll house that belongs to the Queen of England. I am an amateur doll house maker and also happen to be a fan of the British Monarchy so I was naturally drawn to this book. Lots of great pictures and personal stories that I did not expect. Well written, well photographed and well worth the cost. This would make a terrific gift for anyone with an interest in the Queen of England or doll houses or even history in general.

The second time I purchased this book, it is a marvel to have, one wonders at the miniature and the time it took to make the small doll house miniatures, Cars, candies (real chocolates and candies) and much much more. this book can keep you going for days and excite you about how wonderfully made the doll house is.

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