

About the author

William G. Jackman has been in the antique trade, buying, selling and collecting for 45 years. He has written numerous articles for the press and antique magazines, and has lectured on Georgian glass to dozens of Probus clubs, U3As, and other associations in the south-west of England. He is a member of the Glass Society, Silver Society and the Society of Authors.

This is Bill's second non-fiction book. His first, *Masonic Memorabilia for Collectors* (Gemini Publications Ltd, 2002), an illustrated price guide, has sold well internationally. He has written and published four poetry books (all proceeds donated to charity) and has written plays and a six-part situation comedy based on caravanning. He is also in the process of publishing two fiction books.

Bill is retired and lives with his wife Jinty in Weston-super-Mare.

Visit online at:
www.mne-aesop.com/jackman

Front cover photograph:
Dutch toy jug, c. 1810.
Height: 47mm, 28 gm.
Author's collection.

Jacket art and design by
Martin Noble, AESOP
www.mne-aesop.com

I had an entire set of silver dishes and plates, and other necessaries which in proportion to those of the queen, were not much bigger than those I have seen in a London toyshop for the furniture of a baby house.

Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels (1726)

When Gulliver find himself in Brobdingnag, a country populated by giants in Swift's satire, the Queen equips him with an array of miniature silver. This glimpse into the esoteric world of silver miniatures shines a light on a subject that continues to enchant us nearly three hundred years later.

In recent years antique silver toys have increasingly become recognised as a sound investment – and, unlike stocks and shares, there is no reason why they should ever drop in value.

The publication of *Investing in Antique Silver Toys and Miniatures* is therefore a timely event. But there is so much more to the collecting of silver miniatures, not only for their aesthetic value but for their very human interest and intriguing history; relatively few people are aware of how they came about and little is still known about the makers of these extraordinary toys.

William G. Jackman's book, the product of the author's personal passion for collecting silver toys and miniatures, is not only a fascinating history of silver toy-making from the seventeenth century up until the present day, but charts the story of doll's houses – or baby houses as they were originally known – showing how they were first developed for the children of royalty in England, France and Holland.

Copiously illustrated with many silver toys from the author's own collection, with full details on their purchase price at auction, *Investing in Antique Silver Toys and Miniatures* will not only serve as a wonderful introduction to the subject for those interested in finding out more, but as a valuable guide for those collecting at auctions, either online (on for instance, eBay) or in traditional auction houses such as Christie's.



William G. Jackman

Investing in Antique Silver Toys and Miniatures

Investing in Antique Silver Toys and Miniatures



William G. Jackman

AESOP COLLECTABLES

It is the finished tiny copy that intrigues adults and makes them express admiration and childlike delight when seeing a doll's house fitted out with tiny copies of what they have only known until then as the real item. One can't help admire the craftsmen that have gone to all that trouble to miniaturise a chest of drawers no bigger than a matchbox, or a fireplace with fire irons and fenders, all made of silver.

It was not only children who were fascinated by the tiny reproductions they could play with. The parents sought new toys from the silversmiths, getting them to make something unique, especially for their collection. The gold and silversmiths, meanwhile, soon realised that there was a potential market in making tiny toys, especially in silver and gold, and many silversmiths, especially on the continent of Europe, began to specialise in this demanding craft of toymaking.

It was only the English who used the term 'silver toys' to describe our tiny copies of the original-sized objects. They were made originally as playthings. In Germany they are called silberspielzeuge; in Holland, the most prolific producer of silver toys, they are referred to as zilverspieelgoed.

*From Investing in Antique
Silver Toys and Miniatures*

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