

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique Armand Marseille "370" Bisque Doll, Germany — Kid Leather Body



MARKET VALUE

\$150–300

Realistic quick-sale price, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$325–500

Ceiling for antique German bisque doll specialty collectors



Antique Armand Marseille "370" bisque shoulder head doll

Fixed brown eyes, open mouth with teeth

Human hair or mohair wig, kid leather body

Period floral dress with matching jacket and hat

Armand Marseille "370" Bisque Doll

*Armand Marseille, Köppelsdorf, Thuringia,
Germany — c.1900–1930s*

HISTORY

Armand Marseille was one of the largest and most prolific bisque doll manufacturers in the world, founded in 1885 in Köppelsdorf, Thuringia — a region of Germany at the heart of the country's porcelain and bisque doll industry. The company produced enormous quantities of bisque doll heads for the domestic German market as well as major export markets, including the United States and Britain, and its dolls were sold both under its own name and supplied as heads to numerous other doll makers and department store lines of the era.

Mold "370" is Armand Marseille's single most commonly produced and most widely surviving doll mold, manufactured continuously from roughly 1900 through the late 1930s. It was designed as a shoulder head — the bisque head and shoulder plate cast as one piece — mounted on a separate cloth or kid (soft leather) body with bisque lower arms, rather than the fully jointed composition body-and-socket-head construction used on Armand Marseille's other lines. This particular

example carries the kid leather body variant, with jointed leather limbs and bisque forearms, a construction typical of the mold's earlier and mid-production years. The doll features fixed (non-sleep) glass eyes, an open mouth showing molded teeth, and a wig styled in period fashion, dressed in a floral bib-front dress with a coordinating cream jacket and matching bonnet-style hat.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ✦ Maker: Armand Marseille, Köppelsdorf, Germany
- ✦ Mold: 370 — the company's most commonly produced shoulder-head mold
- ✦ Body: Kid leather, jointed at shoulders and hips, bisque lower arms
- ✦ Eyes: Fixed glass eyes, brown
- ✦ Mouth: Open, with molded teeth
- ✦ Marking: Impressed "Armand Marseille / Germany / 370" on the back of the head/shoulder plate
- ✦ Costume: Period floral bib dress, cream jacket, matching hat

Collector's note: Mold 370 was produced in such high volume over such a long period that surviving examples are common in the antique doll marketplace, which keeps values moderate compared to Armand Marseille's rarer character-face molds. Value here is driven primarily by condition — the bisque shows no visible cracks or repairs, the kid leather body and bisque forearms are intact, and the wig, eyes, and costume all appear complete and appropriate to the period. Market Value reflects realistic private-sale/shop pricing typical for a complete, good-condition 370; Estimated Worth reflects the ceiling a dedicated antique German bisque doll collector might pay for a clean, well-presented example like this one.

"A century of little girls have loved a face just like hers — Germany's most familiar bisque smile, still charming after all these years."

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Certificate Issued: July 2026

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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