

The TSC Authors Index

Volumes 1 (1976/77) - Volume 20 (1995-1996)

20 Years of Contributors: A list of the writers and their projects (1976-1995)

(This was not finished prior to the death of Meghan Dorsett on 1/30/2018. I will try to continue her work on expanding this document, but it is just too handy for me not to have it available in this form while you wait. Thank you for your patience, CL.)

When *The Scale Cabinetmaker* started in 1976, it had a two person staff-- Jim and Helen Dorsett, a selectric typewriter, a small workshop in an upstairs bedroom, and a stack of ideas listed on the back of computer printouts. It wasn't the Dorsett's first venture in publishing-- the Cabinetmaker's Guides to Dollhouse Furniture first appeared on the market in 1963--but it was their most ambitious. While the first issue of TSC reflected the small staff, subsequent issues and volumes saw the inclusion of projects from many of the leading craftsman in miniatures and the inclusion of a broad range of regular contributors. Indeed, at the time, the subscription list and the contributors list read like a "who's who" in the miniature hobby.

Each new contributor added an additional layer of expertise to *The Scale Cabinetmaker* and added to the collective knowledge of the miniature hobby. While the writers of TSC never exhausted the subject, they did cover an enormous range of subjects, from kitbashing to metalworking to designing period roomboxes. The re-release of TSC brings the voices of folks like Jim and Helen Dorsett, Horace Cooke, Jim and Harriet Jedlicka, Madelyn Cook, Harry Whalon, Pete Westcott, and many others to a new generation of hobbyists.

When possible, we have added some additional information about each writer. In some cases, their background is lost in Jim's many file cabinets; others are fairly well known in their field and their names crop up on a routine basis.

A

Bill Allen

Workshop Chatter (column): 11:1 (27); 11:3 (28,34)

Bill Allen, a miniature craftsman from Toronto, Canada, began his new column in TSC at the beginning of Volume 11. Unfortunately, his column ended far too soon with his untimely death in 1987. Jim Dorsett, in his "In the Interim" column in the Fall, 1987 issue of TSC (11:3), wrote:

The [Workshop Chatter] column was the child of a week-long visit by Bill last November to the TSC workshops. It was a week of periodically recessed, but

never adjourned, conversation, of shared ideas about tools on the workbench, of opinions, agreements, and disagreements and of point of view (first made during several years of multipage letters) stretched into discussions that tended to forget where the hands on the clock stood. Bill's practical bent with tools and his relaxed manner (exemplified by his logo, a laid-back turtle), whether in conversation or with pen, led to my proposal that he consider writing a regular column for TSC. His pending retirement last spring from years as a college lecturer, his eager anticipation of the expansion of "Allen's Efforts"...a cornucopia of tool ideas and products with which he intended to fill his retirement...and his eager willingness to share his thoughts and energies made him a natural as one of TSC's regulars...

*...Whether you knew him or not, all of us in the hobby are going to miss Bill Allen. The reason is woven into the tapestry of ideas in one of his last letters. "I guess the following from **Jonathan Livingston Seagull** sort of sums it up for me," he wrote. "It's good to be a seeker, but sooner or later you have to be a finder. And then it is well to give what you have found, a gift into the world for whoever will accept it." In that respect I hope that Bill Allen and his ilk will always be among TSC's "regulars."*

Barry Appleyard

Drawing Room Grand Piano: 12:2 (5-18)

Ruth Armstrong

1920's Hot Air Central Heating: (Part 1) 12:3 (6-12); (Part 2) 12:4 (29-35)

1931 Monitor Top Refrigerator: 11:3 (8-18)

Edison Cygnet Cylinder Phonograph: 13:4 (30-38)

The Evolution of a Working Gumball Machine: 9:4 (19-25)

Farmhouse Cream Separator: 17:1 (25-31)

The Fireless Cooker (c. 1920): 12:2 (25-32)

The Hand-Pumped Vacuum Cleaner: 10:1 (18-23)

The J.J. Deal Buggy: (Part 1) 16:1 (5-16); (Part 2) 16:2 (12-20); (Part 3) 16:3 (45-48)

Japanese Toilet Stand: 20:1 (13-19)

Low Post Rope Bed: 10:2 (12-16)

Making a Swell Bodied Cutter: (Part 1) 17:3 (5-14); (Part 2) 17:4 (25-36)

Making the Original Hoover "Model O": 11:2 (25-29)

Miniature Trickery in the Third Dimension: (Part 1) 19:1 (5-15); (Part 2) 19:2 (25-32); (Part 3) 19:3 (47-48)

