

Collection of legendary collector **MADALAINE SELFRIDGE** to be auctioned by **THERIAULT'S**



Two examples of the wistful character doll, model 2033/537, by Bruno Schmidt. Circa 1912. Madalaine Selfridge had named the doll "Wendy" and featured it on all three covers of her books.



A large 14" JDK 221 googly stands alongside a composition-bodied glass-eyed Kewpie, both from the Selfridge collection and featured in her books.



Three books authored or co-authored by the pioneer American doll collector, Madalaine Selfridge whose collection Theriault's will present at the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay, California on October 11.

One of the several beautiful Bru bebes in couturier costume from the "Dimples and Sawdust" auction.



If you began collecting dolls 50 years ago, you didn't have a lot of information to guide you. The now venerable UFDC was a mere 10 years old. If you looked for dolls to buy, your main source was probably a classified ad in *Hobbies* magazine or *Antique Trader*. The only serial publications devoted to dolls were the annual *Doll Collectors Manual* and the then kitchen-table newsletters of Edwina Mueller of *Doll Castle News* and the *Kimport* newsletter. Early doll reference books such as those by Janet Johl and Eleanor St. George were important first steps in the gathering of descriptive information about dolls but did little to provide historical hard facts, as were the earliest articles in *Spinning Wheel* magazine.

Then in the 1960s things began to change. In 1961 Luella Hart published her directories of German, French and American dolls based upon registered patents. Writers such as Genevieve Angione and Ralph Shea began to compile data banks of doll marks. In 1968 the landmark *Collector's Encyclopedia of Dolls* by Coleman was published.



Hertel and Schwab's rare 134 glass-eyed character with brown glass eyes stands alongside the solemn faced 149 model boy by the same firm, both from the Madalaine Selfridge collection.

And there was the trilogy of books by Madalaine Selfridge: *Dimples and Sawdust* (co-authored with Marlowe Cooper) in 1967, followed by *Wendy and Friends* in 1968 and *Dolls, Images of Love* in 1973. The California doll collector and author combined the best of the early compilation books and the later hard research books, presenting dolls from her personal collection with detailed photographs and useful information. If you collected in the late 1960s and 1970s before the proliferation of digital photography and internet worlds, when just to see a photograph of a rare doll was a dream come true, you owned the Selfridge books, and you wore them out with wishing.

So key, in fact, were the Selfridge books that the name "Wendy", which was actually just a pet name that the author had given to her Bruno Schmidt doll, model 2033/537, and which appeared as the title of her second book, *Wendy and Friends*, remains today as a ready-reference name for that model, as powerfully as though the manufacturer himself had marketed the doll as "Wendy".

Madalaine Selfridge began collecting dolls more than 60 years ago and although her interests were widespread her chief love was and remains her French dolls and German character dolls, of which her collection encompasses many rare examples. Among those who know her, there is agreement that the collector/author herself is doll-like. An article in *The Press-Enterprise*, her area newspaper, described "her elfin blue eyes ... framed by alabaster skin. Fragile and resilient at the same time, she exudes a doll-like quality". After her retirement from a nursing career, Selfridge presented her dolls in the Hidden Magic Doll Museum in Wildomar, California where they have remained until this time. On October 11, 2008 the collection will be sold by Theriault's in an important catalog auction at the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay, California.



From the large group of rare all-bisque mignonettes in the Madalaine Selfridge collection.



An exquisite French poupee wears her original and elaborately constructed bridal costume.



Among the poupees in the "Dimples and Sawdust" auction are three wooden-bodied models by Bru and Jumeau.



Wearing her original Jumeau silk couturier costume and signed shoes is Bebe E.J. by Jumeau.



The painted eye characters by Marseille are so rare and so charming. This fine example will be presented at Theriault's "Dimples and Sawdust" auction on October 11.



Catterfelder Puppenfabrick's model 524 with painted eyes.



An exquisite A.T. bebe by Thuillier was highly prized by Madalaine Selfridge.

The petite 184 model by Kestner is seldom found with glass eyes as this model has, a favorite of Madalaine Selfridge.



Bebes by French doll firm, Falck-Roussel, are very rare to find. A beautiful example is presented in the "Dimples and Sawdust" auction.

Sweet yet impish is an apt description of the wigged version of Marseille's 241 glass-eyed googly.



The collection ranges from a precious size 1 Bebe Bru Jne of the classic period, to French rarities by Thuillier and Falck & Roussel. Little bebes were a special love of Selfridge and her collection includes wonderful examples under 12" by Jumeau, Schmitt et Fils, Rabery and Delphieu, and Gaultier. Gaultier, in fact, was another favorite maker of Selfridge, and bidders at the auction will be treated to a panorama of bebe models ranging from early kid-bodied to a very rare all-wooden bodied to Gesland bodied models. "It's a great opportunity to see the fabulous variety of bebes made by the Gaultier firm", says Florence Theriault, who catalogued the collection. Bebes by Jumeau include several examples in fine original couturier costumes, and the collection also includes a splendid and extremely rare J.M. model bebe by Mothereau, of which only few models are known to exist.

In an interview Madalaine Selfridge expressed it simply: "I like dolls that look like children". No wonder, then, that her collection includes rare and expressive models from the art character movement of the early 20th century. There is a fine 25" model of the rare painted eye 520 character by Kley and Hahn, a painted eye wistful doll by Marseille from their rare series, and two models of Simon and Halbig's 1303 portrait of Native American including an impressive 24" size. There are googlies and laughing children, pouting and crying children. There is the very rare laughing character by artist Van Rozen and the Poulbot urchin in original costume for the French Renaissance of the doll movement. A painted eye character, model 524, by Catterfelder Puppenfabrick stands proudly alongside his smaller glass-eyed friends, models 184, 134, and 149. Examples from the Kammer and Reinhardt 100 art character series abound. And there is, of course, "Wendy", model 2033/537 by Bahr and Proschild for Bruno Schmidt who graced the covers of three books by Madalaine Selfridge.

Madalaine Selfridge recognized early-on the rarity and art qualities of the German painted eye characters and her collection includes many rare examples including, shown here, a 25" example of Kley and Hahn's 520 model that stands alongside the 526 model by the same firm.



Simon and Halbig's extremely rare portrait of native American, model 1303, is presented in the "Dimples and Sawdust" auction in two sizes, 24" and 17", each with distinctive expression.

In addition to those wonderful dolls, there are fine all-bisque mignonettes, French poupees with wooden bodies, delightful composition dolls, and a fine collection of antique children's books of the Victorian era with romantic and delicate illustrations along with a large collection of Victorian scrap and pop-up Valentines and cards. A 120 page hard bound commemorative catalog is available for \$59 with detailed descriptions of each doll. For more information about the auction visit www.theriaults.com or call 800-638-0422 to request a free color brochure.



Petite dolls that "fit in the palm of one's hand" were particular favorites of Madalaine Selfridge as seen in this group, only a portion of her small doll collection to be presented on October 11. The dolls measure 9"-12".



Simon and Halbig's 151 smiling character from their art character series with beautiful quality bisque, which is a signature quality of the Selfridge collection.



The rarest model of Bebe Mothereau is that signed J.M. with interspersed logo design. A splendid example from the Madalaine Selfridge collection is presented.



Created by the mystery artist Van Rozen for the French market during the Renaissance of the French Doll epoch, circa 1915, the character has fine hand-pressed detail of sculpting and a delightful elated smile.