

Minis Magnified

issue no. 13 Friday, March 4, 2011

FINNEGAN

Location: *Fairy Museum*, Museum Lobby



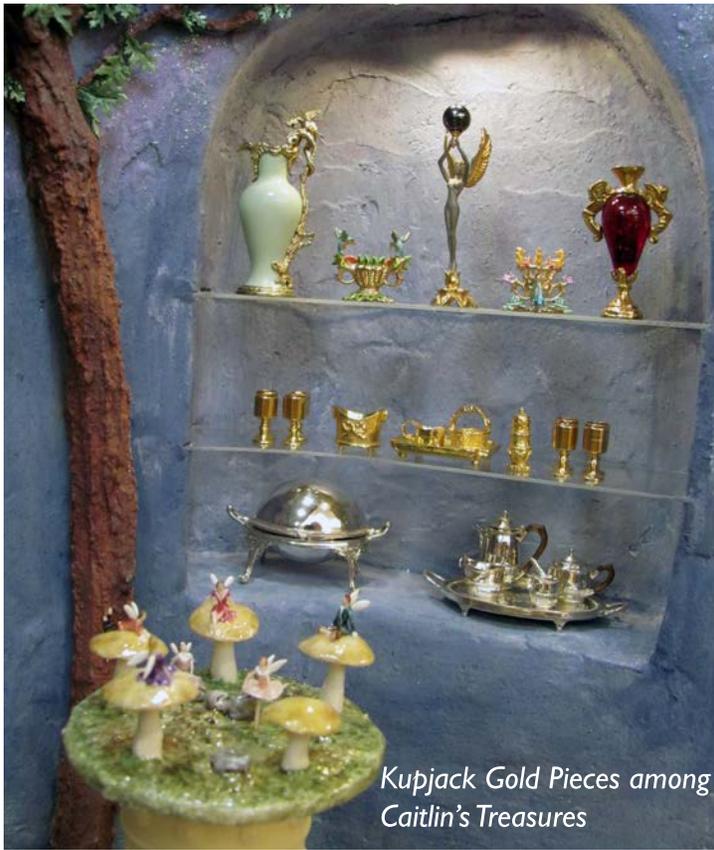
February flew by in a wink, and we here at The Mini-Time Machine Museum find ourselves welcoming March's arrival. Beautiful spring weather is peeking around the corner, as is the ever-popular international holiday, Saint Patrick's Day. On this one day, everyone is an honorary Irishman, partaking in traditional feasts and the wearing of the green. Merriment and cheer are the rules of the day- even the water in the north White House fountain has been dyed green for the last two years! In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we would like to pay tribute to one of our favorite Irish fellows, Finnegan- otherwise known as fairy Caitlin's leprechaun accountant. Leprechauns are in fact fairies themselves, known to be skilled shoe makers, as well as the guardians of treasure. It is said that one must listen for the *clink-clink* of a shoe hammer to find the elusive pot o' gold!

Sad to say, Finnegan can sometimes go unnoticed by our museum patrons. To find Finnegan, let Caitlin guide the way. Upon entering our museum, you will see her twinkling through the air, taking a quick left into her private entrance high up near the foyer ceiling. Upon



turning the corner, you find her *Fairy Museum* (2007), filled top to bottom with magical artifacts from fairyland itself. In one glimpse, you see Caitlin's spinning oak stumps, whirling fairy goblets and glittery trinkets for all who pass by. In another moment, you notice her royal regalia, a jeweled collection of crowns and tiaras to make any empress green with envy. Next, perhaps, you see the runes adorning the walls, or the branched archways filled with the tiniest fairy maidens. Only then, after your eyes have hungrily leapt about the room, do you notice Finnegan, tucked into his private alcove. Finnegan is the leprechaun guardian of Caitlin's treasure, and we have it on high authority that he was well-trained in Ireland, responsible for safeguarding some of Europe's most beautiful rainbows.

In Finnegan's care, along with the pot of gold, are five treasure chests. While most of these chests hold standard fairy fortune (priceless, to be sure), there are two treasure chests which Caitlin graciously added to his keeping. On September 30, 2010, The Mini-Time Machine Museum held its one year anniversary celebration, with the highlight of the evening's festivities being our Mini Time Capsules- laid in miniature chests and placed in Caitlin's museum by Pat Arnell. These time capsules, which took the form of a microchip and an exquisitely crafted miniature scroll, are a complete record of our museum's first year, including photos of museum events and comments from visitors. It is an invaluable record of a dream that has come true. Who better than a leprechaun, when it comes to guarding dreams?



*Kupjack Gold Pieces among
Caitlin's Treasures*

The *Fairy Museum* itself was created in 2007, by none other than Ron and April Gill, who are responsible for many of our museum's most beloved exhibits as well as being dear friends of the Arnell family. The Gills are IGMA Artisans, receiving an IGMA Fellow in 1991. As the creators of *Forget-Us-Not Fairy Castle* (1998), they were commissioned by Pat to build a fairy museum for our museum lobby, to set the tone for the magic which each visitor was set to encounter. Pat furnished the mini museum herself, including 13 gold pieces by the master craftsman Eugene Kupjack, whose work is synonymous with quality in the miniature world. This little museum is a small-scale testament to the imagination and dedication of our museum's founders, who continue to stand as guardians of one of Tucson's newest treasures.