



DOLL OF THE MONTH  
Kewpie



AMELIA BLOOMER  
The Heroine of the  
Dress Reform  
Movement

# THE DISCOVERY PAPERS



## The Wheels of Change - Suffrage and the Bicycle

Modern day bicycles, called safety bicycles, were invented in the late 19th century. These were safe for anyone to ride and provided an acceptable way for women to be outside of their sphere of domesticity and motherhood. Women were able to move about, freely, independent, and without

*The bicycle will inspire women with more courage, self-respect and self-reliance*

*-Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

chaperones. They were no longer dependent on men for their transportation and were free to learn about the world outside the home and the world of politics. They were free to socialize. and organize.

## The New Woman is born

She was independent, self-reliant and in the public eye. She was young, college-educated, active in sports, interested in pursuing a career, and looking for a marriage based on equality. The bicycle was seen as the means to put The New Woman at the forefront of politics and their way forward in all other fields.



There were some physicians, seeing women as frail and fragile, who saw cycling as unhealthy for women. (Probably the same ones that thought teaching mathematics and classical subjects like Latin and Greek would cause women’s brains to explode!) More progressive physicians supported and encouraged casual riding by women. (An early female physician in Kansas

City, Missouri, visited her patients on a bicycle.)

Riding bicycles also quickly demonstrated to women the limitations and the dangers to the lives because of their clothing. Corsets restricted movement and damaged their internal organs. Petticoats were bulky and too heavy. Women on the average wore 25 pounds of clothes. More freeing clothing was a must.

Reform dress became the uniform of The New Woman. No corset! No petticoats! Pants covered by a shortened dress. The more athletic New Woman, taking on more physically demanding sports than walking, chose to abandon the dress for short jackets and shorter pants with a poof paired with socks. Oh, the freedom!



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Cote

## Suffrage Was Frightening

Moving from a male-dominated society to one that valued gender equality was frightening to a lot of people. The suffragettes were viewed as a threat to family values and to a man's place in society. Some feared that if women became more politically independent they might no longer wish to work around the house.

One argument of the suffragettes referred to the Declaration of Independence and why America's Founding Fathers fought for freedom from England. Women argued that they should either be free from paying taxes or be granted the right to representation through voting.



British historian and author, Lucy Worsley wearing the banner of the Suffragette. The colors purple, green, and white were the colors of the Women's Rights Movement in the United Kingdom and America.

Women were granted the suffrage, the right to vote, by laws in the United Kingdom in 1918 and 1928. The Right to Vote was granted to women via the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution and was ratified on August 18, 1920.

As the suffragettes used to say: **UP THE WOMEN!!!!**

Check out this amazing exhibit from the National Women's History Museum: <https://www.womenshistory.org/exhibits/first-not-last?fbclid=IwAR2NqfubJtm97OLVH9oipwMfoUGooEsaj4ilHKAHG3gaRvG7fHcFs4hS6ho>

### Words from Famous Suffragettes

*Woman is riding to suffrage on a bicycle - Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

*Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel - - - the picture of free untrammelled womanhood.*

*- Susan B. Anthony*

# Missouri Artist and Suffragette

## Rose Cecil O’Neill



Rose O’Neill was a true Renaissance woman. She wrote novels, poetry, children’s books and music, was a self-trained artist, played and taught piano, was a sculptor and a suffragette. She was also an actress playing small roles with a touring company, traveling in the southern and midwestern United States. She traveled and studied in Europe becoming friends with and influenced by fellow artists.

Her work, illustrations for stories in books and magazines and advertisements for products in magazines made her the best-known, highest-paid female commercial illustrator in the United States.

During her first year working in New York City, her family settled in the Missouri Ozarks near Branson. Their home became known as “Bonniebrook.” Rose fell in love with the Ozark mountains and life there. It was there that she first dreamed of and then created the

Kewpie, an elf-like baby with a top-knot head who is kind, impish, and a problem-solver. The Kewpie became the most widely known character before Mickey Mouse came along.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Rose created a Kewpie doll and became a millionaire from its sales. She continued to work as an illustrator becoming the top artist for Jell-O and provided images for Eastman Kodak and Kellogg’s Corn Flakes among others.



Rose and her sister, Callista, were supporters of the suffrage movement. She provided illustrated posters, some featuring her Kewpies, gave speeches at rallies, and even marched in parades.



Rose dreamed of becoming a fine artist and to have her work exhibited in museums. She studied in Europe for a few years, becoming friends with a number of artists, learning from and being influenced by them. Her serious art, which she called her “sweet monster” art was shown in galleries and exhibited in museums throughout Western Europe and at the Society of Illustrators in New York, where she became the only female fellow.

Her “sweet monsters” are drawn from mythology and her Irish roots. The myth-like figures have animalistic traits in dark and surreal scenes. Quite a departure from the whimsical Kewpie, they are yet another example of the talents of this amazing, inspiring Renaissance woman of the Missouri





## TIME TRAVELER FIELD TRIP

### St. Patrick's Day at UFDC

Join us for the “wearin’ of the green” at UFDC for our first Time Traveler Field Trip! We will have activities to celebrate the day, explore how dolls teach us about the past, present, and plan for the future, share a cuppa, and learn about teas (the beverage and the event). Neal Foster will tell us about the EBT Doll Teas and show us the exhibit. **Reserve your spot for this fun day at the UFDC by emailing your RSVP to [timetravelwestport@gmail.com](mailto:timetravelwestport@gmail.com).**

**The only cost will be the \$2.00 admission to the museum.**

Things to bring: Lunch, your favorite travel companion (i.e. doll, stuffed animal), and be sure to pack your imagination and sense of adventure.

Lunch Suggestions: Since we are celebrating the EBT Doll Teas, you might like to create your very own tea for lunch. 1) Make you favorite sandwich using the loaf bread of your choice. Cut off the crusts and then cut the sandwich into triangles (giving you four finger sandwiches) or into rectangles (giving you three finger sandwiches). 2) Grapes, strawberries, and orange wedges. 3) As for dessert, we’ll have goodies waiting for you.

What about “tea”? The first thing that comes to mind is probably the beverage, served hot or cold, with or without a sweetener or cream/milk. There is also an event called a tea. What about that?



## Ask Amelia - What is a TEA?

Some people think of China when they hear the word tea (as in “not for all the tea in China”). Some think of Great Britain, the birthplace of “having tea.” There’s a lot more to having tea than just drinking a cup or glass of tea.

In the 1800s, upper class families had their evening meal around 8 or 9 o’clock. Luncheon or the Noon meal was served at (you guessed it) Noon. That left a long stretch between meals. Anna Russel, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, solved that challenge. She requested a pot of tea and light food (like bread and butter, something sweet) be brought to her private rooms around 4 o’clock to ward off her “sinking feeling.” In time, she invited her friends to join her in her private rooms for tea and the idea caught on. The event was moved to a public room of the house, like the withdrawing room and the menu was expanded to include crustless sandwiches, scones, pastries and sweets. The custom became popular throughout Europe and special dishes, linens, and silver were made for the occasion.



Always copying the upper class, the middle and lower classes, followed suit creating their own version of tea. Businesses would close for an hour each afternoon for tea. The menu was much more extensive with heavier food items being served and replacing the evening meal. Today we think of the evening meal happening at 5 or 6 o’clock rather than at 8 or 9.



Late 19th century ladies had gowns for every different activity in the day. Many changed clothes 5-6 times or more a day. You can still find tea gowns today for that special afternoon event.

Time Travelers mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 21, 2020, for our first gathering at the Harris-Kearney House in Kansas City, our home base. Look for the April issue of "The Discovery Papers" for all the details.

