



Miss Rose Percy's official portrait for her 150th birthday. Here, Rose is shown wearing the very same dress that she wore in her first public appearance at the great Metropolitan Fair of 1864. For this most recent special day, she also wore a coronet of fresh flowers in red, white and blue, and similar to the style worn by Mary Todd Lincoln.

The Rose Percy

Fundraising Event



Each of the tables was set with flowers, fine china, and silver, and at each place setting was a table favor, a box of Tiffany stationery -- a replica of Rose's own. Rose Percy requested that her event's colors be a very patriotic red, white and blue.



The members of Carmel Doll & Toy Study Group transformed the Hayes Mansion ballroom into an elegant luncheon experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by Miss Rose Percy's guests.

By Denise Buese

It is not often that one gets the chance to be a part of history in the making. Thus it was for 140 lucky attendees who recently participated in the 150th birthday celebration and first modern fundraising luncheon event starring Miss Rose Percy, "duty's most faithful child."

For those who may not be familiar with this most illustrious doll, Rose Percy (see *Doll News*, Winter, 2011; *Antique Doll Collector*, February, 2011; and *Antique Doll Collector*, May, 2005) is unique in the doll world for she has led a very patriotic and philanthropic life. Rose is a 23-inch English poured wax child who was originally purchased and outfitted with the intention of raising money for the United States Sanitary Commission, the forerunner of today's American Red Cross. The Commission was formed in 1861 by concerned private citizens, including some of the grande dames of New York society, with the mission of improving the care and hospital conditions of wounded Union Civil War soldiers.

Miss Rose Percy was purchased and named by the young ladies who attended Mrs. Sarah Ogden Hoffman's School for girls as their own special way of contributing to the charitable cause that would be New York City's Metropolitan Sanitary Fair in 1864. The students decided to provide Rose with a fashionable trousseau, and gathered an assortment of fine accessories from leading New York retailers of the day, including Tiffany & Company.

To help us imagine the original spectacle that was Rose Percy at the Metropolitan Fair, sitting on her own settee on the exhibit table on the left side of the Children's Department, was the display we were incredibly lucky to gaze upon during the exhibition of this doll and her treasures on Saturday, May 14th, at the Hayes Mansion Resort Hotel in San Jose, California. It is truly extraordinary that this doll still has almost all of her original possessions. Considering that it took 112 square feet of table space to display Rose and her trousseau, it is not difficult to understand why she realized the exorbitant amount of \$1,200 in 1864, although now, to us, Rose is indeed priceless.

The weekend's festivities actually began on Friday, with an evening reception and dessert buffet, when Carmel Doll and Toy Study Group member Lynda Christian presented an informative program (to a standing room only crowd) that set the background for the formation of the United States Sanitary Commission

Rose has Done it Again



Captured in this image is a rare sight for May 14 – no one is standing in front of the Rose Percy display. The simple explanation is, the doors haven't opened yet. Rose Percy's dresses and things have not been on public display, all at once, since 1864. Through the years, her possessions were rotated, so that even while at her home at the Red Cross Museum in Washington D.C., only a few things were out at a given time. The opportunity to see Rose and all of her things in one venue can be quite an overwhelming experience.

The doors were opened and all 140 registrants headed directly to select a luncheon table. Open seating not only allowed friends to sit together, but also allowed new friends to be made that day.



This photo illustrates best of all how Rose Percy spent her birthday. Rose greeted friends, old and new, while adoring crowds of fans took her picture all day long. Elizabeth Ann Coleman worked behind the rope, providing each guest with one of Miss Rose Percy's printed calling cards.



Most attendees bought quite a lot of Helper tickets. \$100 worth earned one an entry into a special drawing. Decisions, decisions.



"Touch her, if you dare." It has been quite a long time since Rose Percy last saw a beloved member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Helping to tell her story, without the need for words, was the young soldier guarding Miss Rose Percy on May 14. With his presence that day, he was not only honoring and protecting her long life, but also the 600,000 brave and best that lost theirs during the American Civil War.