The Old Family Popcorn Popper: 9:3 (31-34)

Reality: The High-Oven Gas Stove: 11:4 (37-45)

Reflections in a Victorian Parlor: An Operating 1870 Kaleidoscope: 8:3 (6-11)

Seven Match Safes: 11:1 (5-9)

Soap Savers: 10:2 (20-23)

Tinwork Makes a Hoosier Cabinet: 7:4 (40-49)
The Transitional Gas Range, c. 1915: (Part 1) 13:2 (10-18); (Part 2) 13:3 (29-34)
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Water Queen Electric Washing Machine: 15:3 (5-16)
What Makes a Pump Pump? Yard & Pitcher Pumps in Two Scales: 9:1 (35-42)
A Working Platform Scale: 18:1 (25-35)

Ruth Armstrong was one of our favorite contributors, in large part because while we knew her designs, at least early on, would involve "mushroom" cans, we never knew what she was going to create next. Her projects were thoughtful, well-designed, infinitely creative, and wonderfully inventive. Her articles added an additional layer of depth to TSC, especially in the area of metalworking in miniatres. As with a number of other regular contributors, Ruth jumped into the breach after Helen's death and created some of the more memorable covers, including her series of articles on "miniature trickery, the "J.J. Deal Buggy," and the "Swell Bodied Cutter." In addition, Ruth was an excellent writer and inherently understood the needs of new and intermediate modelers. Her articles are detailed and provide more than enough information to encourage even the beginning modeler to pick a can of mushrooms the next time they are at the grocery.

Al Atkins (founding member of IGMA)

The Nature of Metals: 5:2 (12-15)

Al Atkins was known as "the Village Smithy." Beyond a vast knowledge of the nature and use of metals in miniatures, including the fabrication of hinges and other hardware, he was also known for his wicked sense of humor...which was on full display in his article on the "Nature of Metals."

Wallace Auger

Adjustable Doll House Construction Horse: 6:4 (27-28)
Simplified Drilling & Milling Jig (Dowels): 6:4 (28)
Wood Bending Fixtures: 7:1 (45-46)

At the time he wrote for The Scale Cabinetmaker, Wallace Auger was a pattern maker for the Burndy Corporation, a company that manufactured electrical connectors and installation tools. He was an accomplished carver and had a keen understanding of the importance of jigs and fixtures, some of which still reside in the TSC workshop. In addition to his work for TSC, Wallace also published in Fine Woodworking.

B

Jane Bernier

Marbling Paper for Miniature Books: 2:1 (13-14)

Jane Bernier

Profile of a Craftsman

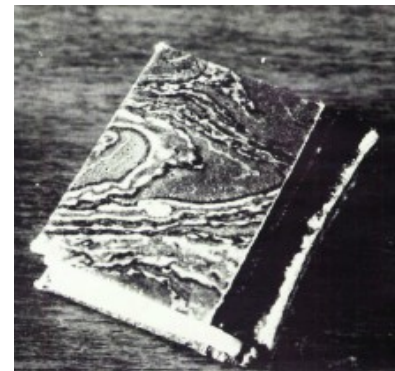
The Scale Cabinetmaker: 1:4 (July, 1977)



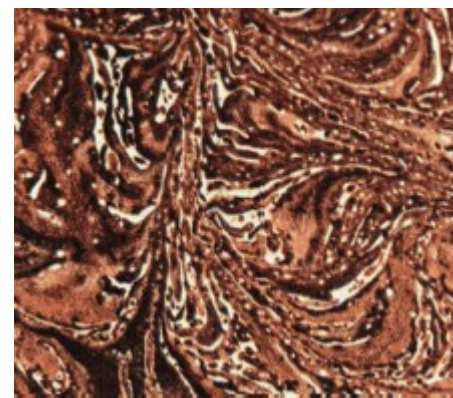
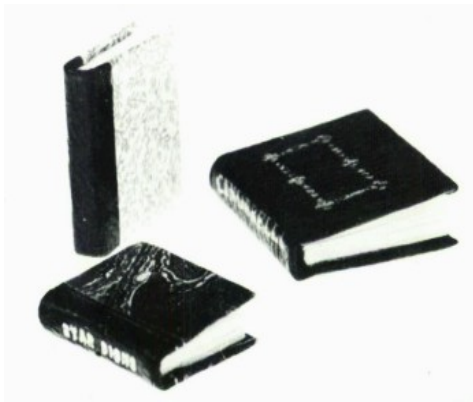
Jane Bernier classifies herself as a "microbibliophile": a lover of small books. As the owner and operator of Borrower's Press, she is the publisher of a series of limited edition books, intended for the collector's market. Every volume in each edition is signed and numbered by her, assuring its identity and uniqueness (a practice, incidentally, encouraged by the editors of TSC for every product of miniatures craftsmanship). The books from Borrower's Press are distributed by mail order and through the attendance by Jane Bernier at various shows throughout the

Northeast, where the admiration for her craft has grown increasingly widespread over the past three years.

