

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique German Bisque Head Doll — Simon & Halbig Head for C.M. Bergmann



MARKET VALUE

\$150–275

Realistic quick-sale price, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$300–450

Ceiling for Bergmann/S&H specialty collectors



"Greta" — C.M. Bergmann Bisque Doll

Waltershausen, Thuringia, Germany — c.1909–1931 — Simon & Halbig Mold 1916

HISTORY

The C.M. Bergmann doll company was founded in 1888 by Charles M. Bergmann in the doll-making town of Waltershausen, Thuringia — one of the historic centers of the German bisque doll industry, nestled in the Thuringian Forest. By 1907, Bergmann had expanded to a second factory in nearby Friedrichroda, and the company would continue producing dolls through 1931. Bergmann operated primarily as a doll assembler and finisher rather than a head-maker: he commissioned his bisque heads from the finest porcelain factories in the region, most notably Simon & Halbig of Grafenhain — widely regarded as the premier bisque head manufacturer in Germany, whose heads were prized for their delicate modeling, fine-quality bisque, and precise painting.



*"Greta" — 22½" C.M. Bergmann bisque doll
Blue sleep eyes, open mouth with teeth, auburn braided wig
Mark: "C.M. Bergmann / Waltershausen / 1916 / 6"
on fully jointed composition body*

"Greta" carries the mark "C.M. Bergmann / Waltershausen / 1916 / 6" impressed into the back of her bisque socket head. The "1916" here is the **mold number**, not the year of manufacture — a common point of confusion with Bergmann dolls, since the mold number happens to look like a date. Mold 1916 is a

documented Simon & Halbig head produced specifically for the Bergmann line, and the "6" is the size designator, corresponding to the 22½-inch height. This head dates from Bergmann's peak production period, roughly 1909 through the early 1920s, when Simon & Halbig was supplying Bergmann with their finest dolly-face heads.

The doll features blue sleep eyes that close when she lies back, an open mouth revealing her original teeth, and a lovely auburn wig styled in long braids — all hallmarks of a quality German dolly-face doll from the era. Her body is a fully jointed composition ball-jointed body, typical of the period, jointed at the shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees, allowing her to be posed sitting or standing. She is dressed in period-appropriate clothing that complements her sweet expression beautifully.

Simon & Halbig heads on Bergmann bodies represent a particularly desirable combination for collectors — the best-quality heads from the best German head-maker, assembled and finished by a respected doll house. While Bergmann also used heads from other makers (including his own factory's production), the S&H-headed examples are the ones serious antique doll collectors seek out.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ♦ Maker: C.M. Bergmann, Waltershausen, Thuringia, Germany (founded 1888)
- ♦ Head: Bisque socket head by Simon & Halbig, Grafenhain — mold 1916, size 6
- ♦ Mark: "C.M. Bergmann / Waltershausen / 1916 / 6" — "1916" is the mold number, not the manufacture year
- ♦ Height: 22½ inches
- ♦ Eyes: Blue glass sleep eyes (open/close mechanism)
- ♦ Mouth: Open mouth with original teeth
- ♦ Wig: Auburn human hair or mohair, styled in long braids
- ♦ Body: Fully jointed composition ball-jointed body (shoulders, elbows, hips, knees)
- ♦ Era: c.1909–1931 (Bergmann's doll production period); this head c.early 1900s–1920s

Collector's note: The "1916" on the neck is the mold number, not the year — a very common misreading on Bergmann dolls. The Simon & Halbig head is a significant quality marker: S&H supplied many German doll companies, but their heads on Bergmann bodies are a particularly sought-after pairing. The combination of confirmed

S&H head quality, complete composition body, sleep eyes, and braided auburn wig makes this a strong, well-above-average example of a Bergmann doll. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what a Bergmann or Simon & Halbig specialty collector might pay for a complete, well-presented example.

"A Thuringian forest girl with braids of auburn and eyes of sky — carried out of Waltershausen a century ago, still sweet, still watching."

Mom's Joy Room | Morgantown, WV
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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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