



**1**  
Early 20thC painted wood dolls house, double fronted villa, 21 x 15 x 31in high, with home-made furniture. Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Dec 03. HP: £3,100. ABP: £3,646.



**2**  
Late Victorian A G & J Lines painted double fronted wooden dolls house, 'Sheffield House', 3 stories with balconies, front opening, original cooking range and fittings. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £1,600. ABP: £1,882.



**3**  
Moritz & Gottschalk dolls house, pulley operated lift, three floors, lithographed brick-work, window frames, original papers to walls/floors. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £1,600. ABP: £1,882.



**4**  
Front opening Georgian Palladian style dolls house, 3 floors, paper 'brickwork' covered facade, 10 windows, 6 rooms, some original decoration, mixed period furniture, 87cm high. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £1,100. ABP: £1,293.



**5**  
Painted wooden dolls house being a copy of 'Clarendon House' at Austerfield, Bawtry, front opening, 30cm high. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £750. ABP: £882.



**6**  
Dolls house, verandah, baluster turned balcony rail, 4 room interior; furnishings. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £700. ABP: £823.



**7**  
1930s Lines Brothers 'Queen Mary's' dolls house, thatched roof Tudor style, 2 fireplaces, dresser, sink, tin plate cooker; wired for electricity, 1930s miniature furniture & accessories. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £700. ABP: £823.



**8**  
19thC Regency style dolls house, front opening, 4 rooms, fitted fireplaces, hallway and stairs, early 20thC wallpaper and late 19thC fabric on walls, mixed period furniture and accessories, 79cm high. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £650. ABP: £764.



**9**  
Early 20thC painted wood dolls house, two storeys and an attic, opening roof and front, dormers, bay windows, portico and fall pipes, 40in wide, 44in high. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Mar 02. HP: £620. ABP: £729.



**10**  
Modern dolls house, 4 storey Georgian mansion, painted decoration, hinged front, 1.38m high. Swords, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 04. HP: £620. ABP: £729.



**11**  
Victorian two storey dolls house, Rose Cottage, opening front and rear, four room interior with outside privy, 42.5cm high, 42cm wide. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £560. ABP: £658.



**12**  
Victorian dolls house, 2 first floor windows, spindle turned balconies, split opening front, 4 room interior; furnishings. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £560. ABP: £658.



**13**  
Victorian Mansion House, painted wooden dolls house, hinged front, four rooms with glazed windows, 78cm high, furniture, figures and accessories, aff. Rosebery's, London. Mar 06. HP: £550. ABP: £646.



**14**  
J Sykes Family Grocer dolls house, half timbered building divided into shop and living area, fully fitted interior with furnishings, 71cm high, 55cm wide. Gorrings, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £540. ABP: £635.

## Dolls Houses

To produce miniatures or models has fascinated societies for thousands of years. In architectural terms these have provided a function in respect of important buildings or even cities. By the mid sixteenth century wealthy people began to commission copies of their own residences as well as their contents and this was to develop even further during the next 200 years or so. These models may have provided a practical function but there is no doubt that they also reflected the wealth, taste and social standing of their owners. It has also been suggested that they played a part in aiding education and assisting household management. They would also be able to play a part in home improvements and building extensions. It is clear these models were not used as children's playthings. However it is also clear that all of the dolls houses illustrated were certainly custom built precisely for that purpose. Notice that several of the descriptions attaching to the images contain manufacturers' names. Coinciding with the arrival of the Victorian age came a growing commercialisation and the beginnings of mass production of dolls houses. Whilst the dolls house was developing as a plaything they were only available to the children of the wealthy, those who could set aside a room which would function as a nursery and where the dolls house would occupy a prominent position. The dolls house was becoming a toy and production began to develop on a massive scale. Germany was the foremost producer and they exported dolls houses and miniatures all over the world.

Queen Mary, the wife of George V was fascinated by the subject and even commissioned Sir Edwin Lutyens, the leading architect of the day to build a model for her personal use. It was designed to the scale of one inch to one foot. It is interesting to compare the sizes and potential scales of our illustrated lots. For example at **20** we can see a height of 34 inches and can assume a width of about 30 inches so the real thing would be about right at 30 feet wide if on the same scale. Other houses appear to have been scaled down as it is certain that our top lot at no **1** would in reality be much wider than 21 feet. Certainly the model of Clarendon House at Austerfield, Bawtry at **5** must be on a much smaller scale otherwise the original would be less than 15 feet wide! I know the house and this is certainly not the case. By the 1970s it might be said that the hobby had turned full circle because it began to develop as an adult hobby. Collectors are not only buying dolls houses but are also collecting the myriad of associated miniatures. Much of the stock around the trade is of course new and whilst it may never prove to be a worthwhile investment it has stimulated the market in dolls houses and accessories that are genuinely old or antique. My advice is to invest in the earlier dolls houses and accessories and not make the mistake of buying new. In this respect I can report that a new fair has emerged which will cater specifically for antique Victorian and Edwardian dolls houses and miniatures, This is intended to cover the hundred years from about the 1850s to the 1950s and the Organisers do not intend to allow any reproduction goods into the fair. The next fair will take place on Sunday 9th March from 10.30am till 4.30pm at Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive. Leave the M25 at Junction 10. For stand bookings and enquiries telephone 01342 713223 or email: amedoll@tiscali.co.uk



