

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Wax Character Portrait Doll — Signed & Labeled by the Artist

LEWIS SORENSEN WAX OLD MAN

by Lewis Sorensen (1910–1985) — Charter Member, NIADA



*18" Wax Character Portrait Doll
Elderly Gentleman — Blue Beret, White Coat
Paisley Tie & Tweed Trousers
Labeled Lewis Sorensen*

Wax Character Portrait Doll — Elderly Gentleman
— 18"

*Hand-Sculpted Wax Head, Hands & Features — Cloth/
Composite Body*

*Original Costume — Blue Beret, White Coat, Paisley Tie,
Tweed Trousers, Green Shoes*

Labeled "Lewis Sorensen"

DESCRIPTION & HISTORY

Lewis Sorensen (1910–1985) was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and left school in the eighth grade to pursue his talent for wax sculpture. He went on to become one of America's most celebrated wax doll artists, renowned for his uncannily lifelike character and portrait dolls, and was a Charter Member of NIADA (National Institute of American Doll Artists) — notably the only man among its founding group of doll artists. Sorensen's reputation grew to the point that he was commissioned by Eleanor Roosevelt to create a Presidential Doll Collection depicting U.S. presidents and first ladies, work that remains highly prized by collectors today. He also created wax figures for museums, theme parks, and Ripley's Believe It or Not! exhibits, promoting himself as "America's Greatest Wax Sculptor." This 18-inch example depicts an elderly gentleman with finely modeled wax features — deeply lined face, expressive eyes, and naturalistic aged skin tones — dressed in a blue beret, white coat, paisley tie, tweed trousers, and green shoes, all believed original to the piece. The doll carries a label identifying it as the work of Lewis Sorensen.

CURRENT MARKET VALUE

\$400 – \$700

*Labeled Lewis Sorensen character wax doll
Comparables: 17" labeled example w/ basket — market listed
General Sorensen range: \$375–\$650 (justanswer, collector
estimates)
Character/genre subjects trend lower than named portraits
Auction & collector market data 2024–2025*

◆ "Sorensen's character dolls are celebrated for a level of realism rarely matched in wax doll artistry — deeply expressive, individualized faces that read almost as portrait sculpture rather than toys." ◆

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Artist: Lewis Sorensen (1910–1985), Charter Member of NIADA
- ◆ Size: 18 inches
- ◆ Subject: Elderly gentleman character portrait
- ◆ Material: Hand-sculpted wax head & hands
- ◆ Costume: Blue beret, white coat, paisley tie, tweed trousers, green shoes
- ◆ Marking: Labeled "Lewis Sorensen"
- ◆ Artist background: Created Presidential Doll Collection commissioned by Eleanor Roosevelt; work displayed in museums, theme parks & Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Honest Disclosure: Value is based on the presence of the Lewis Sorensen label and comparison to published sales of similar labeled character dolls by this artist. Sorensen produced dolls from the 1950s through 2000 across a wide range of subjects; named or thematically significant pieces (such as his Presidential Collection or licensed character figures) can command notably higher prices than general character studies like this one. No formal in-hand condition assessment has been performed.

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Certificate Issued: July 2026 | Values based on collector & auction market data 2024–2025

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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Proprietor

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