

Mom's Joy Room

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Antique Wicker Doll Pram with Lace Canopy

MARKET VALUE

\$225-\$375

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$450-\$700



Front view with lace canopy



Side profile showing wicker weave detail

An elegant antique wicker doll pram in the Victorian style, measuring approximately 32 inches in standing height. This doll-sized carriage — distinct from a full-size baby pram — features a finely woven diamond-pattern wicker basket seat, a tufted cream cushion interior, a turned wood push handle, wood-spoke wheels, and a delicate cream fabric canopy trimmed with lace. The combination of hand-woven wicker craftsmanship and the soft lace canopy gives this piece the romantic, nursery-fresh charm that makes antique doll prams so beloved by collectors and decorators alike.

Though modest in scale, this pram was clearly made with the same attention to detail and quality of materials as its full-size counterparts. The diamond weave pattern, the tufted interior cushion, and the lace-trimmed canopy all reflect the Victorian and Edwardian era's belief that a child's belongings — even a doll's — should be made with genuine craftsmanship and beauty.

History

The doll pram, or doll carriage, emerged in the mid-to-late 19th century as a natural parallel to the baby carriages that had become status symbols among Victorian-era middle-class families. The first baby carriages were developed in the 1840s and 1850s, initially as elaborate hand-pulled carts and later as pushable prams modeled on the elegant carriage designs of the era. As baby prams became increasingly fashionable, toy makers quickly recognized that little girls would want miniature versions for their own dolls — and the doll pram was born.

By the 1880s and 1890s, wicker had become one of the most popular materials for both full-size baby prams and doll prams. Wicker work — the craft of weaving rattan, reed, or willow branches into furniture and accessories — had been practiced for

centuries, but it was the Victorian era that elevated it to an art form. Wicker was prized for its lightness, durability, and natural beauty, and it could be woven into incredibly intricate patterns that showcased the skill of the craftsman. The diamond weave pattern seen on this pram is a classic example of the finer end of wicker doll carriage construction, requiring greater skill and time than the simpler over-and-under weaves used on more utilitarian pieces.

The late Victorian and Edwardian periods (roughly 1880–1915) represent the golden age of wicker doll prams. Manufacturers in England, Germany, and the United States produced a wide range of doll carriages, from simple woven baskets on wooden wheels to elaborate miniature replicas of full-size perambulators complete with hoods, lined interiors, and sprung suspension. The finest examples were sold through department stores and fine toy shops, often as Christmas or birthday gifts for children of prosperous families. The tradition of making doll prams in wicker continued well into the 20th century, though the quality of construction and materials generally declined after the First World War as mass production methods replaced individual craftsmanship.

The cream fabric canopy with lace trim is a particularly charming feature of this pram. In the Victorian era, lace was one of the most valued domestic crafts, and the application of lace to a doll's pram canopy reflects the same impulse that produced christening gowns, baby bonnets, and nursery linens trimmed in delicate lacework. The canopy served both a practical purpose — shading the doll from sun or lamp light — and a decorative one, adding a layer of softness and femininity that contrasted beautifully with the structured wicker basket below.

The wood-spoke wheels with metal hubs are consistent with late 19th to early 20th century construction. Earlier doll prams often featured simple solid wooden wheels, while later mass-produced examples transitioned to stamped metal or composition wheels. The spoke construction seen here represents a middle period of quality manufacturing, where the wheels were still made with the same techniques used for full-size carriage wheels — individually shaped spokes fitted into a wooden hub and rim — rather than being stamped out as a single piece.

Antique wicker doll prams have become increasingly sought after in the collector market, appealing not only to doll and toy collectors but also to enthusiasts of Victorian-era nursery décor, wicker craftsmanship, and shabby-chic interior design. They are frequently used as display pieces in their own right — placed in nurseries, porches, or shop settings with a favorite antique doll nestled inside. The combination of wicker construction, lace canopy, and doll-scale size makes this category of antique particularly appealing to collectors who appreciate both craftsmanship and the sentimental charm of childhood artifacts. Genuine antique examples in good condition with intact canopies and original wicker work command steadily increasing prices, as fewer quality examples survive the fragility of their materials over the decades.

Notable Features

- ◆ Doll-sized pram (not a full-size baby carriage) — approximately 32" standing height, ideal for display with an antique doll
- ◆ Diamond-pattern wicker weave on the basket seat — a finer, more skilled weave than the simple over-and-under patterns found on utilitarian pieces
- ◆ Cream fabric canopy with delicate lace trim — adds romantic Victorian nursery charm and softens the structured wicker form
- ◆ Tufted cream cushion interior — original upholstered detail suggesting quality manufacture
- ◆ Turned wood push handle — shaped with lathe-turned detail consistent with quality carriage construction
- ◆ Wood-spoke wheels with metal hubs — hallmarks of late 19th to early 20th century quality doll carriage manufacture
- ◆ Overall construction consistent with the golden age of wicker doll prams, circa 1880s–1920s

COLLECTOR NOTES

Attribution is based on construction materials, weave pattern, and stylistic features rather than a confirmed maker's mark,

which is typical for antique wicker doll prams — many manufacturers did not mark their products, and identification relies on construction details and stylistic comparison. The lace canopy has a visible tear that can be mended using careful hand-stitching with matching cream thread or period-appropriate lace repair techniques; this does not significantly affect the overall value but should be addressed before display. The wicker structure appears intact and structurally sound. This piece is a doll-sized pram, not a full-size baby carriage — the distinction is important for valuation, as full-size antique baby prams in comparable condition can sell for two to three times the value of doll-sized examples. The diamond weave pattern and wood-spoke wheels place this piece in the upper quality tier of antique wicker doll prams. Recommended for display purposes with a period-appropriate antique doll.

"Every doll deserves a carriage fit for a queen — and every little girl deserves to dream in lace and wicker."

Sandy Wade

Proprietor, Mom's Joy Room

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