

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique German Doll Pair — "Dorothy" & "Emma" — Late 19th to Early 20th Century



PAIR MARKET VALUE

\$350–700

Combined realistic shop/private-sale value for both dolls

PAIR ESTIMATED WORTH

\$700–1,100

Specialty collector ceiling for the matched antique pair

Historical Background: Both dolls in this pairing represent the golden age of German dollmaking, when Thuringia's porcelain and toy workshops supplied dolls to the entire Western world. "Dorothy," with her wax-over head and jointed wooden limbs, reflects an earlier, sturdier construction style favored for play dolls of the 1880s–1900s. "Emma," made by the well-documented Theodor Recknagel firm, represents the finer bisque character and dolly-face tradition that followed. Though made by different firms in different eras, the two have long been displayed together as a complementary pair of antique German dolls.



*"Dorothy" — 17" antique German doll
Wax or wax-over head, cloth body,
wooden arms and legs, c.1880–1900*

1. "Dorothy"

Antique German Doll — Wax(-Over) Head — circa 1880–1900

A 17" antique German doll with a **wax or wax-over head**, cloth body, and wooden arms and legs — a construction style typical of German dolls from the late 19th century. The wax-faced construction places Dorothy in an earlier and more delicate tradition than standard composition dolls of the same period. Wax and wax-over heads were labor-intensive to produce and were prized for their lifelike skin tone and subtle translucent quality that composition and bisque could not match. Period costume and good, presentable antique condition.

MARKET VALUE

\$175–350

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$350–550



*"Emma" — 14" antique bisque doll
Theodor Recknagel, Germany,
fully jointed wooden body, c.1893–1910*

2. "Emma"

Theodor Recknagel, Germany — circa 1893–1910

A 14" antique bisque doll with a fully jointed wooden body, produced by Theodor Recknagel of Alexandrinenthal, Thuringia — a prolific German bisque doll manufacturer active from 1886 to 1930. Recknagel dolls are typically impressed with an "R.A." or star mark and a mold number on the back of the head.

MARKET VALUE

\$200–400

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$400–600

Collector's note: Dorothy's head is constructed in **wax or wax-over** technique — not composition as previously described. Wax-over construction refers to a thin layer of wax applied over a composition or papier-mâché base, giving the face a warmer, more lifelike appearance than plain composition. Wax-headed dolls are generally more delicate than composition or bisque, and surviving examples in good condition command a premium among collectors who appreciate the unique skin-like quality of the wax surface. This material distinction also places Dorothy in an earlier tradition of German dollmaking. No maker's mark has been physically confirmed on Dorothy; attribution is based on visual construction style. Emma's attribution to Theodor Recknagel is based on documented maker's marks. Market Values reflect realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what a dedicated antique doll collector would pay.

"Two German girls from different houses — one wax, one bisque — paired together across the centuries."