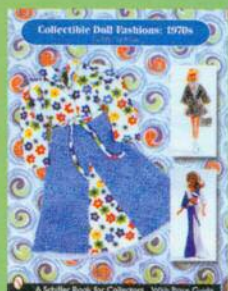


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by Carmen Varricchio

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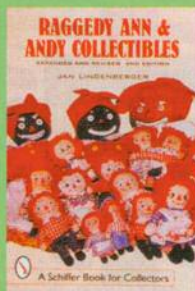
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# JENNY TALIADOROS' MAGICAL WORLD OF PAPER DOLLS

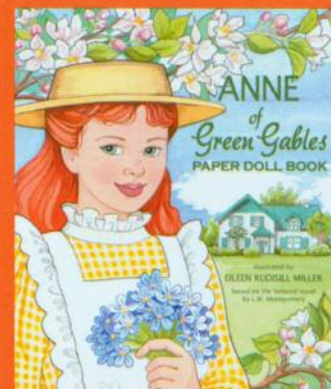
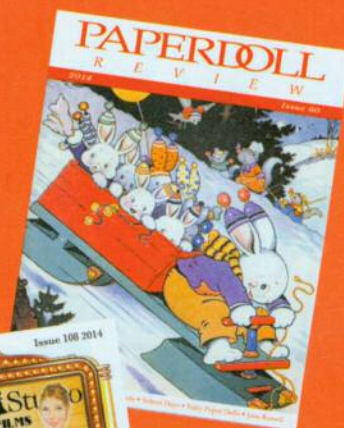
by Stacia McDonough

Paper dolls take me back to a simpler, more innocent time. Of family gatherings, of my sister and cousins sitting on the floor of someone's bedroom, waiting for supper to be served, the time flying by as we were so fascinated playing with our paper dolls. It was so much fun changing, sharing, and exchanging the colorful costumes.

These charming two-dimensional characters captured our imagination, and inspired our creativity. Preserving and continuously promoting this unique and precious art form is Jenny Taliadoros, the multi-talented owner of Paper Studio Press. The tiny town of Kingfield, Maine, is a quiet, charming place that is the surprising epi-center of the renaissance

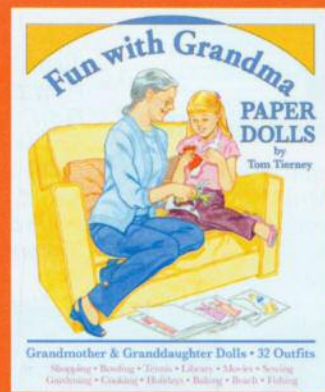


Recent copies of the *PaperDoll Review* and the *Paper Doll Studio* publications.

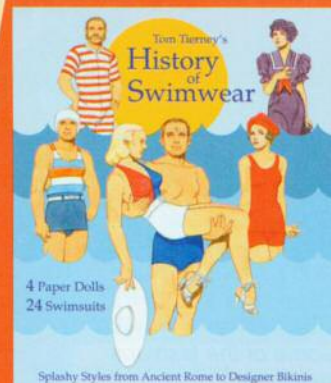


Current paper doll books available from the Paper Doll Studio.

*Anne of Green Gables Paper Doll Book* illustrated by Eileen Rudisill Miller.



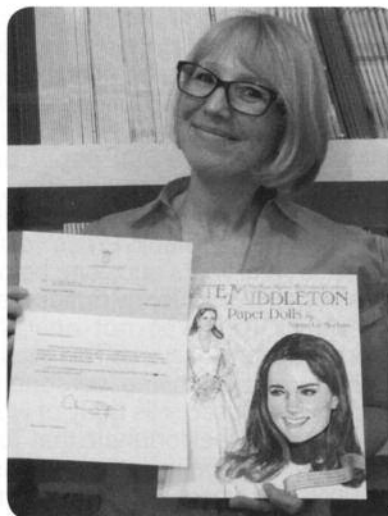
*Fun with Grandma and History of Swimwear* both by Tom Tierney.





