

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique Labeled "Keeneye" Boudoir Bed Doll — 30 Inches

ROSALIND

Keeneye (W-K-S Inc.) | Attributed to Doll Maker Victor Keney | Circa Late 1920s–1930s

"She was never meant to be played with — only admired, draped across a chaise like a secret kept in silk and lace."



MARKET VALUE

\$250 – \$450

Realistic quick-sale price for a labeled, large-size Keeneye in good display condition

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$500 – \$750

Ceiling for a confirmed-label, larger-size example among specialty boudoir doll collectors



*"Rosalind" — Antique Keeneye Boudoir Bed Doll
30" — Composition Mask Face — Cloth Body
Auburn Mohair Wig — Rose-Pink Lace Gown
Original "Keeneye" Label Present*

"Rosalind" — Antique Labeled Keeneye Boudoir Bed Doll — 30 Inches

Composition Mask-Face Shoulder Head — Cloth Body with Elongated Limbs

Applied "Keen Eye" Eyelashes — Auburn Mohair Wig — Rose-Pink Lace Gown

DESCRIPTION

A striking antique American **boudoir (bed) doll**, standing 30 inches tall and bearing her original "**Keeneye**" maker's label. She features a composition mask-style shoulder head with softly painted features — arched brows, a delicately rouged complexion, a small painted beauty mark, and rosebud lips — combined with the maker's signature **individually applied "keen eye" eyelashes**, a refinement that gives her gaze an unusually lifelike, wide-eyed quality. Her wavy auburn mohair wig is swept into a soft period updo. She is dressed in a rose-pink lace gown with puffed sleeves, trimmed at the collar and cuffs with delicate ecru lace, and her cloth body carries the elongated limb proportions characteristic of boudoir dolls of her era.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ♦ Original "Keeneye" paper label present and confirmed — many surviving examples have lost theirs
- ♦ Maker: W-K-S Inc., attributed to doll artist Victor Keney
- ♦ 30" tall — one of the larger sizes produced within the Keeneye line (most survivors run 24"–28")
- ♦ **Separately applied "keen eye" eyelashes** — distinct individual lash fibers physically set into the composition, not painted — the defining hallmark of every authentic Keeneye doll and the feature that gives the company its name
- ♦ Composition mask-face shoulder head with softly painted rouged features and beauty mark
- ♦ Separate eyelashes confirmed by physical inspection — the clearest single indicator of authentic Keeneye manufacture, even on dolls that have lost their paper label
- ♦ Auburn mohair wig styled in a fashionable period updo
- ♦ Cloth body with elongated limbs, typical of the boudoir/bed doll form
- ♦ Rose-pink lace gown with ecru lace collar and cuffs
- ♦ Circa late 1920s–1930s, American "boudoir" or "bed doll" era

♦ CONFIRMED MAKER LABEL ♦

This doll retains her original "Keeneye" paper label — many surviving boudoir dolls of this era have lost theirs, making marked examples significantly more desirable to collectors and easier to authenticate.

HISTORY & CONTEXT

Boudoir dolls — also known as bed dolls, sofa dolls, flapper dolls, or French dolls — were among the most fashionable decorative accessories of the 1920s and 1930s. Unlike children's play dolls, boudoir dolls were never intended for a child's hands; they were purely ornamental figures, designed to recline artfully across a bed, chaise lounge, or armchair as a mark of sophistication and modern glamour in a woman's private quarters. The trend swept through America, England, France, and Germany during the Jazz Age, reflecting the era's fascination with elongated, stylized silhouettes and theatrical elegance. Boudoir dolls are immediately recognizable by their exaggerated proportions — unusually long, slender limbs and torsos — combined with heavily stylized facial painting: dramatically arched brows, rouged cheeks, and small pursed "rosebud" mouths meant to evoke the fashionable flapper woman of the period.

This particular doll carries the **"Keeneye"** trade name, one of the most recognized labels in the American boudoir doll industry of the era. Keeneye dolls were produced by **W-K-S Inc.** (sometimes rendered W.K.S.), a firm associated with doll maker **Victor Keney**. The name "Keeneye" refers directly to the doll's signature construction feature: rather than simply painting the eyes and lashes onto the composition face as most competing makers did, Keeneye dolls were finished with **separately applied, inset eyelashes** — distinct individual lash fibers physically set into the composition material around each eye — a labor-intensive refinement that gave the dolls' eyes a strikingly lifelike, wide-awake quality unmatched by simpler painted-eye boudoir dolls of the period. This small but significant manufacturing detail became the company's calling card and its namesake, and it remains one of the clearest identifying features of an authentic Keeneye doll today, even on examples that have lost their original paper label.

Keeneye dolls were produced primarily from the late 1920s through the 1930s, spanning the tail end of the flapper-era boudoir doll craze and the early years of its evolution toward softer, more romantic styling as the decade progressed. Typical construction features a composition shoulder-head (sometimes described as a "mask face" for its lightweight, hollow-backed molded construction), a cloth body stuffed with cotton, straw, or kapok, and the characteristically elongated limbs of the boudoir form. Wigs were most often mohair or human hair, styled in the finger-wave bobs and soft updos fashionable during the period.

At **30 inches**, this example represents one of the larger sizes produced within the Keeneye line; most surviving examples measure in the 24- to 28-inch range, making a well-preserved 30-inch specimen a comparatively scarce and substantial display piece. Equally significant is the fact that she retains her **original "Keeneye" paper label** — a detail many surviving boudoir dolls of this era have long since lost, leaving their makers unconfirmed and reliant on stylistic attribution alone. A labeled, maker-confirmed Keeneye doll carries a meaningful premium over the many unmarked "attributed" boudoir dolls that circulate on the collector market, since her identity requires no guesswork. Even setting the label aside, her separately applied eyelashes alone would mark her as an authentic Keeneye production — the two features together make her attribution beyond question.

Her costume — a rose-pink lace gown with a delicate ecru lace collar and matching cuffs — reflects a softer, more Victorian/Edwardian-revival romantic aesthetic than the overtly flapper-style silk and satin gowns often associated with boudoir dolls of the early-to-mid 1920s. This styling is consistent with either a slightly later production date within the Keeneye line's run, when boudoir doll fashions began to soften and diversify through the 1930s, or a lovingly assembled wardrobe intended to complement her romantic, old-world countenance. Either way, the gown, the auburn updo, and her delicately painted rosebud lips and defined lashes together present a doll of considerable period charm and undeniable maker authenticity.

Collector's note: Comparable labeled Keeneye/W.K.S. boudoir dolls in the same 30" size range have recently sold and been listed in the \$300–\$355 range on the specialty resale market, with dedicated boudoir doll dealers pricing similar labeled examples with matching ensembles as high as \$350–\$365. Smaller and unmarked "attributed" boudoir dolls of this era typically trade in the more modest \$100–\$225 range, underscoring the premium that both her larger size and her confirmed original label command. Values here reflect her confirmed maker's label, generous 30" size, and generally well-preserved condition; a doll of this scarcity and documentation is well-positioned toward the fuller end of the realistic collector range.