

# Donation of the Month

## Russ Troll Doll

Donors: Catherine Orr & Elizabeth Bland

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Most people have heard of trolls, most notably those made popular in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. But trolls have been around for a long time. Originally part of Norse mythology they have grown to be oversized creatures covered in thick hair and are often naïve. While today's trolls lurk in adventure movies, in the 1960s miniature versions of those oversized creatures lurked in your Christmas stocking.

Originally created in 1959 by Thomas Dam, a woodcarver in Denmark, these dolls hit the all-time best selling list from 1963 to 1965. Dam's company Dam Things began producing the dolls in plastic under the name Good Luck Trolls. A failure to keep up on the copyright caused many other companies to get in on

the troll doll craze. Today, the copyright has been given solely to the Danish company.

After the heyday of the 1960s the trolls lost favor among children and faded into the background. Several attempts were made to revive the popularity of the 1960s with additional characters, colors and sizes. One such company was Russ Berrie and Company. Russ trolls were made for many years as a cheaper alternative to the original Dam dolls, but really rose to popularity in the 1990s. The troll doll shown here is a typical Russ doll dressed in a clown costume. Today, troll dolls are still manufactured in Denmark, but the dolls' real popularity is retained by enthusiastic collectors of these little dolls.