Both Rachel and Diane Hoffman helped out whenever called upon during the day of the Rose Percy event -- from acting as emcees, to filling gift bags, to calling out winning names during the Helper drawings. Team Hoffman also bid on, and won, "Miss Posey" and her fabulous trousseau for the sum of \$4500. Miss Posey will be a cherished part of Diane's private collection.



There were countless moments in the day, when just looking at certain physical aspects of the celebration, one could be transported back to the year 1861. That phenomenon was in part provided by members of the National Civil War Association who attended the event dressed in period attire.

And the winner is.... Catherine Peterson! Denise Buese (left) created the clothing and accessories for Maria Terese that helped bring the extensive package to a \$2200 winning bid.



and the planning of the Metropolitan Sanitary Fair in 1864. She portrayed, with wit and humor, the many characters involved in the Commission, and the hardworking women who ran it. Through contemporary letters and diaries, Linda was able to portray President Abraham Lincoln as he truly was, a very astute and humorous man who was often underestimated by those around him.

On Saturday morning, the ballroom of the Hayes Mansion Resort Hotel provided the setting for this first modern Rose Percy Fundraising Event, which was capably sponsored by the Carmel Doll and Toy Study Group. Though not the largest club in the UFDC, it must be one of the most hardworking. The room looked elegant and inviting and was cleverly set up along the lines of a nineteenth-century sanitary fair, where attendees could browse, shop and enjoy the sights. Every detail was thoughtfully attended to, from sumptuous floral arrangements, to the red, white, and blue patriotic theme, to the attractive and tempting placement of the over 125 Helper items, there to be raffled.

To the left side of the ballroom stood Rose Percy, resplendent in her lush, teal silk velvet dress with puffed net sleeves and beautiful lace collar -- the very dress that Rose wore to the Metropolitan Fair in 1864. Included in the vast display were Rose's twenty-one other dresses on perfectly sized forms, as well as her coats, hats, purses, shoes, stationery, Tiffany jewelry, antique paper doll, nightgowns and other "whites," and toys, albums, rare pieces of memorabilia, and necessary personal items. As if this weren't enough in itself, the Carmel doll club included, among other things, a small, antique Christmas tree decorated with antique Dresden ornaments, as well as a bed, chairs, and a small puppet theater to keep Miss Rose amused when not on duty. The display was a rare sight and truly a wonder to behold.

In addition to the fabulous Rose Percy tableau, and the many outstanding Helper items, there was a table containing special silent auction treasures (including a Huret dress made of rare printed fabric which realized over \$3300 that day), and two tables that each showcased the charming live auction items. When the 140 registrants entered the ballroom, they were encouraged to peruse the raffle items, and visit the tables containing the wares of popular dealers who came to the event with nothing but the best assortment of merchandise.



Some of the members of the hard-working Carmel Doll & Toy Study Group.

From left: David Robinson, Sherry Dolfin, Margaret Kincaid, Michael Canadas, Sharon Lindsay, Sue Neale, Chris Madrid, Kay Morton, Denise Buese, Judy Smart and Beverly Thomson. Not pictured: Lynda Christian, Loretta Nardone, Paula Olsson, Juliette Peers, Lori Santamaura, Beverly Schiavoni, Carol Schmidt, Cristina Tschuppert and Annette Verga.



The special silent auction items were displayed all together, of which the top lot was a Huret dress. Filled with treasures, this one table added significantly to the event's final tally.

The scent of flowers filled the air as several red, white and blue flower arrangements bedecked with American flags adorned the room, while tables decorated with red, white, and blue bunting lent a patriotic and festive feeling to the occasion.