In addition to her book business, she is also a fiber artist, studying toward a masters degree in Fabric and Clothing Design and specializing in weaving and spinning. If these pursuits were not enough to engage all of her time...setting type, letter press printing, binding, studying and attending classes..her "three and a half year old, very active boy" and the operation of a small farm with several animals would serve to take up the slack.



However, the editors of The Scale Cabinetmaker are pleased that she maintains time for the miniatures modeling hobby. With bifocals adjusted and the proper squint in place, we pick up one of the Borrower's Press editions (Bill of Rights, Longfellow, A Christmas Carol, Star



Signs, etc.), open the marbled cover, and read "The earliest known writer on astrology was Claudius Ptolemy..."...We are pleased to welcome this talented artist to the pages of TSC.

One of the most attractive books in the library of The Scale Cabinetmaker is Star Signs from Jane Bernier's Borrower's Press. With its black, half leather binding and richly marbled blue, green, and yellow cover paper, the volume stands out in every setting. It is only one selection from a growing publication list from Jane Bernier's workbench...In this and the previous issue of TSC, the editors have learned the rudiments of bookbinding from Jane, and we are in her debt.

Editor's note: Borrower's Press, WinterportME, published the micro-books from 1974 to 1987. Many of Jane Bernier's books from Borrower's Press are in the [Charlotte M. Smith Collection of Miniature Books](#) in Specials Collections at the University of Iowa.

Bill Birkemeier

A Water-Cooled Lathe for the Unimat: 5:2 (49-50)

Bill Birkemeier is actually a second-generation craftsman. His parents, Bob and Millie Birkemeier started [Studio B Miniatures](#) in 1972. Like the modelers in the decades before the growth of the miniature hobby in the 1970s, the Birkemeiers sold their miniatures through dealers, miniature shows, and mail order. Bill and Peggy Birkemeier specialize in a wide range of tinware pieces, a specialty that is reflected in his article on the "water-cooled lathe for the Unimat." While the Unimat has taken a back seat to newer lathes, his article still reflects a depth of knowledge that has become associated with The Scale Cabinetmaker.

Barbara F. Blauman (Owner: Miniature Maker's Workshop)

A Bed-Sitting Room: Artistic License in Miniatures: (Part1) 2:3 (26-29)(Part 2) 2:4 (18-24); (Part 3) 3:2 (47-51)

Dressing a Bed With a Miniature Maker's Workshop Flair: 3:4 (4-7)

Profile of a Craftsman: Judee Williamson: 3:2 (50-51)

Glen Botto

Regulated Power Supply for Miniature Settings: 8:2 (49-56)

Tamara Brooks

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Sharpen Your X-Acto Blades: 19:2 (33)
Three Simple Wall Boxes (Beginner's Workbench): 17:2 (40-43)
Upper Canadian Kitchen Table: 16:2 (21-24)

Tam Brooks was a long time subscriber to The Scale Cabinetmaker, a regular participant in the TSC workshops, and a member of the extended family defined by their connections to TSC and to Jim and Helen. During her visit to Virginia (from British Columbia--she also has the distinction of holding the "travel record" for the workshops) for the Fall 1990 "master class" workshop, Tam proposed photographing her project (the Sabathil clavichord dolce) as she built it with an eye towards turning the project into a TSC article. It was her first foray into writing for TSC. Over five years, Tam produced a wide variety of articles, mostly centered on Canadian furniture and domestic accessories. She also helped carry on Helen's tradition of creating "Beginner's Workbench" articles to encourage new modelers to try new projects and learn new techniques. In addition to her work for TSC, Tam was an avid and talented carver, working on both her own carvings and helping with the restoration of (full-sized) merry-go-round horses in the Vancouver area.

Herb Buckingham

Improving the Microlux Table Saw: 14:4 (20-24)

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Cook, Madelyn

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Master of Disguise (column):

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Cooper, Kenneth A.

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Dorsett, Jim

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