of an almost-lost art form. Paper dolls once graced the shelves of every five-and-dime store across America. Most every little girl spent happy hours cutting out dolls and their outfits, folding the tabs and dressing the dolls. New books were constantly marketed for decades from the time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when color printing became commercially viable. But paper dolls gradually fell out of favor as a childhood pastime as kids became more sophisticated in recent times. Very few paper dolls were published and only determined collectors sought them out. Most collectors had played with paper dolls during their own childhood and the cute little ephemeral figures held a nostalgic spell.

One little girl, growing up in Michigan, was surrounded by paper dolls. Little Jenny Taliadoros' grandmother, Helen Johnson, was an avid collector and creator of paper dolls. And her mother, Judy M. Johnson, was one of the few working paper doll artists being published in the 1980s and '90s. During the 1984 paper doll convention in Denver, PA, a group of 26 artists gathered together and formed OPDAG, the Original Paper Doll Artists Guild. Because Judy was the only one with a typewriter and copier, she was named editor. The first issue was just four pages, outlining the purpose of the group, which included networking, providing a showcase for paper doll artists, and encouraging other publications and publishers to publish more paper dolls. Over the years, the group made great strides in attracting more attention to paper



Jenny Taliadoros with a thank you letter she recieved from the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, after sending her a copy of the paper doll book by Norma Lu Meehan.

dolls, and its publication has been a wonderful forum for not only showing paper doll art, but encouraging artists to draw. In its second year, the newsletter, then called *OPDAG News*, implemented theme-related issues, which greatly sparked the creative process for artists. That format exists today, and what was originally a black-and-white stapled newsletter has evolved into a slick, full color magazine, now called *Paper Doll Studio*.

Although the group has never had officers, the publication has a group of managing editors. For the first several years, Judy was joined by Pat Stall,

Susan Hoffman and Johana Gast Anderton (who stayed on as a managing editor until her death just last year). In the late 1980s, Sandra Vanderpoll, Brenda Sneathen Mattox and Charlotte Whatley joined the editorial staff, followed by Sylvia Kleindinst, and Norma Lu Meehan. Four of those early editors are still on staff today: Judy, Brenda, Sylvia and



The Original Paper Doll Artists Guild News No. 35, Spring 1993, from the collection of Doll Castle News.



The Original Paper Doll Artists' Guild Newsletter No. 21, August 1989, from the collection of Doll Castle News.

Norma Lu. They are joined by talented artists, Kwei-lin Lum, David Wolfe and Eileen Rudisill Miller.

Judy's daughter, Jenny, took over the publication in 1991 when she moved to Maine and started a desktop publishing business. Jenny's passion for paper dolls not only grew the magazine and OPDAG membership, but branched off into other areas. In 1999, she joined famed artist Marilyn



Henry in helping produce another magazine for collectors, the prestigious *Paperdoll Review*, which evolved into a mail order business with the same name.

The advent of the Internet resuscitated the fading interest in paper dolls because it made it possible for collectors to connect, to buy and sell, to trade and talk about their shared passion. Antique and vintage paper dolls are fragile as the paper used for them was not the highest quality. Who would have thought a paper doll published in the 1800s would become a priceless treasure? The demand for vintage-type paper dolls exceeded the supply and Jenny Taliadoros saw an opportunity. She began a new business, Paper Studio Press, and republished a few paper doll books from the past, whose copyrights had run out over time. Jenny, as a third