Just before noon the live auction fun began. The first item to be auctioned was the popular Marie Terese, last year's UFDC Convention souvenir doll, which was designed by doll artist Alice Leverett, and donated by Carmel Doll Shop. Marie Terese was furnished with an extensive hand sewn wardrobe from Denise Buese Originals, which included ten dresses, several capes and jackets, hats, shoes, jewelry, undergarments, and accessories. NADDA dealer Marshall Martin led the auction, which ended with a \$2,200 bid. Marie Terese and her trousseau was won by a very happy Catherine Peterson, who not only traveled from North Carolina for the event, but was also pleased to be a part of Rose's ongoing history. The second live auction item was an 18-inch English poured wax doll named Posey, a contemporary of Rose Percy, and complete with a lavishly hand sewn trousseau consisting of seven luxurious dresses, an assortment of accessories, and an antique dressing table. After some lively bidding, the hammer went down on the winning bid of \$4,500. Posey found a new home with a very lucky Diane Hoffman and her daughter Rachel Hoffman, both of Denver, Colorado.

Carmel doll club member Michael Canadas offered a few words of welcome to the attendees, then introduced special guest Elizabeth Ann Coleman. A side story that is most interesting, is the fact that Rose Percy doesn't really just pop out of nowhere and into the twenty-first century as she seems to have for most of us. There is actually a wonderful thread that connects Rose to the modern world's doll collectors through Ann Coleman, co-author (with her mother, Dorothy and sister, Jane) of the pioneering doll books *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Dolls, Volumes I & II*, and *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Doll Clothes*. Ann attended this recent Rose Percy event and related to me the story of when her mother, Dorothy Coleman, would bring her to the Red Cross Museum as a child to visit Rose, and where she "played" with the doll and became intimately acquainted with her. Ann has always kept a careful eye on Rose's welfare, and is pleased with her current situation. It was touching to see Ann become re-acquainted with her old friend, as she lovingly helped to set up and then put away Rose's belongings.

After a delicious buffet luncheon, Michael Canadas presented a specially created and moving program about Rose Percy, the doll who



Before the doors open, event chairman Michael Canadas performs a last minute check of the room making sure that every detail is just right.



Miss Rose Percy and a friend of long ago. The two originally met at the great Boston Sanitary Fair, and have not seen each other in years, but this meeting will last only a moment and they will say their good-byes. The Daughter of the Regiment parian was gifted to the members of the United Federation of Doll Clubs with funds earned from this Rose Percy event, and will be permanently displayed in the UFDC Museum. It is the sincere hope that all UFDC members will do their parts to make our museum an institution of which we can all be very proud.



Every guest who attended the luncheon was given a red, white and blue boutonniere when they registered that morning, illustrating just one of the lovely touches that made the day of May 14, 2011 an unforgettable one.



At Rose's birthday celebration, Michael Canadas introduced Elizabeth Ann Coleman to the audience, and shared some inside stories about the Coleman family's association with Rose Percy, and the ultimate sale of Rose by the American Red Cross. Michael also shared the tale of the missing Tiffany bracelets that have been absent from Rose's collection since 1919. As a complete surprise to everyone in the room, including Miss Rose Percy herself, Michael gave Ann Coleman the honor of presenting Rose with a replacement pair of rose cut diamond and ruby bracelets that were created for Rose following the written description of the original Tiffany bracelets.



The Rose Percy event was filled with some of the finest members of the United Federation of Doll Clubs. Many UFDC members volunteered to do everything from acting as table hostesses, to running the sales table which held special Rose Percy merchandise, such as Miss Rose Percy paper dolls and other specialty items. Capable members of the Seattle Doll & Toy Club sold their hearts out! Special thanks go to Laurae Dunning, Nancy Greenawalt, Jerri Hill, Judy Lloyd, and Jan Rohrmann.



With 125 donated Helper items available, many attendees went home with a great prize or multiple ones!



Here, in a group effort, club members hold up the first live auction item of the day.



Rose Percy's new rose cut diamond and ruby bracelets -- a perfect fit for the Tiffany & Company box that has been empty since 1919.

was once generously and lovingly donated to raise money for an important and brand new organization that eventually became our very own American Red Cross. We learned why Rose Percy was valued in her time and important enough to be named the mascot of the Junior Red Cross, and why this historically significant doll was respectfully preserved and exhibited in the Red Cross Museum. We learned how Rose continued to serve over the years, as her story was related again and again, so that visitors from far and wide could learn about her remarkable place in American history.

