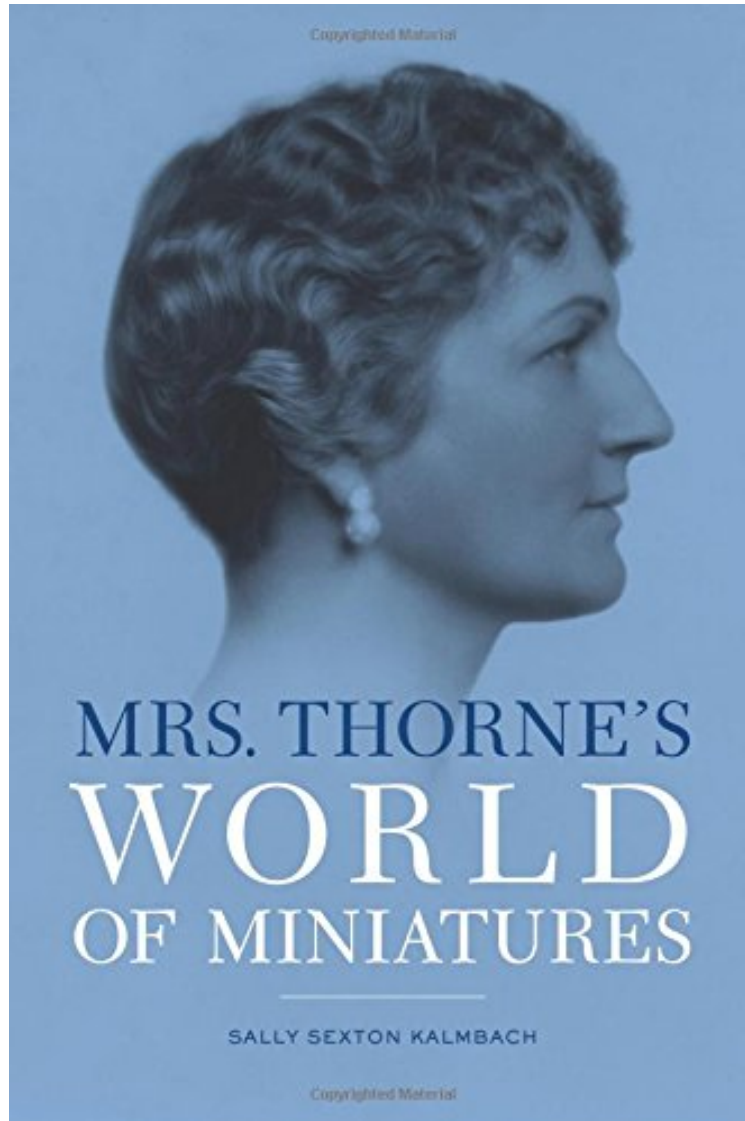


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Mrs. Thorne's World of Miniatures

Sally Sexton Kalmbach

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Sally Sexton Kalmbach : Mrs. Thorne's World of Miniatures before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mrs. Thorne's World of Miniatures:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read with great historical pictures and facts By samanth kira Excellent read with great historical pictures and facts. Luckily I had in my library a lovely book featuring each of the rooms described in Ms Kalmbach's book so I could observe what she was describing as the rooms were not pictured in her book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you are hooked on miniatures, you already know ... By Sylva Smith If you are hooked on miniatures, you already know about the Thorne rooms. This book is a must-have for

any collection. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a must have resource for a miniature collection. By V. V. All the history of the Thorne Rooms at your fingertips. Who, what, where, and when. It puts a perspective on the collection as a whole.

Narcissa Niblack Thorne began collecting miniatures as a young girl. Her fascination grew and as an adult, she gained world-wide recognition for hundreds of miniature rooms created with such exacting detail that they became educational tools for students of architecture and interior design. She left 68 of her rooms to the Art Institute of Chicago, where they remain on permanent exhibit in a Gallery devoted solely to Mrs. Thorne's masterpieces. Thorne Rooms are also in the permanent collections of the Phoenix Art Museum and the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Everything is more magical in miniature. When we were children, my mother would take me and my sisters to the Art Institute and the enchanting Thorne Rooms became a favorite childhood memory. They captured my imagination more than any painting. I loved the incredible attention to detail, architectural elements and three-dimensional qualities. It is no wonder they were pivotal in elevating miniatures into an art form. To this day, the Thorne Rooms resonate with me. --Richard Driehaus, Chicago Philanthropist I will never forget the first time my grandmother took me downtown from Oak Park on the 'Lake Street L' to The Art Institute to see the Thorne Rooms. I imagined myself living in each room as I stared into the small windows, wondering how someone could create such beautiful dollhouse rooms. Over the years I have taken my children and grandchildren to see them. The rooms are so inviting. All of us are continually awed by the tiny replicas of rooms from many time periods. I cherish the friendships I have made through workshops to build houses and room boxes of my own. --Caroline Freivogel, Miniaturist I remember well the first time I saw the Thorne Rooms. It was during a school field trip to The Art Institute in the late 1970s. In spite of everything I saw that day, the rooms made the greatest impression on me. I was already developing a strong interest in historic architecture, so they appealed to me as an opportunity to step back in time, literally. I could imagine myself (a much smaller version of myself!) walking into the rooms and absorbing every last detail, from the ornamentation and furnishings to the way in which the sunlight streamed through the windows. Nearly 20 years later, I learned about a dollhouse that my great-grandfather, also named William Tyre, had constructed for his daughter in 1898. Through some sleuthing I was able to locate and acquire the house, which by that time was in desperate need of restoration. I realized that it would never look as good as the Thorne Rooms, but I was inspired by Mrs. Thorne's extraordinary attention to detail in selecting quality furnishings and architectural appointments to create my own little world of the 1890s. --William Tyre, Executive Director Curator, Glessner House Museum I will never forget the first time my grandmother took me downtown from Oak Park on the 'Lake Street L' to The Art Institute to see the Thorne Rooms. I imagined myself living in each room as I stared into the small windows, wondering how someone could create such beautiful dollhouse rooms. Over the years I have taken my children and grandchildren to see them. The rooms are so inviting. All of us are continually awed by the tiny replicas of rooms from many time periods. I cherish the friendships I have made through workshops to build houses and room boxes of my own. --Caroline Freivogel, Miniaturist I remember well the first time I saw the Thorne Rooms. 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Her topics include: Chicago's Gold Coast; Revisiting the Columbian Exposition of 1893; Mrs. Potter Palmer's Gold Coast; Women and the White City; Mansions and Millionaires: The McCormickville Walking Tour, offered by the Driehaus Museum; and Mrs. James Ward Thorne's Miniature Rooms. Sally is a board member of the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, a volunteer docent at the Charnley-Persky House Museum, and a fund-raiser for Opportunity International, which helps underprivileged women start their own businesses.