

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Genuine Beaver Fur Stuffed Bear — "Beaver 64" — 1989 — ~15" — Leather Paw Pad Marked



MARKET VALUE

\$140-250

Genuine beaver fur construction, leather paw pad mark intact, excellent condition — 1989 — real fur bear market has appreciated significantly

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$250-400

Specialty collector ceiling — fully marked real fur bear, exceptional condition, documented maker pad, appreciating category



*1989 Genuine Beaver Fur Stuffed Bear
"Beaver 64 Bear 1989" — leather paw pad
~15" tall — rich dark brown beaver fur
Glass eyes — fully jointed arms & legs*

Genuine Beaver Fur Stuffed Bear, 1989

*"Beaver 64 Bear 1989" — Round Leather Paw Pad Mark —
~15" Tall*

*Real Beaver Fur Body — Glass Eyes — Leather Paw Accents
— Excellent Condition*

HISTORY

The tradition of crafting stuffed bears from genuine animal fur stretches back to the earliest days of the teddy bear itself. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the finest European toy makers — including Steiff, Hermann, and Bing — routinely used real mohair, wool, and occasionally genuine animal pelts for their premium bears. By the mid-20th century, mass-market plush had largely replaced real fur in commercial toy production, but a parallel tradition of artisan-crafted **genuine fur bears** continued among fur industry craftspeople, trappers, and specialty gift makers — particularly in Canada, the American Northwest, and Northern Europe, where the beaver fur trade remained a living industry.

The **North American beaver** (*Castor canadensis*) has one of the most prized fur coats in the natural world — dense, soft, water-resistant, and extraordinarily rich in color and texture, ranging from deep chocolate brown to warm auburn. Beaver fur was the foundation of the entire North American fur trade from the 17th

through the 19th centuries, and by the 20th century, beaver pelts remained valuable enough that craftspeople used remnants and premium cuts to produce high-quality gift and decorative items including stuffed animals. A genuine beaver fur bear made in 1989 represents the tail end of this artisan tradition — crafted at a time when real fur gift items were still commonly produced and sold through specialty fur retailers, craft fairs, and gift shops in fur-producing regions.

This bear — ~15" tall, fully stuffed, with glass eyes and leather paw pad accents — is a superior example of the type. The **round leather paw pad** bearing the stamped mark "**Beaver 64 Bear 1989**" documents the piece as a numbered artisan production item, most likely from a small fur workshop or individual craftsperson. The "64" designation may indicate a lot, batch, or individual edition number within the maker's 1989 production. The fur is in exceptional condition — dense, lustrous, and fully intact — which is the single most important factor in the value of a real fur stuffed animal.

Maker's Mark: Round leather paw pad stamped "**Beaver 64 Bear 1989**" — confirmed present and legible. The mark indicates a small-batch artisan production item, numbered within its year of manufacture. The specific maker has not been identified in published records, consistent with the small-studio or craft-fair origin typical of real fur bear makers of this era.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ♦ Material: Genuine North American beaver fur — dense, lustrous, rich dark brown
- ♦ Height: Approximately 15 inches — a substantial, display-worthy size
- ♦ Eyes: Glass — period-appropriate, well-set
- ♦ Paws: Leather pad accents — round leather maker's pad on foot
- ♦ Maker's mark: "Beaver 64 Bear 1989" — stamped on round leather paw pad
- ♦ Date: 1989 — confirmed on maker's mark
- ♦ Construction: Fully stuffed, jointed arms and legs, artisan crafted
- ♦ Condition: Excellent — fur dense and intact, no thinning, glass eyes present

Collector's note: Genuine fur stuffed bears occupy a unique and growing collector niche — distinct from both the mainstream plush bear market and fine mohair artist bears. Key value drivers are: (1) the quality and condition of the fur — beaver fur in

particular is prized for its density and sheen, and this example presents exceptionally well; (2) the presence of a maker's mark — the stamped leather paw pad is an important provenance anchor that distinguishes this from an anonymous craft piece; (3) size — at ~15", this is a substantial display bear rather than a novelty miniature; and (4) the 1989 date, which places it firmly in the last generation of artisan real fur bear production before shifting attitudes toward fur largely ended this craft tradition. The specific "Beaver 64" maker has not been identified in published collector references, consistent with small-studio or regional craft production — attribution is based on the physical mark rather than a confirmed studio record. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what a real fur bear collector or fur memorabilia enthusiast would pay for a marked, excellent-condition 15" beaver fur example.

"Soft as a whisper and warm as a memory — this bear carries the whole rich history of the North American fur trade in every strand of his coat."

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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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