

Bill Fifer's Photos of Queen Victoria's Dolls

by Wendi Dunn

Few collections are as famous or admired as the treasured peg wooden dolls of Queen Victoria. Bill Fifer and his wife Pat were both IGMA (International Guild of Miniature Artisans) members who loved miniatures and wooden dolls. In August 2002, the two of them visited the Museum of London (now renamed London Museum) to view Queen Victoria's antique dolls. Although Pat passed away in 2021, the generosity of "[Bill Fifer's Gift](#)" has made it possible for collectors to continue learning from their treasure trove of information.

The majority of Queen Victoria's dolls are kept in storage. It is a real treat to see the twelve boxes of dolls (117 total) which Bill and Pat were able to photograph. I labeled each doll with a box number and letter. On the corresponding list, I added each doll's catalog number from the museum's archives.

A book called *Queen Victoria's Dolls* by Frances H. Low was published in 1894. The color illustrations by Alan Wright are truly enchanting. The book helped me to identify some of the dolls in Bill's photos. However, there are a few errors and discrepancies in spelling, which I have noted. If you have corrections, please contact me at dw1@ataleoftwohittys.com.



Pat Fifer (deceased) with Museum of London curator in 2002, examining Queen Victoria's dolls.

All photos courtesy of Bill Fifer. Read the article about Queen Victoria's dolls on *A Tale of Two Hittys*: <https://ataleoftwohittys.com/queen-victorias-dolls/>

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2 Bill Fifer's Photos of Queen Victoria's Dolls



3 Bill Fifer's Photos of Queen Victoria's Dolls



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List of Queen Victoria's Dolls in Bill Fifer's Photos

Box #1 (group of 8 dolls)

- 1A-36 Child of Mlle. Lecomte.
- 1B-42 Mlle. Melanie Ancilin.
- 1C-20 Genevieve.¹
- 1D-48 Mlle. Constance Lecomte.
- 1E-35 Mlle. Constance Lecomte.
- 1F-38 Mlle. Zephyrine Galdatre.²
- 1G-44 Mlle. Sylvie Leconte.
- 1H-41 Mlle. Euphrosine Ancilin.

¹Alt. name is Mlle. Euphrosine Ancilin.
(QVD pp. 28-29)

²Alt. spelling is Galebstie. (QVD pp. 42-43)

Box #2 (group of 11 dolls)

- 2A-95 Berengaria, Mrs. Arnold.
- 2B-102 Child of Lady Agathina Arnold.
- 2C-101 Child of Lady Agathina Arnold.
- 2D-80 Lady Arnold.
- 2E-79 Sir William Arnold.
- 2F-109 Child of Gertrude, Lady Arnold.
- 2G-81 Miss Arnold.
- 2H-100 Lady Agathina Arnold.
- 2I-73 Lady Georgina Arnold.
- 2J-72 Lady Maria Arnold.
- 2K-108 Lady Gertrude Arnold.

Box #3 (group of 10 dolls)

- 3A-75 Reiza, Countess of Deptford.
- 3B-89 Clorinda, Countess of Newton.
- 3C-126 Appolonia, Countess of Delaville.
- 3D-90 Elinor, Countess of Wilton.
- 3E-129 Eugenie, Madame Dahaty.
- 3F-119 Maria Antoinetta, Lady Frederick Stanley.
- 3G-122 Georgiana, Countess of Marmion.
- 3H-92 Julia, Mrs. Roxbury.
- 3I-123 Henrietta Frant.
- 3J-93 Slena, Viscountess Stuart.

Box #4 (group of 3 dolls)

- 4A-120 Susan, Countess of Derwentwater.
- 4B-91 Catherine, Countess of Claremont.
- 4C-128 Josephine, Princess Collorosky.³

³Mislabeled as Lady Pauline. (QVD p. 80)

Box #5 (group of 10 dolls)

- 5A-121 Mary, Lady Roxburgh.
- 5B-96 Lady Nina Morton.
- 5C-76 Lady Celestine Lenox.
- 5D-50 Lady Shrewsbury.
- 5E-111 Lady Newport.
- 5F-110 Lady Pauline.⁴
- 5G-132 Lady Arabella Sedley.
- 5H-106 Sylvanira, Countess of Barington.⁵
- 5I-107 Maria, Lady Bulkley. (no image)
- 5J-70 Elfrida, Lady Bedford.

⁴Mislabeled as Princess Collorowsky. (QVD p. 80)

⁵Alt. spelling is Lady Barrington. (QVD p. 82)

Box #6 (group of 10 dolls)

- 6A-88 Thisbe, Duchess of Worcester.
- 6B-127 Meta, Duchess of Montpensier.
- 6C-125 Zitella, Duchess of Berry.
- 6D-71 Elgiva, Duchess of Warwick.
- 6E-62 Pomona, Duchesse de Conde.
- 6F-94 Rosalie, Lady Oxford.
- 6G-124 Xarifa, Duchess of Orleans.
- 6H-69 Philippa, Countess of Jedborough.⁶
- 6I-118 Constantia, Duchess of Dunbar.
- 6J-130 Héloïse, Duchess of Guiche.

