

You, Too, Can Be a Gulliver!

Stride through
a Lilliputian world in
the Ford Wonder Rotunda
at the World's Fair

by Richard Barrett

IF YOU'VE EVER yearned to be a modern-day Gulliver and travel the Lilliputian world in miniature, here's a rare opportunity to step into his legendary shoes. At the Ford pavilion's International Gardens at the New York World's Fair, you'll feel ten stories tall as you take giant steps through diminutive reproductions of colonial America, merrie olde England, medieval Europe and the Far East—all in a brief and engaging sojourn at the Wonder Rotunda's reception area.

Created by Walt Disney and designed by his WED Enterprises, Inc., on a scale of one-half inch to the

foot, the storybook villages and towns of eleven nations will spread before you, complete and authentic in almost infinite detail.

In England, for example, you may spot a group of men, about three inches high, playing darts in the flower-filled garden of a charming old pub. Now look closely. The darts are the size of a red ant, yet they are complete with feathers and points and are sticking in a dart board smaller than a dime!

Moving on to France, you'll find, as you might expect, a miniature replica of a sidewalk cafe. Look again. There, seated contentedly at

a table, is a Frenchman lunching on his favorite fare, miniscule bits of bread, cheese, fruit—all perfectly duplicated—and beside him the world's smallest wine bottle with a glass of proportionate size.

You may be thinking now that you're in for nothing but a bad case of eye strain, or at least a squint that will last for days. Don't let it concern you. Each of the eleven nations and the Gulliverian views of their historical landmarks are contained on individual "islands" about thirty feet across and raised to knee level, thus enabling you to do your international sightseeing in comfort without stoop or strain.

From this vantage point, you'll readily spot the pinhead-size bird's eggs in a nest atop a Danish windmill, the printed headlines on a newspaper at a newstand in Rome, the firebuckets aboard an authentic model of a Rhine River steamboat in Germany, or the intricate filigree of a balcony in Australia.

In our home country you'll retreat to colonial times as you look down upon the Hasbrouck House at Newburgh, New York, where General Washington once made his headquarters, the Dutch Reformed Church near North Tarrytown, New York, of "Sleepy Hollow" fame, and many other reminders of this nation's past, each in exquisite detail.

Throughout the Gardens, delightful little touches like flowing streams, chiming clocks, tiny apples in an orchard and grapes in a vineyard are bound to enchant you. But one additional touch of reality you'd

hardly expect to find—*animated* figures—might just make you linger a bit longer than you intended.

Two in particular are worthy of mention because they are typically amusing. The first, in Mexico, involves the eternal tug of war between man and donkey. A sombreroed farmer (two and one-half inches high) pulls on the halter of his stubborn donkey harnessed to a rickety cart (size of match box). Straining, he "inches" the donkey and cart forward, only to have the donkey pull him back to the original position. This, needless to say, goes on all day long. The second example takes place in Malaya at a tropical lagoon where two natives are seated on a dock. They're actually lifting mouthfuls of rice with chopsticks (one-quarter the size of match sticks) from a bowl no bigger than a child's thimble!

A big task to build small

Certainly a fitting footnote to this wonderful world in miniscule would be a bow in the direction of the many skilled craftsmen who created it. For in the process they laid half a million "bricks," attached 300,000 shingles, and spread 10,000 square feet of simulated grass. They also fashioned enough miniature fences to enclose a city block, more than 350,000 trees and branches, and hundreds upon hundreds of grapes, apples, vegetables and flowers. Paradoxically, even in miniature this all sounds tremendous, and in the entertainment sense it is, and well worth a family visit. ■

