

MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY



"Constance" — antique German bisque child doll in original navy sailor suit, marked J.D.K. Germany

CURRENT MARKET VALUE

\$300 – \$600

Based on comparable sales of antique Kestner bisque-head child dolls in good condition with period-appropriate costume

"Constance" — Antique German Bisque Doll

J.D.K. (Johann Daniel Kestner) — Germany — circa 1905

HISTORY

Named "Constance" for her composed, unwavering bearing, this antique German bisque doll was made by the J.D.K. workshop of Johann Daniel Kestner — one of the oldest and most respected doll manufacturers in Waltershausen, Germany, and a company often called the "King of Doll Makers" for the sheer range and quality of bisque dolls it produced from the mid-1800s through the 1930s. Kestner bisque child dolls of this era were prized for their finely modeled faces, expressive glass eyes, and well-articulated composition or jointed bodies, and were exported worldwide as premium playthings for children of means. Dressed in her original navy sailor suit — a hugely popular children's fashion motif of the early 1900s, inspired by naval uniforms and worn by both real children and their dolls alike — Constance presents as a dignified, well-preserved example of the classic German dolly-face child doll.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Maker: J.D.K. (Johann Daniel Kestner) — Waltershausen, Germany
- ◆ Marking: impressed "237 Germany" on back of head/neck —
CONFIRMED by owner's physical inspection
- ◆ Era: circa 1905
- ◆ Costume: original navy sailor-suit dress with sailor collar, pleated skirt, and knit stockings
- ◆ Wig: brunette mohair or human hair wig, styled in period fashion
- ◆ Eyes: fixed (paperweight-style) glass eyes
- ◆ Condition: good — original costume and wig intact

COLLECTOR NOTES

Antique Kestner bisque child dolls in good condition with original period clothing typically bring \$300–600 in today's collector market,

with exceptional examples (crisp bisque, unusual mold, elaborate original costume, or strong provenance) exceeding that range. Constance's original sailor-suit ensemble adds meaningful value, as complete, matching period costumes are increasingly hard to find intact on dolls of this age — replaced or reproduction clothing significantly reduces value for purist collectors.

Authenticity note: the owner has physically confirmed the impressed marking "237 Germany" on the back of the head/neck. Reference sources most commonly associate mold 237 with Kestner's "Hilda" character baby series, though Kestner's mold numbering spanned a wide range of face sculpts across its decades of production, and dolly-face child dolls bearing this number do appear in the market and collector records. Marking confirmed — noted here for full transparency per standard documentation practice.

Mom's Joy Room | Morgantown, WV
Certificate Issued: July 2026

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

Sandy Wade, Proprietor
(304) 282-3671