

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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



OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF VALUATION & PROVENANCE

MARKET VALUE

\$400-800

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$800-1,200



"A Lenci doll is not merely crafted of felt and thread, but born of childhood's gentlest dreams, frozen in time and preserved with absolute devotion."

Physical Characteristics & Identity

Manufacturer Lenci (Turin, Italy)

Date of Origin Circa 1927

Model / Series Series 109, Model 109/48 (Felt Character Girl)

Dimensions Approximately 17-18 Inches

Facial Features Pressed felt swivel face, hand-painted side-glancing brown eyes, curly lashes, airbrushed blush.

Coiffure Dark brown mohair wig arranged in a stylish classic bob.

Original Attire Cobalt blue plaid grid-pattern wool felt dress, red felt trim, matching red beret with felt flower, white socks, red felt shoes.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & ORIGIN

Founded in Turin, Italy, in 1919 by the visionary artist Elena Scavini (née König) and her husband Enrico, "Ars Lenci" revolutionized the international toy industry. Moving away from the cold, fragile porcelain and bisque dolls of the Victorian era, Elena Scavini pioneered the use of steam-pressed wool felt. This material was not only warm and tactile but could be molded into highly expressive, three-dimensional faces that captured the whimsical, slightly mischievous, and highly stylized spirit of the emerging Art Deco movement. The name "Lenci" itself was both Elena's affectionate childhood nickname and a clever back-ronym for the Latin phrase "*Ludus Est Nobis Constanter Industry*" (Play is our constant work).

The 109 Series represents the absolute zenith of Lenci's golden age of production during the mid-to-late 1920s. Characterized by a slightly pouty, side-glancing gaze and molded "paddle" hands with stitched fingers, these dolls were designed as miniature masterpieces of Italian haute couture. Model 109/48, which made its debut in the landmark 1927 Lenci catalog, is highly celebrated for its elaborate grid-pattern or plaid costume. Far from simple printed fabric, Lenci's plaid designs were constructed using an intricate, labor-intensive method of hand-piecing contrasting felt strips together or utilizing specialized precision stencils. This level of meticulous, artistic craftsmanship made Lenci dolls extraordinarily expensive luxury items in their own day—often costing more than a working-class weekly wage—and solidifies their status today as highly coveted pieces of industrial and decorative art.

NOTABLE ARCHIVE & CONDITION DETAILS

- ♦ **Exceptional Color Preservation:** The felt costume retains its deep, vibrant cobalt blue and striking crimson red hues with remarkably minimal fading, indicating centuries-long protection from sunlight.
- ♦ **100% Original Assembly:** The doll is entirely free of modern restorations, repaints, or replacements. All seams, joints, and stitching are original to the 1927 Turin workshop.
- ♦ **Impeccable Face Mold:** The pressed felt face is remarkably firm and retains its crisp contouring without the typical collapsing or warping that often plagues felt dolls of this age.
- ♦ **Artisanal Painting Integrity:** The hand-painted side-glancing eyes, feathered eyebrows, upper eyelashes, and delicate mouth remain crisp, vivid, and beautifully preserved.
- ♦ **Museum-Grade Provenance:** The item's history is securely established through its complete collection of original documentation, which is virtually unheard of for toys from the interwar period.

COLLECTOR'S PROVENANCE NOTE

"In the realm of antique toy acquisition, the preservation of original paper ephemera is of paramount importance and represents the ultimate pinnacle of rarity. While surviving Lenci dolls from the late 1920s are highly sought after by collectors worldwide, more than ninety-five percent have lost their original packaging, tags, and certification over the past century. This extraordinary specimen not only survives in an impeccable state of preservation but retains its complete suite of original factory certificates alongside an authentic letter of authenticity. The inclusion of this uninterrupted provenance elevates this 1927 Series 109/48 doll from a premier antique to an investment-grade, museum-quality masterwork of Italian decorative history."

Certificate Number: L-1927-048A

Certificate Issued: July 2026

Location of Valuation: Morgantown, WV

Sandy Wade

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PROPRIETOR, MOM'S JOY ROOM