

## Theriault's Marquis Auction Weekend January 4-6, 2008

Theriault's annual first weekend in January doll auction is always a blockbuster, and has become well known among collectors as a must place-to-be. "I don't always get the star of the show", noted one important collector, "but at least I have an opportunity to see this doll in person and a chance to take her home". Recent past important January auctions have included The Lucy Morgan Collection and the Puppen and Spielzeug Museum of Vienna, Austria. This year's auction features the highly important collection of well-known Los Angeles collector, Geri Baker and includes outstanding examples from virtually every important French doll firm, as well as rare German bisque characters, early wooden dolls including French court models, rare porcelain dolls including wooden bodied, and fine miniatures. There is a collection of early dollhouses, some with original furnishings, and individual pieces



Bebes by Halopeau are among the rarest French dolls from their Golden Age of dollmaking. Superb sculpting with a graceful pear-shaped facial profile is enhanced by finest bisque on this 24" example, circa 1882.

The delicate features of Leon Casimir Bru's classic bebe are perfectly accomplished in this 18" example, size 6, circa 1885, among a number of outstanding Bru bebes offered in the January 5th auction, from the Geri Baker Collection.



The 19" doll, model 152, by Simon and Halbig from their art character series, circa 1910, appeared just prior to the tragic WWI era. Her image of solemnity seems prescient, yet timeless.



A 20" bisque doll, model 1388, from the art character series of Simon and Halbig has fine sculpting of facial planes, impressed dimples and fine quality of bisque. Circa 1910.



Bisque so fine as to be nearly translucent on the 35" Figure C bebe by Jules Steiner with superb antique costume, circa 1885, from the Geri Baker Collection.



The extraordinary Bebe Triste by Emile Jumeau is named for her wistful expression. This size 11 example has original costume and jewelry, circa 1884, and is preserved in her original box. There are several other examples included in the Saturday auction as well as the sister model E.J.A. in original box.

An exquisite poupee by Radiquet-Cordonnier with her original stand and distinctively sculpted lady body is included in the Saturday auction.



A piquant smile graces the face of the rare 18" French bisque poupee, circa 1867, wearing a superb antique costume.

Geri Baker became enthralled with the extremely rare wooden dolls of the French court which have been featured in "Les Poupees Royales de la Cour de Louis XVI" by Francois Theimer, noted doll researcher. Through diligent searching, she managed to acquire three of the one-of-a-kind early dolls, which are presented in the January 5 auction.



The wistful face of the Albert Marque sculpted doll will enthrall collectors; fewer than 100 models are known to exist of the 1914 doll. In addition, the auction includes several original busts by the noted French sculptor.



The enthusiastic collector, Geri Baker, had an exceptional eye for superb examples of bebes by notable doll makers as attested by the petite Bru bebe.



Petite dolls will be favorites at Theriault's January 5 auction including this tiny Jumeau bebe, and a very rare 11" model by Joanny in original costume.



Rare early poupee is wearing her original stylized costume similar to those seen on illustrations of early French author Georges Sands.



Collectors will be drawn to the spectacular eyes of the little A.T. bebe, an early kid-bodied model, in a charming 13" size.



Another example of very sweet Bru bebe from the Baker collection in petite 13" size.



The rarest of the Bru bebes is this Gourmand model. This superb example was acquired in Paris by its American family owners in the early 1880s and is presented at the auction in impeccable condition with original signed "trapdoor" Bru shoes, a very elaborate and extensive trousseau, and an original photograph of the child owner with the doll.

of dollhouse furnishings including Ms. Baker's signature collection of miniature chandeliers. Of particular interest to many collectors will be the re-appearance of the famous French poupee, Blondinette, along with her furnishings and much of her original trousseau. Blondinette was auctioned by Theriault's in 1994 during a January weekend, after being discovered packed away for more than 140 years in the garret of her French chateau, and was acquired by Geri Baker at that time. The Saturday, January 5 auction is titled "Through the Mind's Eye" in an homage to the collector's visionary perception of our childhood treasures.

Although the Saturday catalog auction centers the weekend, Theriault's is also known for their "welcome to the weekend" Friday night auction, a thematic affair centered around one category of dolls or related ephemera. Previous legendary Friday evening events have included the auction of Blondinette and her Trousseau, Etrennes, Antique Doll



Three German bisque character dolls from the Geri Baker collection express, respectively, worry, delight and surprise. They are, l. to r., 15" Gebrüder Heubach pouty, 19" Goebel googly, and 14" B.P. character by Swaine and Co. Cir ca 1915.



A trio of three extraordinary French paper mache poupees from the early 19th century are presented, notable not only for their beauty and superb state of preservation, but also for their well-detailed authentic regional costumes.



A stunning bebe by Andre Thuillier, marked A.T., acquired by Geri Baker at the Mildred Seeley auction is highlighted at the January 5, 2008 auction.



In exceptional condition is the early French bisque poupee by Leon Casimir Bru with signature Bru body, original wig, and early trunk filled with a fine trousseau of early costumes and accessories.



Polichinelle astride an ostrich is a rare and charming large-size pull toy from a mystery French maker, a particular favorite of the California collector. Circa 1890.

Petite French bebes described as "fitting in the palm of your hand" to be auctioned at Theriault's Saturday event are, l. to r. 10" premiere bebe Jumeau, 10" Depose E.J. and 10" Bebe Steiner.



Blondinette, the famous French poupee by Huret, stands alongside a chair and desk that she has owned for all of her nearly 150 years, circa 1860. Blondinette, acquired by Geri Baker at her original auction in 1994, is featured at the January 5 auction along with many of her original costumes and accessories.



## Highlights in the Friday night auction, "The Wee Ones."



Many of the rare googlies featured in the Friday, January 4 auction are wearing their original costumes.



Character child are among the categories of dolls to be presented at the Friday evening session.



Rarity factors sought by collectors when choosing googlies include larger or smaller sizes than commonly found, rare models, and rare body constructions such as jointed knees and elbows.

Wonderful Kewpie characters and action figures are included in The Wee Ones auction including the quintuplet group shown here.



Considered by many collectors as the rarest models of the Snow Baby family is this figurine of explorer Robert Peary at the North Pole. The model has the traditional "snow" cover.

Costumes, The Little Ones, Lady Dolls of the 19th Century, and Memories of a Marriage. This year's Friday night auction promises to be an equally legendary affair. Titled "The Wee Ones, a Collection of Googlies, Kewpies and other Imps", it presents more than 250 of these antique charmers. "Actually, not all are wee", says Florence Theriault, cataloguer of the auction, noting that several of the rare googlies measure up to 15", "and they seem quite grand compared to their 'palm of the hand' wee sisters and brothers".

The weekend auctions conclude with a fast-paced old-fashioned Discovery Day auction on Sunday. All events are held at the Westin South Coast in Newport Beach, California. For information about the auction weekend, to request a free color brochure or to order catalogs for the Friday and Saturday auctions call 800-638-0422, visit [www.theriaults.com](http://www.theriaults.com) or email [info@theriaults.com](mailto:info@theriaults.com). "An important part of collecting is meeting fellow aficionados", says Stuart Holbrook, President of Theriault's who presides over the weekend with inimitable bonhomie. "Everyone goes home from this weekend, not only with a wonderful doll or two for company, but also with great memories and good new friends."

Comic characters of all-bisque are featured in TheWee Ones.



The many varieties of googly eyes, and the wonderful selection of sizes are two of the reasons collectors favor these delightful dolls.