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November 10, 2010

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New Exhibit at The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures Transports Visitors to Another Era

Tucson, Ariz.—November 10, 2010- The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures will premier its new exhibit, Lagniappe Mansion, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. Lagniappe is a southern mansion representative of the many fine homes found in the Virginia Tidlands area of America during the 18th century, created in 1:12 scale by nationally renowned miniature artist Madelyn Cook.

Madelyn Cook and her husband James were living in California in 1977 when she commenced the construction of Lagniappe after two years of planning. The original structure took nine months to complete. The following year, two wings were added, bringing the size of the mansion to eight feet by five feet with an impressive 25 rooms. A decade later, a 1,500 hour renovation was undertaken. “I have a philosophy- don’t ever do anything small,” laughs Cook.

Cook’s extensive work in miniatures led her to be very well known in the field. The Mini-Time Machine Museum Founder, Patricia Arnell, comments, “Madelyn Cook is a well known artisan in the miniature world. Her name is recognized nationally and internationally not only for her artistry and craftsmanship in the design and building of miniatures, but also for her knowledge of the miniature world. All that she makes is thoroughly researched and crafted to the highest detail. In addition, over the years she has shared her talent by teaching classes to other miniaturists.” Indeed, Madelyn Cook contributed articles to several national miniature publications as well as taught at the College of Miniature Knowledge in Sacramento.

Now retired in Tucson, the Cooks were delighted to hear of the opening of The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures in 2009 and approached the founders about the prospect of donating Lagniappe and five other exquisite pieces from their collection. Up until this point, all of the pieces at The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures came from the founder’s private collection. Lagniappe represents the first major gift to the museum. “Many people don’t realize that as a non-profit, The Mini-Time Machine Museum is the steward of some of the world’s most extraordinary miniatures held in the public trust. We’re honored that the Cooks turned to us when considering a legacy gift of this importance and we look forward to its impact on our public outreach and education programs,” says museum Executive Director, Nina Daldrup. “The

capacity-building aspect of the Cook gift for our young institution is significant. The new pieces are of great value because they were given by a living artist of national standing and represent very high quality workmanship and materials”.

“All of us at the Mini-Time Machine are delighted and overwhelmed at Madelyn’s gift of Lagniappe to the Museum,” echoes Arnell. “Not only will visitors be able to view an outstanding work of art, they will also be able to catch an accurate historical glimpse of how people lived in earlier times.”

When asked how she feels about giving her masterpiece to the museum Cook replied, “This couldn’t be a better place. It was meant to be.” Lagniappe will be on display in the museum’s lobby beginning November 17, 2010. The other five pieces gifted by the Cooks are planned for exhibition in 2011.

About The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures

The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am-4pm. The mission of the museum is to share the artistic, historic, architectural and creative aspects of miniatures in an entertaining and interactive way with community members of all ages. For more information visit www.theminitimemachine.org or call 520-881-0606

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