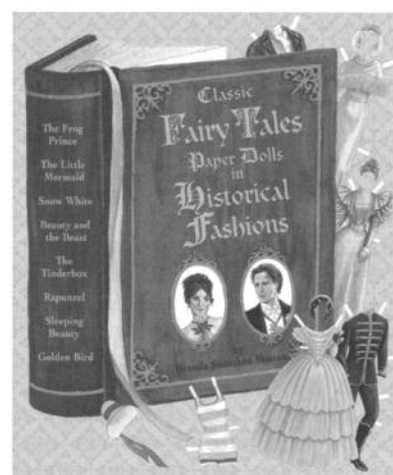
generation paper doll enthusiast, was sensitive to the plight of most paper doll artists who had almost no outlet for their creativity. The chief exception was the legendary artist, Tom Tierney, who published more than 500 paper doll books during his long career. Tom, a beloved character in the paper doll world, joined Paper Studio Press' roster of artists several years ago, long before his passing last year. Jenny remembers him fondly, "Tom was not only the consummate professional, he was a warm-hearted, fun-loving personality who is sorely missed. His body of work is a legacy and I feel fortunate that Tom entrusted me to posthumously publish some of his last works." She adds, "One very special book by Tom Tierney that will be published later this year is *The Sad Little Princess*, which was co-created with the CEO of Neva Dolls®, and award-winning doll designer, Stacia McDonough." Especially enthused about this book, Jenny states, "This is one of Tom's most beautifully illustrated paper doll sets, I'm so glad we have the opportunity to show it off! With permission from Stacia



*Connie Francis Paper Doll Book* illustrated by David Wolfe.

and Tom's niece Kathy O'Tierney, this exclusive book will debut as a souvenir at the 2015 paper doll convention and will be available for purchase starting in July 2015."

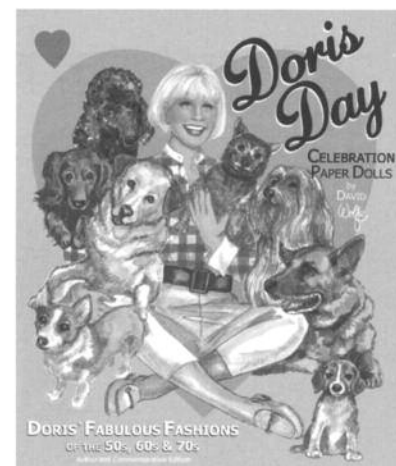
In addition to Tom, Jenny has cultivated an impressive stable of talented artists, many with impressive backgrounds in fashion illustration including Jim Howard, David Wolfe, Sandra Vanderpool, Marilyn Henry, Norma Lu Meehan and Brenda Sneathen Mattox. Tapping many artists



*Classic Fairy Tales Paper Dolls in Historical Fashions* illustrated by Brenda Sneathen Mattox.

from OPDAG's talented pool, Jenny has been able to provide a greater platform for their art form. She says, "I love bringing out the best in each artist. Picking the right subject is the most important thing when assigning a book to an artist. I want the artist to absolutely love what they are doing, and I think that love shows through in their art." Since publishing her first book in 2005, Jenny has grown her catalog to more than 100 paper dolls including reproductions of collectible paper dolls of the 1940s and '50s and new works by 19 artists of today.

Jenny's goal is to recreate the heyday of paper dolls of the 1940s and '50s, working with her artists to create books with an authentic look and feel. And that includes movie stars! Inspired by classic star paper dolls such as Rita



*Doris Day Paper Doll Book* illustrated by David Wolfe.

Hayworth, Betty Grable, Lana Turner and others, Jenny has published dozens of new paper doll books featuring classic stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Working with estates, licensing agencies and sometimes directly with stars themselves, she's been able to work magic, securing rights to produce new paper dolls of Ginger Rogers, Marilyn Monroe, Debbie Reynolds, Doris Day, Esther Williams, Great Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Jane Powell, Jane Russell and many, many more. Her bright personality and enthusiasm for her artists and the craft of paper dolls has led to working friendship with many stars of today. Jenny has had the wonderful opportunity to lunch with Rhonda Fleming, take tea with Arlene Dahl, enjoy drinks and jokes with