**15**  
Moritz & Gottschalk? front opening dolls house, c1900, pencil numbers to base 3580, pitched roof, central gable, two rooms, two floors, front and sides lithographed with shutters, windows, eaves and bricks. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £540. ABP: £635.*



**16**  
Edwardian Lines Brothers, flat roofed, 4 room dolls house, fitted staircase, buller sink, 4 fireplaces. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £530. ABP: £623.*



**17**  
Victorian style dolls house with balcony and turret, two room interior fully furnished. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £520. ABP: £611.*



**18**  
Moritz & Gottschalk dolls house, lithographed gables/shutters/basement windows, original wallpaper & floors, front opening in two sections, fretwork balcony, 37cm high. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 01. HP: £500. ABP: £588.*



**19**  
Georgian style dolls house, front-opening with balconies, furnishings, electrified, inventory supplied, 27in wide x 14.5in deep x 35in high. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Jul 04. HP: £460. ABP: £541.*



**20**  
Painted wooden dolls house, four rooms, 34in high. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 01. HP: £440. ABP: £517.*



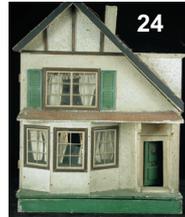
**21**  
Dolls house, 19thC, selection of dolls house fixtures and fittings, including teaset etc. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Feb 06. HP: £440. ABP: £517.*



**22**  
Modern red lacquered dolls house, four storey Georgian house, chinoiserie decoration, 107cm wide x 107cm wide. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £400. ABP: £470.*



**23**  
Early 20thC wooden dolls house, opening roof, front and back, some period wallpaper and furniture, 50in high overall. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 01. HP: £380. ABP: £446.*



**24**  
Edwardian dolls house, with porch, hinged front opening to reveal two bare rooms, 26 x 20in. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Dec 01. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



**25**  
20thC dolls house, Georgian town house, spindle turned gallery, simulated slate roof, front opening, 10 rooms, period style furniture and effects. *Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Sep 04. HP: £300. ABP: £352.*



**26**  
Dolls house, Georgian design, c1920, faux brick construction, balconied five window front, detachable front panel, 4 rooms, height 98cm. *Rosebery's, London. Jun 05. HP: £280. ABP: £329.*



**27**  
Three storey Victorian dolls house, simulated brick front and slate apex roof, electrified, with furnishings, 38in high. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Jul 04. HP: £240. ABP: £282.*



**28**  
1980s timber constructed dolls house, Georgian country house, electricity, fittings and furniture, 62 x 95 x 58cm. *Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Nov 06. HP: £240. ABP: £282.*



**29**  
1950s six room dolls house, thatched cottage, opening front, some original furniture, 76cm. *Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Apr 03. HP: £220. ABP: £258.*



**30**  
Lines Bros Ltd stockbroker tudor dolls house, c1920s. *Orpington Salerooms, Kent. Jun 06. HP: £190. ABP: £223.*



**31**  
1920s dolls house produced from Hobbies of Dereham magazine plan, later garage extension, 21.5 x 32in. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Oct 01. HP: £160. ABP: £188.*



**32**  
1930s Tri-ang Tudor style dolls house. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Sep 04. HP: £160. ABP: £188.*



**33**  
Painted wood dolls house, pitched brick-effect roof with chimney stack, opening front, 4 windows and grained pine panelled door, 3 rooms, 28in high. *Gorringes, Lewes. Dec 04. HP: £150. ABP: £176.*



**34**  
A G & J Lines Ltd Tri-ang 1930s Stockbroker Tudor dolls house, 42cm high. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Sep 04. HP: £150. ABP: £176.*



**35**  
French 1930s dolls house, green base, one room, original papered floor/walls, pitched roof, dormer window and verandah, 1ft 4in x 1ft 2in. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Mar 02. HP: £150. ABP: £176.*



**36**  
Tri-ang-type dolls house, mock-Tudor style, pitched, tiled roof, front elevation, tinplate windows, opening in two sections, 6 rooms, 4 with electric lighting, 26in wide, collection of wood household furnishings, family of dolls and an associated garage, 8in. *Gorringes, Lewes. Mar 05. HP: £140. ABP: £164.*



**37**  
Early dolls house, possibly late 1800s. *Orpington Salerooms, Kent. Mar 06. HP: £135. ABP: £158.*



**38**  
Scratchbuilt wooden dolls house, Georgian style with a quantity of dolls house furniture. *Ambrose, Loughton. Mar 02. HP: £85. ABP: £99.*



**39**  
Late 19th/early 20thC painted dolls house, front door flanked by two bay windows, 54cm wide. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Aug 07. HP: £80. ABP: £94.*