Immediately after the conclusion of the program, while the room was still dark, fourteen individual birthday cakes, complete with candles and decorated with fresh flowers, were carried by table hostesses into the ballroom where they served the guests at their individual tables. In the spirit of fundraising, hostesses not only auctioned off the floral arrangements at each of their tables, several even managed to sell the floral cake decorations!

We are all aware that a doll event comes with souvenirs and this day offered no exception. At each place setting in the room was a replicated Tiffany & Company box exactly like the one that contains Rose's own stationery, and it even held doll sized letter paper and envelopes. In addition, we were able to purchase specially created, boxed Rose Percy paper dolls, available in two different sizes. The paper doll was beautifully and sensitively created by paper doll artist Jim Howard, and is available only to attendees of a Rose Percy event. The paper doll looks just like Rose and all of her dresses are represented authentically in soft, muted colors. It is a treasure.

Perhaps the most anticipated moment of the day was the bestowal of the exclusive hardcover book, *The Remarkable Rose Percy, Duty's Most Faithful Child*, a labor of love written by two of Rose's most ardent fans, Michael Canadas and David Robinson. If you know how beautifully the two have edited *Doll News* magazine, then you have an idea just how beautiful the book is. Through the work, Michael and David have not only delved headlong into Rose's personal history through studying her extensive archives, but they have also researched the whole historical context in which this doll shone. They have managed to meld the story of a beautiful wax doll with the history of the American Civil War and United States Sanitary Commission, into a tale that is as important as it is moving. Every chapter is a story unto itself, and all of them together tell the extraordinary chronicle of a country in need and a doll who served tirelessly with pride and dignity. Included are many contemporary pictures, paintings, and engravings that give the history of the period not only a human touch, but also allow the reader to feel a connection to the people who played a part in this important time in our country's history.

A view of Rose Percy products and a throng of shoppers.



Miss Posey and her Trousseau was a live auction item that was generously donated to the Rose Percy event by the Carmel Doll Shop, Karen Rockwell and Marshall Martin.

The eighty-page book is worthy of an evening by the fire with a cup of tea, or an afternoon in the hammock under a tree, for besides being informative, it is also a true feast for the eyes. You will savor pages of pictures of Rose Percy creatively placed in period vignettes and photographed in her incredible clothing and accessories.

Only the participants of a Rose Percy fundraising event will be able to receive this lovely book, it will not be offered for outright purchase.

It was a privilege to attend the celebration of Rose Percy's long life of service to her country and pay tribute to a doll who brings great dignity to our hobby and makes us proud to be collectors. It was an opportunity for us to give too, for the needs of our servicemen today continue to be great, and it is an honor for us to help Rose Percy continue to meet those needs.

This time around the Carmel Doll and Toy Study Group is proud to report that with Rose's help, the club was able to donate over \$25,000 to worthy causes. The bulk of it is earmarked for the VA Special Family Fund, which helps to fund veterans with brain injuries and mental health issues, as well as the needs of their families. Other portions will be donated to the Women's Heart Health Fund, the Civil War Trust, the Monterey County Food Bank, the Angel Toy Drive and the United Federation of Doll Clubs, and last but not least, Rose Percy will make a donation to the American Red Cross. It's no wonder Rose is referred to as "duty's most faithful child," for she has been raising money for charitable works for 150 years.

There are more Rose Percy events scheduled for the future and Rose is excited to resume her duties and travel to the sponsoring entity's venue. She will bring along the special boxed paper dolls, the exclusive book of her history, and other event items, and weave her magic spell once again. If you are able to attend one of the upcoming functions, you should not let the opportunity pass you by. But you don't have to take my word for it. Let the five-minute standing ovation the event and its organizers received at the conclusion of the day help you make your decision.



This round table displayed live auction item Maria Terese and her wardrobe, while across the room Miss Posey was displayed, both allowing would be bidders up close viewing opportunities.



Each guest who attended the event received a book about Rose Percy's life at 150 years of age. There are some things in the book that Miss Rose has forgotten, so here she takes a moment to catch up on the details of her life story.