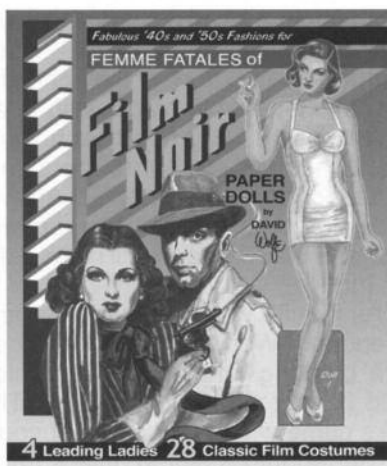


*Couture Paper Doll Book illustrated by Jim Howard.*

Phyllis Diller and tour the extravagant home of Phyllis McGuire.

"As thrilling as it is to work with movie stars, I think our non-celebrity books are just as important," Jenny explains. In recent years, Jenny has encouraged her artists to work on fashion and nostalgic subjects such as Jim Howard's COUTURE series, Brenda Sneathen Mattox's historic fashion collections, Sandra Vanderpool's fairy costumes, Charlotte Whatley's fanciful fashions for kids, and Norma Lu Meehan's royal wardrobe for Kate Middleton.

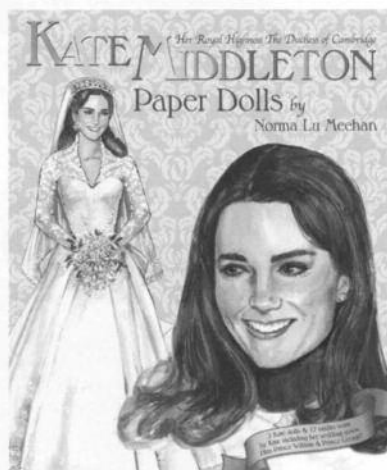
As well as running a thriving paper doll enterprise, Jenny is co-chairing this year's National Paper Doll Convention. It will be held at the Embassy Suites/Hamilton Place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 17-21, 2015. The



*Film Noir Paper Doll Book illustrated by David Wolfe.*

annual, highly anticipated event draws paper doll fans from across the country and Europe, too. Collectors and dealers will enjoy workshops, presentations and lectures, raffles and auctions as well as the opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow paper dollers. The excitement is sure to be palpable! Visit [opdag.com/convention.html](http://opdag.com/convention.html) for more information and registration, or contact Jenny at 800-290-2928.

Jenny Taliadoros, though a young, spirited gal, has become the honorary Fairy Godmother of the paper doll world. She is constantly seeking to engage the interest of collectors, to enlarge the growing paper doll community and to encourage artists to express their creativity and exercise their imaginations while providing the world with a past time that can become a passion ... paper dolls!



*Kate Middleton Paper Doll Book illustrated by Norma Lu Meehan.*

With Jenny's brilliance, creativity, and business savvy, this dynamo of the paper doll world is guaranteed to spread joy through her fantastic paper doll books for generations to come.

For further information on Paper Studio Press, visit their website at [www.paperstudiopress.com](http://www.paperstudiopress.com). Or, you can contact them at 207-265-2500 or 800-290-2928. Their address is: P.O. Box 14, Kingfield, ME 04947.



Managing Editor's Note: It was an utter joy working with Tom Tierney, a once in a lifetime experience. He was the quintessential professional, his talent unparalleled. The absolute finest paper doll artist this world will ever see. Tom was larger than life, and a tremendous amount of fun to be around. He shone so brightly that he illuminated all those around him. I think of him often, and fondly. This gem of a man will be profoundly missed.

As for "The Sad Little Princess", this book is sure to be one of the best-selling paper doll books of all time. Tom's brilliant renderings of my original Russian costumes are simply gorgeous. The vivid, eye-popping colors paired with my exotic Russian costumes are simply a luxurious treat for the eye to behold.

Dearest readers, I will treasure this extraordinary book always. I know you will too.

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