

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & VALUATION

Antique Character Baby Doll — Effanbee's Landmark Composition Doll

BUBBLES

Effanbee (Fleischaker & Baum) — New York, U.S.A. — circa 1924–1930s



MARKET VALUE

\$60–125

Realistic quick-sale price, given visible age/wear

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$150–225

Ceiling for character-doll specialty collectors



*22" Effanbee "Bubbles" Character Baby Doll
Composition Head, Shoulder Plate & Limbs — Cloth Body
Open Laughing Mouth — Molded Hair — Tin Sleep Eyes
Christening-Style Bonnet, Gown & Wrap*

22" Effanbee "Bubbles" Composition
Character Baby Doll — circa 1924–1930s
*Composition Shoulder Head, Arms & Legs — Cloth
Baby Body
Open Laughing Mouth — Molded Hair — Sleep Eyes —
Antique Christening Gown & Bonnet*

HISTORY

Bubbles was one of the earliest and most commercially important dolls produced by the **Effanbee Doll Company** (a name derived from the initials of founders Bernard Fleischaker and Hugo Baum), first introduced in 1924 and formally debuted to the toy trade in *Playthings* magazine in January 1926. She was sculpted by **Bernard Lipfert**, the same legendary doll designer later responsible for Effanbee's beloved "Patsy" line, the "Dy-Dee" drink-and-wet baby, the licensed Shirley Temple dolls, and the Madame Alexander Dionne Quintuplet dolls — making Lipfert arguably the single most influential doll sculptor of the American composition-doll era. Bubbles was modeled as a laughing, open-mouthed character baby with a distinctively cheerful, animated expression that set her apart from the more solemn baby dolls typical of the preceding decades, and she

became one of Effanbee's first genuine commercial hits, produced continuously through the 1920s and into the 1930s in a wide range of sizes from roughly 13 to 28 inches.

Construction-wise, Bubbles features a composition shoulder head, composition lower arms and legs, and a soft stuffed cloth baby body — a practical combination that kept manufacturing costs reasonable while still giving her the more "finished," lifelike look of a solid composition doll on the visible surfaces. Her sleep eyes, molded and painted hair, and open laughing mouth with painted or inset teeth were her signature features, and she was originally sold dressed in a variety of baby gowns, rompers, and bonnets, often in a christening-style presentation similar to the antique gown and bonnet seen on this example. Bubbles' popularity helped establish Effanbee as a major American doll manufacturer through the late 1920s, ahead of the company's even bigger successes with the Patsy family of dolls beginning in 1928.

◆ *"There is nothing like her in doll-dom" — Effanbee's own period advertising slogan for Bubbles, celebrating her animated laughing expression, a genuine departure from the more solemn baby dolls of the early 1920s.* ◆

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Maker: Effanbee (Fleischaker & Baum) — New York, U.S.A.
- ◆ Designer: Bernard Lipfert — also created Patsy, Dy-Dee, Shirley Temple & Dionne Quintuplet dolls
- ◆ Period: circa 1924–1930s (introduced 1924, trade debut 1926)
- ◆ Size: 22 inches — a larger, more substantial size within the Bubbles range
- ◆ Construction: Composition shoulder head, arms & legs — soft cloth baby body
- ◆ Face: Open laughing mouth — character baby expression, molded/painted hair
- ◆ Eyes: Sleep-type eyes
- ◆ Clothing: Antique christening-style bonnet, gown & wrap, lace trim
- ◆ Condition: Visible age-consistent wear to composition and fabric — consistent with a well-loved, 90+ year old doll

Collector's note: Bubbles is one of Effanbee's genuinely historically significant early dolls, and larger 22" + examples in strong condition with original clothing can bring meaningfully more than smaller or heavily worn examples — comparable well-preserved 22" Bubbles dolls have sold in the \$150–\$300+ range at specialist doll sales, while examples showing notable composition crazing, paint loss, or replaced clothing typically settle closer to \$60–150. Market Value here reflects the doll's evident age-consistent wear rather than pristine condition; Estimated Worth reflects the ceiling a dedicated Effanbee or Lipfert-doll collector might still pay for her, given her large size and clearly antique presentation. As always, an in-hand condition inspection would refine this estimate further.

"Effanbee's first great laughing baby — nearly a century old and still smiling, in the same christening gown she's worn for who knows how many years."

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Certificate Issued: July 2026 | Values based on eBay, Etsy, Ruby Lane & collector market data 2024–2025

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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