

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique Child's Wicker Armchair — Heywood-Wakefield Company — c.1920s



MARKET VALUE

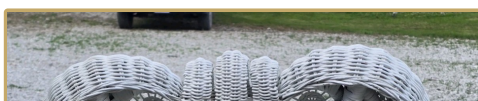
\$250–450

Realistic quick-sale price, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$500–900

Specialty dealer/collector ceiling for very good condition examples



Heywood-Wakefield Child's Wicker Armchair

*Heywood-Wakefield Company, Gardner,
Massachusetts — c.1920s*

PROVENANCE

Family provenance: *This chair has remained in a single family for three generations. The seller's grandmother, now 96 years old, has kept it in her bedroom with her own childhood doll for as long as the seller has been alive — at least 52 years. The seller's father recalled the chair being in the home when he was growing up as well, placing the chair in the family's care for approximately 70 years or more. Given the grandmother's age, the chair may well have been part of her own childhood in the 1930s, making it a piece that has been loved and treasured by one family for nearly its entire existence.*

HISTORY

The Heywood-Wakefield Company was the preeminent American wicker furniture manufacturer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, formed in 1897 through the merger of Heywood Brothers & Company (founded 1826) and the Wakefield Rattan Company (founded 1855) — two of the oldest furniture makers in the country. Together they brought together over a century of craftsmanship tradition under one roof,



Heywood-Wakefield child's wicker armchair, c.1920s
White painted, scrollwork back, fan-weave seat
24"H × 22"W × 14"D — very good condition

operating from their headquarters in Gardner, Massachusetts, and dominating the American market for woven wicker and rattan furniture for decades.

By the 1920s, Heywood-Wakefield was producing some of the finest wicker furniture ever made in America, and their children's pieces — scaled-down armchairs, rockers, and settees — were among the most charming and technically demanding items in their catalog. The era coincided with a broader cultural embrace of wicker as both fashionable and hygienic; white-painted wicker was especially popular for nurseries, sunrooms, and porches, seen as fresh, airy, and easy to clean. This child's armchair exemplifies the ornate decorative vocabulary of the period: a sweeping scrollwork back with paired rosette medallions, braided reed edging, a scalloped rim, a fan-radiating woven seat, and gracefully turned feet — all the hallmarks of Heywood-Wakefield's finest hand-woven production work.

The chair retains its white painted finish in very good condition, with the tight, dense weave and structural reed frame intact. Wicker of this age and quality rarely survives a century without significant unraveling, loosening of joints, or reed breakage — making a very good condition example genuinely uncommon to find. The construction is consistent with Heywood-Wakefield's 1920s production: rattan reed over a hardwood frame, hand-wrapped joints, and the intricate decorative wicker work that distinguished their children's furniture line from lesser competitors. That this chair survived in such condition is almost certainly owing to its having been cherished in one grandmother's bedroom for the better part of a century — never moved, never stored, never subjected to the rough handling that claims so many children's wicker pieces.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Maker: Heywood-Wakefield Company, Gardner, Massachusetts (est. 1897)
- ◆ Type: Child's wicker armchair, ornate scrollwork style
- ◆ Dimensions: 24" tall × 22" wide × 14" deep
- ◆ Construction: Rattan reed over hardwood frame; hand-wrapped joints; fan-woven seat
- ◆ Finish: White painted — all-over, consistent with original nursery/sunroom use
- ◆ Details: Paired scrollwork back with rosette medallions, braided trim, scalloped rim, turned feet

- ◆ Condition: Very good — weave tight and intact, frame solid, finish consistent
- ◆ Era: c.1920s — peak period for Heywood-Wakefield ornate wicker production
- ◆ Provenance: Three-generation single-family ownership — grandmother's bedroom, 70+ years

Collector's note: Heywood-Wakefield wicker is among the most collectible American antique wicker furniture, and children's-scale pieces in this ornate scrollwork style are particularly sought after for display and decorating. Very good condition — meaning tight weave, no significant unraveling, and a solid frame — is a meaningful qualifier at this age; many surviving examples show far more deterioration. The documented single-family provenance spanning three generations adds genuine historical and emotional value beyond the piece's maker-quality alone — it tells the story of one little chair that was loved enough to be kept. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what a Heywood-Wakefield specialist or antique wicker collector might pay for a complete, intact, very good condition child's chair with documented provenance.

"It sat in her bedroom for seventy years, holding her childhood doll — one little chair, one little life, kept safe the whole way through."

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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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