⁶Alt. spelling is Jedburgh. (QVD pp. 56-57)

Box #7 (group of 11 dolls)

- 7A-60 Blanche, Countess Flahot de la Billiarderie.
- 7B-55 Clara, Countess of Hopesbury.
- 7C-58 Juno, Duchess of Durham.
- 7D-117 Child of Elizabeth, Lady McNab.
- 7E-63 Rebekah, Duchess of Mountjoy.
- 7F-61 Child of Blanche, Countess Flahot de la Billiarderie.
- 7G-56 Child of Clara, Countess of Hopesbury.
- 7H-57 Child of Clara, Countess of Hopesbury.
- 7I-59 Child of Juno, Duchess of Durham.
- 7J-64 Child of Rebekah, Duchess of Mountjoy.
- 7K-65 Child of Rebekah, Duchess of Mountjoy.

Box #8 (group of 10 dolls)

- 8A-21 Lady Clorinda.
- 8B-22 Victorine.
- 8C-23 Ernestine, made of wood and leather.
- 8D-24 Lisette.
- 8E-113 Delphine.
- 8F-114 Justine.
- 8G-45 Mlle. Antoinette.
- 8H-104 Little sister of Cinderella.
- 8I-103 Little sister of Cinderella.
- 8J-82 Mrs. Martha, housekeeper.

Box #9 (group of 10 dolls)

- 9A-46 Miss Poole (a child actress).
- 9B-105 Ninetta, Madame Brocard.
- 9C-53 Monsieur Anathole.
- 9D-78 Miss Cawse as Lesbia, Countess Regni.
- 9E-77 Miss Cawse as Fatima, Lady Brighton.
- 9F-40 Madame Proche Giubelei.
- 9G-54 Monsieur Musard (clown and musician).
- 9H-112 Fatima.
- 9I-43 Madame Proche Giubelei.
- 9J-49 Miss Caroline Forster.

Box #10 (group of 11 dolls)

- 10A-115 Harriet Arnold, Duchess of Parma.
 - 10B-52 Monsieur Albert.
 - 10C-28 Mlle. Therese Heberlé.⁷
 - 10D-17 Mlle. Paulina Duvernay in "La Bayadere."
 - 10E-18 Mlle. Brocard.
 - 10F-29 Child of Mlle. Heberlé.
 - 10G-31 Baby of Mrs. Dudley (formerly Mlle. Heberlé).
 - 10H-32 Baby of Mrs. Dudley (formerly Mlle. Heberlé).
 - 10I-39 Mlle. Pauline Leroux.
 - 10J-30 Mrs. Dudley (formerly Mlle. Heberlé).
 - 10K-47 Mlle. Porphyria Brocard.
- ⁷Alt. name is Leontine Heberlé. (QVD pp. 26-7)

Box #11 (group of 13 dolls & cradle)

- 11A-66 Alice, Countess of Rothsay.⁸
- 11B-67 Child of Alice, Countess of Rothsay.⁸
- 11C-68 Child of Alice, Countess of Rothsay.⁸
- 11D-83 Cinderella, Duchess of Clarendon.

- 11E-84 Child of Cinderella, Duchess of Clarendon.
 - 11F-85 Child of Cinderella, Duchess of Clarendon.
 - 11G-86 Child of Cinderella, Duchess of Clarendon.
 - 11H-87 Child of Cinderella, Duchess of Clarendon.
 - 11I-74 Dowager Countess of Rothsay.⁸
 - 11J-116 Elizableness, Lady McNab.
 - 11K-97 Isabella, Lady Poulteney.⁹
 - 11L-98 Child of Isabella, Lady Poulteney.⁹
 - 11M-99 Child of Isabella, Lady Poulteney.⁹
- ⁸Alt. spelling is Rothesay. (QVD pp. 64-67)
⁹Alt. spelling is Pulteney. (QVD pp. 52-53, 72-73)

Box #12 (group of 10 dolls)

- 12A-13 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Nathalie."
- 12B-10 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Sylphide."
- 12C-25 Count Almaviva.
- 12D-8 Mlle. Marie Taglioni in "Gavotte."
- 12E-9 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Rosalie."
- 12F-11 Child of Sylphide Taglioni.
- 12G-15 Child of Madame Galdstre Taglioni.
- 12H-7 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Sophie."
- 12I-14 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Galdstre."
- 12J-26 Monsieur Paul Taglioni.

Other dolls (not shown)

- 1 Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.
 - 2 Amy Brocard, Countess of Leicester.
 - 3 Child of Lady Margaret Dudley.
 - 4 Child of Lord George Dudley.
 - 5 Mlle. Marie Taglioni as "Louise."
 - 6 Mlle. Marie Taglioni in "La Bayadere."
 - 12 Child of Sylphide Taglioni.
 - 16 Mlle. Duvernay in "Sleeping Beauty."
 - 19 Child of Mlle. Brocard.
 - 27 Lady Trecillian.¹⁰
 - 33 Madame Leconte in "L'Anneau Magique."
 - 34 Child of Madame Lecomte.
 - 37 Mlle. Augusta in "La Bayadere."
 - 51 Mlle. Brocard in "Kenilworth."
 - 131 Stage Soldier.¹¹
- ¹⁰Alt. name is Queen Elizabeth. (QVD pp. 16-18)
¹¹Missing, but described in article. (*The Strand Magazine* pp. 233, 237)